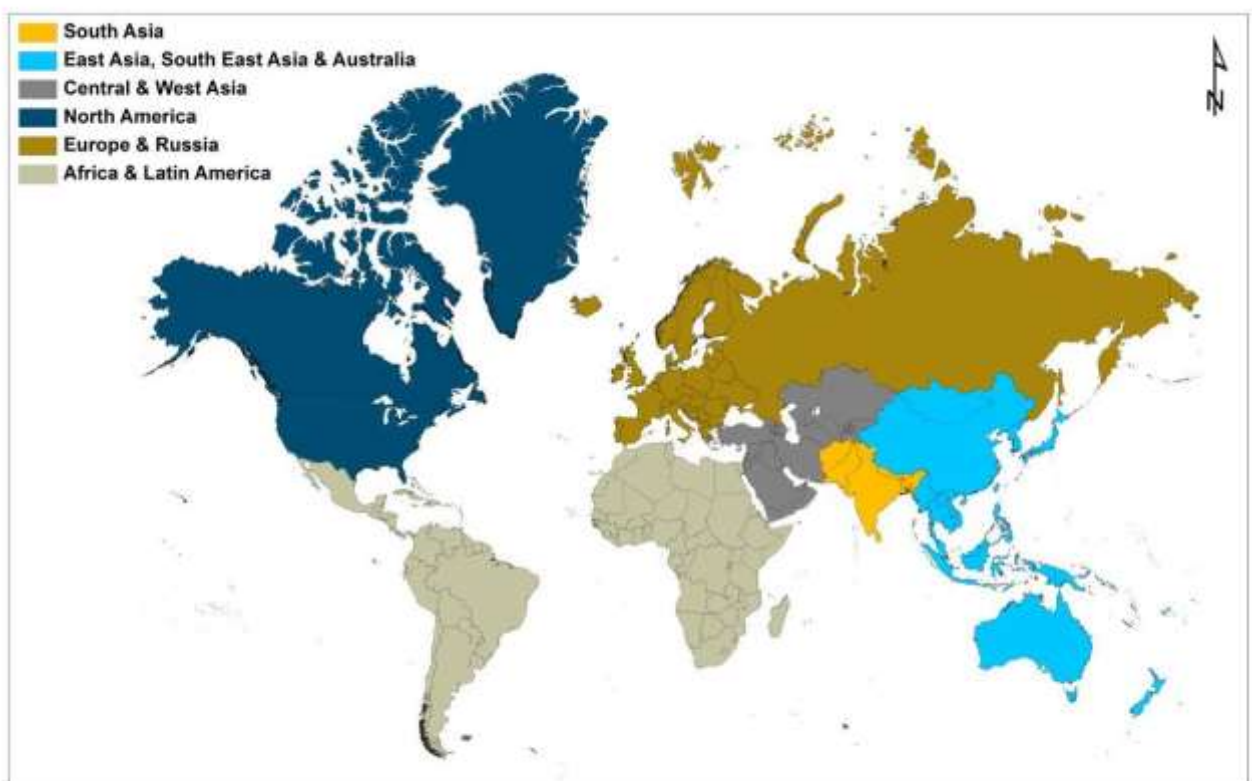




Delhi Policy Group

DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



Volume III, Issue 8 | FEBRUARY 22, 2019



DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

Volume 3, Issue 8

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

DPG Weekly World Watch is based on analysis of open source information. To subscribe please [click here](#).

Your comments and feedback can be addressed to Angana Guha Roy at angana@dpg.org.in.

© 2019 by the Delhi Policy Group

Delhi Policy Group

Core 5A, 1st Floor,
India Habitat Centre,
Lodhi Road, New Delhi- 110003.
www.delhipolicygroup.org

Contents

South Asia.....	1
East & South East Asia.....	13
Central & West Asia	20
United States	23
Europe & Russia	25
Africa & Latin America	28

South Asia

India

[Time for global community to unite and fight terrorism: PM Modi in South Korea](#)

Feb 22, 2019, The Indian Express

PM Modi said that the Korean president had expressed his condolences on Pulwama attack and offered his support against terrorism.

[All Eyes on FATF as India Pushes for Pakistan to be Blacklisted Like North Korea and Iran](#)

Feb 22, 2019, News 18

India wants Pakistan to be put under “closer scrutiny immediately” and has demanded that “stronger implementation” be sought from Islamabad in curbing terror financing.

[After Pulwama, India to put Track II initiative with Pakistan on hold](#)

Feb 22, 2019, The Times of India

A major Indo-Pak Track II initiative, in the absence of any formal dialogue, is likely to be the first casualty of the Pulwama terror attack which left more than 40 CRPF jawans dead.

[Water flowing to Pakistan from eastern rivers will be diverted to J-K, Punjab: Gadkari](#)

Feb 22, 2019, The Indian Express

Union minister Nitin Gadkari said the Narendra Modi-led central government has decided to stop its share of eastern rivers water flowing to Pakistan in the wake of the deadly Pulwama terror attack.

[China signals shift: UNSC condemns Pulwama terror attack, names JeM](#)

Feb 22, 2019, The Indian Express

The statement is significant because China has singlehandedly blocked the listing of JeM chief Masood Azhar as a “global terrorist” at the UN Security Council Resolution 1267 sanctions committee for the last 10 years.

[China's master plan: A weak Indian regime to emerge from elections](#)

Feb 15, 2019, Hindustan Times

If India is to safeguard its interests and expand its global footprint, its next government would need a more clear-headed and self-assured foreign policy, particularly for addressing the China challenge

[Why Imran Khan's words ring hollow: Pakistan is sitting on Jaish dossiers](#)

Feb 20, 2019, The Indian Express

When Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan says that he will act if he gets "any actionable intelligence," not many will buy this at face value.

