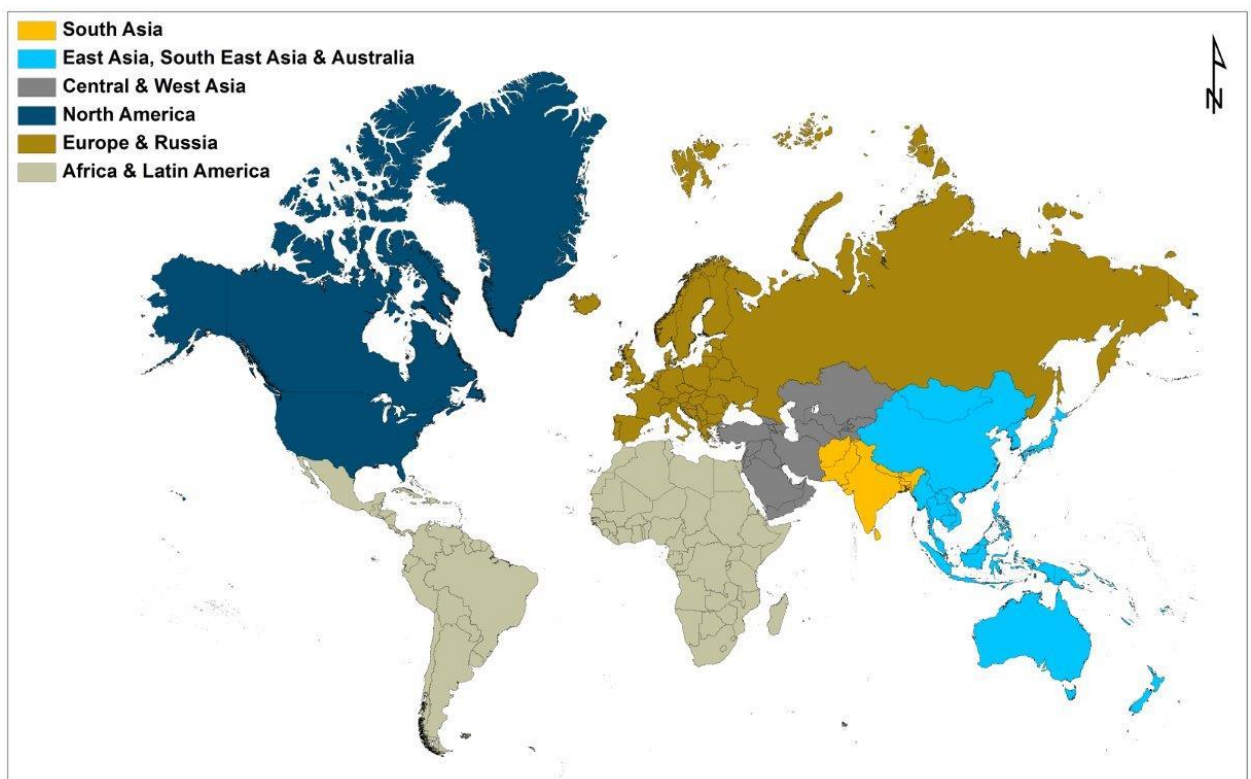




Delhi Policy Group

DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



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DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

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ABOUT US

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

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

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South Asia

India

[India, China to remain sensitive to each others' concerns, Kashmir issue was not raised](#)

October 12, 2019, India Today

The press statement issued by India said that two leaders "had an in-depth exchange of views in a friendly atmosphere on overarching, long-term and strategic issues of global and regional importance."

[India, China agree to set up new mechanism for issues relating to trade and investment](#)

October 12, 2019, The Hindu Business Line

India and China plan to set up a new mechanism to discuss ways and means to reduce trade deficit (\$53 billion), enhance mutual trade, investment and services. This was one of the important understandings reached out by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping at the end of the two-day informal summit between the two leaders.

[India's security vulnerabilities are going to be 'much more greater' in times to come: NSA Doval](#)

October 15, 2019, The Economic Times

Addressing the 41st Directors conference at Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) here, National Security Advisor (NSA) AjitDoval on Tuesday said that India's security vulnerabilities are "much greater" today and they are going to be "much more greater" in the times to come. He said that India had always remained a runner-up in Defence Technology and there are no trophies for the runner-ups.

[West Asia tension & trade war may hit energy security, economy: Pradhan](#)

October 14, 2019, Times of India

Petroleum minister Dharmendra Pradhan on Sunday warned that India's growing import dependence for oil and gas has made it vulnerable to external developments and said a series of adverse global events in recent months - from the U.S.-China trade war to happenings in West Asia - might have an "enormous impact" on the country's energy security as well as its economy, budget and investment.

[Jaishankar defines India's place in new world: Open for business, but conditions apply](#)

October 13, 2019, The Print

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar laid out India's foreign policy for "Modi 2.0" with an energetic outreach to both governments and opinion makers during his recent trip to the United States. He explained how India sees the world – a fluid array of multiple poles where convergence is possible but not congruence, where frenemies abound and where it's natural to engage with the US, China and Russia all at the same time.

[FM Nirmala Sitharaman woos global firms; says no better place to invest than India](#)

October 17, 2019, Business Standard

Sitharaman, speaking at the IMF's headquarters in Washington DC, said there would be no better place to invest in the world than India, which she said had brought several structural reforms to provide a healthy business environment in the country. The event was hosted by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry in association with the US India Strategic and Partnership Forum.

[India Proposes Data Localisation At RCEP Citing Security Reasons](#)

October 12, 2019, Inc42

Amid the ongoing negotiations of the proposed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) trade agreement, India has proposed to locate computing facilities inside the country for security and protect national interests. India said that only where it is a matter of legitimate public policy objective or necessary for protecting "security interests or national interests," the participating countries may prevent the cross-border transfer of most pieces of information by electronic means, including personal information.

[Army chief urges inclusion of indigenous tech in India's defence arsenal](#)

October 15, 2019, Live Mint

Speaking at an event organised by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in New Delhi, Rawat gave a thumbs up to indigenous technology and weapon systems and said India will fight the next war with home manufactured arms and win it. The statements assume significance given that India imports most of the hardware in its defence arsenal, though successive governments have underlined the need to reduce reliance on imports.

