



Delhi Policy Group

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ABOUT US

Founded in 1994, the Delhi Policy Group is among India's oldest independent think tanks with its primary focus on international and strategic issues of critical national interest. Over the past decades, the Delhi Policy Group has established itself in both domestic and international circles, particularly in the area of national security.

In keeping with India's increasing global profile as a leading power and the accompanying dynamism of India's foreign and security policy, the Delhi Policy Group has expanded its focus areas to include India's broader regional and global role; India's initiatives to strengthen its strategic periphery; India's political, security and connectivity challenges and policies across the Indo-Pacific; and the strategic partnerships that advance India's rise. To support these goals, the DPG undertakes research, publishes policy reports and organises conferences on strategic and geo-political, geo-economic, and defence and security issues.

DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

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South Asia

India

[EAM Jaishankar holds 11 bilateral meetings with foreign counterparts in New York](#)

September 24, 2019, India Today

The External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has held 11 bilateral meetings with his foreign counterparts, including Iran, Bulgaria, Turkey, Netherlands, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, UAE and others. The Minister also met US special envoy on Afghan peace reconciliation, ZalmayKhalilzad, for the first time after peace talks broke down earlier this month between the United States and Taliban.

[New York: S Jaishankar participates in BRICS Ministerial meeting on UNGA sidelines](#)

September 27, 2019, Economic Times

Union External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar took part in the BRICS Ministerial meeting in New York on September 26. The meeting was held on the sidelines of United Nations General Assembly. Jaishankar will also attend meeting of Foreign ministers of SAARC countries.

[India, US, Japan set for Malabar exercise; QUAD to meet in New York](#)

September 25, 2019, The Times of India

As the first-ever "Quad" meeting at the foreign minister-level takes place on the sidelines of the UN general assembly in New York this week , warships and aircraft from three of the countries are amassing over 1700 miles away in the Western Pacific for high voltage wargames that have often irked China.

[India, Pakistan boycott each other at SAARC FM meet](#)

September 27, 2019, Times of India

Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi did not attend his counterpart S. Jaishankar's address. Jaishankar in return did not return for Qureshi's speech either. The episode marked the continuation of a cold war that began last year when the external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj had walked out before the Pakistani foreign minister's address. After the boycott Jaishankar tweeted that "Terror elimination a precondition for survival".

[Can talk to Pakistan, not 'Terroristan': S Jaishankar](#)

September 25, 2019, The Indian Express

Jaishankar said that in the aftermath of India's decision to scrap Jammu and Kashmir's special status, Pakistan now sees its "investment" of 70 years undercut if this policy succeeds.

[India, US fail to make breakthrough on trade deal at New York talks](#)

September 25, 2019, Live Mint

India and the US failed to announce a limited trade deal during the meeting of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Donald Trump on September 24 in New York, dashing expectations, due differences over terms of the pact. Briefing reporters after the bilateral meeting, India's foreign secretary Vijay Gokhle said the issues are complex as the package involves industries and jobs on both sides.

[US Congressman Ro Khanna Seeks NATO Equivalent Status for India in Defence Ties](#)

September 21, 2019, News18

Such a status will take "the US-India relationship to the next level", Indian-American Congressman Ro Khanna told PTI after a meeting with a top Pentagon official that was focused on strengthening India-US defense relationship among other issues. During his meeting with Randy Schriver, Assistant Secretary of Defence for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs, Khanna had an "in depth conversation" about the strategic importance of the US-India relationship.

[India One of Our Most Important Friends & Partners': Top US Senator Says Day After 'Howdy, Modi' Rally](#)

September 24, 2019, News18

"India is one of our most important friends and partners," Republican Senator John Cornyn said. The senior Senator from Texas is the founder and Co-Chair of the Senate India Caucus, which is the only country-specific caucus in the US Senate.

[PM Modi Interacts with Over 40 Global CEOs, Highlights India's Steps Towards \\$5 Trillion Economy](#)

September 25, 2019, News18

Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with over 40 business leaders and American CEOs, highlighting the steps taken by India to build a USD 5 trillion economy. "Captains of industry interact with PM Narendra Modi in New York. The

extensive agenda includes harnessing investment opportunities in India and boosting commercial linkages between India and USA," the Prime Minister's Office tweeted.

[Brazil, Germany, India, Japan reiterate commitment to early UNSC reforms](#)

September 26, 2019, The Hindu

India and other members of the G4 bloc have reiterated their strong commitment to an early and comprehensive reform of the UN Security Council and called for result-oriented intergovernmental negotiations on it to make the top organ of the world body more effective in dealing with the complex global challenges on international peace and security. The Foreign Ministers of the G4 countries met during the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York on September 25.

[Petronet's new MoU with Tellurian Inc. hailed at start of PM's U.S. visit](#)

September 22, 2019, The Hindu

Indian Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) importer Petronet has decided to invest \$2.5 billion in American company Tellurian Inc., in an agreement that will give India access to up to five million tonnes of LNG a year. The MoU, which was an updated version of the one signed in February this year, was exchanged here by officials in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his first engagement after landing in the US.

[Indian Navy to name 7th frigate in P17A series as 'Mahendragiri'](#)

September 23, 2019, The Economic Times

The commissioning of 'Khanderi', launch of 'Nilgiri' and inauguration of an aircraft carrier drydock are all scheduled to take place on September 28 in Mumbai by the Defence Minister.

[No inclination from Delhi to boost defence ties with Kabul: Report](#)

September 24, 2019, Live Mint

India, the largest regional contributor to Afghan reconstruction, has not shown any inclination to pursue a deeper defence relationship with Kabul, a US Congressional report has said.

[Make In India Defence: Coast Guard Inducts Offshore Patrol Vehicle 'Varaha' Indigenously Designed And Built By L&T](#)

September 25, 2019, Swarajya

Rajnath Singh on September 25 commissioned the Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Varaha in Chennai. The Varaha is an offshore patrol vehicle developed by the private agency, Larsen & Toubro (L&T), in accordance with a contract signed with the Defence Ministry. It is the fourth among a series of seven ships to be delivered by L&T with features like ultra-advanced navigation and communication sensors.

