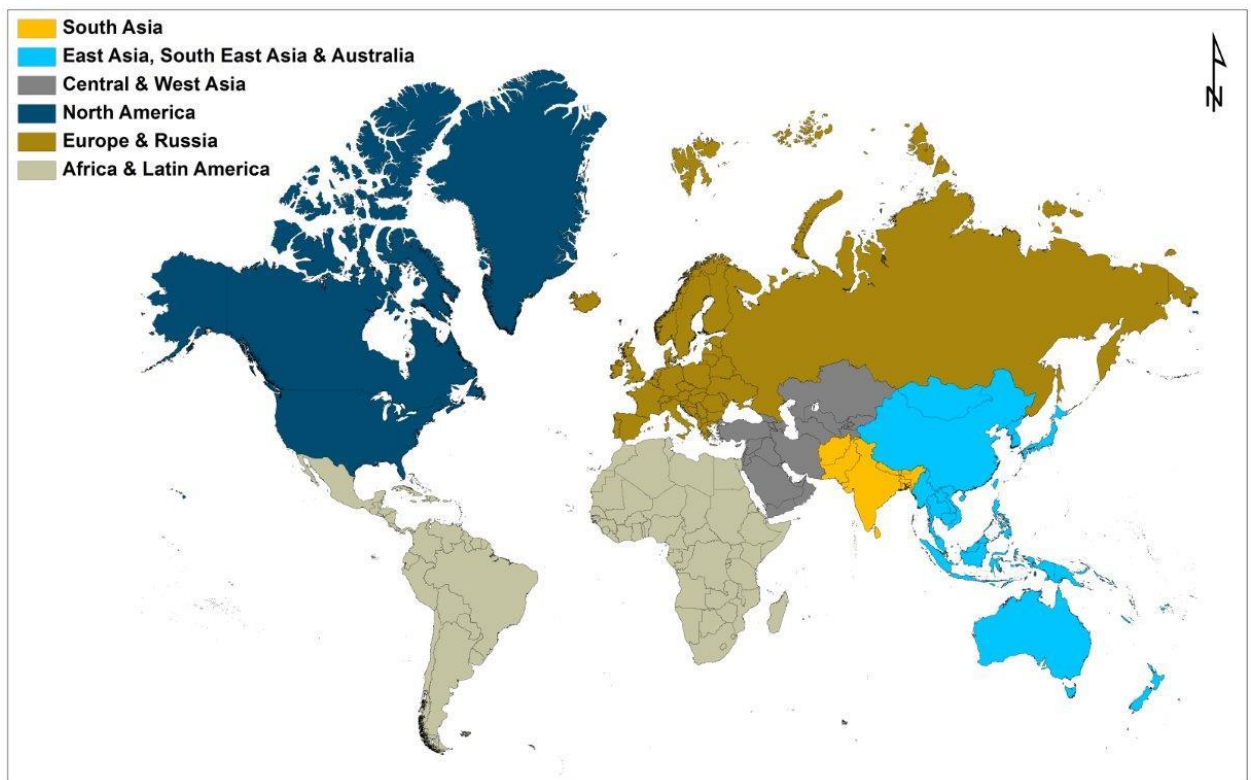




Delhi Policy Group

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.

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South Asia

India

[US asks Pakistan to immediately end 'support' and 'safe haven' to all terrorist groups](#)

Feb 15, 2019, The Indian Express

The White House asked Pakistan to immediately end "support" and "safe haven" to all terror groups as it strongly condemned the Pulwama terrorist attack.

[Pulwama attack: Sacrifices won't go in vain, says PM, as Rajnath names Pakistan, vows strong reply](#)

Feb 15, 2019, The Indian Express

As condemnation of the terror attack on a CRPF convoy poured in from all quarters, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Thursday promised that the "sacrifices of our brave security personnel shall not go in vain" while Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh, who named Pakistan, said a "strong reply" will be given.

[Govt blames Pakistan after Pulwama youth rams CRPF convoy with IED-packed SUV in worst-ever J&K terror strike](#)

Feb 15, 2019, The Times of India

India on Thursday held Pakistan directly responsible for the worst-ever terrorist attack in J&K earlier in the day in which a suicide bomber belonging to ISI-controlled terrorist outfit Jaishe-Mohammad (JeM) rammed an explosive-laden Scorpio SUV into a bus carrying CRPF personnel, turning the bus into a mangled heap and killing at least 37.

[China again says no to back India's bid to list JeM chief Masood Azhar as global terrorist by UN](#)

Feb 15, 2019, The Times of India

China on Friday condemned the Pulwama terror attack carried out by a Jaish suicide bomber but once again declined to back India's appeal to list the Pakistan-based terror group's chief Masood Azhar as a global terrorist by the UN.

