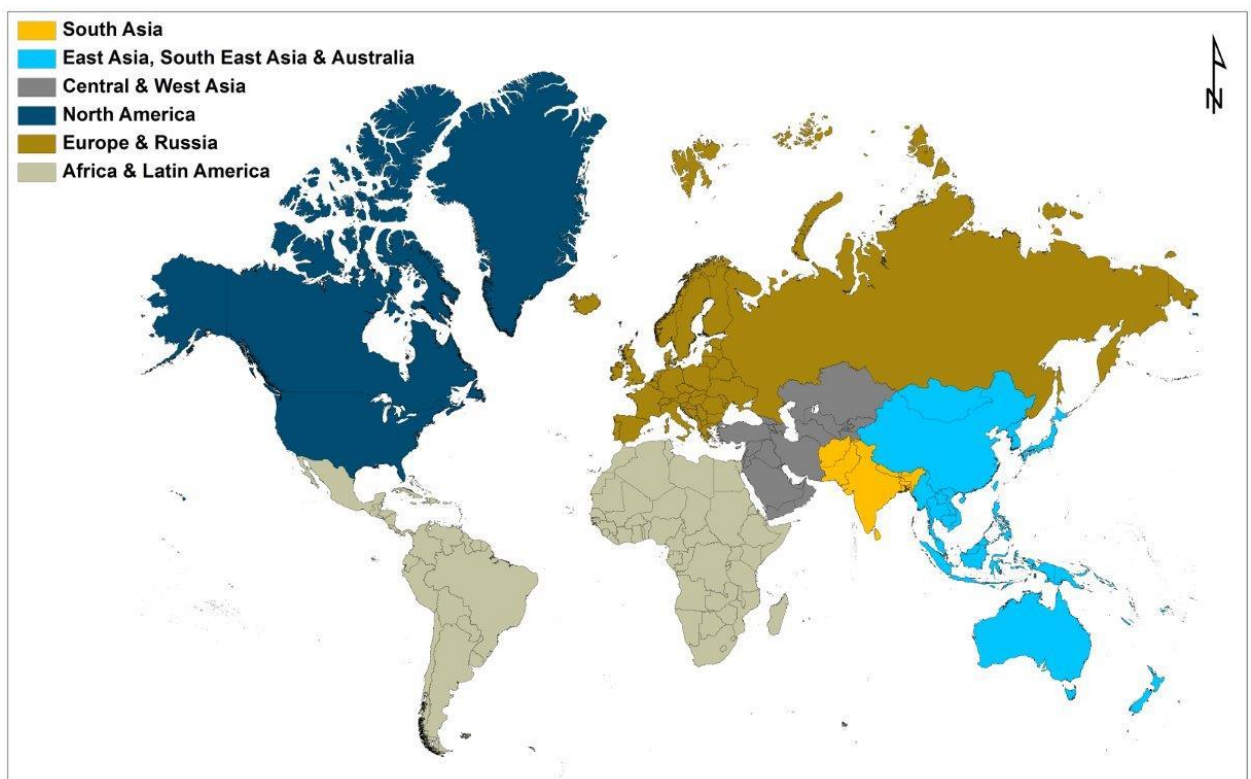




Delhi Policy Group

DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



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



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

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South Asia

India

[Pak-sponsored terrorists target migrants, minorities to show that normalcy in Kashmir is far away](#)

November 1, 2019, The Indian Express

With the numbers of terrorists down but some quantum of successful infiltration, as admitted by the JKP, the terrorists have had some time to reorganise, recalibrate and reselect their targets.

[Delhi must do what little it can to strengthen the civilian, democratic forces in Pakistan](#)

October 31, 2019, The Indian Express

The current juncture in Pakistan is a good moment for India to speak up on Pakistan's internal developments. Demanding humane treatment for Sharif and Zardari is the least Delhi can do.

[Don't comment on internal affairs, India warns China](#)

November 1, 2019, The Times of India

China's foreign ministry spokesman told the media in Beijing that " India unilaterally changed its domestic laws and administrative division challenging China's sovereignty".

[Raja Mandala: MBS's reform-driven Saudi offers India room to strengthen bilateral ties](#)

October 29, 2019, The Indian Express

The ambition of MbS is to diversify the Saudi economy from its historical reliance on the oil business and develop manufacturing and service sectors through liberalisation at home, and deeper integration with the world.

[Angela Merkel to visit India from Oct 31, security key agenda on the table](#)

October 25, 2019, Business Standard

Official sources said Merkel and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in their wide-ranging talks, particularly would focus on giving a new momentum to the bilateral ties by significantly scaling up cooperation in several sectors.

[India and Germany likely to sign agreement on artificial intelligence](#)

October 30, 2019, Economic Times

Germany and India are likely to sign agreements including a partnership on the use of artificial intelligence in farming during a three-day visit to New Delhi by Chancellor Angela Merkel that begins on Thursday, the German ambassador said.

[Panel in favour of India joining RCEP](#)

October 31, 2019, Economic Times

A government-appointed high-level advisory group has batted strongly for India joining the proposed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement. The high-level advisory group (HLAG) has said that it may not be an option for New Delhi to keep out of the RCEP "because this will exclude India from a large regional market".

[US Discussing Deal to Reinstate Preferential Trade Treatment for India, Says Congressional Report](#)

October 29, 2019, News 18

The United States and India are reportedly discussing a deal to allow the Donald Trump-led administration to reinstate the Generalised System of Preference (GSP) for India in exchange for certain market access commitments to America, a US Congressional report has informed the lawmakers. The GSP is the largest and oldest US trade preference programme and is designed to promote economic development by allowing duty-free entry for thousands of products from designated beneficiary countries.