[Government likely to order 36 more Rafale fighter jets](#)

September 23, 2019, Economic Times

The purchase of another 36 Rafale fighter jets will take the fleet to 72, which will be key to bolster India's air power, particularly in the aftermath of the Balakot strike, when the IAF went deep inside Pakistan to destroy terror training camps. Ever since, both India and Pakistan have been keen to bolster their air power.

[500 terrorists waiting at border, security agencies ready to retaliate: Army](#)

September 24, 2019, Hindustan Times

The Indian Army is in a heightened state of alert after intelligence warnings of infiltration by terrorists into Kashmir and the terror launch pads across the Line of Control being reactivated by Pakistan.

[Saudi Arabia to enhance anti-terror cooperation with India: Envoy](#)

September 25, 2019, The Economic Times

Nearly two weeks after drone and missile attacks on its vital oil facilities, Saudi Arabia has said it is enhancing cooperation with India to combat terrorism, including choking funds to terror networks and exchange of information and intelligence. Saudi Ambassador Dr Saud bin Mohammed Al Sati said India and Saudi Arabia are closely cooperating with each other in fighting terrorism.

Pakistan

[Pakistan, S Arabia reaffirm commitment to bolster ties](#)

September 21, 2019, The News

During the meeting between Prime Minister Imran Khan with Saudi King Salman Bin Abdul Aziz and Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman in Jeddah, Pakistan and

Saudi Arabia have reaffirmed commitment to further strengthen their relationship. The two sides underlined the deep and multi-faceted quality of the relationship. They reiterated the resolve to further intensify bilateral trade, energy investment and people-to-people contacts.

[Inflation to dip, risks still there](#)

September 21, 2019, The News

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has asked Pakistan to avoid repetition of one-off factors that escalated the worse than expected budget deficit, in the last fiscal and now it should not jeopardise the current fiscal year's targets.

[Qureshi discusses security matters with Iranian FM](#)

September 24, 2019, The News

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi held a meeting with his Iranian counterpart Javad Zarif at the United Nations headquarters in New York. Matters pertaining to peace and security in the region were discussed in the meeting.

[Pakistan seeks changes in CASA-1000 deal](#)

September 22, 2019, The News

Pakistan has formally asked Tajikistan to invoke the open access clause in the agreement under CASA- 1000 project paving way for two way trade of electricity, as under the existing deal, Pakistan is bound to import 1,000MW electricity per day at 9.50 cents per unit in summer season from May to October once this project comes into stream.

[Laws for special economic zones under CPEC being revisited](#)

September 26, 2019, Dawn

Pakistan government is revisiting laws pertaining to special economic zones (SEZs) under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) to fix deficiencies.

[Imran mediating between Iran, Saudi Arabia](#)

September 26, 2019, Dawn

Prime Minister Imran Khan has said he has been mediating with Iran to defuse tensions in the Middle East after the US president and the Saudi crown prince asked him to do so.

[Four civilians, two soldiers martyred in Waziristan ambush](#)

September 25, 2019, Dawn

Four employees of an oil exploration company and two paramilitary soldiers were martyred while four soldiers suffered injuries when assailants opened fire on their vehicle in Speenwam tehsil of North Waziristan tribal district.

Afghanistan

[Afghan officials cause stir at Torkham crossing ceremony](#)

September 22, 2019, Tolo News

The opening ceremony of the 24-hour crossing at Torkham was held on September 18, 2019, with Prime Minister Imran Khan and a number of Afghan government officials, including Nangarhar governor Shah Mahmoud Miakhail and acting Minister of Public Works Yama Yari, in attendance. The presence of Afghan officials at the 24-hour Torkham Crossing ceremony has caused a controversy, because Torkham is on the Durand Line, which Pakistan claims as its border and Afghanistan does not.

[Afghan Taliban meet with Chinese officials after talks with US collapse](#)

September 22, 2019, DW

Suhail Shaheen, a spokesman for the Afghan Taliban in Qatar, has said the group's delegation held talks with Chinese officials September 22, 2019. A 9-member Taliban delegation traveled to Beijing and met with Deng Xijun, China's special representative for Afghanistan. The topic of discussion with Chinese officials was reportedly the canceled talks with the US.

[3,300 civilians killed by Afghan conflict in 12 months: Ministry](#)

September 23, 2019, Tolo News

New figures by the Ministry of Public Health showed that conflict-related violence in the past 12 months has left more than 3,300 civilians dead and over 14,600 others wounded. The time period measured is from September 16, 2018, to September 10, 2019.

[Pakistan's ISI trained Al-Qaida: Imran Khan](#)

September 24, 2019, Tolo News

Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan in an interview at the Council on Foreign Relations In New York admitted that Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) trained al-Qaida and other terrorist groups to fight in Afghanistan.

[Afghanistan bolsters security as Taliban threatens presidential poll](#)

September 26, 2019, Reuters

Afghanistan deployed more than 100,000 troops and police to guard polling stations in a presidential election which the Taliban has threatened to disrupt with suicide bombings and rocket attacks.

[Afghanistan's North New 'Springboard' For Terrorists: Russia](#)

September 26, 2019, Tolo News

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said in his address to the United Nations Security Council that the north of Afghanistan risks becoming a new springboard for Daesh and other international terrorist organizations.

Bangladesh

[Bangladesh to install fences around Rohingya refugee camps](#)

September 26, 2019, The Washington Post

The authorities in Bangladesh will build barbed-wire fences around sprawling camps housing Rohingya refugees to stop their expansion, a Cabinet minister said. Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan said the fences were ordered by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who had earlier told authorities to open the border to allow hundreds of thousands of Muslim Rohingya to escape from a harsh military crackdown in neighboring Myanmar two years ago.

[PM to US entrepreneurs: Be Bangladesh's development partners](#)

September 27, 2019, Dhaka Tribune

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has urged US entrepreneurs to stay with Bangladesh in its journey for shared benefits and prosperity as the fourth industrial revolution is knocking at the door.