[58 nations condemn Pulwama terror attack, US names Pakistan](#)

Feb 17, 2019, India Today

India continues with its diplomatic offensive on day-two of its engagement with the envoys of several nations and regional blocs to garner support against Pakistan.

[US NSA dials AjitDoval: Support India's right to self-defence](#)

Feb 17, 2019, The Indian Express

US National Security Advisor John Bolton's underlying message in the conversation is being read by New Delhi as a nod to a possible retaliatory strategic response by India, including military options.

[Duty on imports from Pakistan raised to 200%](#)

Feb 17, 2019, The Telegraph

India imports mainly fresh fruits, cement, petroleum products, bulk minerals and ores and finished leather

[India, Saudi agree on need for increasing pressure on countries backing terror: PM Modi](#)

Feb 20, 2019, The Indian Express

Without mentioning Pakistan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Saudi Prince Mohammed Bin Salman agreed that eliminating the infrastructure of terrorism was important to punish terrorists and their supporters.

["France Will Push To Put Masood Azhar On UN Global Terror List": Envoy](#)

Feb 20, 2019, NDTV

French ambassador to India, Alexandre Ziegler, today said that France will move a proposal "in a couple of days" at the United Nations to put Pakistani terror group, Jaish-e-Mohammad chief, Maulana Masood Azhar, on the global terrorist list.

[India urgently needs a national security doctrine, clear red lines](#)

Feb 18, 2019, The Indian Express

We remain deficient in intelligence-analysis, inter-agency coordination, and, above all, a national security doctrine. Having created an elaborate national security framework, post Pokhran II, India has strangely shied away from promulgating a doctrine.

[Lockheed unveils new F-21 fighter jet configured for India](#)

Feb 20, 2019, Reuters

Lockheed Martin offered India on Wednesday a new combat jet to be made locally, the F-21, in an attempt to win a large military order worth more than \$15 billion.

[US Defence trade with India to hit \\$18 billion this year](#)

Feb 21, 2019, The Hindu Business Line

Defence relationship has emerged a major pillar of India-US strategic partnership and a key driver of the overall bilateral relationship since 2005, said Baba Kalyani, President, SIDM and Chairman, CII National Committee on Defence.

[Aero India 2019: LCA Tejas gets clearance for induction into IAF, US pitches for Make in India](#)

Feb 20, 2019, The News Minute

Eyeing an Indian order, US aerospace major Lockheed Martin showcased its F-21 multirole fighter that it says is configured for the IAF.

[Sitharaman urges defence vendors to invest in India, but hurdles remain](#)

Feb 21, 2019, Business Standard

Govt has signed 150 contracts worth Rs 1,27,500 crore with Indian vendors for military equipment till October 2018, says defence minister at Aero India 2019.

[India's elusive \\$15 billion fighter jet deal frustrates everyone from Boeing to Lockheed](#)

Feb 20, 2019, The Print

India wants to upgrade its rapidly aging fleet of fighter jets. But its red tape causes endless delays for both, global arms giants and the military.

Pakistan

[PM authorises military to respond decisively to any Indian misadventure](#)

Feb 21, 2019, The Express Tribune

Amid relentless sabre-rattling from Delhi in the aftermath of Pulwama suicide attack, Prime Minister Imran Khan has authorised the armed forces of Pakistan to respond "decisively and comprehensively" to any aggression or misadventure by India.

[Nothing more than a bullying attempt: Pakistan rebuffs India's decision to block river water](#)

Feb 21, 2019, India Today

Pakistan has termed India's decision of fully utilising its share of unused water from rivers Ravi, Beas and Sutlej that has been flowing into Pakistan a mere "bullying attempt".

[Pakistan bans Hafiz Saeed's charities, hints at action against group blamed for Pulwama attack](#)

Feb 21, 2019, The Express Tribune

Pakistan dropped a clear hint at taking action against a banned group blamed for the Pulwama suicide attack as the country outlawed two charities run by Hafiz Saeed who India alleges had masterminded the 2008 Mumbai attacks.

[Pakistan concludes arguments in Jadhav case before ICJ](#)

Feb 21, 2019, Geo News

Pakistan presented its concluding arguments in a case pertaining to Indian spy Kulbhushan Jadhav at the International Court of Justice (ICJ)

[Jadhav case beyond jurisdiction of Vienna Convention: Pakistan to ICJ](#)

Feb 22, 2019, Daily Times

Pakistan presented its concluding arguments in a case pertaining to Indian spy Kulbhushan Jadhav at the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

[India presents Nawaz's remarks on Mumbai attack as evidence in Jadhav case](#)

Feb 21, 2019, Pakistan Today

Indian advocate Harish Salve recalled an interview of former premier Nawaz Sharif during the hearing of the high-profile case of condemned RAW spy Kulbhushan Jadhav at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) as evidence that Sharif had acknowledged Pakistan's role in the 26/11 Mumbai attacks.

[India-Saudi joint statement on MBS visit stresses need for Indo-Pak dialogue](#)

Feb 21, 2019, Geo News

The joint statement by India and Saudi Arabia on the visit of Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman issued stressed on the need for resumption of a comprehensive dialogue between Pakistan and India.

[Pakistan, Saudi Arabia sign seven MoUs for cooperation in different sectors](#)

Feb 17, 2019, Ary News

Prime Minister Imran Khan held a one-on-one meeting with Saudi Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman (MBS) at the Prime Minister in Islamabad.

