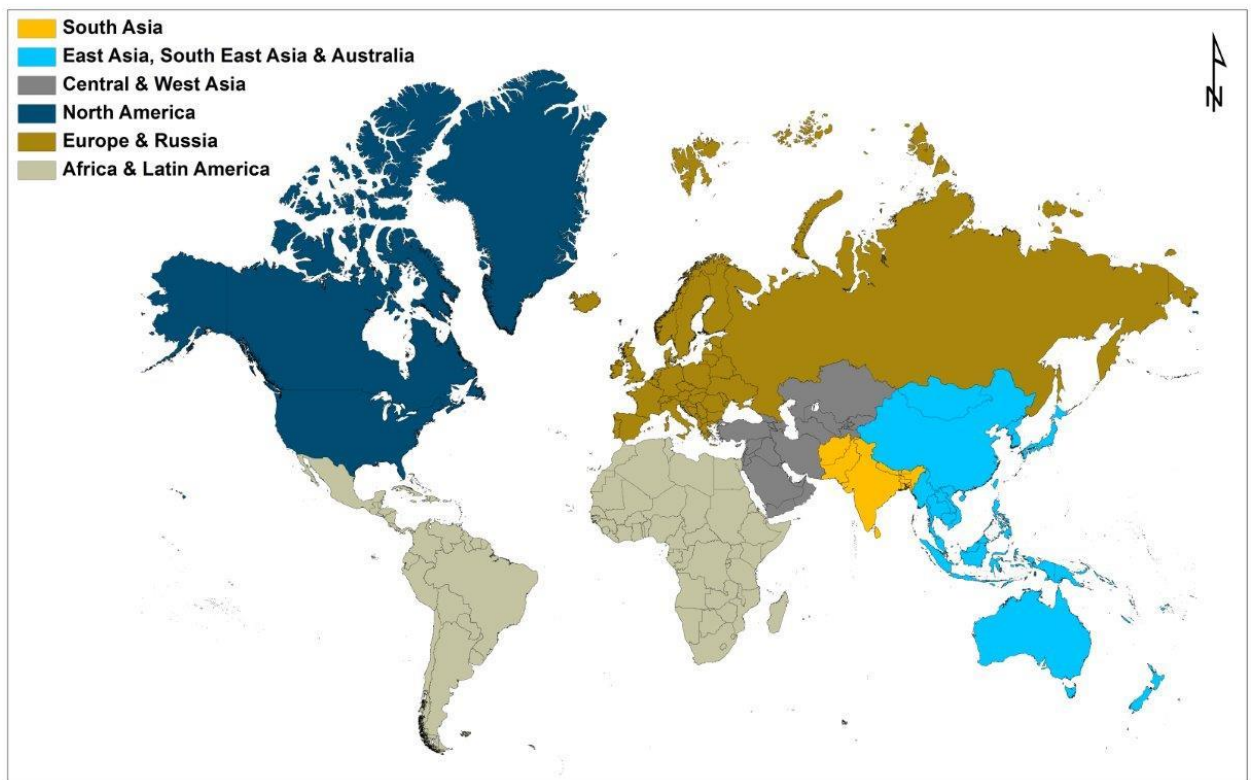




Delhi Policy Group

DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



Volume III, Issue 45 | November 8, 2019



DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

Volume 3, Issue 45

ABOUT US

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

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

DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

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

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

© 2019 by the Delhi Policy Group

Delhi Policy Group

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

Contents

| | |
|------------------------------|----|
| South Asia..... | 1 |
| East & South East Asia..... | 10 |
| Central & West Asia..... | 15 |
| United States..... | 19 |
| Europe & Russia..... | 21 |
| Africa & Latin America | 24 |

South Asia

India

[PM Modi on RCEP: Tap vast Indian market but our businesses need benefits too](#)

November 03, 2019, Indian Express

RCEP is an umbrella trade agreement involving 16 countries, which include 10 ASEAN countries and China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand and India. Once concluded, this promises to be the biggest free-trade zone in the world.

[India eyes United States defence tech](#)

November 04, 2019, India Today

Defence minister Rajnath Singh and Foreign minister S Jaishankar are set to leave for Washington next month for the second 'two-plus-two' dialogue with their US counterparts. On their agenda will be to speed up defence technology cooperation between India and the US.

[Led by India, South Asia moving towards becoming center of global growth: IMF](#)

November 03, 2019, The Economic Times

Under a substantial liberalisation scenario, supported by stepped-up efforts to improve infrastructure and successfully harness South Asia's young and large workforce, the region could contribute about one-third of global growth by 2040, argues the IMF paper 'Is South Asia Ready for take Off? A sustainable and inclusive growth agenda,' to be released in New Delhi on Monday.