[Bangladesh to clock highest growth in Asia this year](#)

September 26, 2019, The Daily Star

The Bangladesh economy will grow at 8 percent this fiscal year, which would be the highest in Asia, as per the latest forecast of the Asian Development Bank. The forecast is close to the government target of 8.2 percent growth in fiscal 2019-20. Last fiscal year, Bangladesh pulled off 8.13 percent GDP growth.

[US praises Bangladesh's 'exemplary' help for Rohingya](#)

September 25, 2019, Anadolu Agency

Bangladesh's response to the Rohingya crisis sets an example to the world, the U.S. ambassador to Dhaka said on Wednesday, 25th September. "It's important for the hundreds of thousands of Bangladeshis who opened their hearts to host the refugees. It is important for the government of Bangladesh which opened its borders to provide a safe haven [for the Rohingya]," Earl Miller said in a video broadcast live on social media.

[India's textile exports tumble as Bangladesh, Vietnam get preferred access in EU](#)

September 25, 2019, Financial Express

India's textile and apparel industry is facing strong headwinds as key competitors such as Bangladesh and Vietnam are given preferred access in India's biggest textile market – the European Union. These could make it increasingly more difficult for India's apparel exporters to maintain their competitiveness in the EU, which accounts for over one-third of India's apparel exports.

[Delhi, Dhaka to boost maritime ties](#)

September 23, 2019, The Hindu

India will join Bangladesh to commemorate 100 years of 'Bangabandhu', the founding father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, in 2020, and an International Fleet Review in 2021 to mark 50 years of the Liberation of Bangladesh, official sources said. Navy chief Admiral Karambir Singh is on a visit to Dhaka where these issues would be discussed along with other maritime and security issues.

Nepal

[Govt spokesperson confirms Chinese Prez Xi Jinping's visit](#)

September 26, 2019, The Himalayan Times

Spokesperson for the government Gokul Baskota has said Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Nepal was confirmed. However, the date would be fixed later.

[Chinese cultural show staged in Nepal to celebrate 70th anniversary of PRC founding](#)

September 27, 2019, China.org.cn

A special Chinese cultural show Splendid Hunan was staged in Nepal on Thursday to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC).

[Nepal, Ghana establish diplomatic ties](#)

September 26, 2019, The Himalayan Times

Nepal and Ghana have come together to mark the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two nations on September 25 in New York. With this, Nepal's diplomatic relations have expanded to 168 countries worldwide.

[Nepal, US partner to strengthen public health in Karnali](#)

September 27, 2019, My Republica

Karnali Province's Ministry of Social Development (MoSD) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Nepal Mission have entered into a partnership to increase access to quality health services in the province on Thursday, in accordance with the bilateral agreement signed between the ministry of finance and the USAID.

[Made in Nepal Expo 2019 from tomorrow](#)

September 25, 2019, The Himalayan Times

The seventh edition of Made in Nepal Expo 2019 is all set to begin from Friday. Aiming to promote domestic products and services, Nepalese Young Entrepreneurs Forum (NYEF) has been hosting the event since 2006.

[India gets maximum foreign students from Nepal, Karnataka favourite city for higher education: HRD ministry](#)

September 24, 2019, Business Today

India gets maximum foreign students from Nepal followed by Afghanistan while Karnataka is the favourite city for foreigners to pursue higher education in India, according to HRD Ministry data. The number of males is higher than that of female students from foreign countries and B.Tech is the most popular course among foreigners followed by BBA. The total number of foreign students enrolled in higher education is 47,427.

[Nepal: Workers returning from Qatar without salary](#)

September 23, 2019, The Japan News

Last June, an investigative report by Westdeutscher Rundfunk Koln (WDR), a German public broadcaster, exposed the dreadful conditions of Nepali migrants working on the construction of numerous stadiums for the 2022 FIFA World Cup to be held in Qatar. Nepali workers were reported to be living without money or food, in cramped spaces and prison-like conditions.

[Nepali youth bags prestigious UN award](#)

September 23, 2019, The Himalayan Times

Sonika Manandhar from Nepal has bagged the prestigious award Young Champions of the Earth Prize for Asia & the Pacific. Young Champions of the Earth is a prestigious award received by seven inspiring environmentalists who have the potential to make a positive environmental impact. Awarded by the United Nations Environment Programme, this year, Manandhar was among the seven winners from various regions who won the award.

Sri Lanka

[UN Takes Strong Stand on Sri Lanka's Army Chief](#)

September 26, 2019, Human Rights Watch

The United Nations took a stand against impunity for war crimes this week by announcing it will no longer accept non-essential Sri Lankan troops in peacekeeping missions. The reason for this unusual move is that Sri Lanka's newly appointed army chief, Gen. Shavendra Silva, faces credible allegations of war crimes.

[Gota would restore relations with China, says adviser](#)

September 23, 2019, Daily Mirror

Sri Lankan presidential nominee Gotabaya Rajapaksa would 'restore relations' with the country's top lender China if he wins the Nov. 16 vote according to an adviser and his spokesman. China and Sri Lanka's already strained relations took a further blow on last Monday when President Maithripala Sirisena alleged corruption at a Chinese company contracted to build the Lotus Tower, South Asia's tallest tower. A Sri Lankan parliamentary panel said it would investigate.

[Sri Lanka PM backs down from presidential race](#)

September 26, 2019, Yahoo News

Sri Lanka's Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe on Thursday gave up his bid to become president in November's elections, conceding his party's candidacy to his deputy, Sajith Premadasa. Premadasa is the son of former president Ranasinghe Premadasa who was assassinated by suspected Tamil Tiger rebels in 1993.

[South African Navy visited by Sri Lanka Defence Service Command and Staff College](#)

September 20, 2019, Defence Web

The Sri Lanka Defence Service Command and Staff College (DSCSC) led by Air Commodore Camillus Bertram Labrooy along with his delegation consisting of 16 senior officers visited the SA Navy (SAN) on 11 September. The purpose of the visit was to expose Labrooy and his senior officers to the history, social-cultural structures, economic developments and the role of the defence force in safeguarding national security, the South African Navy said.