[India, Japan to hold joint military exercise from October 19](#)

October 12, 2019, Economic Times

Dharma Guardian, the joint military exercise between India and Japan, will be held at the Counter-Insurgency and Jungle Warfare School Vairengte in Mizoram from October 19 to November 2. A Defence Ministry release said on Saturday that Indian Army and Japanese Ground Self Defence Forces (JGSDF) contingents comprising 25 soldiers each will participate in the exercise with an aim to share experience gained during various counter-terrorism operations.

Pakistan

[Pakistan, China to expedite work on CPEC western route](#)

October 13, 2019, The News

The completion of first phase of China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), Pakistan and China's Joint Working Group (JWP) on Infrastructure Development has decided to expedite the work on western route.

[Pak-led initiative for Saudi-Iran friendship begins](#)

October 14, 2019, The News

Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan's visits to Iran and Saudi Arabia on October 13-14, to help facilitate talks between the regional rivals have ended with no set commitments for dialogue although Tehran reiterated its readiness to come to the negotiating table.

[Framework in place to counter terror financing: SBP](#)

October 16, 2019, Dawn

The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) said that a comprehensive framework has been developed to deal with the money laundering and terror financing to restrict misuse of banking channels. The SBP advised the authorised dealers (banks) to upgrade their systems and control and bring policies and procedures in line with the requirements of the framework to ensure meticulous compliance with the provisions with immediate effect.

[Pakistan cancels huge 10-year LNG tender](#)

October 16, 2019, Dawn

State-owned Pakistan LNG has cancelled a tender to buy liquefied natural gas over a 10-year period and may turn to the spot market instead. The company issued the tender in early June to import 240 LNG cargoes of 140,000 cubic metres each for delivery over 10 years for the country's second LNG terminal. But it has decided to cancel the tender due to inadequate demand for the super-chilled fuel.

[Growth to slow down to 2.4pc in 2020: IMF](#)

October 16, 2019, Dawn

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Monday estimated that Pakistan's economy would slow down to 2.4 per cent in 2020 and pick up quickly after that as stabilisation measures bear result.

Afghanistan

[Ghani and US Amb. Wells discuss election, peace and security](#)

October 15, 2019, Tolo News

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani met with Alice Wells, the US Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia. Both discussed issues related to the presidential election, peace, security and regional relations. Ghani said that there is a broad consensus for achieving a dignified and sustainable peace and that the peace process is a priority for the current and future government.

[India hands over final pair of Mi-35 helicopter gunships to Afghanistan](#)

October 16, 2019, Defence Post

Indian Ambassador Vinay Kumar handed over a pair of Mi-24V helicopters to acting Defence Minister Asadullah Khalid on October 15. India covered all expenses in a transfer of four refurbished Mi-35 attack helicopters from Belarus, and handed over the first two Mi-35 attack helicopters in May.

[Gwadar Port ready for Afghan transit trade, other cargo ships](#)

October 15, 2019, The Nation

The sub-committee of the Senate Standing Committee on Maritime Affairs held its meeting in Gwadar. The convener of the sub-committee Senator Baba informed the participants that all arrangements have been finalised at the port to handle the Afghan Transit Trade and all other kinds of cargo ships.

[Results of Afghanistan's presidential election could be delayed](#)

October 17, 2019, CGTN

Preliminary results in Afghanistan's presidential election will be delayed beyond Saturday's deadline, probably for more than a week, fuelling chances of political uncertainty.

[Afghanistan suffers record 4,300 civilian casualties in three months - U.N.](#)

October 17, 2019, Reuters

A record 4,313 civilians were injured or killed in Afghanistan's war against the Islamist Taliban between July and September.

Bangladesh

[PM Hasina, Modi invited for India-Bangladesh Test in Kolkata](#)

October 17, 2019, Dhaka Tribune

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi have been invited for the second and final Test match between India and Bangladesh, which will be played at Eden Gardens in Kolkata from November 22 to 26.

[BSF Soldier Killed In Firing By Bangladesh Guards At Bengal Border](#)

October 17, 2019, NDTV

A Border Security Force (BSF) soldier was killed and another seriously injured when their patrol came under fire from the Bangladeshi Border Guards after a flag meeting along the India-Bangladesh border in West Bengal's Murshidabad.

["Hand Over Body To Bangladesh": Family Of Man Declared Foreigner In Assam](#)

October 16, 2019, NDTV

Dulal Chandra Paul's death has left the Assam government in a fix despite the government ordering a probe into the matter after over ten thousand people from the area blocked roads and staged dharnas.

[Assam wants reopening of old railway links with Bangladesh](#)

October 17, 2019, The Economic Times

Assam government discusses reopening of traditional railway links to Bangladesh which will reopen the pre-partition railway links from Chittagong to Makum, Cox Bazar to Ledo and third line between Bangladesh via Golakganj till Moirabari.

[US wants 2 defence deals with Bangladesh](#)

October 18, 2019, The Daily Star

The US wants to sign two defence agreements with Bangladesh as the latter is seeking to buy advanced equipment from the US as part of its goal to modernise the military by 2030.

[Bangladesh border forces Bangladesh's act of balancing Asian giant foes](#)

October 13, 2019, Andolou Agency

Delhi's surveillance along Bangladeshi coastline has irked China shattering balance in foreign policy Indian guard, wound another, India says.

Nepal

[Nepal, China ink 18 agreements](#)

October 13, 2019, India Today

Nepal and China on Sunday inked 18 agreements and two letters of understanding of exchange following the conclusion of the state visit of President Xi Jinping to the Himalayan nation.

[Xi Jinping attempts to make China net security provider of Nepal](#)

October 14, 2019, Economic Times

During President Xi Jinping's weekend visit, China attempted to emerge as a net security provider of Nepal by assuring to protect its sovereignty. This is the first such occasion when China has publicly made an assurance to protect another nation's sovereignty.

[China-Nepal ties: Possible debt trap](#)

October 17, 2019, Deccan Herald

Nepal's ties with China have taken a great leap forward. Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Kathmandu was short but significant.

[Anti-China protests grow in Nepal even as Beijing claims bonhomie over Xi visit](#)

October 12, 2019, Economic Times

Nepal has witnessed a series of anti-China protests in recent months over a slew of issues notwithstanding China's enthusiasm over visit of its President from Saturday. A protest was held (Kathmandu, August 14) in front of Chinese Huawei company office for its involvement in the hacking (May 06-07) of around 200 Nepali websites, including some important Government websites. The Protesters shouted anti-Huawei and anti-Chinese slogans during the protests.