[PM Modi holds talks with leaders of three key maritime neighbours](#)

November 04, 2019, Business Standard

As New Delhi seeks to expand its naval presence in the Indian Ocean region, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday held separate bilateral meetings with the top leadership of Indonesia, Thailand and Myanmar, the three strategically-located maritime neighbours of India. The prime minister held the meetings on the sidelines of the ASEAN summit. It is learnt that the issue of maritime security cooperation figured in all the three meetings.

[US Says GSP for India 'Nothing Irreversible' if Some Issues Are Sorted Out](#)

November 05, 2019, News18

US secretary of commerce, Wilbur Ross said that there were three outstanding issues and "Indian trade people" are working on a proposal that US is keen to hear and hopefully be dealt with. He added that it was indeed a "couple of specific items

that led to it (withdrawal), if those get resolved then there is no reason it couldn't be re-restored".

[Rajnath Singh heads to Russia, to discuss defence logistics pact](#)

November 05, 2019, Economic Times

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will discuss the Agreement on Reciprocal Logistics Support (ARLS) with his Russian counterpart General Sergei Shoigu during the 19th India-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military and Military Technical Cooperation on November 6, officials said. Singh will be on a visit to Russia from November 5 to 7.

[India, US to hold first-ever-tri-service military exercise in November](#)

November 05, 2019, The New Indian Express

The United States and India will hold their first-ever tri-service military exercise codenamed "Tiger Triumph" at Visakhapatnam and Kakinada later this month, the US State Department said on Monday. "This exercise will focus on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. All three Indian military services will be alongside the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps. This is the latest example of how the United States is expanding security cooperation in the Indo-Pacific," State Department said in a press release.

[PM Modi meets Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe on sidelines of 35th ASEAN summit in Bangkok](#)

November 04, 2019, DNA

The press release issued by the Prime Minister's Office stated, "The leaders welcomed the increasing economic engagement between the two countries, propelled by high-level exchanges. The leaders also reviewed the progress on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail project and reaffirmed their commitment to advance mutual efforts to facilitate the smooth implementation of the project.

[Act East Policy an important part of Indo-Pacific vision, says PM Modi](#)

November 03, 2019, DD News

Prime Minister Narendra Modi says India's Act East Policy is an important part of its Indo-Pacific vision. Addressing the 16th India-ASEAN summit in Bangkok this morning, he said engagement with ASEAN has been and will always remain a critical element of India's Act East Policy and strategy.

[1st-ever India-Uzbekistan joint military exercise - Dustlik-2019 begins today](#)

November 04, 2019, All India Radio

The first-ever India-Uzbekistan joint military exercise - Dustlik-2019 will begin at Chirchiq Training Area near Tashkent today. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his Uzbekistan counterpart Major General Bakhodir Nizamovich Kurbanov presided over the Curtain Raiser of the military drill yesterday.

[India, Uzbekistan sign three defence MoUs](#)

November 03, 2019, The Hindu

India and Uzbekistan on Sunday signed three memorandums of understanding (MoU) to enhance cooperation in military medicine and military education during the visit of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

[India-Thailand agree to explore cooperation in defence industries](#)

November 03, 2019, Zee Business

Welcoming a 20 per cent growth in bilateral trade in 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Thai counterpart Prayut Chan-o-Cha on Sunday decided to task their trade officials to discuss ways to enhance trade and investment, and agreed to explore opportunities for cooperation in defence industries sector.

[Explained: Why India has said no to regional trade pact RCEP](#)

November 06, 2019, Indian Express

India believes that the RCEP trade deal doesn't provide adequate protection against possible surges of imported goods. In particular, India is concerned about cheap Chinese goods flooding the domestic market.

Afghanistan

[U.S. constructs outpost for Tajikistan's Border Forces on Tajik-Afghan Border](#)

November 2, 2019, AKIPress

The United States and Tajikistan together constructed border outpost for the Border Forces. The cost of the construction project was funded and implemented by the U.S. Embassy in Tajikistan's Office of Military Cooperation, with a cost of \$900,000. The border outpost provides the Border Forces with increased capacity to consistently monitor and patrol the border with Afghanistan in the Shahritus region of Khatlon province.

[Pakistan, Afghanistan Accuse Each Other of Harassing Diplomats](#)

November 4, 2019, VOA

Afghanistan and Pakistan have traded charges of harassment of their diplomats serving in each other's capitals, prompting Islamabad to halt its consular operations in Kabul until further notice. The latest diplomatic dispute between erupted when Pakistan complained that its diplomatic staff, while going to work, had been "obstructed on the road and the embassy vehicles were also hit by motorcycles" in Kabul.

[US has spent \\$132 billion on Afghan reconstruction since 2002](#)

November 4, 2019, Digital Journal

The US Special Inspector General for Afghanistan, in a report released on Oct. 30, says the United States has provided up to \$132 billion for reconstruction and related activities in Afghanistan since 2002 but it mentions that Afghanistan's national revenue has been low.