[US, Russia, other countries condemn Pulwama attack](#)

Feb 15, 2019, Rediff.com

The United States and other countries on Thursday condemned the terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district and said they stand alongside India in defeating terrorism.

[India bides its time in the Indian Ocean](#)

Feb 8, 2019, East Asia Forum

New Delhi's strategic circles are abuzz with speculation of a defence infrastructure upgrade at India's Andaman and Nicobar islands in the Bay of Bengal.

[Raja Mandala: A dialogue, an opportunity](#)

Feb 12, 2019, The Indian Express

US commerce secretary's visit could be an occasion for Delhi and Washington to heed the lessons of the past, ease trade tensions.

[US considers withdrawal of zero tariffs for India: Report](#)

Feb 10, 2019, Live Mint

India could lose a vital US trade concession, under which it enjoys zero tariffs on \$5.6 billion of exports to the United States, amid a widening dispute over its trade and investment policies, people with close knowledge of the matter said.

[US firms rule Indian digital space, but Chinese tech is closing in](#)

Feb 13, 2019, The Financial Express

US companies have the upper hand at the moment in Indian digital space, but here are some of the reasons why Chinese companies have a really good shot at dominating the battle in the long run.

[US- India CEO Forum to highlight key market access issues, help bilateral trade, says government](#)

Feb 12, 2019, The Economic Times

Ahead of the Indo-US Commercial Dialogue and the Indo-US CEO Forum, the government has said the forum will help highlight key market access issues that impact the ease of doing business in both countries.

[U.S., India seek to boost trade ties in energy, defence](#)

Feb 14, 2019, Reuters

The United States and India plan to boost bilateral trade in energy, aerospace, defence, pharmaceuticals and healthcare as part of a continuing commercial dialogue, officials from both governments said.

[India signs contract with US firm for 72,400 assault rifles](#)

Feb 12, 2019, The Economic Times

India has signed a contract with a US firm for 72,400 assault rifles at a cost of around Rs 700 crore, Defence Ministry officials said.

[South Asian nations start revisiting China's BRI, the great pushback begins](#)

Feb 12, 2019, The Economic Times

China is facing a push back against its BRI in South Asia including from local politicians in Balochistan and this could emerge as a headache ahead of second BRI Summit.

Pakistan

[ICJ to take up Kulbhushan Jadhav's case on 18th](#)

Feb 15, 2019, DAWN

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) formally commences public hearing on the conviction of Kulbhushan Jadhav from Feb 18.

[Pakistan, Malaysia expected to finalise LNG supply deal](#)

Feb 15, 2019, The Express Tribune

Pakistan and Malaysia are likely to finalise a multibillion-dollar liquefied natural gas (LNG) supply deal in a government-to-government arrangement during the upcoming visit of Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohammad.

[Iran expresses desire to join CPEC](#)

Feb 15, 2019, The Express Tribune

Iran expressed its desire to become a part of the multi-billion dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project.

[IMF bailout and structural reforms in Pakistan](#)

Feb 15, 2019, The Daily Times

There is no conclusive end in sight, yet there has been some contact by the both sides again. It seems PTI government wants to get another bailout package from the IMF, yet they do not want too harsh conditions to be imposed, particularly in their initial time in the government.

[Afghan peace: FM to present Pakistan's stance at Munich Security Conference](#)

Feb 14, 2019, The Express Tribune

Speaking to reporters prior to his departure, the foreign minister said he will also hold meetings with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and his counterparts from countries including Russia, Germany, Uzbekistan and Canada.

['Intra-Afghan' talks: US envoy to visit Pakistan, Afghanistan on six-nation tour](#)

Feb 11, 2019, The Express Tribune

US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation, Zalmay Khalilzad, is set to lead a large delegation on a six-nation tour, including Pakistan and Afghanistan, to boost the peace process and bring "all Afghan parties together in an intra-Afghan dialogue".

Afghanistan

[New reforms will be implemented in security organs: NSC](#)

Feb 13, 2019, Afghanistan Times

The National Security Council (NSC) says that it has launched a new reform process in the security and defense organs to pave the ground for better security in the country.

[Agreement signed on direct Herat-New Delhi flights](#)

Feb 14, 2019, Pajhwok Afghan News

An agreement was signed with KamAir airlines on direct flights between western city of Herat and New Delhi, the Indian capital, via the air-corridor between the two countries.

[Jinsong calls on Karzai](#)

Feb 13, 2019, Afghanistan Times

The China Ambassador to Afghanistan, Liu Jinsong met with former President Hamid Karzai, where both sides exchanged thoughts on the Afghani issues. During meeting, Karzai sent Lunar New Year greetings to the Chinese people and wished them a prosperous year.

[Afghan Peace Process: Multiple Players with Conflicting Agendas](#)

Feb 9, 2019, Daily Outlook Afghanistan

Peace building is a process of strengthening a society's capacity to manage conflict in non-violent ways. However, conflict is natural in society and can lead to positive change. On the other hand if conflict is not well managed, it can also descend into violence.