[Nepali citizens detained during Xi Jinping's visit for Tibetan signage on clothes and accessories](#)

October 17, 2019, The Kathmandu Post

At least a week before Chinese President Xi Jinping was scheduled to arrive in Kathmandu, Nepal's security forces were already on high alert, detaining dozens of people, primarily Tibetan refugees. But also caught in the dragnet were a number of Nepalis, who were taken into custody for sporting signage related to Tibet.

[On his first day in Kathmandu, Xi announces Rs 56 billion in economic assistance over the next two years](#)

October 13, 2019, The Kathmandu Post

Chinese President Xi Jinping arrived in Kathmandu on a two-day state visit on Saturday, in what Foreign Minister Pradeep Gyawali described as a “big diplomatic success” of the KP Sharma Oli administration. “The Chinese president’s visit is quite important,” Gyawali told the Post. “While development cooperation and partnership are on the agenda, our key focus is deepening our friendship with China.”

[Nepal reiterates commitment to One China policy](#)

October 14, 2019, The Himalayan Times

Nepal and China issued a 14-point joint statement at the conclusion of Chinese President Xi Jinping’s two-day state visit to Nepal, agreeing to respect and accommodate each other’s concerns and core interests. The Nepali side reiterated its firm commitment to One China policy, acknowledging that Taiwan is an inalienable part of the Chinese territory and Tibet affairs are China’s internal affairs. It also vowed not to allow any anti-China activities on its soil.

Bhutan

[Bhutan Opens Itself to the World - and Tourists](#)

October 15, 2019, USA News

The government is considering new policies to manage the overflow of international visitors to the South Asian kingdom.

[India, Bhutan celebrates their textile heritage](#)

October 17, 2019, Deccan Herald

Mahatma Gandhi and his legacy of 'Swadeshi' movement were at the centre as fashion designers from India and Bhutan came together on Wednesday to celebrate the textile heritage of the two countries here.

Sri Lanka

[New Airport Connects Chennai and Jaffna After 40 Years as Air India Flight Makes First Landing](#)

October 17, 2019, News 18

Equipped with a 2.3-km runway, Sri Lanka's third international airport was declared open by President Maithripala Sirisena after the landing of the first flight from India.

[Jaffna will return to pre-war normalcy within next 5 years - PM](#)

October 17, 2019, Colombo Page

Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe says Jaffna, the capital city of the Northern Province will no doubt return to its pre-war normalcy and become an economic hub in the region within the next five years

[Sri Lanka's Army chief triggers controversy over election advertisement](#)

October 16, 2019, The Hindu

Sri Lanka's poll chief Mahinda Deshapriya has asked the Defence Ministry to explain why Army chief Gen. Shavendra Silva features in an advertisement promoting presidential candidate Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

[Sri Lanka calls for making BIMSTEC a more robust organization](#)

October 16,, 2019, Colombo Page

Rationalization of areas of cooperation of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) and draft Charter of the organization were deliberated during the second meeting of the BIMSTEC Permanent Working Committee (BPWC) recently in Colombo.

[Hambantota International Port partners with NYK Japan](#)

October 18, 2019, Colombo Page

The Hambantota International Port Group (HIPG) has entered into a Terminal Service Agreement (TSA) with Japanese Shipping Conglomerate NYK, the first RoRo specific TSA entered into by the shipping line with a Sri Lankan Port.

Maldives

[Maldives investigates activist group for 'slandering Islam'](#)

October 18, 2019, Washington Post

The head of a Maldivian activist group said Thursday that police have contacted her as part of an investigation into a report published by her organization that has been accused of slandering Islam. The Maldives government ordered the Maldivian Democracy Network to suspend its activities a week ago because of its 2016 report on religious radicalization in the Indian Ocean archipelago state.

[Maldives calls for better collaboration with Indian business entities](#)

October 16, 2019, Doordarshan News

Maldives has called for better collaboration with Indian business entities to explore new avenues mainly to diversify its economy. Speaking at the inaugural function of Indian expo in Male today, Maldives Minister for economic development Fayyaz Ismail said that there is huge potential between the economies of both countries, especially in the quest to diversify it.

East & South East Asia

China

[Hong Kong-style riots to haunt West](#)

October 17, 2019, Global Times

Supporters of the Catalan separatist movement publicly declared to have learned from the Hong Kong demonstrators, promoting the latter's tactics such as to "be water" and wearing masks to reduce the risk of being arrested. They seized the local airport on Monday and Tuesday, forcing a large number of flights to cancel. They also blocked roads and railways, set garbage cans on fire. Their slogan is "We're going to do a Hong Kong!"

[Cozy ties among regional countries crucial for determining the future of South Asia](#)

October 17, 2019, Global Times

Chinese President Xi Jinping's state visit to Nepal, the first by a Chinese president in 23 years, was a historic one that sought to elevate ties with the Himalayan country. The China-Nepal relationship can provide a trustworthy model for other small countries and developing countries to advance their ties with China.

[West has to understand and appreciate China's system](#)

October 15, 2019, Global Times

Many Western countries have always been misjudging China, and they criticize or even deny China's system. Instead of trying to understand China, they attribute many China-West disputes to the Chinese system. These people cannot recognize China's development only because China has a system that is different to the West. To understand China's system is an important step to understand the country's decisions and achievements.

[Trade data shows resilience of China's economy](#)

October 14, 2019, Global Times

Data released by the General Administration of Customs Monday shows China's total trade amounted to 22.91 trillion yuan (\$3.24 trillion) in the first three quarters of the year, growing 2.8 percent from a year ago. The country's exports rose by 5.2 percent to 12.48 trillion yuan and imports dropped 0.1 percent to 10.43 trillion yuan. Trade surplus of China expanded 44.2 percent during the period to 2.05 trillion yuan.

[Desperate Japan turns to China](#)

October 14, 2019, Global Times

What's behind Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's newfound enthusiasm of improving ties with China after he recently once again vowed to take relations to a new level? In a policy speech outlining his goals in an extraordinary Diet session convened in early October, Abe said he hoped to open up a new era in Japan-China relations.