[Govt has finalized participant list for China meeting](#)

November 6, 2019, Tolo News

The Afghan government has finalized the list of participants for the China meeting on Afghan peace. President Ashraf Ghani in a phone conversation with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi agreed to a meeting which will be held in Beijing and will include a Taliban delegation to discuss Afghanistan's peace agreement.

[Pakistan Views Taliban As 'Relatively Friendly': US Govt Report](#)

November 7, 2019, Tolo News

Pakistan continues to view the Afghan Taliban as "a relatively friendly and reliably anti-India element in Afghanistan", says a US Congressional Research Service report titled "Afghanistan: Background and US Policy In Brief."

Pakistan

[Munir Akram takes charge as Pakistan's envoy to UN](#)

November 3, 2019, The News

Munir Akram took charge as Pakistan's permanent representative to the United Nations on Saturday. Akram replaces outgoing ambassador Dr Maleeha Lodhi who served as Pakistan's envoy to the UN from 2015 to 2019.

[Pak exports up by 6pc, imports down by 17pc in October 2019](#)

November 3, 2019, The News

Pakistan's exports during October 2019 increased by six percent while imports down by 17 percent over same month of last year, which is signaling further improvement in the country's Current Account Deficit (CAD) position.

[Over 30 Pak migrants found in French lorry](#)

November 3, 2019, The News

More than 30 migrants from Pakistan have been found hidden in a lorry in southern France. They The detained driver is also from Pakistan.

[New energy projects under CPEC: Chinese currency to be used instead of dollar](#)

November 5, 2019, The News

Pakistan has agreed with China for allowing utilisation of Chinese currency RMB for execution of all new projects of energy sector under multi-billion dollars China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

[Karkey dispute: Erdogan helped save Pakistan \\$1.2 bn, says PM](#)

November 5, 2019, The News

Prime Minister Imran Khan has said the PTI government, with the help of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, has amicably resolved the Karkey dispute, saving 1.2 billion dollar penalty.

[300MW coal power plant inaugurated in Gwadar](#)

November 5, 2019, The News

A coal power plant of 300 megawatts under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) framework inagurated in Balochistan. CIHC Pak Power Company Limited is the developer of the project based on imported coal.

[Pakistan seeks \\$9bn Chinese loan for ML-1, commits to border fencing](#)

November 6, 2019, Dawn

Committing complete fencing of Afghan and Iran borders on priority to ensure peace and security, Pakistan asked China to finance \$9 billion Main Railway Line (ML-1) and other road and infrastructure projects to expand the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

[FBR officers revolt against reform plan](#)

November 6, 2019, Dawn

23 chief commissioners of Inland Revenue in a meeting with Chairman Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) Shabbar Zaidi demanded that the government withdraw the proposed reform measures for the tax authority within two days.

[Pakistan among worst countries for internet freedom: report](#)

November 6, 2019, Dawn

The Freedom House has declared Pakistan 'Not Free' in terms of internet use for the ninth consecutive year, with the country score decreasing from 27 to 26 out of 100 in 2019.

[Govt-opposition talks stall over call for PM's exit](#)

November 6, 2019, Dawn

The second round of talks between the government and the opposition ended in a deadlock on Tuesday after the latter refused to budge on its main demand for the prime minister's resignation as the Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam (JUI-F) continues.

[Pakistan settles Soviet-era trade dispute with Russia](#)

November 7, 2019, The Express Tribune

Islamabad has finally decided to sign a deal with Moscow to settle a 39-year old exporters' claims case pending since the disintegration of the Soviet Union, paving the way for Russia to invest over \$8 billion in Pakistan. The Pakistani government has authorised its ambassador to Russia to sign the deal. Under the agreement, the Pakistani government will return \$93.5 million to Russia within 90 days of the signing and clear pending exporters' claims to the tune of \$23.8 million as per the settlement agreements reached on October 6, 2016 and December 27, 2017.

Bhutan

[The EU and Bhutan confirm strong partnership](#)

November 06, 2019, Kuensel

Delegations from Bhutan and the European Union (EU) reviewed the ongoing development cooperation under the multi-annual indicative programme for 2014-2020 during the eighth biennial consultation held in Paro on November 05. The EU confirmed that the bilateral allocation for the current cycle (2014-2020) has been revised to €49.3 million from €42 million. With additional assistance from other regional and thematic funding mechanisms in areas such as

education, climate change and trade, the EU's total support to Bhutan stands at €71 million, making it one of the major donors to Bhutan.

Nepal

[Over 90 percent of total FDI to Nepal comes from China](#)

November 07, 2019, Xinhua

Nepal received over 90% of its total foreign direct investment (FDI) commitment from China during the first quarter of the fiscal year 2019-20 that began in mid-July, according to Nepal's Department of Industry. China has been topping FDI pledges to Nepal for the last four fiscal years. Of total FDI pledges (95 million U.S. dollars), China alone pledged 88 million U.S. dollars during the first quarter. This represents nearly 93 percent of total foreign investments committed FDI, showing China's dominant position when it comes to FDI commitments in Nepal.