[China's ALIT rejects Sri Lanka leader's graft allegation](#)

September 20, 2019, Reuters

China's state-run Aerospace Long-March International Trade Co (ALIT) rejected Sri Lanka President Maithripala Sirisena's allegation of misappropriating 2 billion rupees (\$11 million) in a deal to work on the construction of South Asia's tallest tower. Sirisena made the allegation at the inauguration on Monday of the 356-meter Lotus Tower, which overlooks Beira Lake in Colombo, sparking a political row in the country, which has relied heavily on China for project finance. A parliamentary panel will investigate the allegation.

[Elite Chinese investors explore business prospects in Sri Lanka](#)

September 25, 2019, Ceylon Daily News

Enabling economic growth and development in Sri Lanka through increased investments and accelerated infrastructural development as part of the Belt and Road Initiative, Sino International Business Solutions (SIBS) has coordinated to bring Chinese investors to Sri Lanka. Echoing the Chinese government's target of diversifying Chinese investments across the globe, SIBS pursues an objective of bringing 300 Chinese investors to Sri Lanka each with a minimum monetary value of USD 5 billion within a year's time. The organization is driven by its aim to enable elite investors from China to explore opportunities in Sri Lanka via mass awareness.

East & South East Asia

China

[Indo-Pacific Ministers Elevate Security Talks That Irk China](#)

September 26, 2019, Bloomberg

A bid by four of the Indo-Pacific's largest democracies to band together as a counter to China's growing might has received increased impetus after the so-called Quad group met for the first time at the ministerial-level in New York.

[US meddling in Hong Kong to backfire](#)

September 26, 2019, Global Times,

Washington is now trying to stop the small countries, which urgently need to integrate with globalization, from breaking "diplomatic ties" with Taiwan and turning to the People's Republic of China. If Washington performs such a publicity stunt, it would be a tragedy for the US.

['Economic superpower' label doesn't fit China](#)

September 26, 2019, Global Times

The fundamental thrust of economic development is the desire of the people of all countries to lead a better life. If the West pushes to include China in the list of developed countries, this is not true at first, and certainly will not get support and response from Chinese society. It is therefore unlikely to have a lasting impact on international relations.

[Balanced strategy ensures China's development](#)

September 24, 2019, Global Times

China is facing unprecedented challenges, but the country is also better positioned than ever. Today's China is more capable of handling internal and external problems and turning various factors around for progress.

[PLA blasts US over hype of 'Chinese threat'](#)

September 27, 2019, China Daily

The People's Liberation Army resolutely opposes the United States' recent actions and rhetoric that distort China's strategic intent, undermine its sovereignty and hype the so-called Chinese threat, Senior Colonel Ren Guoqiang, spokesman of the Ministry of National Defense, said on Thursday.

[Community dialogues can help heal rifts in Hong Kong: China Daily editorial](#)

September 26, 2019, China Daily

In an attempt to foster community cohesiveness and gauge public opinions as a way to end the violent turmoil that has rocked the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region for more than three months, Chief Executive Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor met with 150 members of the public in the Wan Chai district on Thursday.

[Dialogue and cooperation only way to end trade war: China Daily editorial](#)

September 25, 2019, China Daily

The China-US trade talks are to be resumed; tariff exemptions have been announced; and both administrations are working to ease the trade tensions. These positive developments would seem to suggest that China and the United States are seeking to prevent bilateral relations from deteriorating further and trying to create a positive atmosphere for their upcoming trade talks.

[Human rights just a tool for the US: China Daily editorial](#)

September 26, 2019, China Daily

In a blatant attempt to interfere in China's internal affairs, the United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee voted to advance the deeply flawed "Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act" on Wednesday, citing groundless accusations about the "loss of freedom" and "human rights" in the special administrative region.

[Parade displays commitment to peace: China Daily editorial](#)

September 24, 2019, China Daily

The military parade to be held on Oct 1 to mark the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China will be the 16th of its kind, and the biggest ever, according to the organizers, with some advanced weapons to be displayed for the first time.

[China-ASEAN ties enter new stage: China Daily editorial](#)

September 22, 2019, China Daily

A golden opportunity for China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to synergize their development outlooks and deepen cooperation, that is what the 16th China-ASEAN Expo provides.

[Time running out for Tsai to mend her ways: China Daily editorial](#)

September 22, 2019, China Daily

Given the pro-independence stance of Taiwan leader Tsai Ing-wen and her Democratic Progressive Party, it is not surprising that the island has lost many of its "diplomatic" partners in recent years.

[Washington, thy other name is hypocrisy: China Daily editorial](#)

September 20, 2019, China Daily

The United States always has its hands full trying to force its laws and values upon other countries and, if resisted, to impose sanctions on them. But as usual, it has failed with its filthy trick in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region by openly supporting the violent demonstrators and introducing the "Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act" in Congress.

[China publishes white paper on China and world in new era](#)

September 27, 2019, Xinhua

China's State Council Information Office on Friday issued a white paper, titled "China and the World in the New Era."

[China to host Xiangshan security forum in October](#)

September 26, 2019, Xinhua

The 9th Beijing Xiangshan Forum will be held from Oct. 20 to 22, a Chinese military spokesperson said Thursday.

[China, U.S. maintain close contact to push for progress in consultations](#)

September 26, 2019, Xinhua

China and the United States are maintaining close contact to pursue positive progress in the 13th round of high-level economic and trade consultations scheduled for October in Washington, an official said Thursday.

Japan

[ASDF, Australian Air Force hold 1st air combat drill over Hokkaido](#)

September 26, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

The Air Self-Defense Force has held its first joint air combat exercise with the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) in Japan.

[Japan promotes China as bigger threat than nuclear-armed North Korea](#)

September 27, 2019, The Korea Times

China's growing military might has replaced North Korean belligerence as the main security threat to Japan, Tokyo's annual defence review indicated, despite signs that Pyongyang could have nuclear-tipped ballistic missiles.