[SBI report warns RCEP may hit domestic producers if India fails to build capabilities](#)

October 30, 2019, Business Standard

India will be reaping benefits of the proposed mega trade deal, the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) only if it builds capabilities. Otherwise it runs the danger of seeing adverse impact on domestic producers, cautions a research report from the State Bank of India (SBI). The SBI Eco-wrap report has come days before the crucial meeting of the negotiating partners of RCEP in Bangkok, Thailand.

[Piyush Goyal says India to enter FTAs on its own terms; these two concerns need to be addressed](#)

October 30, 2019, Financial Express

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said at an event that the issues of high capital cost and high taxation levels need to be addressed to boost India's trade. Piyush Goyal also said that the country needs to accelerate export growth to reach the goal of USD 1 trillion in exports.

[Service chiefs call on defence minister Rajnath Singh](#)

October 28, 2019, Times of India

The meeting comes as the situation on LOC remains tense. The LOC has seen several ceasefire violations by the Pakistani side in order to infiltrate terrorists.

[Ahead of Rajnath Singh's Russia visit, Defence Ministry moves to implement pact to make spares](#)

October 30, 2019, Economic Times

An agreement to jointly manufacture spares in India was signed in September and ministry has now drafted guidelines to implement it, with the first step being identifying spares that will be required for at least 5 years by the military

[Defence ministry to seek Cabinet nod for prototype of desi stealth jet](#)

October 29, 2019, Times of India

The defence establishment plans to seek the Cabinet Committee on Security's approval for the detailed design and prototype development of the advanced medium combat aircraft(AMCA) by early next year.

[French President announces 3-pronged security partnership with India for Southern Indian Ocean](#)

October 26, 2019, Economic Times

Macron stated that India and France were sharing the analysis of joint maritime security, working on a joint maritime surveillance in the region and looking at possible deployment of an Indian Navy maritime patrol.

[50 India Inc representatives to accompany Rajnath Singh to Russia to explore JVs](#)

October 31, 2019, Economic Times

Defence minister Rajnath Singh will be accompanied by one of the largest industry delegations during his visit to Moscow next week, with Indian companies

seeking to form joint ventures with Russian equipment suppliers to set up manufacturing facilities here.

Afghanistan

[Sources: Taliban Wants '80 Prisoners for Two Expat Hostages'](#)

October 30, 2019, Tolo News

The Taliban has demanded the release of 80 prisoners, including Anas Haqqani and Hafiz Rashid--two leaders of the Haqqani Network--for a swap with two US professors.

[Khalilzad updates Pakistani officials on Afghan Peace efforts](#)

October 30, 2019, Tolo News

US special envoy to Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad discussed the current status of the Afghan peace process with Pakistani officials during his visit to Islamabad on October 28. In his meetings with Prime Minister Imran Khan, Chief of Army Staff General Qamar Javed Bajwa, and other government officials, Ambassador Khalilzad discussed the current status of the Afghan peace process and the importance of reducing violence.

[US On Board with China's offer to host second Intra-Afghan Talks](#)

October 30, 2019, Business Times

The United States has accepted China's invitation to host new talks between the western nation and Afghan and Taliban officials. In a joint statement released by the United States, Russia, China and Pakistan, the US revealed that it has welcomed China's proposal to host the next intra-Afghan meeting.

[Wind Power Project to be Launched in Herat: DABS](#)

October 28, 2019, Tolo News

Afghanistan's national electricity company Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat said that soon a wind power project will be launched close to Turkmenistan's border in Herat province. The project cost forty-three million dollars and within three years will produce 25 megawatts of electricity.

[Ghani Proposes 7-Point 'Peace Plan'](#)

October 27, 2019, Tolo News

Afghan government has drafted a guide for the future peace effort titled "The 7-Point Peace and Reconciliation Plan." The stated intention of the plan is to "build

upon the past efforts and move the peace process forward with an aim to end the bloodshed as soon as possible.”

[Afghanistan preliminary election results delayed until November](#)

October 27, 2019, Al-Jazeera

Preliminary results from Afghanistan's presidential elections in September will not be released until November 14. Afghans went to the polls for a first-round vote on September 28 and initial results were supposed to have been released by October 19.

Pakistan

[Getting Pakistan out of FATF Grey List: PM approves new strategy](#)

October 27, 2019, The News

Imran chaired a high level meeting of the whole economic team as well as representatives of business community here on October 26. He formally approved a new strategy for implementation of 27 conditions of the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF) to get Pakistan out of its grey list.

[IMF expects Pak net borrowings at 8.4pc of GDP for FY2020](#)

October 29, 2019, The News

The IMF has projected that Pakistan's central government net borrowings will stand at 8.4 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) during the current fiscal year 2020. However, the Fund projected that the central government fiscal deficit would be standing at 7.4 percent of GDP for 2019-20 against 8.8 percent of GDP in the same period of the last financial year 2018-19.

[DGMO, ISI official may help curb terror financing](#)

October 29, 2019, Dawn

Pakistan Director General Military Operations and a Director General of the Inter-Services Intelligence will be part of the National Executive Committee on terror-financing and money laundering which will be working of FATF compliance.

[Five civilians, six soldiers hurt in skirmish at Pak-Afghan border](#)

October 30, 2019, Dawn

An exchange of fire took place between Afghan and Pakistani security forces in Narai district of Kunar province. As a result, six soldiers and five civilians, including a woman, were injured.

[Local administration calls in army as 'Azadi march' nears capital](#)

October 30, 2019, Dawn

As the Azadi march led by JUI-F leader Fazlur Rehman demanding the premier's resignation edges close to Islamabad, Prime Minister Imran Khan consulted senior party leaders to discuss possible scenarios and strategy to deal with the agitators while the local administration called in the army to maintain law and order.

[Pakistan among 54 nations praising China's human rights record](#)

October 31, 2019, Dawn

China's treatment of ethnic Uighurs in Xinjiang province came under debate at the United Nations, with 54 nations praising Beijing's "remarkable achievements in the field of human rights". They included Pakistan, Russia, Egypt, Bolivia, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Serbia.