[After China, Nepal objects to Kalapani's inclusion as part of India in new Indian maps](#)

November 07, 2019, National Herald

The Nepal government made a statement on November 06, 2019 that Kalapani area situated in the country's far-West lies within the Nepalese boundary, days after India issued new political maps reportedly showing the region as part of its territory. On November 02, India released fresh maps of the newly created Union Territories (UTs) of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh and the map of India depicting these UTs.

[Newly purchased Nepal Army plane lands at TIA](#)

November 02, 2019, The Himalayan Times

A medium fixed-wing airplane that the Nepal Army purchased from Indonesia has landed in the Tribhuvan International Airport on November 02. According to Nepal Army Spokesperson Bigyan Dev Pande, the cargo plane was purchased to supply disaster-related relief materials and for military training. The 51-seater plane with the call sign 235-200 cost the Army 300 million US dollars.

[India can counter China's strategic gains in Nepal by winning over confidence of its people](#)

November 08, 2019, The Indian Express

Xi's dream — to be the sole leader of the Asian century — is attainable: By keeping India anchored to the region using Pakistan, even as Beijing, assisted by Kathmandu, blocks New Delhi's traditional strategic space in Nepal. But, not all is lost for India.

[China, too, has encroached upon Nepali land: Report](#)

November 07, 2019, Khabarhub

While there have been protests about the latest Indian map placing Nepali territory inside Indian borders, a survey has revealed that China too, has encroached upon around 36 hectares of Nepal's territory. According to data of Nepal's survey department, Nepali lands have been encroached upon in four districts including Sankhuwasabha, Rasuwa, Sindhupalchowk and Humla districts. These lands are depicted as a part of Tibet's Furang area.

Sri Lanka

[Sri Lanka inks agreement with Russia on sidelines of INTERPOLITEX-2019, Moscow](#)

November 02, 2019, The Daily Financial Times

A Sri Lankan delegation headed by the Sri Lankan Ministry of Defence Additional Secretary (Law and Order) Thusitha Wanigasingha participated at the INTERPOLITEX-2019 exhibition, one of the largest exhibitions in Europe, dedicated to the means of protecting state and public security. On the sidelines of INTERPOLITEX-2019, an agreement was signed on cooperation between the Ministry of Defence of Sri Lanka and the Ministry of Interior of the Russian Federation.

[President declares open new Army HQ](#)

November 08, 2019, Colombo Gazette

Sri Lanka's new Army Headquarters was declared opened on November 08, 2019 under the patronage of President Maithripala Sirisena. The new Headquarters was constructed on 77 acres of land in AKuregoda, Pellowatte at a cost of Rs 53.3 billion. It is considered to be the largest construction project ever undertaken in Sri Lanka. The new Headquarters will house all branch offices of the Army which are currently spread out across the country.

[IMF approves release of \\$164 million tranche to Sri Lanka, says economy slowly recovering](#)

November 02, 2019, The Hindu

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved the release of the sixth tranche of a \$1.5 billion loan programme for Sri Lanka, while urging authorities to show fiscal discipline as the island nation heads into a presidential poll later this month. The main candidates contesting the November 16 election have made campaign promises to voters, including tax cuts. Sri Lanka will receive \$164 million from the

sixth tranche, leaving \$190 million still to be disbursed under the terms of the loan programme signed in June 2016.

Bangladesh

[Army chief meets Chinese top military leaders, defence minister](#)

November 07, 2019, New Age Bangladesh

Bangladesh army chief General Aziz Ahmed was on his maiden visit to China since he assumed his office in June this year. General Aziz held meetings with the Chinese defence minister, ground force commander of the People's Liberation Army, and the leaders of the Chinese Olympic Committee and other senior officials on November 06.

[State Department Official: US Seeks Closer Military Ties with Bangladesh](#)

November 05, 2019, Benar News

The United States is seeking an expanded military relationship with Bangladesh under a security initiative that would help Dhaka build its maritime and border security capacity, according to the U.S. acting assistant secretary of state for South and Central Asian Affairs. The Bay of Bengal Initiative, a new U.S. State Department program, involves foreign military financing that would build maritime and border security capacity for Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and the Maldives.

East & South East Asia

China

[China urges RCEP members to include India in trade bloc](#)

November 7, 2019, The Economic Times

A Chinese state-run English daily has offered suggestions for including India in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), the newly formed world's largest trade bloc comprising the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) and its five free-trade agreement partners.

[RCEP exposes inefficiency of Indian political system](#)

November 6, 2019, Global Times

Economic issues appear to be the reason behind India's recent decision not to go on board the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) agreement. The real reason, however, is India's political system.