[Japan sees N. Korea missiles, China space activity as threats](#)

September 27, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

Japan has raised its caution level about North Korea's missile capability, saying in a defense report that the country resumed missile tests while taking no concrete denuclearization steps and had succeeded in making miniaturized warheads.

[Although pressing disputes remain unresolved, Japan and South Korea agree to continue dialogue](#)

September 27, 2019, The Japan Times

The foreign ministers of Japan and South Korea failed Thursday to make any progress toward resolving bilateral disputes over the contentious issue of compensation for wartime labor and over trade, but agreed to continue dialogue.

[Japan frets 'Belt and Road' Could Give Cover to China's Military](#)

September 27, 2019, Bloomberg

Japan believes China could use its global "Belt and Road" infrastructure initiative to push its People's Liberation Army into the Indian and Pacific Ocean regions, a move that could shake up regional security.

[Abe shifts stance on Saudi oil attack as he and Trump affirm cooperation on Middle East](#)

September 26, 2019, The Japan Times

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe appeared to revise his position Wednesday over recent attacks on major oil facilities in Saudi Arabia, during talks with U.S. President Donald Trump where the leaders agreed to cooperate to defuse tensions in the Middle East.

Korea

[Japan, S. Korea agree to continue dialogue as disputes go unresolved](#)

September 27, 2019, The Mainichi

The foreign ministers of Japan and South Korea failed on Thursday to make progress toward resolving bilateral disputes over the contentious issue of compensation for wartime labor and over trade, but agreed to continue dialogue.

[Moon stresses human rights, reform amid investigation of justice minister](#)

September 27, 2019, The Korea Herald

According to spokesperson Ko Min-jung, Moon emphasized that whether Cho is responsible for any wrongdoings will be determined according to the law and that he should be allowed to conduct his official duties regardless of the investigation in the meantime.

[S. Korea, Bulgaria to strengthen partnerships on nuclear energy, ICT](#)

September 27, 2019, The Korea Herald

The leaders of South Korea and Bulgaria agreed Friday to bolster strategic partnerships between the two nations in various fields, including nuclear energy, ICT and arms production.

[North Korea urges Trump to make bold move to revive diplomacy](#)

September 27, 2019, The Korea Times

North Korea said Friday it wants President Donald Trump to make a "wise option and bold decision" to produce a breakthrough in stalled nuclear diplomacy, in an escalation of pressure on the U.S. ahead of an expected resumption of talks.

[Trilateral cooperation mentioned during talks between Trump, Abe](#)

September 26, 2019, The Korea Times

U.S. President Donald Trump and Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe touched on the Seoul-Tokyo relations during their summit in New York, early Thursday (KST), held on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly.

[Japan "downgrades" South Korea in annual defense report](#)

September 27, 2019, Kyodo News

Japan has given South Korea the cold shoulder in an annual defense report released Friday, effectively downgrading Seoul's status as an important security cooperation partner, as relations between the two Asian neighbors have sunk to the lowest level in many years over issues of wartime history and compensation.

[As North Korea expands arsenal, Japan's missile defense shield faces unforeseen costs - sources](#)

September 27, 2019, The Korea Herald

Additional tests may add at least \$500 million to Japan's price tag for two US-built ballistic missile interceptor stations that could struggle to shoot down the latest North Korean missile types, four government and defense sources said.

Southeast Asia

[Asean and the fine art of balancing ties with China and US](#)

September 27, 2019, The Straits Times

Asean and the fine art of balancing ties with China and US
The first Asean-United States Maritime Exercise held earlier this month was neither politically sensitive nor technically sophisticated. Conducted in undisputed international waters in the Gulf of Thailand and the South China Sea, it saw the US Navy deploy "suspicious boats" in a mock exercise to help its Asean counterparts search, verify, and seize the vessels.

[New Attack Helicopter Sale Puts US-Thailand Security Ties into Focus](#)

September 27, 2019, The Diplomat

The proposed sale spotlighted the ongoing development of defense ties between the two treaty allies.

[Indonesia braces for more violence after law-change protests](#)

September 26, 2019, Channel News Asia

Hundreds of Indonesians gathered in several major centres across the archipelago Thursday (Sep 26) as authorities braced for more violent opposition to a major overhaul of the criminal code.

[Malaysia arrests 16 for suspected ISIL links, plotting attacks](#)

September 26, 2019, Al Jazeera

A dozen Indonesians, three Malaysians and an Indian woman also accused of trying to recruit members and collect funds.

[Malaysia plans to step up imports from India: primary industries minister](#)

September 27, 2019, Reuters

Malaysia is planning to step up imports from India in an effort to help bring down New Delhi's trade deficit with Kuala Lumpur, Teresa Kok, Malaysia's minister of primary industries, said.

[Myanmar, Bangladesh, China to Form Joint Working Group on Rohingya Repatriation](#)

September 26, 2019, The Irrawady

Myanmar, Bangladesh and China on Monday agreed to establish a tripartite working group mechanism to evaluate the Rohingya repatriation process on the ground, according to media reports.

[Mahathir blasts Myanmar and United Nations over Rohingya 'genocide'](#)

September 25, 2019, SCMP

The Malaysian leader says attacks on the community in Rakhine state were 'institutionalised terrorism', criticising Suu Kyi's government for a lack of action and the UN for a 'deafening' silence.

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

[Kazakhstan expands export of agricultural products to China](#)

September 27, 2019, The Times of Central Asia

Kazakhstan's Deputy Minister of Agriculture Gulmira Issayeva this week met with the Vice Minister of the General Administration of Customs of the People's Republic of China Wang Linjun to discuss expanding access of Kazakhstani agricultural products to the Chinese market and sign important documents necessary for the export of Kazakhstani products.

[EU helps to boost business climate in Kazakhstan and Central Asia](#)

September 26, 2019, The Times of Central Asia

In the framework of the EU funded Programme Central Asia Invest - Policy Component - implemented by the OECD, the first workshop on "Enhancing the Legal Environment for Business in Central Asia – focus on Kazakhstan" took place on September 25 in Nur-Sultan.