[Afghan Youths Want Bigger Role in Peace](#)

Feb 9, 2019, Daily Outlook Afghanistan

A day after a two-day meeting of Afghan politicians and Taliban representatives in Moscow, Afghan youths at a gathering in Kabul said they have not been given an active role in the process and that they are concerned about possible "agreements" in this regard which they believe will "affect the past 18 years' achievements" including freedom of speech and women's rights.

Bangladesh

[Dhaka, Riyadh sign defense MoU](#)

Feb 12, 2019, Dhaka Tribune

Bangladesh and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) aiming to enhance defense cooperation between the two countries.

[Myanmar claims St Martin's as its territory again](#)

Feb 14, 2019, The Independent

Myanmar keeps distorting facts showing Bangladesh's St Martin's Island as part of its territory in Myanmar's government maps prompting Dhaka to react sharply and lodge a strong protest officially against the 'deliberate' attempt.

[Power plant final deal with Reliance Group 'soon'](#)

Feb 15, 2019, The Independent

The final deal with Indian Reliance Group is finally going to be signed for its proposed LNG-based 750 MW power plant as the Power Division has recently received clearance from the ministries of Law and Finance for the agreement, official sources said.

[Bangladesh Minister Brushes Aside US Lawmakers' Concern about Electoral Fraud](#)

Feb 13, 2019, Benar News

Bangladesh's new foreign minister said Wednesday he was not concerned by a letter from a U.S. congressional committee that alleged fraud and other irregularities in last December's general election.

[Bangladesh's social protection initiatives highlighted at UN](#)

Feb 14, 2019, Dhaka Tribune

The Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN, Ambassador Masud Bin Momen, has highlighted Bangladesh's initiatives on social protection that have been implemented by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government.

[Fish migration: Opening of Farakka will benefit Bangladesh, India](#)

Feb 13, 2019, Dhaka Tribune

Bangladesh and India will both benefit from the opening of the Farakka barrage, as it will be favorable for ilish fish in general, said sector experts.

Nepal

['Nepal-India ties should grow naturally'](#)

Feb 13, 2019, The Himalayan Times

Speaking at a programme organised by Nepal-India Friendship Society to welcome Nepal's Ambassador-designate to India Nilambar Acharya, experts said Nepal-India relations developed naturally even before the establishment of formal diplomatic relations in 1947, and that issues hindering natural growth of Nepal-India relations should be identified and addressed.

[Rough road ahead](#)

Feb 15, 2019, The Kathmandu Post

Nepal and China have shared close bilateral ties for many years, reinforced by mechanisms such as the Joint Consultation Mechanism and the Nepal-China Inter-Governmental Economic, among others. After the first 'economic aid' ties in October 1956, China has risen to become one of the leading investors in Nepal.

[Nepal: Why Not in Indo-Pacific?](#)

Feb 14, 2019, Telegraph Nepal

Observers recall that the US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo while meeting his Nepali Counterpart, Pradip Gyawali, in Washington D. C on December 18, 2018, had not only proposed Nepal to play a key role in the Indo-Pacific Affairs but also hinted Nepal to be of substantial support in seducing the North Korean regime for 'Denuclearization'.

[Prime Minister inaugurates Nepal's first shipping office](#)

Feb 14, 2019, Online Khabar

Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli has inaugurated the country's first shipping office in Kathmandu. The office was set up as per instructions from the PM Oli to pave the way from Nepal's flag-bearing ship to come into operation

[Foundation laid for economic prosperity: PM Oli](#)

Feb 14, 2019, The Himalayan Times

Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli has said that the government has been successful in its goal of laying the foundation for economic prosperity in the country.

[Nepal government tightens screws on social media](#)

Feb 13, 2019, The Kathmandu Post

The government has proposed a new law that seeks to curtail freedom of expression by introducing harsh punishment for posting "improper" contents on social networking sites that the authorities can construe as a character assassination and an attack on national sovereignty.

Bhutan

[13th Bhutan-India border management security meeting held](#)

Feb 14, 2019, Bhutanese Expression

The Bhutanese delegation was led by the Home Secretary, Sonam Tobgay and the Indian side was led by Indian Home Secretary Rajiv Gauba. At the meeting, both sides reaffirmed its commitment to further strengthen the existing relationship.

[Bangladesh, Bhutan to explore new areas in trade](#)

Feb 14, 2019, The Daily Star

Despite good relations between Bangladesh and Bhutan, the bilateral trade volume is relatively small and limited to few goods. Despite good relations between Bangladesh and Bhutan, the bilateral trade volume is relatively small and limited to few goods.