[China says it has agreed with the US to cancel existing trade tariffs in phases](#)

November 7, 2019, CNBC

China's Commerce Ministry said that Beijing had agreed with Washington to lift existing trade tariffs between the two nations in phases.

[Xi to visit Greece, attend BRICS summit in Brazil](#)

November 7, 2019, Global Times

At the invitation of Greek President Prokopis Pavlopoulos and Brazilian President Jair Messias Bolsonaro, Chinese President Xi Jinping will pay a state visit to Greece and attend the 11th BRICS summit in Brasilia, the capital city of Brazil, from Nov. 10 to 15.

[China, Europe to stand united on free trade](#)

November 7, 2019, Global Times

China and France moved forward to deepening bilateral ties as both countries pledged to uphold multilateralism and free trade.

[China willing to further deepen China-Thailand ties: Chinese premier](#)

November 6, 2019, Global Times

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang said on Tuesday China is willing to continue to deepen the comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership between China and Thailand.

[Chinese premier pledges multilateralism in meeting with UN chief](#)

November 4, 2019, Global Times

China will continue to firmly uphold multilateralism in the context of complex international situations, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang said in his meeting with United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

[Better China-ASEAN ties unlikely to be hit by US bid to influence bloc members](#)

November 6, 2019, Global Times

US President Donald Trump's absence from the 35th ASEAN Summit and Related Summits is not the first time Washington has shown lack of enthusiasm for the regional meeting that involves countries with half the global population.

[China starts development of 6G, having just turned on its 5G mobile network](#)

November 7, 2019, CNBC

China has officially launched research and development work for its 6G mobile networks. The country only just turned on its 5G networks earlier this month, ahead of an initial 2020 schedule.

Japan

[Abe rules out dissolving Diet, apologizes for ministerial resignations](#)

November 7, 2019, Japan Today

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Wednesday sought to dispel speculation that he will dissolve the lower house for an election, saying such an idea has not crossed his mind.

[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.

[Moon, Abe hold 'friendly' talks on ASEAN sidelines](#)

November 4, 2019, Japan Today

South Korean President Moon Jae-in and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Monday held their first talks for more than a year on the sidelines of a regional summit in Thailand, Moon's office said, with the neighbors' relationship in dire straits.

[Japanese, S Korean lawmakers agree to work toward detente](#)

November 2, 2019, Japan Today

Japanese and South Korean lawmakers agreed Friday on the need to mend bilateral ties that have been frayed by a dispute over wartime compensation and trade, calling on Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and President Moon Jae In to hold a summit.

[Japan's NSC launches economic team focusing on China, N Korea](#)

November 4, 2019, Japan Today

Japan's National Security Council has launched a team in charge of economic affairs in response to alleged intellectual property violations and technology theft by China, as well as cyberattacks by North Korea.

[U.S. exit from climate accord very disappointing: Japan](#)

November 5, 2019, Japan Today

The start of a process by the United States to withdraw from the 2015 Paris climate accord is "very disappointing," Japan's environment minister said.

South Korea

[Seoul Begs N.Korea to Let Inspectors Visit Mt. Kumgang](#)

November 7, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

The Unification Ministry has sent another message to North Korea proposing a visit by South Korean inspectors to Mt. Kumgang, where the North wants to demolish a South Korean-funded hotel complex.

[US, S. Korea to conduct 'scaled-down' aerial drills](#)

November 7, 2019, The Korea Times

A government official said that the United States and South Korea will conduct a "scaled-down" joint air force exercise sometime later this month.

[Washington Wants W5 Trillion Upkeep for USFK](#)

November 7, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

The U.S. is demanding US\$4.7 billion from Korea to keep American troops stationed here and maintain armaments in the region.

[Moon requests ASEAN's support for Korea peace process in Bangkok summit](#)

November 4, 2019, The Korea Herald

South Korean President Moon Jae-in formally asked the ASEAN member states Monday to continue support for the slow-moving Korea peace process, saying North Korea and the United States are bracing for the most critical point in their related negotiations.

[South Korea asks for US action on its ongoing row with Japan](#)

November 3, 2019, The Korea Herald

South Korea has asked the United States to intervene to resolve the ongoing row with Japan.

[UN First Committee adopts resolution submitted by Seoul](#)

November 7, 2019, The Korea Herald

The First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly adopted on Wednesday a resolution submitted by South Korea to encourage youth participation in disarmament and nonproliferation efforts.

[Has Seoul's N.Korea Policy Failed?](#)

November 7, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

Inter-Korean relations have frozen despite the South Korean government's best efforts to engage its crackpot neighbor even at the cost of alienating the U.S.