[Kazakhstan to play pivotal role in trade along China's Belt and Road – president](#)

September 26, 2019, The Times of Central Asia

Kazakhstan is set to play a pivotal role in promoting transcontinental trade as a member of the Russia-led Eurasian Economic Union and a reliable partner of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev said at the General Debate of the 74th UN General Assembly in New York on September 24.

[Kazakhstan, Thailand consider strengthening inter-parliamentary co-op](#)

September 27, 2019, Azer News

Kazakhstan, Ambassador of Kazakhstan in Thailand Raushan Yesbulatova met with the President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Thailand and Speaker of the House of Representatives Chuan Leekpai, Trend reports with reference to the press office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan. Thailand consider strengthening inter-parliamentary co-op.

[Russian, Kyrgyz Leaders Discuss Integration Process In Post-Soviet Sphere](#)

September 20, 2019, Rferl.org

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Kyrgyz President Sooronbai Jeenbekov have discussed bilateral ties and regional integration in the post-Soviet era near the Russian city of Orenburg.

[Kazakh President reaffirms commitment to nuclear-weapons-free world, international dialogue at UNGA](#)

September 26, 2019, The Astana Times

Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev reaffirmed his country's commitment to seeking a nuclear-weapons-free world in his address to the Sept. 24 74th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York.

[Statement of Fourth Meeting of Speakers of Eurasian Countries' Parliaments](#)

September 25, 2019, Astana Times

During the opening session of the Sept. 23-24 Fourth Meeting of Speakers of the Eurasian Countries' Parliaments, Parliamentary delegations from 65 countries, including 41 led by the speakers of parliaments, and heads of 14 international and interparliamentary organisations attended.

West Asia

[PM Modi meets Iranian President Rouhani](#)

September 26, 2019, The Times of India

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Iranian President Hasan Rouhani and the two leaders discussed issues of mutual and regional interests.

[Pentagon to deploy Patriot missile system to Saudi Arabia after Iran oil attacks](#)

September 26, 2019, CNBC

The Pentagon announces that the U.S. will send a Patriot missile battery, radars and roughly 200 support personnel to Saudi Arabia in the wake of the attacks on its oil facilities earlier this month.

[Saudi Arabia To Offer Tourist Visas For First Time, Abolish Abaya Rule](#)

September 27, 2019, NDTV

Saudi Arabia said it will offer tourist visas for the first time, opening up the ultra-conservative kingdom to holidaymakers as part of a push to diversify its economy away from oil.

[Saudi Crown Prince On Killing Of Jamal Khashoggi: 'It Happened Under My Watch'](#)

September 26, 2019, NPR

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has acknowledged for the first time that he is accountable for the killing of prominent critic and Washington Post journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

[Germany, UK, France blame Iran for Saudi oil attacks](#)

September 24, 2019, Al Jazeera

Signatories to 2015 Iran nuclear deal issue statement as more signs emerge pointing to collapse of landmark agreement.

[EU may be forced to withdraw from nuclear deal, Iran told](#)

September 27, 2019, The Guardian

The European Union has privately warned Iran that it will be forced to start withdrawing from the nuclear deal in November if Tehran goes ahead with its threat to take new steps away from the deal.

[Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu Tasked With Forming a New Government After Tight Election](#)

September 25, 2019, TIME

Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu's president asked Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to form a new government, giving the longtime leader the difficult task of breaking a post-election deadlock that has paralyzed the country's political system.

[US accuses Syria's Assad of chemical attack in Idlib](#)

September 27, 2019, Al Jazeera

The United States has concluded that Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's forces used chemical weapons in an attack in May, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has said, vowing a response.

[Turkey slams Egyptian spokesperson's remarks about Erdoğan](#)

September 26, 2019, Hurriyet Daily News

Turkey on Sept. 25 rejected a statement by the Egyptian Foreign Ministry's spokesperson targeting the country and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan.

United States

[Trump plays unusual role of warm-up act at massive Modi rally in Houston](#)

September 22, 2019, The Washington Post

The foreign strategy of soothing tensions with the United States by stroking President Trump's ego was put into vivid effect here Sunday when Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi lathered praise on his American counterpart at a massive rally celebrating the Indian diaspora.

[Trump applauds himself, blasts media during United Nations General Assembly meetings](#)

September 23, 2019, CBS News

President Trump met with a handful of world leaders on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly meeting in New York beginning Monday, taking the opportunity to tout his own political skills and deride the American media on the world stage.

[Donald Trump denounces 'globalism' in nationalist address to UN](#)

September 24, 2019, Guardian

Donald Trump has used his address to the UN general assembly to deliver a nationalist manifesto, denouncing "globalism" and illegal immigration and promoting patriotism as a cure for the world's ills.

[Trump announces religious freedom initiatives during UN speech](#)

September 23, 2019, CNN

President Donald Trump announced new initiatives as part of a global call for protecting religious freedom at the United Nations General Assembly on Monday, which his aides have characterized as the centerpiece of his visit to the conference of world leaders.

[Trump claims he put 'no pressure' on Zelensky despite White House transcript](#)

September 25, 2019, CNN

Once viewed as a routine diplomatic encounter, President Donald Trump's first formal meeting with his Ukrainian counterpart was transformed Wednesday into one of the most closely scrutinized encounters of his presidency as an impeachment crisis mount.

[White House Knew of Whistle-Blower's Allegations Soon After Trump's Call With Ukraine Leader](#)

September 26, 2019, The New York Times

The White House learned that a C.I.A. officer had lodged allegations against President Trump's dealings with Ukraine even as the officer's whistle-blower complaint was moving through a process meant to protect him against reprisals, people familiar with the matter said on Thursday.

[U.S. hopes to see rapid action on lifting Kashmir curbs: official](#)

September 27, 2019, Reuters

The United States hopes to see rapid action by India to lift restrictions it has imposed in Kashmir and the release of detainees there, the senior U.S. diplomat for South Asia said on Thursday.