[Bhutan Records Lowest Inflation Rate In 2018 At 3.13 Percent](#)

Feb 11, 2019, Daily Bhutan

Bhutan recorded the lowest inflation rate since the National Statistics Bureau (NSB) began its tracking 15 years ago. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) or the inflation rate from December 2017 to December 2018, increased by 3.13 percent, up by 0.04 percentage point.

[Bhutan Shortlisted As A Finalist For The Intellectual Property \(IP\) Sharing Project 2019](#)

Feb 14, 2019, Daily Bhutan

Bhutan has been selected as one of the four finalists out of 13 countries which participated in the 2019 Intellectual Property (IP) Sharing Project. This is the first time that Bhutan has taken part in such a project.

Sri Lanka

[Pentagon Seeks Sustained Engagement with Sri Lanka](#)

Feb 14, 2019, Onlanka.com

A top US commander has advocated sustained American engagement with Sri Lanka despite the political and ethnic turmoil in the island nation posing a challenge to bilateral ties, amid increasing Chinese influence in the strategically important Indo-Pacific region.

[SL to purchase Mi-17s from Russia for UN missions](#)

Feb 11, 2019, Daily Mirror

Sri Lanka is negotiating with Russia the purchase of a new batch of Russian Mi-17 helicopters, which the country will use in UN peacekeeping missions.

[Sri Lanka and India are two sides of the same coin: Ranil](#)

Feb 12, 2019, Daily FT

Reinforcing the importance of stronger ties, especially economic Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe described Sri Lanka and India as "two sides of the same coin."

[Major breakdown in India-Sri Lanka relationship after change of govt in 2014: MR](#)

Feb 10, 2019, Daily Mirror

Opposition leader Mahinda Rajapaksa said yesterday that there was a "major breakdown" in the bilateral relationship between India and his country after a new government was formed in New Delhi in 2014, but the opposition coalition he is heading now has a "good understanding" with India's ruling party.

[Sri Lanka urged to develop own narrative of China's BRI](#)

Feb 11, 2019, Daily Mirror

Sri Lanka needs to develop its own narrative of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which is neither over-shadowed by reports from Western media nor reports circulated from China, while holding the Sri Lankan government accountable when entering into agreements with various Chinese State-owned entities under BRI.

[Core Group to present UN resolution on SL to promote reconciliation](#)

Feb 13, 2019, Daily Mirror

The Core Group on Sri Lanka, comprising Canada, Germany, Macedonia, Montenegro and the UK would present a resolution on promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka, UK Permanent Representative to the UN, Julian Braithwaite said.

Maldives

[India-Maldives visa liberalisation due to take effect in March](#)

Feb 13, 2019, Maldives Independent

A visa facilitation agreement between India and the Maldives will come into force on March 11 after diplomatic notes were exchanged and legal formalities were completed.

[Maldives ex-president says debt under audit](#)

Feb 14, 2019, The News Tribune

Ex-Maldives President Mohamed Nasheed said that the country is seeking to reduce the more than \$3 billion he estimates it could owe China, some of which he said came in the form of "ill-gotten wealth" for the previous government of President Yameen Abdul Gayoom.

[Maldives: Ex-president Yameen charged with money laundering](#)

Feb 14, 2019, Daily Trust

The top prosecutor in the Maldives has filed money-laundering charges against Abdulla Yameen over allegations the former president received one million dollars stolen from state coffers in the country's biggest-ever corruption scandal.

[Maldives to set more ambitious targets for climate action, says Mohamed Nasheed](#)

Feb 14, 2019, Live Mint

Amidst threat of severe flooding in wake of rising sea-levels, island nation of Maldives has decided to revise its Nationally Determined Contributions(NDCs) to reduce carbon emissions under the 2015 Paris Agreement.

East & South East Asia

China

[China voices strong opposition to Modi's visit to region on east section of its border with India](#)

Feb 9, 2019, Xinhua

The Chinese Foreign Ministry on Saturday expressed strong opposition to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to a region on the east section of the China-India border.

[China-Laos railway to complete 90 pct bridge, tunnel construction in 2019](#)

Feb 14, 2019, Xinhua

Over 90 percent of the tendered bridge and tunnel projects of the China-Laos railway will be completed by the end of 2019, the construction company has said.

[China-US trade talks light up](#)

Feb 14, 2019, Global Times

Chinese social media had a field day, as they make lighthearted note about the latest round of high-level trade negotiations between China and the US that opened in Beijing on Thursday, offering some indication of shift in mood toward the tense relations between the world's two biggest economies amid a months-long trade war.

[China slams Turkish FM's Xinjiang centers claim](#)

Feb 11, 2019, Global Times

The Chinese Embassy in Turkey also strongly opposed accusations from Turkey on Xinjiang's vocational education and training centers, saying the accusations are "contrary to the facts" and were made up "out of thin air."