[Saudi Crown Prince discusses defense cooperation with Pakistan Army Chief](#)

Feb 18, 2019, DND

The Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman met the Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javed Bajwa in Islamabad on Monday as part of his engagements in Pakistan during the two-day state visit.

[Crown prince orders release of 2,107 Pakistani prisoners](#)

Feb 19, 2019, Daily Times

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman has ordered the release of about 2,100 Pakistani prisoners from the kingdom's jails during a high-profile visit to Islamabad, Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry said.

[Japanese Navy commander calls on Pakistan Navy chief](#)

Feb 20, 2019, Ary News

The Pakistan Navy spokesperson said both the military leaders exchanged views on the issues of mutual interest including defence and security.

[Pakistan Navy, Royal Malaysian Navy hold bilateral exercise](#)

Feb 18, 2019, Pakistan Observer

Pakistan Navy and Royal Malaysian Navy conducted Bilateral Exercise MALPAK-II at Karachi. Royal Malaysian Navy Ships KD KASTURI and KD MAHAWANGSA had arrived Karachi on 7 Feb to participate in Multinational Exercise AMAN-19.

Afghanistan

[Take actions against terrorism hideouts instead of irrelevant remarks: Kabul to Islamabad](#)

Feb 20, 2019, Afghanistan Times

Kabul Administration asked Pakistan to make sincere efforts to curb terrorism instead of giving irrelevant remarks that they don't help resolve any problem.

[Pakistan-India Tension Can Affect Entire Region: Envoy](#)

Feb 20, 2019, Tolo News

Pakistan's Ambassador to Afghanistan Zahid Nasrullah Khan said on Tuesday that further escalation of tension between India and Pakistan could have serious implications on the stability of the entire region, including Afghanistan.

[Taliban-US Postponed Meeting Sparks Concerns](#)

Feb 20, 2019, Daily Outlook Afghanistan

Some former Taliban members and Afghan politicians have voiced their concern over the delayed meeting between US and Taliban representatives in Islamabad.

[Consultative Loya Jirga Can't Resolve The Problem: Hekmatyar](#)

Feb 21, 2019, Tolo News

Hekmatyar reiterated the call for timely elections in the country, saying elections is the only solution to create a "credible and legitimate" government.

[Afghanistan-Pakistan Poor Trade and Transit Relations: The Need for Arrangements](#)

Feb 16, 2019, The Khaama Press

Afghanistan and Pakistan as two neighboring countries share strong cultural, religious, and trade relations for decades. The presence of over two million refugees in Pakistan, the almost 2500 kilometers Durand line, and the strong ethnic ties have made these two countries important to each other.

[Kabul, Ashgabat sign strategic accord, 7 MoUs](#)

Feb 21, 2019, Pajhwok Afghan News

Afghanistan and Turkmenistan signed a strategic partnership agreement and seven other accords in diverse fields including economy and fighting terror.

[Ghani dismiss Afghanistan's envoy for Commonwealth of Nations](#)

Feb 19, 2019, The Khaama Press

President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani has dismissed Afghanistan's special envoy to Commonwealth of Nations, the Office of the President said.

[Ghani and Pence met on sidelines of Munich Security Conference](#)

Feb 17, 2019, The Khaama Press

President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani and the U.S. Vice President Mike Pence met on the sidelines of Munich Security Conference to discuss key issues of mutual interest including the South Asia Strategy, electoral reforms, and peace process.

Bangladesh

[110 Dead in Bangladesh Fire: 'This Isn't About Poverty, It's About Greed'](#)

Feb 21, 2019, The New York Times

After the 2010 fire, government officials vowed to take strong action against building violations. Dhaka has clear zoning rules: For instance, it is illegal to store dangerous materials, such as the chemical compounds used to make plastics, in a residential building.

[Chawkbazar Inferno: World media blame lax safety regulations](#)

Feb 22, 2019, The Daily Star

World media yesterday highlighted the lax safety regulations and previous deadly fire incidents in Bangladesh, specially in the historic Old Dhaka, where a blaze on

Wednesday night ripped through several multi-storey buildings killing at least 67 people and injuring dozens more.

[India saddened at loss of lives in Chawkbazar fire](#)

Feb 21, 2019, UNB

India has expressed profound shock at the loss of lives in the Chawkbazar chemical warehouse fire.

[Myanmar has failed to act](#)

Feb 21, 2019, The Daily Star

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said it is unfortunate that Myanmar has failed to create a congenial atmosphere to take back Rohingyas, despite signing an agreement with Bangladesh on repatriation.

[Shamima Begum is British, has no claim to Bangladesh: Minister](#)

Feb 21, 2019, Al Jazeera

Shamima Begum, a British teenager who ran away from home to live in ISIL's so-called "caliphate", will not be allowed to enter Bangladesh, the South Asian country's state minister for foreign affairs.

[2 major UAE firms keen to invest in Bangladesh](#)

Feb 19, 2019, The Independent

Two major UAE companies – Lulu Group International and NMC Group –on Tuesday expressed their keenness to invest in Bangladesh, particularly in the areas of healthcare, hotel, shopping mall and tourism.

[US recognizes International Mother Language Day](#)

Feb 21, 2019, Dhaka Tribune

The House of Representatives of the US has introduced a resolution recognizing International Mother Language Day on February 21 to commemorate the day when Bangladeshi students people sacrificed their lives for recognition of Bangla as state language of Pakistan in 1952.

Nepal

[Nepal-India-Bangladesh trilateral PPA on cards](#)

Feb 19, 2019, The Himalayan Times

Minister of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation Barsha Man Pun today said the government expected a trilateral Power Purchase Agreement between Nepal, India and Bangladesh on the Upper Karnali Hydropower Project during the upcoming investment summit slated for March 29 and 30.