[73 killed in Tezgam train inferno near Rahim Yar Khan: officials](#)

October 31, 2019, Dawn

73 people killed in train fire accident near Liaquatpur city, Rahim Yar Khan, Pakistan on October 31. The train was bound for Rawalpindi from Karachi. Most of the people belonged to Jamaat and were headed towards Raiwand.

Bangladesh

[Bangladesh opposition stalwart jailed for threatening PM](#)

October 31, 2019, Al-Jazeera

Giasuddin Quader Chowdhury, a vice chairman of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), was found guilty of making statements "conducive to public mischief" and "criminal conspiracy". The charges arose from a speech he gave at a rally in 2018 when he said Hasina's fate would be "worse" than that of her father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Bangladesh's first president, who was assassinated in 1975.

[Bangladesh upholds death sentence of Islamist chief Azharul Islam](#)

October 31, 2019, Al-Jazeera

Azharul Islam from Jamaat-e-Islami party was sentenced to death in 2014 by International Crimes Tribunal. Bangladesh's highest court upheld a death sentence, he would almost certainly be executed in the coming months.

[Bangladesh in talks with US to buy Apaches and missiles](#)

October 29, 2019, NIKKEI

Bangladesh has opened talks with the U.S. to buy advanced arms. The planned purchases from Washington are part of a broader effort to modernize Bangladeshi military forces by 2030.

[Bangladesh asks EU to curb Myanmar GSP till Rohingyas return](#)

November 1, 2019, Dhaka Tribune

Bangladesh has asked European nations to suspend the generalised scheme of preferences (GSP) under which Myanmar gets EBA (Everything But Arms) privilege, until Rohingyas are repatriated to Rakhine state.

[Bangladesh to verify Myanmar's claim of 'voluntary' Rohingya repatriation](#)

October 31, 2019, Dhaka Tribune

Bangladesh will verify Myanmar's claim over voluntary nature of some Rohingyas to Myanmar as Myanmar keeps spreading misleading information to the international community to avoid repatriation.

Nepal

[Nepal, B'desh, India mull implementing BBIN motor vehicle deal without Bhutan](#)

October 30, 2019, Republica

Nepal, India and Bangladesh are mulling over putting into operation the Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal (BBIN) motor vehicle agreement even if Bhutan chooses to opt-out of the agreement.

[Bangladesh prez to visit Nepal in November](#)

October 30, 2019, The Himalayan Times

Bangladesh President Mohammad Abdul Hamid is scheduled to visit Nepal from November 11-14.

Bhutan

[IIT Guwahati to set up JEE centre in Bhutan to encourage students to join IITs in India](#)

October 31, 2019, India Today

The Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati, signed a Terms of Reference (ToR) with Sherubtse College, Royal University of Bhutan during a visit by a six-member delegation from Sherubtse College, led by their President, Tshering Wangdi on October 28-29, 2019.

[India, Nepal, Bhutan plan trans-border conservation area](#)

October 24, 2019, Down to Earth

India, Nepal and Bhutan have drafted a memorandum of understanding to create a trans-boundary wildlife conservation 'peace park', Soumitra Dasgupta, inspector-general of forests (wildlife) under the environment, forest and climate change ministry told Down to Earth.

[Experts From USA, Japan, Singapore And Other Countries Held Workshop On Big Data For Health In Bhutan](#)

October 30, 2019, Daily Bhutan

For the first time in Bhutan, a workshop on Big Data for Health was organised in Thimphu. Health professionals and policymakers from relevant stakeholders attended the two-day workshop which ended on 29 October.

Sri Lanka

[Sri Lanka secures \\$480m US grant a year after political crisis](#)

October 30, 2019, Al Jazeera

Sri Lanka will accept a \$480m grant from the US to improve infrastructure and traffic management, officials said on Tuesday, after President Maithripala Sirisena withdrew his opposition.

[Sri Lanka candidate promises laws against religious 'extremism'](#)

October 31, 2019, Al Jazeera

Sajith Premadasa, presidential contender for governing party, pledges to refocus the country's security policy.

[China is helping Sri Lanka out of "debt trap": envoy](#)

October 30, 2019, Xinhua

China is helping Sri Lanka come out of a "debt trap" and has led the island towards development by constructing ports, roads and water conservancy projects that improve people's livelihood, Chinese Ambassador Cheng Xueyuan said on Tuesday.

[Sino-Lanka ties rising to greatest height: Chinese Ambassador](#)

October 30, 2019, Daily FT

Chinese Ambassador Cheng Xueyuan yesterday declared that ties with Sri Lanka have risen to their greatest height to date under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and all political parties were supportive.

[China, Sri Lanka tie-up to revive agri productivity](#)

October 30, 2019, Daily Ceylon News

China and Sri Lanka are working closely towards better cooperation to increase agricultural productivity to help alleviate poverty in Sri Lanka, Chinese Ambassador in Sri Lanka Cheng Xueyuan said yesterday. The Ambassador, speaking to the media at the Lotus Tower in Colombo yesterday, said a delegation from China was presently in Sri Lanka researching and learning on dry season problems and exploring more ways to help mitigate those problems.

East & South East Asia

China

[US lags behind 5G race because of mind-set](#)

October 31, 2019, Global Times

With China's three telecom operators jointly announcing the launch of 5G commercial services at the PT Expo China 2019 on Thursday, 5G technology is entering the lives of ordinary Chinese. This is widely considered a milestone. Some analysts believe the revolutionary changes that 5G would bring to production and lifestyle are comparable to those brought by steam engines and electricity.

[US fantasizes over Taiwan Straits dominance](#)

October 30, 2019, Global Times

The US Senate passed the "Taipei Act" on Tuesday. The House version of the bill will soon be reviewed by its Foreign Affairs Committee and will be submitted to the House for approval.