[U.S. announces asylum deal with Honduras, could send migrants to one of world's most violent nations](#)

September 25, 2019, The Washington Post

The Trump administration announced a migration deal Wednesday that will give U.S. immigration authorities the ability to send asylum seekers from the border to Honduras, one of the most violent and unstable nations in the world.

[U.S. Afghan forces carry out deadly raid on al-Qaeda in southern Afghanistan](#)

September 23, 2019, The Washington Post

U.S. and Afghan troops carried out a deadly raid Monday against al-Qaeda in southern Afghanistan, detaining a number of suspected fighters and destroying an apparent weapons cache, according to American and Afghan officials.

[Despite French, British pleas, few signs of U.S.-Iran detente](#)

September 27, 2019, Reuters

Britain and France all but begged Iran to jump into the waters of a negotiation with the United States this week. Neither antagonist, however, showed much desire to discuss the many issues dividing them, from Iran's reawakening nuclear program to the U.S. sanctions squeezing the Iranian economy.

[Trump administration plans to slash number of refugees for U.S. resettlement](#)

September 27, 2019, Reuters

The Trump administration said on Thursday it plans to allow only 18,000 refugees to resettle in the United States in the 2020 fiscal year, the lowest number in the history of the modern refugee program.

Europe & Russia

Europe

[EU's Juncker says Britain will be responsible if no Brexit deal](#)

September 27, 2019, Reuters

Jean-Claude Juncker, the president of the European Commission, said he and the European Union's chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier were doing all they could to get a Brexit deal, and if they failed it would be Britain's responsibility.

[Brexit talks resume amid growing EU pessimism over new deal](#)

September 27, 2019, BBC

Brexit Secretary Stephen Barclay will travel to Brussels later, amid growing pessimism on the continent over whether a new withdrawal deal can be agreed. The EU's chief negotiator, Michel Barnier, told diplomats on Thursday the UK's proposed alternative to the Irish backstop was unworkable.

[Brexit: EU leaders believe new extension is 'likely'](#)

September 26, 2019, BBC

Although EU-UK technical talks have been carrying on at a low level this week, a diplomat from a key EU country described as "pretty much nil" the chances of getting a new deal done and dusted by the EU leaders' summit in a couple of weeks' time.

[EU warns Iran it may be forced to withdraw from nuclear deal](#)

September 27, 2019, The Guardian

The European Union has privately warned Iran that it will be forced to start withdrawing from the nuclear deal in November if Tehran goes ahead with its threat to take new steps away from the deal.

[Patriotism must have global dimension, says EU's Donald Tusk](#)

September 26, 2019, UN News

"The very idea of the United Nations, just like that of the European Union, is de facto a heroic attempt to overcome such thinking," Donald Tusk told the General Assembly, underscoring that: "Patriotism in the 21st century must also have a global dimension, if it is not to become, as has many times been the case, a common national egoism."

[EU nations come to Italy's aid over relocating migrants](#)

September 23, 2019, The Guardian

Four EU countries have sought to break the deadlock over European migration policy, as Italy's new government underlined its move away from the hardline policies of former deputy prime minister Matteo Salvini.

[France Unveils Billions in Tax Cuts to Reset Pro-Business Plan](#)

September 26, 2019, Wall Street Journal

In presenting its 2020 budget on Thursday, the government said it planned to lower taxes on households by €9.3 billion and provide companies with tax relief through a lower rate.

Russia

[Russia to Expand Its Hmeimim Airbase in Syria, Reports Say](#)

September 27, 2019, The Moscow Times

Russia is expanding its Hmeimim airbase in Syria and rebuilding a second landing strip to allow the facility to serve more aircraft, Russian news agencies cited an unnamed Defense Ministry official as saying on Thursday.

[The Trump-Ukraine Scandal, Explained](#)

September 25, 2019, The Moscow Times

A phone call between U.S. President Donald Trump and Ukrainian leader Volodymyr Zelenskiy has become a political flashpoint in Washington following reports that Trump asked Zelenskiy to investigate Democratic presidential hopeful Joe Biden and his son.

[Moscow may ban green card lottery after US fails to grant visas to Russia's UN delegation, MP says](#)

September 25, 2019. RT

Moscow is weighing up its options on how to respond to a failure by the US to issue visas for 10 members of the Russian delegation to a UN summit in New York; one response could be to obstruct the green card lottery for Russians.

[BRICS foreign ministers confirm plans to coordinate on international platforms](#)

September 27, 2019, Tass

The foreign ministers of BRICS countries held a traditional meeting on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session in New York.

[Lavrov discusses Syrian Constitutional Committee with Syrian foreign minister](#)

September 27, 2019, Tass

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov held talks with his Syrian counterpart Walid Moallem on the sidelines of the 74th session of the UN General Assembly in New York.

[Russia in favor of Iran's idea to form Persian Gulf coalition](#)

September 26, 2019, Tass

Earlier, during the 74th session of the UN General Assembly, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani invited all Persian Gulf states to join the coalition on regional security.

[France to consider Russia's proposed moratorium on intermediate-range missiles](#)

September 27, 2019, Tass

A French Foreign Ministry spokesperson said that they "are studying Russia's proposals regarding this issue of high importance".

[Russia to assist start of negotiations between US and Taliban movement](#)

September 26, 2019, Tass

Moscow will take efforts to assist the quickest resumption of talks between representatives of the United States and the Taliban radical movement (outlawed in Russia), Russia's Special Presidential Envoy for Afghanistan, Director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Second Asian Department Zamir Kabulov said.

Africa & Latin America

Africa

[Zimbabwe's leader calls for end to US, EU sanctions](#)

September 26, 2019, Yahoo News

Zimbabwe's President Emmerson Mnangagwa appealed for patience Wednesday for his efforts to pull his country out of an economic collapse and called on the U.S. and Europe to lift "illegal sanctions" that he blamed for slowing down the recovery.