[Nepal: Month-long Festival of India begins in Kathmandu](#)

Feb 22, 2019, All India Radio

In Nepal, a month-long 'Festival of India' began in Kathmandu yesterday to familiarise the new generation of the country about the similarities between the two countries.

[Stakeholders call for amendments in Citizenship Bill](#)

Feb 21, 2019, The Himalayan Times

The Citizenship Affected People's Network Nepal (CAPNN) on Thursday urged the government to address concerns of citizenship deprived Nepalis and ease of the process of acquiring citizenship through double descent.

[Nepal govt's move sparks freedom of speech concerns](#)

Feb 22, 2019, The Daily Star

Nepal's government tabled draft legislation that would impose harsh penalties for "improper" social media posts, igniting concerns it could be used to suppress freedom of speech and stifle dissent.

[Govt gave shape to democratic republic: Oli](#)

Feb 20, 2019, The Himalayan Times

Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli today said the federal government had succeeded in giving shape to the democratic republic in the country.

[Nepal's great income divide](#)

Feb 22, 2019, Nepali Times

Nepal's growing income disparity is pushing the country towards instability and conflict

Bhutan

[Bhutan condemns terrorist attack of any nature : PM](#)

Feb 15, 2019, Kuensel Online

Prime Minister Dr Lotay Tshering said he is deeply saddened by the news of the horrific terrorist attack in Kashmir where at least 40 Indian security force personnel were killed. "Bhutan strongly condemns terrorist attack of any nature," Lyonchhen said. "Our prayers are with the grieved family and we are following the situation closely."

[Freedom House rates Bhutan as partly free](#)

Feb 18, 2019, Kuensel Online

Freedom House in its annual report Freedom in the World 2019 has rated Bhutan as partly free in terms of political rights and civil liberties. The US-based non-governmental organisation conducts research and advocacy on democracy, political freedom and human rights.

[Bhutan has achieved 100% electricity access](#)

Feb 15, 2019, World Economic Forum

Bhutan's electricity access rate has increased from 61 percent in 2006 to 100 percent in 2016, ahead of the country's initial 2020 goal.

Sri Lanka

[Sri Lanka's First Satellite Set for April Launch](#)

Feb 21, 2019, Onlanka.com

Sri Lanka will launch its first ever satellite into space in April marking its entry into the global space age, officials from Sri Lanka's Arthur C. Clarke Institute for Space Education said.

[Constitutional Council is politicized, says President](#)

Feb 21, 2019, ADAderana

The Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary are all being controlled by the Constitutional Council, says President Maithripala Sirisena.

[19th Amendment is my legitimate, abused child: Sirisena](#)

Feb 22, 2019, Daily FT

Taking his battle with the Constitutional Council for rejecting the promotion of 14 judges up a notch, President Maithripala Sirisena yesterday challenged the legitimacy of the 19th Amendment and the purposes it was passed for in Parliament in April 2015, describing it as a “legitimate child that has been abused.”

[Indian Coast Guard apprehends 25 Sri Lankan fishermen](#)

Feb 19, 2019, Colombo Page

Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Shaurya on a routine surveillance deployment in the Bay of Bengal on Monday apprehended 25 Sri Lankan fishermen and their five boats while they were illegally fishing in the Indian waters about 50 nautical miles off Vedaranyam coast of Tamil Nadu.

[India assists in the establishment of Information Technology Park in Jaffna](#)

Feb 21, 2019, Colombo Page

India and Sri Lanka Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a Business Centre for ICT incubators/ accelerators in Jaffna through a grant of Rs. 250 million from the Government of India.

[India awards prestigious Mahatma Gandhi Scholarships to 150 students across Sri Lanka](#)

Feb 20, 2019, Colombo Page

India has awarded prestigious Mahatma Gandhi Scholarships for 2017-18 to 150 GCE Advanced Level school students from all 25 districts across Sri Lanka.

[TAD Group ropes in Japan's Odakyu Group to invest Rs.4.5bn in Sri Lanka](#)

Feb 20, 2019, Daily Mirror

Sri Lanka's TAD Group has entered into an exclusive partnership with Japan's Odakyu Group to facilitate investments to the tune of Rs.4.5 billion in Sri Lanka.

[Sri Lanka to tap bond market for US \\$ 2bn after Chinese loan delay](#)

Feb 19, 2019, Daily Mirror

Sri Lanka will bring forward a plan to raise US \$ 2 billion through the bond market after a delay in a pledged loan from Bank of China, sources close to the deal said.

[Demographic changes and economic growth](#)

Feb 20, 2019, Daily Mirror

Sri Lanka is also undergoing a profound demographic transition. A rapidly growing elderly population could be the biggest socio-economic issue the country would be facing in the near future. But how ready are we as a country to face this challenge? How bad a fast-growing ageing population could hurt Sri Lanka's economy?

Maldives

[US assures \\$9 mln in aid to Maldives](#)

Feb 21, 2019, Avas.mv

The United States government has made the decision to provide Maldives with an additional USD 9.75 million (MVR 150.3 million) in assistance during 2019.

[Opposition protesters demand release of ex-president Yameen](#)

Feb 21, 2019, Maldives Independent

Supporters of former president Abdulla Yameen protested in Malé on Wednesday night, demanding the release of the opposition leader after he was detained for a money laundering trial.

[High Court accepts ex-presYameen's appeal](#)

Feb 21, 2019, The Edition

The High Court, accepted the former President Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom's appeal of the Criminal Court's order to detain him until the end of his trial regarding the alleged laundering of state funds from the graft scandal of Maldives Marketing and Public Relations Corporation (MMPRC).