[Disqualifying Joshua Wong is a law-based righteous, reasonable decision](#)

October 29, 2019, Global Times

Joshua Wong Chi-fung, secretary general of pro-democracy party Demosisto, was formally informed on Tuesday that his nomination for Hong Kong's coming district council elections was invalid by Laura Liang Aron, the Electoral Affairs Commission's returning officer of the South Horizon West Constituency, because Wong did not meet the requirements for the election.

[Media may fall into pit it digs for China](#)

October 27, 2019, Global Times

More and more information indicates that there are likely to be many Vietnamese among the 39 stowaways who died in the container in Grays, Essex. According to the latest media reports, more than 100 migrants sneaked into the United Kingdom in three container trucks, among which only one had been found and the whereabouts of the other two are still unknown.

[Pence speech delivers old gripes with room for optimism](#)

October 25, 2019, Global Times

US Vice President Mike Pence on Thursday delivered a major policy speech on China. Initial impressions were that his take on China relied on clichés he used in last year's speech.

[China's business environment rated fairly by World Bank](#)

October 24, 2019, Global Times

In the latest ease of doing business ranking announced by the World Bank, China ranked 31st, a rise of 15 places and surpassed France. China's rank has been rising in the last two years. It was 78th in 2017.

[A right balance between order and diplomacy](#)

October 22, 2019, Global Times

The US has begun to require Chinese diplomats to report meetings with state, local and municipal officials, official visits to educational institutions and official visits to research institution.

[Plenum displays CPC's resolve to strengthen law-based governance: China Daily editorial](#)

October 31, 2019, China Daily

Like each of its kind in the past, the Fourth Plenary Session of the 19th Communist Party of China Central Committee came crowned with a series of fresh intra-Party consensuses on the identified priorities for the Party and the country.

[Not security concerns, but worries about China's rise trigger US angst: China Daily editorial](#)

October 30, 2019, China Daily

Security concerns are nothing other than a subterfuge some Western politicians use to demonize Chinese companies in a bid to realize their goal of containing China's development.

[Hong Kong society is fed up with rioters: China Daily editorial](#)

October 28, 2019, China Daily

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region government strongly condemned the criminal acts by rioters at a number of locations in Kowloon, including arson and vandalism and the now habitual gas-bombing of police, after hardcore rioters went on a rampage again on Sunday.

[Stark difference between Pence's words and US' deeds: China Daily editorial](#)

October 25, 2019, China Daily

It was neither the most amicable speech on US-China relations nor the most hostile. Yet, despite harping on the same string as his last major address on China in October last year, US Vice-President Mike Pence's speech at the Woodrow Wilson International Center in Washington on Thursday revealed something new.

[Pompeo in his glass house should stop throwing stones: China Daily editorial](#)

October 24, 2019, China Daily

In traditional Chinese culture, a man of integrity is not supposed to speak ill of other people behind their backs. Only a mean person does that.

[Taiwan secessionists' bid to sabotage 'one country, two systems' ill-fated: China Daily editorial](#)

October 24, 2019, China Daily

That the Hong Kong government officially withdrew the extradition law amendment bill on Wednesday, depriving the anti-government protesters of their proclaimed raison d'être, should serve to defuse some of the tension in the embattled city.

[Chinese premier leaves for Uzbekistan, Thailand visits](#)

November 1, 2019, Xinhua

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang left Beijing Friday for official visits to Uzbekistan and Thailand, at the invitation of Uzbek Prime Minister Abdulla Aripov and Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha. He will attend a series of meetings in the two countries.

[Join hands more tightly for more prosperous BRI cooperation](#)

November 1, 2019, Xinhua

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang's upcoming trip to Uzbekistan and Thailand will further cement China's neighborhood bonds and promote Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) cooperation.

[China urges India to respect its territorial sovereignty](#)

October 31, 2019, Xinhua

China on Thursday urged India to respect its territorial sovereignty and abide by relevant agreements reached between the two sides after the South Asian country announced in the day the establishment of the so-called "Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir" and "Union Territory of Ladakh," placing part of Chinese territory under Indian administration.

["Dragon, elephant to dance together" right choice for China, India: spokesperson](#)

October 31, 2019, Xinhua

Realizing a scenario where the dragon and the elephant dance together is the right choice for China and India, a military spokesperson told a press conference Thursday.

[Any attempt to smear China doomed to fail: spokesperson](#)

October 31, 2019, Xinhua

A foreign ministry spokesperson on Thursday said that any attempt to smear China or obstruct China's stability and development is futile and doomed to fail.

[China understands, respects Chile's decision to cancel APEC summit: spokesperson](#)

October 31, 2019, Xinhua

China understands and respects Chile's decision to cancel the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson said Thursday.

[China urges U.S., Britain to stop distorting facts on Xinjiang-related issues](#)

October 30, 2019, Xinhua

China on Wednesday urged countries including the United States and Britain to stop distorting facts on Xinjiang-related issues and make real and concrete efforts to support the healthy development of the international human rights cause.

[U.S. urged to stop using Tibet-related issues to interfere in China's internal affairs](#)

October 30, 2019, Xinhua

China strongly urged the United States to stop using Tibet-related issues to interfere in China's internal affairs, a foreign ministry spokesperson said Tuesday.

Japan

[Japan, S Korea weigh creation of fund amid spat over wartime labor](#)

October 29, 2019, Japan today

Japan and South Korea have begun exploring ways to resolve their months-long spat over compensation for wartime labor, with the creation of a fund to provide money for economic cooperation as an option, sources familiar with bilateral ties said.

[Japan, S. Korea reject report of WWII labor economic plan](#)

October 29, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

Japan and South Korea on Tuesday rejected a media report that the two governments were studying plans for a joint economic program that aims to ease strains over the issue of Korean labor in World War II.