[China-Russia missile defense cooperation needed](#)

October 14, 2019, Global Times

Russian President Vladimir Putin on October 3 spoke of helping "Chinese partners create a missile attack warning system" at the final plenary session of the 16th meeting of the Valdai International Discussion Club in Sochi, Russia. The "big secret" has drawn attention of international media due to not only the way Putin revealed it but also the context in which it was revealed.

[Putting pen to paper on partial deal would be confidence booster: China Daily editorial](#)

October 17, 2019, China Daily

The 15-month trade frictions the United States instigated with China have been an appreciable drag on global economic and trade growth, and are a significant source of risk for the global economy, with "real spillover effects" for emerging markets.

[Washington's missile plan reckless: China Daily editorial](#)

October 17, 2019, China Daily

If there is still any doubt over China's resolve to safeguard its national security, especially when it is under direct threat on its doorstep, listen again to Fu Cong.

[Lam offers bold view for the future: China Daily editorial](#)

October 16, 2019, China Daily

As the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region is striving to overcome its biggest challenge since its return to the motherland, all eyes were on Chief Executive Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor's third Policy Address on Wednesday, specifically on how the policy blueprint can help end the current turmoil.

[US politicians should keep their color-hued noses out of Hong Kong: China Daily editorial](#)

October 16, 2019, China Daily

The People's Republic of China makes no secret about its sensitivity to foreign intervention in its internal affairs. And like those of Tibet and Taiwan, Hong Kong affairs fall into the category of being China's business and no one else's.

[Barbarous protests in Hong Kong terrorize its law-abiding citizens: China Daily editorial](#)

October 16, 2019, China Daily

A rioter throws a gasoline bomb at police in Wan Chai. [PHOTO/CHINA DAILY]

The anti-mask law introduced by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region government on Oct 4 has proved effective in reducing the number of protesters on the street, as now that they can no longer hide their identities and are prone to arrest, many of the rioters have lost the courage of anonymity.

[Let's nail down 'phase one' before moving to the next: China Daily editorial](#)

October 13, 2019, China Daily

Although a comprehensive deal is said to be still in the works, the positive developments from the latest round of trade negotiations between the two sides - if delivered - are extremely welcome news.

[Challenges remain for US-China 'love fest' to continue: China Daily editorial](#)

October 13, 2019, China Daily

The fact that both China and the United States claimed to have achieved "substantial progress" after conclusion of their two-day talks on Friday highlights the significance of their refusal to give up efforts to manage their trade and economic disputes.

[US would benefit from taking less-is-more approach to talks: China Daily editorial](#)

October 10, 2019, China Daily

Reports suggesting Vice-Premier Liu He, head of the Chinese delegation to the ongoing trade talks with the United States on Thursday and Friday, will leave Washington earlier than planned have fueled pessimism over the outcome of the negotiations. This shows how eagerly the world awaits the two largest economies laying their frictions to rest.

[Growth entails successful transition: China Daily editorial](#)

October 14, 2019, China Daily

That China's total export-import volume has maintained a stable growth of 2.8 percent year-on-year in the first three quarters, according to data released by the General Administration of Customs on Monday, offers more food for thought than usual.

[Trade reports use differing language, but conclusion draws near](#)

October 14, 2019, China Daily

How are the China-US trade negotiations going in Washington? It depends on which media outlet you rely on to get your information. On Saturday, hours after "substantial progress" was made on economic and trade issues of common concern in their latest round of negotiations, US President Donald Trump met Chinese vice-Premier Liu He, head of the Chinese delegation.

[Germany right to separate 5G from politics: China Daily editorial](#)

October 15, 2019, China Daily

In a rebuff to the United States' call to strangle Huawei Technologies worldwide, Germany has finalized security rules for the construction of its next-generation 5G networks that will not exclude the Chinese telecommunications maker.

[Xi Jinping to open 2019 Military World Games](#)

October 17, 2019, China Daily

The opening ceremony of the 7th CISM Military World Games will take place at the Wuhan Sports Center in the central Chinese city of Wuhan at 8 p.m. on Friday evening.

[Commissioner's office of Chinese foreign ministry says playing "Hong Kong card" to get U.S. nowhere](#)

October 16, 2019, China Daily

The Office of the Commissioner of the Chinese foreign ministry in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) on Wednesday expressed strong indignation over some U.S. politicians' actions of passing Hong Kong-related bills at the U.S. House, warning that playing Hong Kong as a card will get the United States nowhere.

[Why Xi's state visit bodes well for China-Nepal ties](#)

October 14, 2019, Xinhua

Chinese President Xi Jinping's state visit to Nepal, which ended Sunday, has charted the course for the future of bilateral ties.

[Xi-Modi meeting charts course of steady China-India ties](#)

October 14, 2019, Xinhua

Chinese President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi held their second informal meeting on Friday and Saturday in the southern Indian city of Chennai, setting the tune for the future development of bilateral ties.

[Xi's South Asia trip boosts ties with India and Nepal, promotes regional cooperation](#)

October 14, 2019, Xinhua

Chinese President Xi Jinping's trip to India and Nepal has injected new impetus into China's relations with the two countries, built new platform for good-neighborliness in South Asia, and opened up new prospects for regional practical cooperation, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Sunday.

Japan

[Abe's offering to Yasukuni shrine sparks criticism from Seoul](#)

October 17, 2019, Japan Today

Abe's offering to Yasukuni Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe sent an offering to Tokyo's controversial Yasukuni shrine for war dead on Thursday, prompting neighboring South Korea to call on Japan to reflect on its wartime actions in shrine sparks criticism from Seoul.

[Huawei CEO eager to cooperate with Japan amid U.S. fight](#)

October 17, 2019, Japan Today

Ren Zhengfei, chief executive and founder of Huawei Technologies Co, expressed strong hope for cooperation with Japan, as the Chinese tech giant faces severe challenges amid a prolonged technology dispute with the United States.

[Japan dismisses N Korea's compensation demand for boat collision](#)

October 16, 2019, Japan Today

Japan dismissed North Korea's demand for compensation over the sinking of a fishing boat that was in collision with a Japanese patrol vessel last week.

[China to send vice president to emperor's enthronement ceremony](#)

October 15, 2019, Japan Today

Chinese Vice President Wang Qishan will travel to Japan to attend Emperor Naruhito's enthronement ceremony next week, the Foreign Ministry said.