East & South East Asia

China

[China, Saudi Arabia to boost financial cooperation](#)

Feb 22, 2019, Global times

China and Saudi Arabia agreed Thursday to further boost financial cooperation.

[China, U.S kick off new round of high-level trade talks in Washington](#)

February 22, 2019, Global times

China and the United States kicked off a fresh round of high-level economic and trade talks here on Thursday morning, as negotiators strive to beat a 90-day deadline that ends on March 1.

[US allies split on Huawei](#)

Feb 21, 2019, Global times

Opposing statements on Huawei have split Europe and the US, with the US-led crackdown on China's 5G rise leaving major Washington allies undecided on restricting access to Huawei equipment, and some European countries will likely ignore US rhetoric on the issue.

[Delayed dam project awaits resolution in Myanmar](#)

Feb 21, 2019, Global times

Though Myanmar officials have expressed their appreciation for the benefits of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Chinese analysts noted that more practical outcomes should be delivered apart from optimistic plans, as some BRI projects still face uncertainty in the Southeast Asian country.

[Upcoming Belt and Road Forum to further promote Philippines-China relations: Duterte](#)

Feb 21, 2019, Global Times

The upcoming second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation will further promote the development of bilateral relations between the Philippines and China, said Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte.

[China, Russia, India FM's to hold meeting in Zhejiang](#)

Feb 21, 2019, Global Times

The 16th meeting of the foreign ministers of China, Russia and India will be held in Wuzhen, east China's Zhejiang Province, on Feb. 27, Foreign Ministry spokesperson GengShuang announced Wednesday in Beijing.

[Middle East powers seek ties with China](#)

Feb 20, 2019, Global Times

Saudi Arabia Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud is scheduled to visit China from Thursday to Friday after his trip to Pakistan and India, in a sign that Chinese observers said shows the kingdom is seeking to diversify its diplomacy rather than merely rely on the US.

[China displays unmanned mini Aegis ship with vertical launch missile cells in Abu Dhabi](#)

Feb 20, 2019, Global Times

Chinese arms companies are exhibiting a series of advanced weapons including an unmanned 20-ton "Aegis-class destroyer" with vertical launch missile cells and a heavy infantry fighting vehicle at the 14th International Defense Exhibition and Conference (IDEX) in Abu Dhabi from Sunday to Thursday.

[Chinese president meets Iran's parliament speaker](#)

Feb 20, 2019, Global Times

Chinese President Xi Jinping on Wednesday met with visiting Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

[China hails Putin's remarks on China-Russia ties](#)

Feb 21, 2019, Xinhua

China highly appreciates Russian President Vladimir Putin's positive remarks on China-Russia ties as he delivered a state of the nation address, Foreign Ministry spokesperson GengShuang said on Thursday.

[China, Laos to promote cooperation on economic corridor, other projects](#)

Feb 21, 2019, Xinhua

A Chinese high-ranking delegation visited Laos from Monday to Thursday to promote bilateral cooperation on the China-Laos Economic Corridor.

[Hope of resumption of Nepal-China border point brings life to deserted villages](#)

Feb 20, 2019, Xinhua

For 23-year-old Bisha Tamang, who lives in a village some one hour's walk from the Nepal-China border point, working in a furniture factory in Malaysia amid hot temperature with a little income was a tough job.

[China's top legislator vows to enhance exchanges with National Diet of Japan](#)

Feb 18, 2019, Xinhua

China's top legislator Li Zhanshu on Monday met with a delegation consisting of several members of Japan's House of Councillors, pledging to enhance the exchanges and cooperation with the National Diet of Japan, so as to promote Sino-Japanese relationship.

[Germany wrong to involve China in INF](#)

Feb 18, 2019, China Military Online

German Chancellor Angela Merkel expressed the hope on February 16 that China should be involved in international disarmament efforts. "We would of course be glad if such talks were held not just between the United States, Europe and Russia but also with China," said Merkel at the 55th Munich Security Conference.

[Facing an aggressive Beijing, Taiwan's president issues a warning to the world](#)

Feb 21, 2019, CNN

Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen has sent out a warning to Asia in the face of mounting aggression from Beijing.

Japan

[Trump to meet Chinese Vice Premier Liu He on Friday – White House](#)

Feb 22, 2019, The Yomiuri Shimbun

U.S. President Donald Trump will meet with Chinese Vice Premier Liu He, who is leading trade talks with U.S. officials in Washington, at the White House on Friday, the White House said on Thursday.

[Japan's Aso: Trump has never mentioned FX when talking about Japan trade](#)

Feb 22, 2019, The Yomiuri Shimbun

Finance Minister Taro Aso said on Friday that U.S. President Donald Trump has never mentioned currencies when discussing trade with Japan.

[Abe becomes 2nd-longest serving PM](#)

Feb 21, 2019, The Yomiuri Shimbun

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe became Japan's second-longest continuously serving prime minister Thursday, counting days from the start of his second administration in December 2012, surpassing former Prime Minister Shigeru Yoshida's 2,248 consecutive days.

[Kono disputes Seoul's claim over remarks on Emperor](#)

Feb 17, 2019, The Yomiuri Shimbun

Foreign Minister Taro Kono on Saturday disputed Seoul's claim that he made no mention of a South Korean lawmaker's recent remarks about the Emperor during Friday's meeting with his South Korean counterpart.

[Scant progress in 'heated' territory talks with Lavrov](#)

Feb 17, 2019, The Yomiuri Shimbun

Foreign Minister Taro Kono and his Russian counterpart, Sergey Lavrov, made little progress during their talks on Saturday on a territorial dispute between the two countries.