[Japan trade minister to skip RCEP meeting in Thailand](#)

October 31, 2019, Japan Today

Japan's trade minister Hiroshi Kajiyama will skip a ministerial meeting on an Asia-wide free trade deal later this week in Thailand to attend parliamentary deliberations, a Diet committee official said.

[Japan says death of Islamic State chief key step for Mideast peace](#)

October 28, 2019, Japan Today

Japan said the death of Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi in a U.S. Special Forces operation in Syria marks a key step toward Middle East peace, while noting the need for continued international efforts to fight extremism.

[Japan asks S Korean parliament speaker retract emperor comments](#)

November 1, 2019, Japan Today

The head of Japan's upper house sent a letter to her South Korean counterpart asking him to retract comments urging the emperor to apologize for Korean women being forced into wartime brothels, sources familiar with the matter said.

South Korea

[Chinese Boycott of Korea Continues](#)

November 1, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

Leading Chinese travel agencies still do not sell any package tours to Korea since an unofficial Chinese boycott of Korean service and goods that started in late 2016. The boycott was triggered by Korea allowing the U.S. to station a Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense battery here.

[Moon's diplomacy plans derailed by APEC summit cancellation](#)

October 31, 2019, The Korea Herald

President Moon Jae-in's diplomacy plans appear to have been foiled by Chile's decision to cancel the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit which was scheduled to be held in Santiago on Nov. 16-17.

[N. Korea says it successfully tested super-large multiple rocket launcher](#)

November 1, 2019, The Korea Herald

North Korea's official news agency said Friday that the country successfully tested a super-large multiple rocket launcher the previous day, adding that it verified the "perfection" of the weapons system.

[Korean economy approaching 'rock bottom'](#)

October 31, 2019, The Korea Times

Major economic data are indicating that the nation's economy is now in a deep downturn. Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Hong Nam-ki admitted during a recent media conference that the government is likely to fail to meet its economic growth target of 2.4 percent for 2019, saying growth would stand at between 2 percent and 2.1 percent for this year.

[GSOMIA dispute puts Seoul's security credibility to test](#)

October 31, 2019, The Korea Times

South Korea's decision to end its intelligence-sharing pact with Japan has exposed the disparity between the views held by South Korea and the United States in their assessment of the alliance with Tokyo.

[7 missing in chopper crash near Dokdo](#)

November 1, 2019, The Korea Times

Seven South Koreans were still unaccounted for Friday morning, hours after a chopper carrying them crashed into waters near the Dokdo islets in the East Sea, according to local fire authorities.

Southeast Asia

[35th ASEAN Summit begins in Bangkok](#)

October 31, 2019, NewsonAir

The 35th ASEAN Summit began today in Bangkok. The summit will continue till November 4. Thailand Prime Minister Prayut Chan -o-Cha inaugurated this summit at IMPACT convention complex.

[PM to visit Thailand from November 2-4 for ASEAN-India, East Asia and RCEP summits](#)

October 31, 2019, The Economic Times

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Thailand from November 2-4 during which he will attend the ASEAN-India, East Asia and RCEP summits, the Ministry of External Affairs announced

[RCEP negotiations, regional connectivity plans in focus as ASEAN leaders, dialogue partners to meet in Bangkok](#)

November 1, 2019, Xinhua

Negotiations of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) and cooperation for regional connectivity are expected to top the agenda of the upcoming ASEAN summit and related summits, scheduled for Nov. 2-4 in Bangkok, Thailand.

[RCEP is a call on China first, then ASEAN](#)

October 31, 2019, The Economic Times

India's utilisation ratio of its current FTA with ASEAN is just about 6%. In contrast, ASEAN countries have a 36.3% utilisation. Also, unlike with Japan and Korea, the investment component is also not quite large.

[Trump Skips Bangkok Asean Meet, Sends Security Adviser](#)

October 31, 2019, Khaosodenglish

U.S. national security adviser Robert C. O'Brien and Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross will represent President Donald Trump at two regional summits in Thailand, the White House announced, a move that will widely be viewed in the region as a snub.

[Second bridge connecting Thailand and Myanmar opens](#)

October 31, 2019, The Thaiger

The second bridge connecting the Thai north-western province of Tak and Myanmar is now open. The bridge crosses the Moei river in the Mae Sot district of Tak and is expected to give Thai exports a significant boost, up from the current 78 billion baht a year to 100 billion.

[Malaysia Revives Singapore Border Rail Project at Lower Cost](#)

October 31, 2019, Bloomberg

Malaysia is proposing to resume a rail project connecting its southern state of Johor to Singapore at a lower cost.

[Indonesia threatens to report countries for refusing to take back waste](#)

October 31, 2019, Reuters

Indonesia's environment ministry said on Thursday it would report countries to the Basel Convention, an international treaty on waste reduction, if they refused to accept waste shipments sent back to them by its authorities.

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

[New transport corridor enhances China-Central Asia cooperation](#)

November 1, 2019, Xinhua

Crossing three countries with a total length of over 950 km, the newly established Uzbekistan-Kyrgyzstan-China transport corridor is functioning efficiently as one of the most important road transportation channels between China and Central Asia.

[China's complicated relationship with Central Asia](#)

30 October 2019, East Asia Forum

The closure of a mine in Kyrgyzstan, protests on the streets in Kazakhstan. Both fearful and grateful, the region is a paradox for China at the beginning of its Belt and Road. Hardly a week goes by without a senior Chinese visitor appearing somewhere in Central Asia, revealing a long-term influence game that Beijing is winning.

[Central Asia: US strengthens regional cooperation toward common electricity market](#)

October 31, 2019, The Times of Central Asia

The United States, through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), supported a two-day region wide on the Concept and Prospects for a Central Asia Regional Electricity Market (CAREM).

[China-Uzbekistan partnership to reach higher level](#)

October 31, 2019, Xinhua

China-Uzbekistan relations have entered the fast lane of development and future prospects for bilateral ties remain gratifying.