[Water cut off for 2 million residents of Zimbabwe's capital Harare](#)

September 24, 2019, CBS News

The more than 2 million residents of Zimbabwe's capital and surrounding towns were without tap water on Tuesday after authorities shut down the city's main treatment plant, raising new fears about disease after a recent cholera outbreak while the economy crumbles further. Officials in Harare have struggled to raise foreign currency to import water treatment chemicals; about \$2.7 million is needed per month.

[Zimbabwe Central Bank Paid Out \\$971 Million Without Approvals](#)

September 27, 2019, Bloomberg

Zimbabwe's central bank paid out \$971 million without obtaining the necessary ministerial and parliamentary approvals, a parliamentary committee was told.

[Nigeria's military is in a battle with humanitarian NGOs in the country's troubled northeast](#)

September 26, 2019, Quartz

Nigeria's military has resumed hostilities in the country's northeast with one of its frequent targets. Not military action against Boko Haram or the Islamic State West Africa but instead verbal warfare with humanitarian and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

[Crackdown widens after call for new protests in Egypt](#)

September 26, 2019, Reuters

At least 1,900 people have been detained since protests against President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi began in Cairo and other Egyptian cities last Friday, the head of a rights monitoring group said.

[Many choices but few solutions ahead of Tunisia's parliamentary race](#)

September 26, 2019, The Arab Weekly

Sensing the danger, Ennahda pledged its support for Saied, a candidate whom Islamists can control if they win enough seats in parliament to have a major say in how the country is run.

[Algeria army chief criticizes protesters for rejecting election](#)

September 24, 2019, Reuters

Algeria's powerful army chief urged massive participation in a presidential election planned for December, responding for the first time to protests rejecting the planned vote.

[Dynasties vs hustlers in Kenya](#)

September 24, 2019, Al Jazeera

A new populist political narrative can help Kenya do away from ethno-politics.

[Ethiopia govt confirms thousands killed, millions displaced by ethnic clashes](#)

September 25, 2019, Africa News

With a population of 100 million citizens who come from dozens of ethnic groups with competing claims to land, resources and influence, Ethiopia's prime minister Abiy Ahmed has struggled to contain ethnic clashes.

[Tanzania government to increase citizen's engagement in climate change mitigation](#)

September 26, 2019, The Citizen

Experts from Tanzania, South Africa, Nigeria and Ethiopia will discuss challenges of climate change as the fourth Scientific Conference for the Geographical Association of Tanzania (GAT) kicks off here with the Tanzania government promising to increase citizen's engagement in addressing its challenges.

Latin America

[US natural gas pipeline exports to Mexico hit record high](#)

September 25, 2019, SP Global

US natural gas pipeline exports to Mexico climbed to a record high Wednesday following the addition last week of new transmission capacity on the Sur de Texas-Tuxpan marine pipeline.

[Mexican President Slams Predecessor's Energy Reform](#)

September 25, 2019, OilPrice.com

Mexico's President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador has slammed the energy sector reform that his predecessor, Enrique Pena-Nieto, enacted when he took office, saying that it failed to result in any increase in oil production but has instead benefited foreign companies.

[The Trump administration will start sending most immigrant families arrested at the border back to Mexico](#)

September 25, 2019, Vox

The Trump administration will begin sending most immigrant families arrested along the southern border back to Mexico to await their immigration court hearings. This policy is being presented as an alternative to detaining asylum seekers indefinitely but it raises concerns about the safety of the people involved.

[Mexico's President Skips U.N. General Assembly And All Other Foreign Travel](#)

September 23, 2019, NPR

As leaders from around the world spent at the United Nations Climate Action Summit pledging to ban coal and cut carbon emissions, Mexico's president was at his weekday news conference showing off a new app that tells consumers where the cheapest gas in the country can be found.

[Venezuela crisis: US bans top officials from entering country](#)

September 26, 2019, BBC

President Donald Trump has banned senior Venezuelan officials and their families from entering the US, the latest effort aimed at forcing President Nicolás Maduro to step down.

[Vaca Muerta boosts Argentina's proven oil and gas reserves](#)

September 25, 2019, bnamericas

Proven oil reserves jumped 18.5% to 380Mm³ in 2018, the biggest percentage increase in more than 10 years, according to the latest figures released by the energy ministry. In 2016 reserves fell 9.51% and in 2017 by 6.93%.

[Russian Military Specialists Arrive in Venezuela](#)

September 25, 2019, The Moscow Times

A group of Russian military specialists has arrived in the Venezuelan capital of Caracas, Interfax reported on Wednesday, as Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro meets with his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, to improve cooperation.

[Trump meets with opposition Venezuela delegation at UN](#)

September 26, 2019, Loop

President Donald Trump showed his support for the Venezuelan opposition Wednesday as he met with its delegation to the U.N. General Assembly instead of the official government delegation and called for an end to the "horrible and brutal oppression" of President Nicolas Maduro.

[Venezuelan foreign minister calls Trump meeting with opposition leaders 'shameful'](#)

September 26, 2019, FOX News

Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza blasted President Trump for meeting with the Venezuelan opposition's delegation to the United Nations General Assembly instead of the official government delegation, calling the meeting "shameful," saying the president "doesn't like Latin Americans" and accusing him of "trying to distract the public opinion of his own scandals."

[Brazilian indigenous leaders denounce Bolsonaro before UN speech](#)

September 23, 2019, The Guardian

Indigenous leaders in Brazil have denounced Jair Bolsonaro's "colonialist and ethnocidal" policies as the far-right populist headed to New York to defend his treatment of the Amazon and its inhabitants.

[Russia, a life saver for Cuba?](#)

September 23, 2019, Cuba News

The increase in trade relations with Russia could mean vital oxygen for the Cuban economy in a critical state.

[U.S. slaps sanctions on firms moving Venezuelan oil to Cuba](#)

September 24, 2019, Reuters

The U.S. Treasury Department imposed sanctions on four maritime firms and vessels transporting Venezuelan oil to Cuba, amid an acute fuel scarcity in the island that is forcing people to line up for gasoline and public transport.



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