Southeast Asia

[Trump and Southeast Asia: What Would a US-ASEAN Special Summit Do?](#)

November 6, 2019, The Diplomat

A closer look at the potential significance of the development for US Southeast Asia policy under the Trump administration and beyond.

[Troubling developments at ASEAN summit](#)

November 6, 2019, The Japan Times

This year's annual summits of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations involving its member states and their dialogue partners will be remembered as potentially historic failures. The shortcomings are not by ASEAN, but by two of its diplomatic partners — the United States and India — who failed to engage the organization with the seriousness that demonstrates their commitment to the region and its future.

[China, ASEAN determined to forge closer community with shared future](#)

November 6, 2019, Xinhua Net

One year ago, China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) adopted the landmark China-ASEAN Strategic Partnership Vision 2030, a key document aiming to chart the course for their ties over the coming decade and a display of their sturdy commitment to forging a community with a shared future.

[ASEAN may soon conclude review of FTA with India](#)

November 6, 2019, The Economic Times

PM Narendra Modi, while addressing 10 Asean leaders, on Sunday welcomed the decision to have a relook at the free-trade agreement between India and the 10-member grouping.

[India attaches importance to Myanmar's cooperation against insurgent groups: PM Modi to Suu Kyi](#)

November 4, 2019, The Economic Times

Prime Minister Modi emphasised the value India attaches to Myanmar's cooperation in ensuring that insurgent groups do not find space to operate across the India-Myanmar border, the release said.

[Malaysia detains Cambodian opposition leader Mu Sochua](#)

November 7, 2019, Al Jazeera

Mu Sochua and Sam Rainsy, the main opposition leader, were scheduled to return to Cambodia on Saturday.

[Malaysia rejects US plan to host APEC in January](#)

November 7, 2019, AP News

Malaysia has rejected a U.S. plan to host an Asia-Pacific trade summit in January, after Chile canceled a November meeting because of violent anti-government protests.

[Mitsubishi to shut Singapore oil-trading unit after unauthorised losses](#)

November 7, 2019, Firstpost

Japan's biggest trading group, said on Wednesday it would shut its Singapore-based crude oil and fuel trading unit after revelations in September that a trader there racked up enormous unauthorised trading losses.

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

[India, Uzbekistan sign three agreements to enhance military ties](#)

November 4, 2019, Jagran Josh

India has signed three important agreements with Uzbekistan to enhance cooperation in military ties. The agreements were signed on the sidelines of the Council of Heads and Governments (CHGs) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. The meeting was held between Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and the Defence Minister of Uzbekistan, Major General Bakhodir Nizamovich Kurbanov on November 2, 2019.

[Tajikistan, Uzbekistan reportedly reach border settlement](#)

November 5, 2019, Eurasianet

The governments of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan have reportedly reached an agreement to resolve outstanding disagreements about the delimitation of their shared 1,312-kilometer border.

[Kazakhstan Seeks to Ban Sales of Land Along Its Borders](#)

November 5, 2019, Bloomberg

The Kazakh government is seeking to ban sales of land along the country's borders, returning to an issue that triggered mass protests three years ago. The proposed legislation would bar both foreigners and locals from buying any land in all districts bordering China and in a 25 kilometer-wide strip adjacent to Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.

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

November 7, 2019, thethirdpole.net

The Kazakhstan government has published a list of the 55 projects its neighbour China has invested in. About half of the investment total of USD 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. Only a summary is available in English.

[15 armed IS terrorists killed in Tajikistan](#)

November 7, 2019, All India Radio

15 armed IS terrorists were killed by security forces when a group of terrorists attacked a Tajik checkpoint on country's border with Uzbekistan. Tajik border guard and a policeman also died in the shootout. Five of the terrorists were captured after the attack.

West Asia

[Iran has 'military advantage over US and allies in Middle East](#)

November 07, 2019, The Guardian

In one of the most detailed assessments of Iran's strategy and doctrine across Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Yemen, the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) concludes Iran's "third party capability" has become Tehran's weapon of choice.

[EU Readies to Pay Turkey to Boost Coast Guard](#)

November 06, 2019, VOA

The European Union is preparing to pay Turkey tens of millions of euros to help bolster its coast guard, a senior EU official said Wednesday, as increasing numbers of people leave the country in hopes of finding sanctuary or jobs in Europe.

[Turkey's Erdogan may call off U.S. trip after Congress votes: officials](#)

November 04, 2019, Reuters

President Tayyip Erdogan may call off a visit to Washington next week in protest at votes in the House of Representatives to recognize mass killings of Armenians a century ago as genocide and to seek sanctions on Turkey, three Turkish officials said.

[Turkey, Russia 'in talks on joint production of S-400'](#)

November 04, 2019, Hurriyet Daily

The delivery of the second batch of the Russian S-400 missile defense systems to Turkey may be delayed beyond 2020, the planned timeline, due to talks on technology sharing and joint production, the head of the country's Presidency of Defence Industries said on Nov. 4.