[UK and Uzbekistan sign partnership and co-operation agreement](#)

October 31, 2019, Gov.UK

The United Kingdom has today signed its first political and cooperation agreement with a Central Asian country.

[Rajnath Singh to represent PM at SCO meet in Uzbekistan](#)

October 29, 2019, The Economic Times

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who will be in Uzbekistan from 1-3 November for an SCO meeting, will greet the Indian contingent ahead of the exercise.

[India Is One Of The Major Investment Partners For Uzbekistan: PHD Chamber](#)

October 31, 2019, Business Standard

India is one of the major investment partners for Uzbekistan, with great potential in foreign investment, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry said in its continuous endeavour of strengthening the ties with CIS region and particularly Uzbekistan.

[India to conduct 1st joint military exercise with Uzbekistan, focus on counter-terrorism](#)

October 28, 2019, The Print

India and Uzbekistan are also set to carry out a joint military exercise next week. 'Dustlik-2019', the first such exercise between the armies.

[Heads of Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan mull regional issues](#)

October 31, 2019, Azer News

President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev and President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov exchanged views on pressing issues of international and regional politics over the telephone on Oct. 30.

[Uzbekistan, Japan mull co-op in industry, social sector](#)

October 31, 2019, Azer News

Uzbekistan and Japan have discussed cooperation in the implementation of projects in the field of industry and the social sector aimed at improving the quality of life of the Uzbek population.

[Kazakhstan to supply oil to Belarus](#)

October 31, 2019, Azer News

Kazakhstan's Minister of Energy Kanat Bozumbayev has revealed his government's plans for cooperation with Belarus in the oil and gas sector, during his speech in the government session on October 29.

[Kazakhstan and the Netherlands debate economic cooperation issues](#)

October 31, 2019, Kazinform

The parties debated prospects for further promotion of trade and economic ties, cooperation in spheres such as investment, energy, finance, transport and logistics, agriculture, IT and science.

[Half China's investment in Kazakhstan is in oil and gas](#)

October 29, 2019, China Dialogue

The Kazakhstan government has finally published a list of the 55 projects its neighbour China has invested in. About half of the investment total of US\$27.6 billion is in oil and gas projects. An itemised list of the projects and their cost has been made available in Kazakh and Russian.

[Tajikistan approves Chinese \\$360 million grant for highways](#)

October 30, 2019, Eurasia Net

On October 30, lawmakers ratified an agreement approving a grant from China worth \$360 million. The funds have been earmarked to upgrade a highway from Kulob to Bokhtar and reconstruction of part of a lengthy, cross-country stretch of road linking Dushanbe to Kulma, which lies on the Chinese border.

West Asia

[PM Modi stresses on need for balanced approach to resolve conflicts in West Asia](#)

October 29, 2019, NewsonAir

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has stressed on the need for a balanced approach to resolve the conflicts in West Asia, while respecting the principles of sovereignty and non-interference in each other's internal matters.

[India's deepening Saudi engagement](#)

October 30, 2019, The Hindustan Times

India's sustained outreach to key powers in West Asia has resulted in the launch of a Strategic Partnership Council by India and Saudi Arabia during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the kingdom this week.

[ISIS Confirms Baghdadi's Death And Names His Successor](#)

October 31, 2019, NPR

The Islamic State confirmed the death of its founder and leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi and announced a successor. The propaganda arm of ISIS also confirmed the death of another top ISIS official, its former spokesman.

[Iran says Saudi Arabia releases 19 Iranian fishermen](#)

November 1, 2019, Al Jazeera

Report says crews of 2 fishing vessels were seized after bad weather, forcing them into kingdom's territorial waters.

[US to renew waivers for some work on Iran nuclear plants](#)

October 31, 2019, Al Jazeera

Waivers would allow some companies to carry out non-proliferation work at Iran's nuclear facilities, sources say.

[Khamenei says US stoking 'chaos' amid Iraq, Lebanon protests](#)

October 31, 2019, Al Jazeera

Iran's supreme leader says protesters in Iraq and Lebanon should seek changes lawfully.

[Paralyzed by Protests, Lebanon's Fiscal Crisis Worsens](#)

October 31, 2019, Naharnet

Lebanon, one of the most heavily indebted countries in the world, already was dealing with a severe fiscal crisis before the protests began, one rooted in years of heavy borrowing and expensive patronage networks run by entrenched political parties.

[Death toll from Yemen's war hit 100,000 since 2015](#)

October 31, 2019, The Economic Times

Yemen's civil war has killed more than 100,000 people since 2015, a database project that tracks violence said.

[Iran's Model: Smash The Protests In Lebanon And Iraq](#)

October 29, 2019, The Jerusalem Post

It showed its strength on Tuesday after a week of protests had left Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah wondering what to do.

[UAE withdraws troops from Yemen's southern port city of Aden](#)

October 31, 2019, Al Jazeera

The move is part of a deal with Riyadh to end infighting between southern separatists and internationally recognised government.

United States

[A divided House backs impeachment probe of Trump](#)

November 1, 2019, Washington Post

A divided House took a critical step forward in its impeachment inquiry into President Trump on Thursday, approving guidelines for the public phase of the probe as a top White House official corroborated earlier accounts that the president pressured Ukraine to investigate a political rival.

[ISIS Leader al-Baghdadi Is Dead, Trump Says](#)

October 27, 2019, The New York Times

President Trump announced on Sunday that a daring American commando raid in Syria this weekend culminated in the death of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of the Islamic State, after a five-year international manhunt, claiming a significant victory even as American forces are pulling out of the area.

[Transcript of Trump's Remarks on the Death of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi](#)

October 27, 2019, The New York Times

President Trump said on Sunday that a raid in Syria had resulted in the death of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the founder and leader of the Islamic State. This is a transcript of the statement by President Trump about the death of Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

[Trump ditches New York to become a Florida resident, court documents show](#)

November 1, 2019, CNN

President Donald Trump, a native New Yorker, has now declared himself a Florida resident, according to court documents. The President changed his permanent residence to his Mar-a-Lago Club in Palm Beach, Florida, in late September, and first lady Melania Trump followed suit in October, in forms filed with the Palm Beach County Circuit Court.