[Japan, Germany to cooperate](#)

Feb 17, 2019, The Yomiuri Shimbun

Foreign Minister Taro Kono and his German counterpart, Heiko Maas, agreed Saturday that their countries will strengthen security cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.

[Abe won't affirm if he nominated Trump for Nobel Peace Prize](#)

Feb 18, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Feb. 18 would neither confirm nor deny if he nominated U.S. President Donald Trump for a Nobel Peace Prize based on his work with North Korea.

[Trump to visit Japan on May 26, discusses abduction issue](#)

Feb 21, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

U.S. President Donald Trump will visit Japan as a state guest on May 26 and will raise the abduction issue in his summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un next week, government sources said.

[Trump coming to Japan for new Emperor enthronement and Osaka G20 summit, official says](#)

Feb 21, 2019, The Japan Times

President Donald Trump is expected to make a pair of trips to Japan later this year, first to meet the country's new Emperor and then for the G20 summit, according to an administration official.

[In phone talks, Abe and Trump agree to work together to resolve North Korea abductions issue](#)

Feb 21, 2019, The Japan Times

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and U.S. President Donald Trump agreed Wednesday to cooperate in addressing issues linked to North Korea, including past abductions of Japanese citizens, before Trump meets with the North's leader Kim Jong Un next week.

Korea

[South Korean president touts stronger tie with India](#)

Feb 20, 2019, The Korea Times

South Korean President Moon Jae-in called for efforts to further expand the bilateral cooperation between his country and India on Wednesday, insisting their cooperation will mutually benefit the countries.

[Korea, India agree to strengthen defense cooperation, economic ties](#)

Feb 22, 2019, The Korea Herald

South Korean President Moon Jae-in and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi agreed Friday to strengthen military ties and defense industry cooperation between the two countries

[Crown prince of Abu Dhabi to visit Seoul next week](#)

Feb 20, 2019, The Korea Times

Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Mohammed bin Zayed Al-Nahyan will visit South Korea next week for a meeting with South Korean President Moon Jae-in that will focus on ways to improve the countries' ties, Moon's presidential office Cheong WaDae said Tuesday.

[China, Japan seek to increase military clout over Korea](#)

Feb 20, 2019, The Korea Times

China and Japan appear to be trying to step up their military presence around the Korean Peninsula amid a debate between South Korea and the United States over defense cost-sharing.

[Kang, Kono discuss forced labor ruling](#)

Feb 15, 2019, The Korea Times

The foreign ministers of South Korea and Japan met in Munich, Friday, to discuss recent rulings by the Supreme Court that ordered Japanese companies to compensate Korean victims of forced labor under Japan's 1910-45 occupation of Korea.

[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.

Southeast Asia

[Myanmar's Suu Kyi woos investors to crisis-hit Rakhine, decries "negative" focus](#)

Feb 22, 2019, The Straits Times

Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi called for investment in the crisis-hit western state of Rakhine on Friday (Feb 22), saying the world had "focused narrowly on negative aspects" in the state from which some 730,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled since 2017.

[Indonesia to establish fishing ground in waters off Natuna islands](#)

Feb 21, 2019, The Straits Times

Indonesia plans to establish fishing grounds in waters north off the Natuna islands, in a bid to assert its sovereignty over an area it has said was subject to occasional encroachment by Chinese and Vietnamese fishing vessels.

[Trump-Kim summit shines spotlight on Vietnam's Communist Party](#)

Feb 21, 2019, The Straits Times

With days to go before the highly anticipated second meeting between United States President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un takes place in Hanoi, the summit venue has sparked a fervent guessing game.

[Back on track? Malaysia is in 'last mile' of talks with China to revive East Coast Rail deal that Mahathir Mohamad 'scrapped'](#)

Feb 21, 2019, South China Morning Post

Beijing is willing to lower US\$20 billion price tag for project, says Malaysian foreign minister Saifuddin Abdullah. Renewed talks could be step in repairing frayed relationship with China.

[Thailand's junta up in arms over plan to cut military outlay – as neighbours like Singapore and Indonesia spend more](#)

Feb 20, 2019, South China Morning Post

Public response to Thaksin-aligned party's plans to reduce army expenditure by 10 per cent and end conscription has been positive. But Thailand's US\$7.23 billion defence budget for 2019 puts it in step with regional neighbours, who are on a military spending binge

Central & West Asia

[Turkmen, Afghan Presidents Sign Strategic Partnership Agreement](#)

Feb 21, 2019, Rferl.org

Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdymukhammedov and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani have signed an agreement on a strategic partnership between their countries.

[Nazarbaev Sacks Kazakh Government Over Low Living Standards, Economic Failures](#)

Feb 21, 2019, Rferl.org

Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbaev has dismissed the government, citing its failure to raise living standards and diversify the economy away from the energy sector.

[Uzbekistan may join WTO within two years](#)

Feb 21, 2019, Trend News Agency

Deputy Director General of the World Trade Organization Alan Wolff stated that Uzbekistan can join the World Trade Organization within two years.

[EU trains border guards, customs and migration officers in Central Asia](#)

Feb 21, 2019, The Times of Central Asia

A regional workshop organised within the EU-funded Border Management in Central Asia Programme (BOMCA) is taking place on 19-21 February in Ashgabat focusing on using new technics and international standards in border checks, the EU Liaison Office in Turkmenistan reports.

[IS on brink of defeat in Syria enclave](#)

Feb 22, 2019, Nine News

Remaining civilians are expected to be evacuated from Islamic State's final enclave in eastern Syria, clearing the way for them to wipe out the last vestige of jihadist rule that once straddled Syria and Iraq.