[Goldman Sachs blasts Japan plan for foreign investment rules in stocks](#)

October 17, 2019, The Japan Times

A plan by the government to impose stricter rules on foreign investment in local equities will be "detrimental" to the market, impede the ability to raise funds and undermine seven years of market reforms, according to Goldman Sachs Group Inc.

[Erdogan cancels plan to attend Tokyo ceremony for Naruhito](#)

October 17, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has canceled his visit to Japan and his attendance at an enthronement ceremony for Emperor Naruhito.

[China's quarterly economy growth sinks to 6%, a 26-year low](#)

October 18, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

China's economic growth slowed to a 26-year low in the latest quarter as a tariff war with Washington weighed on exports and auto sales and other domestic activity weakened.

Korea

[Sino-Indian informal summits: Wuhan, Mahabalipuram and beyond](#)

October 17, 2019, The Korea Times

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi observed during talks with China's President Xi Jinping that "our effort is to prevent differences from degenerating into disputes."

[US urges S. Korea to renew GSOMIA with Japan: Pentagon](#)

October 18, 2019, The Korea Times

The United States continues to call on South Korea to renew its military intelligence-sharing pact with Japan, a U.S. defense official said.

[Nelson Mandela's daughter begins role as S. African ambassador to South Korea](#)

October 18, 2019, The Korea Times

A daughter of late former South African President Nelson Mandela has formally assumed her post as the new ambassador to South Korea, Seoul's foreign ministry said.

[President Moon to send letter to Abe via PM](#)

October 18, 2019, The Korea Herald

President Moon Jae-in is expected to send a letter to Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe through Prime Minister Lee Nak-yeon as part of efforts to improve bilateral relations that have plummeted over wartime history and trade restrictions.

[N.Korean Missiles 'May Be Tipped with Guided Warheads'](#)

October 16, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

The Japanese Ministry of Defense has floated the possibility of some of North Korea's ballistic missiles being tipped with guided warheads whose homing function is activated in the terminal stage of flight.

[N.Korea Failed to Repay Huge Debts from Seoul](#)

October 15, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

North Korea has repaid South Korea only W2.8 billion out of various soft loans amounting to more than W1 trillion it has taken since 1991 (US\$1=W1,186).

Southeast Asia

[Upset India weighs diplomatic options against Malaysia](#)

October 10, 2019, The Economic Times

New Delhi has sufficient clout to put a diplomatic cost on Kuala Lumpur owing to Malaysian President Mahathir's defiance on Kashmir earlier in UNGA. India can

shift its Malaysia purchase to Indonesia as a retaliatory step to Mohamed's non-compliance.

[Malaysia needs to be ready for the worst in South China Sea: foreign minister](#)

October 17, 2019, Reuters

Malaysia needs to boost its naval capabilities to prepare for possible conflict in the South China Sea, its foreign minister said on Thursday, even as Southeast Asia's third-largest economy pursues non-militarization of the disputed waterway.

[In Era of Crumbling Trade Deals, India and Indonesia Get Closer](#)

October 18, 2019, Bloomberg

At a time when trade relations are worsening and diplomatic rows proliferating, India and Indonesia seem to be fostering closer ties.

[Bangkok readies for ASEAN Summit](#)

October 17, 2019, Bangkok Post

Thailand is preparing to welcome the leaders of 10 Asean nations and their dialogue partners, including US President Donald Trump -- if he decides to come to the Asean Summit himself.

[What's Next for ASEAN's Regional Security Hotline?](#)

October 15, 2019, The Diplomat

While challenges remain, Southeast Asian states are continuing to develop the ASEAN Direct Communications Infrastructure both among themselves and with partner countries.

[Vietnam Tops List of Trade Performers in ASEAN](#)

October 14, 2019, VOA

Vietnam has just topped a list of economic performers in Southeast Asia, a list that Standard Chartered Bank calls the "rising stars" of global trade based on improvements the countries have made and their future potential.

[Myanmar's Arakan Army is Recruiting and Training to Fight Government](#)

October 16, 2019, VOA

On the edge of a mountainside in Northern Myanmar's Kachin state, several hundred young army recruits kick up the dust as they jog down a trail during early morning military drills.

[Myanmar, Nepal ink two cooperation deals](#)

October 18, 2019, Myanmar Times

Nepal's President Bidya Devi Bhandari and Myanmar President U Win Myint on Thursday witnessed the signing of two agreements to enhance cooperation between the two countries in tourism and culture.

[Thailand reopens free trade talks with EU to reduce reliance on China](#)

October 18, 2019, SCMP

China accounted for 14 per cent of Thailand's total foreign direct investment in 2018. Talks had been on hold since 2014, when a military coup in Thailand ousted the democratically elected government of Yingluck Shinawatra

[Sino-Pak axis plans to sell arms to Nigeria and Myanmar](#)

October 15, 2019, The Economic Times

ET has also learnt that Pakistan plans to sell batches of JF-17 Thunder fighters that it has built with Chinese assistance to India's neighbour Myanmar and Nigeria, India's old defence partner in Africa.

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

[Turkey's role in the Turkic world: The case of Uzbekistan](#)

October 17, 2019, Daily Sabah

The Uzbeks are the descendants of Celaladdin Harzemshah, who fought against the Mongols. Uzbekistan is a country with a rich historical significance; for example, Bukhara and Samarkand are two very important cities that have earned fame throughout Islamic history. It can be said that Uzbekistan and the Uzbeks have contributed significantly to Islamic civilization in many fields.

[Turkic Council approves Uzbekistan's membership, awards Nazarbayev Higher Order of Turkic World](#)

October 18, 2019, The Astana Times

Uzbekistan joined the Cooperation Council of Turkic Speaking States (CCTS or Turkic Council) Oct. 15 during its seventh summit in Baku, Azerbaijan. The summit also featured the award ceremony to present Kazakhstan's First President Nursultan Nazarbayev with the newly established Higher Order of the Turkic World.

[Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan Extend Bilateral Visa-Free Stays](#)

October 15, 2019, Central Asia News.net

Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan have signed an accord to prolong visa-free stays for their citizens in the two countries from 30 days to 90 days.

[EU lifts ban on Turkmenistan Airlines](#)

October 17, 2019, Reuters

The European Union has lifted a ban on flights by Turkmenistan Airlines within EU territories, the bloc's aviation safety regulator said.