[Europe's defense spending nears \\$300 billion as experts say Trump's pressure is paying off](#)

October 31, 2019, CNBC

European defense spending will surpass \$300 billion a year by 2021, according to new research from Jane's by IHS Markit. President Donald Trump has repeatedly criticized NATO member countries in Europe for not respecting a rule that says 2% of GDP (gross domestic product) should be spent on defense.

[Top US lawmaker launches strong defence of Narendra Modi's Kashmir move](#)

November 1, 2019, Hindustan Times

Senior United States lawmaker George Holding on Thursday launched the most robust defense seen yet in the US Congress of the Modi government's decision to change Jammu and Kashmir's status. Holding said the previous arrangement was "outdated" and exploited by local politicians and Pakistan-based terrorists.

[Exclusive: U.S. withholding \\$105 million in security aid for Lebanon - sources](#)

November 1, 2019, Reuters

U.S. President Donald Trump's administration is withholding \$105 million in security aid for Lebanon, two U.S. officials said on Thursday, two days after the resignation of Lebanese Prime Minister Saad al-Hariri.

[Government officials around the globe targeted for hacking through WhatsApp - sources](#)

October 31, 2019, Reuters

Senior government officials in multiple U.S.-allied countries were targeted earlier this year with hacking software that used Facebook Inc's WhatsApp to take over users' phones, according to people familiar with the messaging company's investigation.

[General Motors strike looms over U.S. October job growth](#)

November 1, 2019, Reuters

U.S. job growth likely slowed sharply in October, weighed down by a strike at General Motors, while the unemployment rate is expected to tick up from near a 50-year low of 3.5%.

[Scrapped Chile APEC summit throws up new hurdle for U.S.-China trade deal](#)

October 31, 2019, Reuters

Leaders from the United States and China encountered a new obstacle in their struggle to end a damaging trade war on Wednesday, when the summit where they were supposed to meet was cancelled because of violent protests.

Europe & Russia

Europe

[India and Germany likely to sign agreement on artificial intelligence](#)

October 30, 2019, Reuters

Germany and India are likely to sign agreements including a partnership on the use of artificial intelligence in farming during a three-day visit to New Delhi by Chancellor Angela Merkel that begins on Thursday, the German ambassador said.

[Brexit deal means '£70bn hit to UK by 2029'](#)

October 30, 2019, BBC

Boris Johnson's Brexit deal will leave the UK £70bn worse off than if it had remained in the EU, a study by the National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR) has found.

[British election campaign kicks off on no-Brexit day](#)

October 31, 2019, Reuters

On the day Britain was supposed to have left the European Union, voters instead faced the start of an election campaign, with opposition Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn pledging to overthrow a "rigged system" he said was run by billionaires and tax dodgers.

[Offering 'real change', Labour's Corbyn vows to oust Conservatives](#)

October 31, 2019, Reuters

Opposition Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn took aim at tax dodgers, dodgy landlords, bad bosses and big polluters on Thursday, launching an election campaign with a promise of "real change" in Britain.

[Brexit, economy and public services - What are Britain's main parties promising?](#)

October 31, 2019, Reuters

The winner of Britain's Dec. 12 election will get to decide what to do about Brexit, how to run the world's fifth-largest economy and which public service reforms to prioritise.

[Russia's new submarine test-fires ballistic missile](#)

October 30, 2019, Deutsche Welle

Russia has successfully test-fired a ballistic missile from its newest nuclear-powered submarine. It comes as Russia is carrying out nuclear and submarine modernization.

[Madrid offers to host COP25 after Chile pulls out](#)

October 31, 2019, Deutsche Welle

Spain has offered to replace Chile as host of December's large UN climate conference. Facing unrest, Chile's government has also abandoned hosting of November's APEC economic summit.

[Amid US withdrawal from Paris climate deal, France calls ISA a political project](#)

October 31, 2019, Livemint

International Solar Alliance (ISA), the first treaty-based international government organization headquartered in India is a 'political project', said France' ecology and inclusive transition minister BrunePoirson on Thursday.

['Both India, Pak should exercise restraint': German foreign minister Maas](#)

October 31, 2019, Hindustan Times

German's foreign minister Heiko Maas is in India on a three-day official visit led by German Chancellor Angela Merkel. Maas, a Social Democrat in Berlin's ruling Grand Coalition, told that the nullification of Article 370 is a "domestic" matter, but that India and Pakistan should hold political dialogue, exercise restraint, and "refrain from fanning the flames".

Russia

[How Russia's military operation in Syria laid groundwork for Erdogan-Putin agreement](#)

October 26, 2019, RT

Preparations for the events in northeastern Syria began around a year ago. Now, after the US dumped the Kurds, they have no choice but to abide by the Russian-Turkish memorandum.

[Orban Defends Hungary's Good Relations With Russia](#)

October 30, 2019, Rferl.org

During Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit to Budapest, Hungary's prime minister defended his country's good relations with Moscow and expressed interest in joining a gas pipeline project bypassing Ukraine.

[Russia Can't Compete With China in Africa](#)

October 25, 2019, The Moscow Times

As China asserts itself in the role of the major power in Africa, Moscow's influence could become a source of irritation.

[Trump Thanks Russia for Role in Operation to Kill Islamic State Leader Baghdadi](#)

October 27, 2019, The Moscow Times

U.S. President Donald Trump on Sunday thanked countries including Russia for their roles in an overnight raid led by U.S. military forces in Syria that killed Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

[Russia Says U.S. Presence in Syria Illegal, Protects Oil Smugglers](#)

October 26, 2019, The Moscow Times

Russia's Defense Ministry on Saturday attacked U.S. plans to maintain and boost the American military presence in eastern Syria as "international state banditry" motivated by a desire to protect oil smugglers and not by real security concerns.