[Iran Launches Large-Scale Maritime War Games in The Persian Gulf](#)

Feb 22, 2019, The Jerusalem Post

With tensions high between Israel and Iran, the Islamic Republic began an annual week-long naval war games in the Persian Gulf and strategic Strait of Hormuz.

[Iran to Hold Annual War Games in Strategic Strait of Hormuz](#)

Feb 21, 2019, Haaretz

Iran's navy says it will hold an annual drill in the strategic Strait of Hormuz as pressure mounts on the country months after the United States re-imposed sanctions on Iran, targeting its vital oil sector.

[Israel's First Moon Mission Blasts Off From Florida](#)

Feb 22, 2019, Haaretz

The unmanned Genesis spacecraft "(Beresheet" in Hebrew), which was privately built by the non-profit group SpaceIL in cooperation with Israel Aeronautics Industries, was launched from Cape Canaveral in Florida on a Falcon 9 rocket built by Elon Musk's SpaceX company.

[Obstacles to Israel's Strategic Objectives](#)

Feb 22, 2019, The Jerusalem Post

An assessment of Israel's national security situation in early 2019 indicates impressive military, political, technological, and economic strength.

[Saudi Arabia seeks Asia's support for its economic makeover](#)

Feb 19, 2019, CNN

Saudi Arabia's crown prince is in Asia forging new ties and seeking deals as he tries to keep his dream of economic transformation alive following a chill in relations with the West.

[Turkey sticks to S-400 deal despite US pressure](#)

Feb 21, 2019, Daily Hurriyet News

Turkey cannot accept the current criteria of a U.S. proposal for the procurement of the Patriot surface-to-air missile (SAM) system, a Turkish official has said, noting that Russia will deliver the first batch of the S-400 air defense systems to Turkey in July.

[UAE rejects online rumours about easing Qatari shipping ban](#)

Feb 21, 2019, Khaleej Times

The UAE issued a statement clarifying news reports regarding export and import of goods to and from Qatar at ports in the emirates.

United States

[About 200 US troops to stay in Syria following Trump's order for 'full' removal](#)

Feb 22, 2019, CNN

The White House said that a small contingent of US troops will remain in Syria following President Donald Trump's order for a "full" withdrawal of the American military from the country.

[Allies decline request to stay in Syria after U.S. troops withdraw](#)

Feb 20, 2019, The Washington Post

As the deadline approaches for the withdrawal of U.S. forces fighting the Islamic State in Syria, America's closest European allies have turned down a Trump administration request to fill the gap with their own troops, according to U.S. and foreign officials.

[Trump: I'm in no hurry to see North Korea denuclearize](#)

Feb 19, 2019, CNBC

U.S. President Donald Trump said he is looking forward to a good meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on Feb. 27 and 28 in Vietnam and wants Pyongyang to ultimately denuclearize but is in no particular hurry.

[US Asks Pakistan, China To Deny Safe Havens And Support To Terrorists](#)

Feb 20, 2019, Defence Aviation Post

The Trump administration called on Pakistan and China to "uphold their responsibilities pursuant to UN security council resolutions to deny safe havens and support for terrorists" even as President Donald Trump described the Pulwama attack as a "horrible situation" and said "it would be wonderful if they (India and Pakistan) get along".

[House launches probe of US nuclear plan in Saudi Arabia](#)

Feb 20, 2019, BBC News

The US is rushing to transfer sensitive nuclear power technology to Saudi Arabia, according to a new congressional report.

[Bernie Sanders will seek the Democratic presidential nomination in 2020](#)

Feb 19, 2019, The Washington Post

Bernie Sanders of Vermont, whose 2016 presidential campaign grew from a left-wing insurgency to a force that reshaped the Democratic Party, announced Tuesday that he will seek its nomination for president again in 2020.

Europe & Russia

[EU Expects May to Request Three-Month Delay to Brexit](#)

Feb 22, 2019, Bloomberg

The European Union expects U.K. Prime Minister Theresa May to be forced to request a three-month delay to Brexit, two EU officials said.

[UK, EU closer to possible agreement on Brexit - EU diplomats](#)

Feb 21, 2019, Reuters

The European Union and Britain are moving towards a separate legal statement in which the bloc would again stress the temporary nature of the so-called Brexit backstop for the Irish border, diplomats in Brussels said.

[Three Conservative MPs have quit Theresa May's party over Brexit](#)

Feb 20, 2019, CNN

Three lawmakers walked out of UK Prime Minister Theresa May's Conservative party on Wednesday, joining a new group in Parliament that has blown up the British political landscape in less than three days.

[Le Maire Says Italian Recession Threatens France's Economy](#)

Feb 20, 2019, Bloomberg

The European and global economic environment has become more threatening for France in recent months, with the recession in Italy a particularly serious concern, the French finance minister said.

[Jeremy Hunt urges Germany to rethink Saudi arms sales ban](#)

Feb 20, 2019, The Guardian

Jeremy Hunt, the British foreign secretary, will visit Berlin on Wednesday after urging Germany to exempt big defence projects from its efforts to halt arms sales to Saudi Arabia, or face damage to both its economic and European credentials.

[Protests continue in Barcelona over Catalan separatists' trial](#)

Feb 21, 2019, Euro News

Protests continued in Barcelona against the ongoing trial of a dozen Catalan separatist leaders in Madrid.

[Corbyn says Shamima Begum should be allowed to return to Britain](#)

Feb 21, 2019, The Guardian

Jeremy Corbyn has said the UK government should support Shamima Begum's return to Britain. Speaking in Brussels, the Labour leader described stripping the teenager who fled to Syria of her citizenship as a "very extreme manoeuvre".