[Israel-Egypt gas pipeline deal seen imminent](#)

November 03, 2019, Reuters

Texas-based Noble Energy (NBL.N), Israel's Delek Drilling (DEDRp.TA) and Egyptian East Gas Co have partnered in a venture called EMED, which last year agreed to buy a 39% stake in the subsea EMG pipeline for \$518 million that will carry Israeli gas exports to Egypt.

[Saudi Aramco kick-starts what could be world's biggest IPO, offers scant details](#)

November 03, 2019, Reuters

Saudi Arabia's giant state oil company finally kick-started its initial public offering (IPO) on Sunday, announcing its intention to float on the domestic bourse in what could be the world's biggest listing as the kingdom seeks to diversify its economy away from oil.

[Peace deal announced between Yemeni government, separatists](#)

November 06, 2019, Al Jazeera

Crown Prince Mohammed described the "Riyadh Agreement" as a crucial step towards a political solution to end Yemen's bloody four-year war.

[Iran announces new centrifuges on 40th anniversary of US embassy siege](#)

November 04, 2019, CNN

Iran has launched a new generation of advanced centrifuges to enrich uranium, the nation's nuclear chief announced Monday, the latest in a series of violations of the nuclear deal signed between Tehran and world powers in 2015. The announcement came as Iran marked the 40th anniversary of the US embassy siege, when Iranian students stormed the US embassy in Tehran and took 90 people hostage, including 66 Americans.

[U.S. targets Iranian top leader's inner circle with new sanctions](#)

November 04, 2019, Reuters

The United States on Monday imposed sanctions on nine people close to Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, including his chief of staff, one of his sons and the head of the judiciary.

[Trump OKs wider Syria oil mission, raising legal questions](#)

November 06, 2019, AP News

President Donald Trump has approved an expanded military mission to secure an expanse of oil fields across eastern Syria, raising a number of difficult legal questions about whether U.S. troops can launch strikes against Syrian, Russian or other forces if they threaten the oil, U.S. officials said.

['UAE Home to World's Sixth-largest Crude Oil Reserves, Surpasses Kuwait'](#)

November 05, 2019, News 18

The UAE's Supreme Petroleum Council met on Monday and announced the news, saying the federation of seven sheikhdoms on the Arabian Peninsula had discovered new reserves of 7 billion 'stock tank' barrels of oil.

[UAE launches new defence company Edge](#)

November 05, 2019, Gulf News

The new company will be tasked with coming up with the latest defence technologies aimed at combatting what it calls modern types of hybrid warfare.

United States

[U.S. and China Agree to Roll Back Some Tariffs if Deal Is Struck](#)

November 7, 2019, The New York Times

The United States and China have agreed that an initial trade deal between the two countries would roll back a portion of the tariffs they are placing on each other's products, officials from both countries said, a significant step toward defusing tensions between the world's largest economies.

[Trump asked for Barr to host news conference clearing him on Ukraine](#)

November 7, 2019, CNN

President Donald Trump asked Attorney General William Barr to hold a news conference clearing him of legal wrongdoing with regard to his phone call pressuring the Ukrainian President to investigate Democrats, a person familiar with the matter tells CNN.

[U.S. diplomat says Giuliani waged campaign of 'lies' against envoy to Ukraine](#)

November 7, 2019, Reuters

A top U.S. diplomat told congressional investigators that President Donald Trump's personal attorney Rudy Giuliani conducted a "campaign full of lies" against the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine before she was recalled from her post, according to a transcript of his testimony released on Thursday.

[Bloomberg considering jump into 2020 Democratic presidential race](#)

November 8, 2019, Reuters

Former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg is strongly considering entering the race for the 2020 U.S. Democratic presidential nomination, a move that could greatly disrupt the field just three months before the first nominating contests.

[US Treasury Secretary confident that India can achieve \\$5 tn target in 5 years](#)

November 1, 2019, Livemint

The US Secretary of Treasury Steven Mnuchin exuded confidence in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's target to achieve \$5 trillion economy in the next five years and is hopeful of the economic opportunities in the country as India promotes growth.

[Is the United States Really Leaving the Paris Climate Agreement?](#)

November 5, 2019, Foreign Policy

President Donald Trump has formally announced his intention to withdraw the United States from the Paris climate agreement, which will leave America as the only country on Earth outside the accord, which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions enough to keep temperatures from rising to dangerous levels.

[UNGA votes 187-3 to condemn United States' continued embargo against Cuba](#)

November 8, 2019, Business Standard

The UN General Assembly voted overwhelmingly Thursday to condemn the American economic embargo of Cuba for the 28th year, rejecting US criticism of human rights violations there and criticising the Trump administration's increasingly tough enforcement measures.