[Russian latest nuclear-powered sub test-fires torpedoes during trials in White Sea](#)

October 31, 2019, Tass

The lead nuclear-powered submarine Knyaz Vladimir submarine test-fired a Bulava intercontinental ballistic missile for the first time during trials in the White Sea.

[Russian-Cuban economic prospects and Moscow's plan to test latest nukes](#)

October 30, 2019, Tass

During his official visit to Russia, Cuban President Miguel Diaz-Canel stated that the positions of Moscow and Havana remained unchanged despite US threats.

[Turkey confirms intention to send astronauts to Russia for training](#)

October 31, 2019, Tass

Russia and Turkey will draft a framework agreement on space cooperation, according to the Russian space corporation head..

Africa & Latin America

Latin America

[Chile pulls out of hosting APEC and COP 25 due to protests](#)

October 30, 2019, France 24

Chile withdrew from hosting two major international summits Wednesday as it struggled to restore order amid clashes between protesters and security forces that have left at least 20 dead.

[Chile inequality: Government fails to contain unrest](#)

October 30, 2019, Al Jazeera

Despite the huge number of protesters, the government says it would not allow them to reach the presidential palace because they have no one to negotiate the terms with.

[U.S. warns Russian trolls stoking conflict in Chile](#)

November 1, 2019, Reuters

The U.S. State Department warned that it had seen indications of Russian "influence" on recent unrest in Chile, where two weeks of protests and riots have rocked the administration of President Sebastian Pinera.

[Brazil president says he wants country to join OPEC](#)

October 30, 2019, Reuters

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro said that he wants his country to join OPEC, a move that would add the most significant new producer to the oil cartel for years but met with skepticism in Brazil's energy industry.

['The Amazon is not on fire': Brazilian leader Bolsonaro lashes out over criticism](#)

October 31, 2019, Independent

Jair Bolsonaro has defended his far-right government's policies in a furious speech in which he appeared to claim the Amazon rainforest could not catch fire.

[Brazil oil spill: Where has it come from?](#)

October 31, 2019, BBC News

The source of the oil spill washing up on thousands of kilometres of Brazil's coastline over the past few weeks remains the subject of a great deal of speculation.

[Why Are There Mass Protests in Chile?](#)

October 30, 2019, GQ

The inciting incident, like many mass protests, was a seemingly minor event: a meager fare hike for public transit. Young Chileans started protesting en masse on October 18 when ticket prices went up 30 pesos, or about \$0.04.

[Bolivia's post-election clashes turn deadly as two are killed](#)

October 31, 2019, BBC News

At least two people have been killed in Bolivia in clashes between supporters and opponents of President Evo Morales, the government says.

[Argentina sets floor under peso as reserves dwindle](#)

October 31, 2019, Reuters

Argentina's central bank is setting a price floor under the volatile peso in hopes to avoid a sharp plunge in the currency after an opposition-won presidential election last Sunday shifted the country firmly back to the left.

[Oil Production Paralyzed As Venezuela's Electricity Crisis Worsens](#)

October 31, 2019, Oil Price.com

The power supply crisis in Venezuela is highly likely to continue in the coming months, affecting everyday life and paralyzing oil production in the country sitting on top of the world's largest oil reserves.

[Venezuela refugee crisis: 'we are beginning to see outbreaks of xenophobia'](#)

October 31, 2019, Euro News

More than 4 and a half million people have left the country and the flow continues to grow dramatically as the political crisis has not been solved.

[The US Double Standard in Venezuela vs. Honduras](#)

October 29, 2019, Jacobin

If you want evidence that the US government doesn't actually care about drug trafficking, violation of democratic norms, violation of human rights, or widespread corruption, just look at how the Trump administration has treated Honduras versus how it has treated Venezuela.

Africa

[Ethiopia PM Abiy warns ethnic violence could worsen](#)

October 27, 2019, Arab News

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed warned Saturday of further instability and vowed to bring to justice those responsible for violence that left at least 67 people dead this week.

[DR Congo army launches 'large-scale operations' against militias in Beni territory](#)

October 31, 2019, The Defensepost

Democratic Republic of Congo's army said Thursday, October 31 that it had launched "large-scale operations" against armed militias in the country's troubled east.

[Nigeria's border crisis fuelled by rice](#)

October 31, 2019, BBC News

Nigeria, one of Africa's superpowers, closed all its land borders two months ago to tackle smuggling - but the unprecedented move is affecting trade across the region.

[Zimbabwe is getting another 'new' currency](#)

October 30, 2019, Al Jazeera

The new currency will have denominations with a maximum value of \$0.25, says Zimbabwe's central bank chief.

[Uganda: North Korea's African Ally](#)

October 30, 2019, The Diplomat

A decades-long relationship continues to flourish, despite increasing pressure from UN sanctions.

[Russia to bring Nigeria steel plant, built in 1979, to life](#)

October 31, 2019, Business Day

The Ajaokuta Steel facility has cost Nigeria \$8bn, but now Metprom is set to make it operational with a deal set to be finalised by January 2020

[Chinese firms to showcase products in Rwanda](#)

October 31, 2019, The New Times

Rwanda plans to use the upcoming China brand exposition in Kigali to attract Chinese manufacturing firms to invest in the country as it seeks to trim the trade deficit.

[Rwanda opens doors to refugees](#)

October 30, 2019, France 24

Rwanda is taking in refugees and asylum-seekers under an emergency programme agreed with the African Union and the UN. The asylum-seekers, many of whom are from Eritrea, Somalia, Sudan and Ethiopia, can now decide to return to their homeland, be sent to a third country, or stay in Rwanda.



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

www.delhipolicygroup.org