[China reiterates its normal relations with Venezuela](#)

Feb 14, 2019, Xinhua

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying made the comments at a news briefing when asked about recent remarks by the U.S. special envoy for Venezuela Elliott Abrams that China may stop supplying loans to Venezuela considering its repayment ability.

Japan

[Abe reiterates criticism of S. Korea over 'comfort women' remarks](#)

Feb 14, 2019, The Yomiuri Shimbun

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has reiterated his harsh criticism of the South Korean national assembly speaker's call for the Emperor to apologize over the issue of so-called comfort women.

[Tokyo, Seoul reaffirm cooperation over N. Korea](#)

Feb 10, 2019, The Yomiuri Shimbun

Senior diplomat Kenji Kanasugi on Saturday reiterated Japan's stance to continue cooperation with South Korea over issues related to North Korea, despite strained ties between Tokyo and Seoul.

[Ground Self-Defense Force to be sent to Sinai Peninsula](#)

Feb 10, 2019, The Yomiuri Shimbun

The government plans to send Ground Self-Defense Force members to the Sinai Peninsula in eastern Egypt to monitor a ceasefire between the Israeli and Egyptian militaries as part of the Multinational Force and Observers, multiple government sources said.

[Abe to talk with Trump ahead of Kim summit](#)

Feb 7, 2019, The Yomiuri Shimbun

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe plans to hold a telephone conference with U.S. President Donald Trump shortly to coordinate policies on North Korea, ahead of the second summit between Washington and Pyongyang, informed sources said Wednesday.

[Sharing a mutual wariness of China, Abe and Merkel pledge to cooperate on security and economy](#)

Feb 5, 2019, The Yomiuri Shimbun

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and German Chancellor Angela Merkel agreed Monday that both countries would promote bilateral cooperation on both the security and economic fronts.

[Tokyo to hold informal talks with Seoul over Sea of Japan name](#)

Feb 6, 2019, The Yomiuri Shimbun

The government will hold informal talks with South Korea over the name of the Sea of Japan as early as this spring, it has been learned.

[Coast guard eyes closer tie-ups with S.E. Asia to counter China](#)

Feb 6, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

The Japan Coast Guard is moving to set up a special section as early as this summer to work closely with other nations to counter maritime advances by China in the region, sources said.

[PM Abe vows to resolve territorial dispute with Russia](#)

Feb 7, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe vowed Thursday to take a "step-by-step" approach in resolving a territorial dispute with Russia left over from World War II.

[Japan cancels port call by Izumo in South Korea amid row](#)

Feb 6, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

Japan announced Tuesday it has canceled a port call in South Korea by its main destroyer during a multilateral naval exercise as relations between the two Asian neighbors fall to their lowest level in recent years.

[Hagerty: U.S. frustrated at pace of trade talks with Japan](#)

Feb 5, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

Washington is frustrated at the slow pace of trade talks with Tokyo but will not raise tariffs on Japanese vehicles if negotiations are held in "good faith" and in a timely manner, U.S. Ambassador William Hagerty said.

[South Korea fails to answer Japan's request for talks on looming asset seizure linked to wartime labor ruling](#)

Feb 9, 2019, The Japan Times

South Korea failed to respond to Japan's request to launch talks over the imminent seizure of assets of a major Japanese steel-maker in connection with a Korean court decision regarding the issue of wartime labor, a Foreign Ministry official said Friday.

Korea

[Korea forced to choose between US and China over Huawei](#)

Feb 14, 2019, The Korea Times

Korea is increasingly feeling pressure to take the side of either the United States or China over Chinese telecoms equipment maker Huawei, which Washington sees as a security threat to its people and allies.

[Parliament speaker stands by call for Japanese emperor's apology over 'comfort women'](#)

Feb 2, 2019, The Korea Times

South Korea's National Assembly speaker said Tuesday that he stands by his earlier call on the Japanese emperor to apologize for Tokyo's wartime sexual enslavement of Korean women.

[Ministry defends parliamentary chief's remarks on sex slaves against Japan's criticism](#)

Feb 2, 2019, The Korea Times

South Korea's foreign ministry said Tuesday that National Assembly Speaker Moon Hee-sang's recent remarks on the issue of Japan's wartime sexual enslavement of Korean women were intended to underscore the need for the neighboring country's "sincere attitude" in addressing the long-simmering issue.

[Seoul calls for democratic presidential election in Venezuela](#)

Feb 14, 2019, The Korea Times

The South Korean government issued another statement Thursday urging democratic measures to resolve the protracted political crisis in Venezuela.

[Foreign ministers of S. Korea, Japan to meet in Germany this week](#)

Feb 14, 2019, The Korea Herald

The top diplomats of South Korea and Japan will meet this week, Seoul's foreign ministry said Thursday, amid heightened tensions between the two sides over various issues.

[S. Korea, US lawmakers meet ahead of 2nd Trump-Kim summit](#)

Feb 14, 2019, The Korea Herald

A group of South Korean opposition lawmakers met Wednesday with a US senator handling Korea issues to discuss the upcoming summit between US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un.