[US ambassador urges Kazakhstan to improve rights situation](#)

October 16, 2019, The Times of Central Asia

United States Ambassador to Kazakhstan William Moser in an interview to RFE/RL said Washington is "strongly encouraging" Kazakhstan's government to improve the human rights situation in the Central Asian country.

[Impact of the US-Iran confrontation on Central Asia](#)

October 12, 2019, The Times of Central Asia

Both Iran and Central Asia countries are interested in increased economic and political cooperation, but governments in Central Asian states are cautious about too close ties with Tehran as they have to balance between their own interests and possible implications of the US pressure on the Islamic Republic.

[Uzbekistan to give 10-year residence permit to foreigners for \\$3 million investment](#)

October 17, 2019, The Times of Central Asia

Uzbekistan has amended some government regulations to allow foreign citizens who invest US \$3 million in the country's economy to get a 10-year residence permit, Xinhua news agency reported with reference to the Uzbek Justice Ministry.

[New Kazakh Leadership: What Impact For EU-Kazakhstan Relations?](#)

October 13, 2019, Euractive

Following the presidential elections on June 9th, Kazakhstan has a new leader, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev. He is the second president to be elected after almost thirty years of uninterrupted rule by Nursultan Nazarbayev, who occupied the position since the fall of the Soviet Union. Nazarbayev stood down in March..

[Tajikistan Labels EU-Based Opposition Alliance As Terrorist Group](#)

October 14, 2019, Rferl.org

Tajikistan's Supreme Court has labeled the National Alliance of Tajikistan (PMT) - a group uniting several opposition movements and parties based in the European Union -- as a terrorist and extremist organization.

[Turkmenistan, UK mull business partnership prospects](#)

October 17, 2019, Azer News

A meeting was held between the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan Rashid Meredov and the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United Kingdom to Turkmenistan Hugh Stanley Philpott on Oct.16, Trend reports referring to the Turkmen Foreign Ministry.

[Belarus: Tajik Activist Faces Unlawful Extradition](#)

October 7, 2019, Human Rights Watch

An independent journalist and political opposition activist risks torture or other ill-treatment if he is forcibly returned from Belarus to Tajikistan, a group of eleven human rights groups said today. Belarusian authorities should not extradite or deport the activist, Farhod Odinaev, or otherwise facilitate his forced return to Tajikistan.

West Asia

[Maiden India, Saudi Arabia Strategic Partnership Council on cards during Modi's Riyadh visit](#)

October 7, 2019, The Economic Times

An MoU to establish the council is expected to be signed during Prime Minister Modi's visit. It will comprise the foreign and commerce and industry ministers from both countries. The first Strategic Partnership Council will be held in Riyadh.

["Great Day For Civilization": Trump As Turkey Agrees To Syria Ceasefire](#)

October 18, 2019, NDTV

Turkey agreed Thursday to a cease-fire that would suspend its march into Syria and temporarily halt a week of vicious fighting with Kurdish forces, while allowing President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's government to carve out a long-coveted buffer zone far beyond his nation's borders.

[Turkey's operation into Syria exposed Europe's double standards](#)

October 18, 2019, Al Jazeera

European powers condemn Turkey over its Syria operation, but turn a blind eye to Saudi Arabia's crimes in Yemen.

[French FM holds Iraq talks over fate of jailed jihadists in Syria](#)

October 17, 2019, France 24

France's top diplomat held talks in Baghdad on Thursday on transferring foreign jihadists from northern Syria for trial in Iraq after a Turkish offensive triggered fears of mass jailbreaks.

[German arms exports to Turkey at highest level since 2005](#)

October 17, 2019, Deutsche Welle

Germany has cut arms shipments to Turkey over Ankara's offensive in northern Syria. But despite the halted deliveries, Berlin's weapons sales to Ankara have reached their highest level in 14 years.

[Pompeo lands in Israel for meet with Netanyahu, talks on Syria](#)

October 18, 2019, The Times of Israel

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo landed in Israel overnight Thursday-Friday for talks on Syria following the pullout of American soldiers and Turkey's launching of a military offensive against Kurdish fighters.

[U.S. Saudis Heighten Security Defenses After Attacks on Oil Industry](#)

October 17, 2019, The Wall Street Journal

The U.S. and Saudi Arabia have stepped up efforts to protect the kingdom's oil production, holding talks on connecting Saudi missile defenses to U.S. systems and investigating new antidrone technologies, after an attack last month knocked out half of the country's crude production.

[Russian President Vladimir Putin off to UAE after successful Saudi Arabia visit](#)

October 15, Arab News

Russian President Vladimir Putin left Saudi Arabia on Tuesday, and bound for the UAE, after a multimillion-dollar tranche of deals signed in Riyadh a day earlier in his first official visit to Saudi Arabia since 2012.

[Qatar moves to announce abolishment of kafala system](#)

October 17, 2019, Al Jazeera

Qatar has pledged to abolish its labour system that ties migrant workers to their employer and requires them to have their company's permission to leave the country as part of sweeping reforms to its labour market.

[Lebanese protesters hit the streets against austerity measures](#)

October 18, 2019, CNN

Thousands of protesters filled the streets of downtown Beirut as part of nationwide demonstrations over deteriorating economic conditions and new austerity measures.

United States

United States

[Pressure Builds on President Trump As New Revelations Emerge About His Dealings with Ukraine](#)

October 17, 2019, Time

As Donald Trump flew to Texas Thursday for a fundraiser and rally, the revelations about the President's involvement in Ukraine escalated into a full-fledged crisis.

[Pence announces Syria ceasefire that appears to give Turkey everything it wants](#)

October 17, 2019, CNN

US Vice President Mike Pence announced in Turkey Thursday that he and Turkish President Erdogan agreed to a ceasefire halting Turkey's incursion into northern Syria, which was launched after President Donald Trump effectively gave Turkey the go ahead on a phone call with Erdogan earlier this month.

[Turkey's Erdogan 'threw Trump's Syria letter in bin'](#)

October 17, 2019, BBC

In the letter dated 9 October, and sent after US troops were pulled out of Syria, Mr Trump told Mr Erdogan: "Don't be a tough guy. Don't be a fool!" President Trump was urging Turkey not to launch a military offensive against Kurdish-led forces in northern Syria, but Mr Erdogan ignored this request.