[New Cuban Missile Crisis? Bring it on says Russia's Putin](#)

Feb 20, 2019, TASS

The Russian and US militaries should take advantage of their existing ties to prevent situations like the Cuban Missile Crisis, Russian President Vladimir Putin said at a meeting with journalists from Russian media outlets.

[Moscow ready to cut time for nuclear strike on U.S. if necessary - Putin](#)

Feb 20, 2019, Swiss Info

Moscow will match any U.S. move to deploy new nuclear missiles closer to Russia by stationing its own missiles closer to the United States or by deploying faster missiles or both, President Vladimir Putin said.

[Russia to ink peace treaty with Japan only with 'good- neighborliness' provision](#)

Feb 21, 2019, TASS

"The signing of the peace treaty cannot be concluded without an obligatory recognition of the outcome of the World War II," Sergey Lavrov recalled

[Russia working on AI-operated border security system](#)

Feb 21, 2019, TASS

The Roselectronics holding company (part of Rostec) is developing AI-operated decision-making systems to guard Russia's land borders, head of Rostec Sergey Chemezov said.

[Russia Formally Charges Jailed U.S. Investor Calvey With Fraud](#)

February 21, 2019, Bloomberg

Russia's Investigative Committee formally charged U.S. private equity investor Michael Calvey with fraud following his arrest in Moscow last week, his lawyer said.

[U.S. Embassy Demands Access To Detained American Investor In Russia](#)

Feb 21, 2019, Rferl.org

The U.S. Embassy in Moscow is demanding that Russia give U.S. diplomats immediate access to American investment-fund manager Michael Calvey, who was formally charged with financial fraud and is being held in a Russian pretrial detention center.

Africa & Latin America

[Argentine foreign minister gives India some advice on Chinese penetration](#)

Feb 20, 2019, Merco Press

If India has to compete with China in Latin America, then it has to be “absolutely active” in the region, Argentine Foreign Affairs Minister Jorge Faurie said.

[Macri invites Indian business people to invest in Argentina underlining its food power capacity](#)

Feb 20, 2019, Merco Press

With the aim to reinforce existing business and explore new business opportunities between Argentina and India, President of Argentine Republic, Mauricio Macri addressed the India-Argentine Business Forum.

[Venezuela is facing an uprising as the nation sits on the brink of collapse](#)

Jan 22, 2019, [News.com.au](#)

Venezuela has plunged deeper into turmoil this week after security forces quashed an attempted military uprising.

[Venezuela's Military Attache Recognizes Guaido As President](#)

Feb 20, 2019, The Daily Caller

Venezuela's military attache to the United Nations has recognized opposition party leader Juan Guaido as Venezuela's interim president, according to U.S. national security adviser John Bolton.

[Venezuela aid standoff hardens between Guaido, Maduro](#)

Feb 21, 2019, The Philippine Star

Guaido repeated his vow that the supplies would enter "one way or another" -- even as Maduro stepped up efforts to block aid he claims is a pretext for a US invasion.

[Japan recognizes Guaido as Venezuelan president](#)

Feb 19, 2019, Andolou Agency

A major U.S. ally in the far-east, Japan formally extended support to Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaido.

[Haiti's new crisis and the humanitarian risks](#)

Feb 19, 2019, Irin News

The Caribbean country is now gripped by deadly protests over allegations of government corruption and the crippling effects of stubbornly high inflation – protests that could bring down President Jovenel Moïse and have already plunged the nation of 11 million people into renewed uncertainty.

[Brazil's Bolsonaro Delivers Social Security Reform to Congress](#)

Feb 20, 2019, Rio Times

Brazil's President, Jair Bolsonaro, delivered the new project for the country's social security reform in Congress. The government estimates that the reform will allow for an economy of almost one trillion reais over the next ten years.

[Kabila moves to consolidate political coalition](#)

Feb 21, 2019, Africa News

In yet another indication that his political story is not over, Joseph Kabila, the ex-president of Democratic Republic of Congo made the the leaders of his FCC coalition sign a loyalty pledge.

[Somaliland accepts to work with Somalia after call by Ethiopian PM](#)

Feb 20, 2019, Mareeg.com

Ethiopia's Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed received President of the Somaliland Administration, Muse Bihi Abdi and his delegation.

[Burundi calls for urgent summit over Amisom troops pullout](#)

Feb 19, 2019, East African

President Pierre Nkurunziza has called for the African Union to urgently convene a meeting of the countries contributing troops to the African Union Mission in Somalia (Amisom) to review the decision to withdrawal its soldiers.

[New currency for Zimbabwe as foreign currency crisis deepens](#)

Feb 20, 2019, Times Live

Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) governor John Mangudya has introduced a new local currency - "RTGS dollars" - as the country's severe foreign currency crisis persists.

[Sisulu Urges EU to Lift Zim Sanctions Ahead of March Bi-National Meeting](#)

Feb 20, 2019, All Africa

International Relations and Cooperation Minister Lindiwe Sisulu has called on the European Union (EU) to give the Zimbabwean government and its people a chance to start afresh.

[Sudan's struggling protest movement hopes to outlast Omar Al Bashir](#)

Feb 20, 2019, The National

Sudan's longtime ruler Omar Al Bashir has held on to power in the face of two months of deadly street protests calling for him to step down, a stalemate that testifies to the tenacity of both the 74-year-old Islamist leader and the resilience of his detractors.

[Nigeria president wants full investigation for delay in general polls](#)

Feb 18, 2019, Devidcourse

The cause of the week-long delay of Nigeria's election should be investigated after the poll takes place on Feb. 23, President Muhammadu Buhari said.



Delhi Policy Group
Core 5A, 1st Floor,
India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road
New Delhi - 110003
India

www.delhipolicygroup.org