[Presidential office denies sharp hikes in upcoming military cost-sharing deal with US](#)

Feb 13, 2019, The Korea Herald

South Korea's presidential office said Wednesday that Seoul and Washington had not agreed to a possible sharp increase in Seoul's share of the costs of stationing US Forces Korea here, in response to recent remarks by US President Donald Trump that the cost burden would keep growing.

Southeast Asia

[Singapore reports lowest GDP growth in two years as trade ministry warns manufacturers may be vulnerable](#)

Feb 15, 2019, South China Morning Post

Singapore's economy grew at its slowest pace in more than two years in the fourth quarter, data showed on Friday, and the city state's trade ministry warned that manufacturing is likely to face significant moderation this year.

[Tokyo to lend Manila US\\$202 million to bridge infrastructure gap in Mindanao conflict zone](#)

Feb 15, 2019, South China Morning Post

Japan will lend the Philippines up to US\$202 million to build roads and bridges in conflict areas of Mindanao in the country's south.

[Malaysian trade chamber urges caution when discussing China-backed ECRL project](#)

Feb 15, 2019, South China Morning Post

Just weeks after Malaysia's China-backed East Coast Rail Link (ECRL) project appeared to be mired in indecision, the Malaysia-China Chamber of Commerce has urged non-governmental parties to exercise caution when discussing the matter as reviews and negotiations of the "sensitive" project continue.

[China's treatment of Uygurs an obstacle to developing better ties with Turkey and Middle East countries, say experts at Singapore conference](#)

Feb 13, 2019, South China Morning Post

China's treatment of its Muslim minorities, the Uygurs, will be a potential source of contention in any effort to build closer ties with Turkey and Middle East countries, experts at a conference said on Tuesday.

[If Asia is tired of 'Emperor Xi', it must get its head around India](#)

Feb 6, 2019, South China Morning Post

India is a misunderstood giant – an economic presence that is fast becoming a critical engine of world growth. But economics is just the beginning. A heavy handed China means Southeast Asia desperately needs India to play a larger role in its future.

[Goodbye Philippines, hello 'Maharlika'? Duterte wants to rename country in break from colonial past](#)

Feb 6, 2019, The Straits Times

Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte is advocating to change the nation's name one day to "Maharlika" to move away from the country's colonial links.

[Vietnam foreign minister to visit North Korea from Feb 12 to 14 ahead of Trump-Kim summit](#)

Feb 6, 2019, The Straits Times

Vietnam's foreign minister Pham Binh Minh will visit North Korea ahead of this month's planned summit between US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Hanoi, a spokesman said on Monday (Feb 11).

[New parties to challenge Suu Kyi's dominance](#)

Feb 15, 2019, The Straits Times

New political groups are emerging to contest Myanmar's next election in 2020, aiming to challenge the hegemony of national civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi after she has been weakened by escalating ethnic conflicts and slowing economic growth.

Central & West Asia

[Kazakhstan plans to provide satellite communications services to Central Asian countries](#)

Feb 15, 2019, Azer News

Development of own space industry for Kazakhstan is a matter of both political prestige and economic necessity.

[Tajikistan plans to increase electricity exports to Afghanistan, Uzbekistan](#)

Feb 14, 2019, Azer News

Tajikistan plans to increase electricity exports to Afghanistan and Uzbekistan in 2019, said Chairman of the state energy holding "Barki Tochik" Mirzo Ismoilzod.

[As traders tussle over tankers, Turkmenistan slashes oil exports](#)

Feb 14, 2019, Reuters

A clash between trading house Vitol and Azerbaijan's SOCAR over Caspian Sea oil shipments is forcing Turkmenistan to slash exports of crude due to a lack of tankers.

[Turkmenistan to host OSCE conference on countering terrorism financing](#)

Feb 14, 2019, Azer News

Turkmenistan is scheduled to host a conference on "Countering terrorism financing and organized crime" April 17-18, 2019, which will be organized with the participation of the OSCE.

[Uzbekistan Emerges From Isolation with \\$1 Billion Bond Sale](#)

Feb 14, 2019, Bloomberg

Uzbekistan sold \$1 billion of Eurobonds in its first foray into international debt markets as the ex-Soviet republic opens its economy to foreign investment after more than two decades of isolation.

[Uzbekistan gets first-ever Moody's sovereign rating](#)

Feb 13, 2019, Xinhua

Moody's B1 rating means that the country is vulnerable, but now it can fulfill its financial obligations.

[Israel, Arab states come together at conference against Iran](#)

Feb 13, 2019, Ynet news.com

Prime Minister Netanyahu travels to Warsaw to attend summit on peace and security in the Middle East, which will focus on the Iranian threat; for the first time since the 1991 Madrid Conference, an Israeli PM will sit in the same room as representatives from many Arab nations.