[Turkey-Syria offensive: Not our border, says Donald Trump](#)

October 17, 2019, BBC

The US is facing intense criticism for withdrawing its forces from Syria, which some say gave Turkey the green light to launch a cross-border offensive against Kurdish-led forces.

[Trump says Energy Secretary Rick Perry will step down at the end of the year](#)

October 17, 2019, CNBC

Shortly after Trump's remarks, the Department of Energy shared Perry's resignation letter as well as his video message directed to Department of Energy employees.

[Exclusive: U.S. carried out secret cyber strike on Iran in wake of Saudi oil attack: officials](#)

October 16, 2019, Reuters

The United States carried out a secret cyber operation against Iran in the wake of the Sept. 14 attacks on Saudi Arabia's oil facilities, which Washington and Riyadh blame on Tehran, two U.S. officials have told Reuters.

[Kudlow defends Trump's Ukraine call: 'Look, it was a congratulatory call, corruption came up'](#)

October 17, 2019, CNBC

White House economic advisor Larry Kudlow said Thursday that President Donald Trump's July call with the Ukrainian president at the heart of Democrats' ongoing probe is not grounds for impeachment.

[Is Trump's plan to host the G7 at his golf course unconstitutional?](#)

October 17, 2019, CNN

When President Donald Trump invites world leaders to attend an official government summit at his Florida golf course, will it violate the Constitution? As with so many of Trump's actions in office, it falls into uncharted territory -- no one really knows.

[Russia says it is starting to resume U.S. cyber cooperation: TASS](#)

October 17, 2019, Reuters

Russia and the United States are gradually starting to resume cooperation on cyber security, TASS news agency cited the head of Russia's FSB Federal Security Service as saying on Thursday.

[U.S. restores aid to Central America after reaching migration deals](#)

October 17, 2019, Reuters

The United States on Wednesday restored economic aid to El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras that had been cut off after the Trump administration complained the three Central American countries had done too little to halt a surge in migration.

[Oil rises, supported by U.S. fuel stock draws but weighed by crude build](#)

October 17, 2019, Reuters

Oil prices rose about 1% on Thursday after draws in U.S. fuel inventories, but gains were capped by a larger-than-expected rise in crude stockpiles and a series of weak economic figures.

[Rightwing push to ban criticism of Israel on US campuses](#)

October 17, 2019, The Guardian

Rightwing activists are attempting to spread new laws across Republican-controlled states that would ban criticism on public university campuses of Israel and its occupation of Palestinian territory.

Europe & Russia

Europe

[Johnson agrees Brexit deal, but must now win over parliament](#)

October 17, 2019, Reuters

European Union leaders unanimously backed a new Brexit deal with Britain on Thursday, leaving Prime Minister Boris Johnson facing a battle to secure the UK parliament's backing for the agreement if he is to take Britain out of Europe on Oct. 31.

[Friday briefing: Brexit deal comes down to numbers](#)

October 18, 2019, Guardian

Brussels gives nod but PM needs to muster votes. Brussels gives nod but PM needs to muster votes.

[Scottish Court to review bid to stop 'illegal' Brexit deal](#)

October 18, 2019, BBC

Scotland's highest civil court is set to consider a legal bid to stop the UK government from passing its proposed EU withdrawal agreement.

[U.K., EU Agree on Draft Brexit Deal, Paving Way for Key Vote](#)

October 17, 2019, Wall Street Journal

U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government and the European Union agreed to new terms for the country's exit from the bloc Thursday, paving the way for a high-stakes vote in the British Parliament.

[UK would lose £130bn in growth if Brexit deal passed, figures suggest](#)

October 17, 2019, The Guardian

Britain is on course to sacrifice as much as £130bn in lost GDP growth over the next 15 years if the Brexit deal goes ahead, according to government figures.

[Turkey's Syria advance leaves Europe with foreign fighter dilemma](#)

October 13, 2019, Reuters

European states are trying to fast-track a plan to shift thousands of foreign Islamic State militants out of Syrian prison camps and into Iraq, after the outbreak of fresh conflict in Syria raised the risk of jihadists escaping or returning home.

[France and Germany ink compromise on arms export rules](#)

October 17, 2019, Euractiv

After struggling for months to find a common line on arms exports, Paris and Berlin reached a compromise on Wednesday (16 October) during a bilateral ministerial meeting in the French city of Toulouse.

[Merkel: Brexit deal 'better for everyone](#)

October 17, 2019, Deutsche Welle

Finding a solution to Brexit is "squaring the circle," German Chancellor Angela Merkel told the Bundestag before heading to Brussels for a crunch EU summit. Merkel also stressed Germany would not send weapons to Turkey.

[EU summit poses burning questions beyond just Brexit](#)

October 17, 2019, Deutsche Welle

Brexit isn't the only topic that will be hotly discussed at the upcoming EU summit – issues such as top job posts, money and the bloc's expansion will also have to be addressed. But will there be any answers?

[Angela Merkel to make relations with China top priority when Germany takes on EU presidency next year](#)

October 17, 2019, South China Morning Post

Chancellor Angela Merkel has promised to put EU-China relations to the fore when Germany takes on the European Union's rotating presidency next year.

Russia

[U.S. Helped Moscow Foil Recent Terror Plot With Intel, FSB Says](#)

October 17, 2019, The Moscow Times

The United States has recently shared intelligence with Russia about a terrorist plot, the head of Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) intelligence agency said.

[Ukraine Peace Talks Get Some Help From Putin](#)

October 17, 2019, The Moscow Times

Under constant pressure from protesters who fear a "surrender" to Russia, the government of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy is laying out what it calls its red lines in peace talks on eastern Ukraine. A number of these are hard for Russia to accept, but that doesn't mean the peace process is doomed.

[Massive Nuclear War Games Start in Russian Arctic](#)

October 15, 2019, The Moscow Times

More than 12,000 troops are taking part in nuclear war games across Russia's arctic regions this week.

[Japanese Investment in Russia Floundering Despite Arctic Energy Deal](#)

October 16, 2019, The Moscow Times

Without improvements to Russia's business climate, cases of Japanese investment into Russia will continue to be the exception, not the norm.