[In Warsaw, Pence hails sight of Netanyahu 'breaking bread' with Arab leaders](#)

Feb 14, 2019, The Times of Israel

US vice president says joint US-Polish hosted conference is a symbol of further cooperation and a brighter future for the troubled region.

[Iran denounces US-led Middle East conference in Warsaw](#)

Feb 13, 2019, Al Jazeera

Iran's leaders call out US over Poland meeting as hundreds protest against Tehran government in Warsaw.

[Lebanese FM Says Won't Join Warsaw Conference Because Of Israel](#)

Feb 12, 2019, The Jerusalem Post

Lebanese Foreign Minister Gebran Bassil said he or any representative from his country will not take part in the U.S.-sponsored ministerial summit in Warsaw, called to "promote a future of peace and security in the Middle East" because of Israel.

[Turkey not to attend anti-Iran Warsaw summit](#)

Feb 13, 2019, Mehr News Agency

This decision is based on Turkey's principles, the official explained, stressing that its non-participation should be interpreted as the Turkish government's distance to the US-led initiative.

[Iran Could Get Nuclear Weapon Within Two Years, Intel Assessments Find](#)

Feb 13, 2019, The Jerusalem Post

Israeli intelligence assessment finds if Tehran leaves JCPOA it would have enough fissionable material within a year.

United States

[Trump Considers 60-Day Extension for China Tariff Deadline](#)

Feb 14, 2019, Bloomberg Quint

President Donald Trump is considering pushing back the deadline for imposition of higher tariffs on Chinese imports by 60 days, as the world's two biggest economies try to negotiate a solution to their trade dispute, according to people familiar with the matter.

[Pence demands EU isolate Iran as Israelis, Arabs unite](#)

Feb 14, 2019, Daily Mail Online

US Vice President Mike Pence demanded Thursday that Europeans drop a nuclear deal with Iran and join in seeking to cripple the regime, a cause that united Israel with longtime Arab rivals at a conference in Warsaw.

[Mike Pompeo says confronting Iran key to peace in Middle East at Warsaw conference](#)

Feb 14, 2019, The Globe and Mail

S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo called Iran the top threat in the Middle East, and said confronting the country is key to reaching peace in the entire region. Pompeo, who was attending a security conference in Warsaw, met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu before the opening session at the conference. He said "pushing back" against Iran was central to dealing with all the region's other problems.

[Mike Pompeo Says Putin Threatening Democracies Worldwide](#)

Feb 13, 2019, News 18

Mike Pompeo is seeking to highlight the US role in the fall of communism three decades ago at a time when Putin finds a widening audience in the former Eastern bloc.

[US Warns India, Others Over Oil Export Sanctions On Venezuela](#)

Feb 14, 2019, NDTV

The hardline US National Security Adviser John Bolton has issued a warning to India against buying Venezuelan oil, saying it "will not be forgotten" and that Venezuela's Foreign Minister Jorge Alberto Arreaza has countered that it was an attempt to impose Washington's global "dictatorship".

Europe & Russia

[UK signs post-Brexit trade deal with Switzerland](#)

Feb 11, 2019, BBC News

The UK and Switzerland have signed a deal to continue trading after Brexit as they did before it.

[Brexit: Ministers under fire over 'no deal' position](#)

Feb 14, 2019, BBC News

Brexit Secretary Stephen Barclay has come under fire for refusing to rule out a no-deal Brexit.

[Dutch PM on Brexit: UK is a waning country too small to stand alone](#)

Feb 14, 2019, The Guardian

Britain is a "waning country" and too small to stand alone on the world stage, the Dutch prime minister, Mark Rutte, has claimed in a withering assessment of the UK's exit from the EU.

[What are the consequences of France's dispute with Italy?](#)

Feb 13, 2019, RFI

French and Italian leaders have tried to smooth over weeks of politically-motivated diplomatic tensions, with approaching European elections suggesting the spat will continue.

[Germany avoids recession with flat final 2018 quarter](#)

Feb 14, 2019, Deutsche Welle

Slow global trade, auto industry troubles and low water on the Rhine all contributed to a final-quarter growth of zero percent, meaning Europe's biggest economy dodged a technical recession by the smallest of margins.

[Sweden investigates its Beijing ambassador over 'strange' meetings](#)

Feb 14, 2019, The Guardian

Sweden is investigating its ambassador to China after she was accused of orchestrating a bizarre series of meetings between the daughter of a Swedish bookseller jailed in China and businessmen who said they could help secure his release.

[Russia boycotts anti-Iran Warsaw conference](#)

Feb 14, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Russia has decided not to attend the US-led international conference inaugurated in Polish capital Warsaw.

[Kremlin slams US sanctions bill as act of unfair competition](#)

Feb 14, 2019, RT

Top Moscow officials have lashed out at a new US "bill from hell" which imposes sanctions on Russia's banking and energy industry, but said the country is well prepared to face the "racketeering" penalties.

[Russia, Iran & Turkey talk long-term Syrian peace in Sochi as US and allies beat war drums in Warsaw](#)

Feb 14, 2019, RT

Leaders from Russia, Turkey and Iran have descended on the Black Sea city of Sochi to discuss ways of ending Syria's near-eight-year civil war. Meanwhile, hostile talk is emerging from a meeting of the US and its allies in Warsaw.

[Russia, Turkey, Iran See U.S. Pullout From Syria As 'Positive Step,' Putin Says](#)

Feb 14, 2019, Rferl.org

Russia, Turkey, and Iran see the planned U.S. withdrawal from Syria as a positive step, President Vladimir Putin said after a summit with his Turkish and Iranian counterparts on February 14 in Sochi.

[Russian official discusses intra-Palestinian reconciliation with Fatah member](#)

Feb 11, 2019, Wafa

Azzam al-Ahmad, member of Fatah Central Committee and the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), met in Moscow with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov to discuss intra-Palestinian reconciliation prior to a meeting in Russia for the Palestinian factions.

[Russia Warns United States Against Intervening In Venezuela](#)

Feb 13, 2019, Rferl.org

Russia's foreign minister has warned the United States against interfering in Venezuela's internal affairs.

Africa & Latin America

[EU blacklists Nigeria, Libya over money laundering, terrorism financing](#)

Feb 14, 2019, Africa News.com

The European Commission added Saudi Arabia, Panama, Nigeria and other jurisdictions to a blacklist of nations that pose a threat because of lax controls on terrorism financing and money laundering, the EU executive said.

[US targets Al-Qaeda in Libya air strike](#)

Feb 14, 2019, Gulf News

The US carried out an air strike against Al-Qaeda in southern Libya on Wednesday night, Tripoli's UN-backed Government of National Accord said.

[UAE and Africa startups meet to foster cooperation](#)

Feb 11, 2019, Africa News.com

Startups from the UAE and Africa will participate in the first-ever Chamberthon event organised and hosted by Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry during the Africa Tech Summit in Kigali, Rwanda.

[African Union head calls for international Libya summit](#)

Feb 9, 2019, Middle East Monitor

In spite of African efforts over the past several years, the conflict in Libya still lingers, Moussa Faki Mahamat told the opening of the 32nd Summit of the African Heads of State and Government in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital.

[Egypt's Sisi takes over African Union presidency](#)

Feb 9, 2019, Egypt Independent

Egypt's President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi will arrive in Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa on Saturday to attend the 32nd ordinary session of the African Union (AU) Assembly, during which Egypt will take over chairmanship of the AU.

[President Buhari's remarks at signing of Peace Accord on 2019 Presidential Election](#)

Feb 13, 2019, Pulse Nigeria

Remarks by his excellency, Muhammadu Buhari, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria at the final signing of peace accord on 2019 presidential election at the international conference centre Abuja on Wednesday 13 th February 2019.

[Sudan's opposition unites to call on dictator Bashir to resign](#)

Feb 13, 2019, CBC.ca

Sudan's main opposition groups issued their first joint call for President Omar al-Bashir to step down, appearing at a news conference together for the first time since protests erupted across the country nearly two months ago.

[South Sudan refugees fleeing to DR Congo](#)

Feb 14, 2019, Daily Nation

Thousands of people fleeing violence in South Sudan have crossed the border into northeast Democratic Republic of Congo, the UN said.

[South America Is a Battlefield in the New Cold War](#)

Feb 10, 2019, Bloomberg

The Venezuela crisis is a test of Russian and Chinese power in America's backyard.

[Maduro government in desperate hunt for gold, oil buyers](#)

Feb 13, 2019, CBC

As U.S. sanctions begin to bite, embattled Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro is in a desperate hunt for new markets for the country's oil and gold.

[Guaido Plans To Restore Venezuela-Israel Relations](#)

Feb 14, 2019, African News Network

Venezuela's self-declared president, Juan Guaido, says he's working to restore ties with Israel a decade after Venezuela severed relations with the Jewish state in solidarity with the Palestinians.

[Brazil indigenous groups decry Bolsonaro's escalating attacks](#)

Feb 14, 2019, Epeak

Brazilian indigenous groups say far-right President Jair Bolsonaro has ramped up land grabs, intimidation and even killings during his short time in office.

[Drug lord, escape artist 'El Chapo' convicted by U.S. jury](#)

Feb 13, 2019, The Star Online

The world's most infamous cartel boss Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, who rose from poverty in rural Mexico to amass billions of dollars, was found guilty in a U.S. court on Tuesday of smuggling tons of drugs to the United States over a violent, colourful, decades-long career.



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