[Russia Removed U.S. Diplomats From Train Near Secret Nuclear Accident Site](#)

October 16, 2019, The Moscow Times

Russia removed three U.S. diplomats from a train near the site of a mysterious military testing accident on Monday because they did not have special permits to be in the area, Interfax reported.

[Russia to retain its role in Syria despite US-Turkish agreement, says expert](#)

October 18, 2019, TASS

According to the expert, the suspension of Turkey's campaign was predictable, because Ankara was under pressure from all sides

[Russia Is the New Referee in the Middle East](#)

October 14, 2019, The Moscow Times

The Kremlin must feel that it has finally returned to the world stage as a recognized force in international politics.

[Russia submits proposal on moving UN GA First Committee's sessions from New York](#)

October 18, 2019, TASS

The United States did not issue visas on time to one-third of the Russian delegation to the UN General Assembly's First Committee session.

Africa & Latin America

Latin America

[Mexico flies 300 Indian migrants to New Delhi in 'unprecedented' mass deportation](#)

October 17, 2019, Reuters

Mexico has deported over 300 Indian nationals to New Delhi, the National Migration Institute (INM) said late on Wednesday, in what it described as an unprecedented transatlantic deportation.

[Peru to increase its exports to India](#)

October 16, 2019, The Hindu Business Line

Peru, which has recently come out a new export master plan, said that it would increase its exports to India. Metals like copper, gold, and zinc are among the items that Peru prominently exports to India. India will be one of the top priority destinations for Peru, a statement said

[Russia eyeing controlling stake in Chile's Atacama lithium project](#)

October 17, 2019, The Santiago Times

Uranium One Group, a subsidiary of Russia's state nuclear company Rosatom, may buy a controlling stake in a lithium project in Chile's Atacama salt flat from Wealth Minerals Ltd, the Canada-listed company said. Russia eyeing controlling stake in Chile's Atacama lithium project.

[Concerned over Haiti's political crisis, Guterres promises 'continuous commitment'](#)

October 17, 2019, UN News

In the light of on-going instability across Haiti and this week's transition away from fully-fledged peacekeeping operations, the UN chief on Thursday promised "the continuous commitment" of the Organization "to support the Haitian people on their path to peace and development".

[Ecuador Reaches Fuel Subsidy Deal To End Violent Protests](#)

October 14, 2019, NPR

Ecuadorian President Lenin Moreno and leaders of the country's indigenous peoples have reached a deal to cancel a disputed austerity package. The move follows nearly two weeks of violent, widespread protests.

[Brazil is Clueless About the Indo-Pacific](#)

October 17, 2019, The Diplomat

Brazil has potential to become a global player; but Brasilia has not clearly defined its grand strategic vision.

[Brazil says oil on beaches is Venezuelan, but the culprit may not be](#)

October 18, 2019, Reuters

Brazil says oil on beBrazil's government has confirmed that oil mysteriously washing up on the country's beaches is Venezuelan, but that does not necessarily mean Venezuela is responsible, the head of environmental agency Ibama saidaches is Venezuelan, but the culprit may not be.

[Venezuela wins UN human rights council seat despite record of abuses](#)

October 17, 2019, The Guardian

Other seat for Latin America went to Brazil, whose far-right leader has expressed contempt for the concept of human rights.

[Latin America awash in troubles amid protests, uprisings and a distracted Washington](#)

October 17, 2019, Miami Herald

Violent uprisings, congressional coups, alleged narco-presidencies, political assassinations, a resurgent left.

[The End of Latin American Solidarity](#)

October 15, 2019, Foreign Affairs

The region once acted as a bloc in world affairs. But as Costa Rica's bid to join the U.N. Human Rights Council shows, Venezuela's ongoing disintegration is ripping it apart.

Africa

[India and Zimbabwe's common cause in the Commonwealth](#)

October 17, 2019, The Economic Times

Just as with India, it is the Zimbabwean view today that the Commonwealth offers a ready-made network of countries as a platform for international cooperation in trade, investment, knowledge and mutual assistance.

[China's FM begins 3-nation tour in South Africa](#)

October 18, 2019, Africa Times

South Africa is hosting the foreign minister of China on Friday, with his counterpart Naledi Pandor of the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) of South Africa welcoming him to Durban.

[Morocco and South Africa Cosy Up After 15 Years of Iciness](#)

October 17, 2019, SA People

Two of Africa's largest economies and its two biggest tourist destinations, South Africa and Morocco, put the official stamp on the re-establishment of diplomatic relations this week.

[South Africa: new US ambassador could smooth relations](#)

October 15, 2019, The Africa Report

The US Senate confirmed Lana Marks's nomination for the diplomatic posting to Pretoria last month, almost a year after President Donald Trump named her as his choice.

[African Union welcomes South Sudan's mediation role in Sudan](#)

October 18, 2019, Xinhua

The African Union (AU) on Thursday hailed South Sudan's mediation role in the ongoing peace process between the Sudanese government and various rebel groups in Juba.

[Mozambique election is 'test for democracy' in wake of peace deal](#)

October 15, 2019, The Guardian

Millions of people are heading to the polls in Mozambique's general election after a heated campaign marred by sporadic violence and allegations of electoral fraud.

[EU criticises 'unlevel playing field' in Mozambique election](#)

October 18, 2019, Al Jazeera

Observer mission decries unfair conditions, use of state resources by ruling party, as well as election violence.

[The Railroad to Nowhere China Built Has Opened in Kenya](#)

October 17, 2019, Bloomberg

Kenya opened a new China-funded rail link as part of the government's agenda to increase investment in infrastructure, and is seeking about 400 billion shillings (\$3.8 billion) to upgrade roads.

[The Dangers of Deteriorating Relations Between Rwanda and Uganda](#)

October 17, 2019, WPR

When a young Yoweri Museveni launched his rebellion to seize Uganda's presidency in 1981, he found a vital ally in an exiled Rwandan soldier named Paul Kagame. The former guerilla leaders have been presidents of their respective countries for 33 and 19 years now, but their relationship has soured since those early days during Uganda's Bush War.

[Is al-Shabab looking to Ethiopia?](#)

October 16, 2019, Deutsche Welle

Al-Shabab has mostly struck Kenya when attacking outside of Somalia's borders. But after recent arrests of alleged al-Shabab fighters in Ethiopia, is the Islamist group turning to Ethiopia as a new target?.



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