[What the United States keeps getting wrong in Iran](#)

November 4, 2019, The Washington Post

On Nov. 4, 1979, hundreds of Iranian students surrounded the U.S. Embassy in Tehran. The crowd brushed past the Marine guard, stormed the Embassy and took dozens of U.S. Diplomats hostage.

[Pompeo and Netanyahu Escalate Pressure on Europeans to Scrap Iran Nuclear Pact](#)

November 7, 2019, The New York Times

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel said Thursday that the International Atomic Energy Agency had validated his longstanding allegation that Iran has been maintaining a secret nuclear site in violation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty — a claim that the agency did not publicly confirm.

Europe & Russia

Europe

[Macron says NATO has suffered 'brain death.' Merkel rejects that assessment as 'drastic.'](#)

November 7, 2019, The Washington Post

The French president warned that the alliance can no longer coordinate strategically and said its promise of collective defense is now uncertain.

[In China, Macron wants to take Beijing 'at its word' on free trade](#)

November 3, 2019, Reuters

French President Emmanuel Macron will seek to make China deliver on promises to grant more access to foreign companies, eyeing agribusiness and finance, advisers said ahead of his arrival in Shanghai for a giant import fair.

[Mike Pompeo tours Germany amid tense relations](#)

November 7, 2019, Deutsche Welle

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has begun an official visit to Germany. Relations between the NATO allies are at a low, but a recent announcement by one of Angela Merkel's ministers seemed to nod to US complaints.

[Macron in China: Xi hails \\$15 billion trade contracts as 'strong signal of free trade'](#)

November 6, 2019, Deutsche Welle

French President Macron and Chinese leader Xi have announced fresh trade contracts worth \$15 billion amid the ongoing trade war between the US and China. Macron and Xi also agreed to double down on climate change.

[Boris Johnson's struggle to keep the spotlight on Brexit will be disastrous for the Tories](#)

November 7, 2019, The Independent

No matter how much the Conservatives want the election to be about leaving the EU, other issues are bound to intrude. That could spell trouble for the prime minister's campaign.

[Trump will not impose tariffs on European Union cars: Juncker](#)

November 8, 2019, WION News

The outgoing president of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker said Friday he believes the US will not impose new tariffs on imported European cars in the coming days.

[After MPs Kashmir visit, European Union calls on India, Pak to resume talks](#)

October 31, 2019, India Today

The European Union has called on India and Pakistan to avoid escalation of tension over the Kashmir issue and resume bilateral dialogue for a peaceful and political solution to the matter, after the Indian government revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special status.

[Germany commits to NATO spending goal by 2031 for first time](#)

November 7, 2019, Reuters

Germany will reach a NATO defense spending target by 2031, its defense minister said, missing a 2024 deadline agreed by the allies who are under heavy U.S. pressure to beef up their military budgets.

Russia

[Russian MP slams US State Dept. statement on Iran's nuclear program as irresponsible](#)

November 6, 2019, TASS

The critical statement put forward by the US State Department in light of Iran's decision to enrich uranium up to 5% at the Fordow facility is an example of complete political irresponsibility, Chairman of the Russian State Duma's (lower house) Committee on International Affairs Leonid Slutsky said.

[China Makes Inroads Into Russia's Backyard](#)

November 5, 2019, The Moscow Times

The increased scale of Chinese cooperation with the South Caucasus is turning Beijing into one of the forces of influence in the region.

[Turkey requests phone call with Putin – Kremlin](#)

November 7, 2019, TASS

Erdogan told reporters at a news conference in Ankara that he planned to discuss the situation in Syria with the Russian leader

[Paris Climate Agreement enters into force for Russia](#)

November 6, 2019, TASS

On September 21, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev signed a decree on the country's accession to the Paris Agreement.

[Russia's Pacific Fleet task force wraps up visit to Brunei](#)

November 7, 2019, TASS

A task force of the Russian Pacific Fleet completed its visit to Brunei and will continue fulfilling its mission in the Asia-Pacific region, the Fleet's press service said.

[Russia Obtains Israel's New Interceptor Missile in Syria, Reports Say](#)

November 6, 2019, The Moscow Times

The Russian military has allegedly obtained Israel's new interceptor missile that Syria captured on its soil last year, Israeli news outlets reported.

[Russia Says 2,000 Relatives of Middle East Militants Pose Security Threat](#)

November 11, 2019, The Moscow Times

Russia's FSB security service has identified 2,000 Russian nationals who are relatives of militants in the Middle East and could try to return to Russia, posing a terrorist threat.

[U.K. Delays Publishing Report on Russia Poll Meddling, Calls It 'Standard Procedure'](#)

November 5, 2019, The Moscow Times

The British government was accused by opponents of sitting on a parliamentary report examining alleged Russian meddling in British politics because it might contain embarrassing revelations about Prime Minister Boris Johnson and his party.

[Russia Scores Low in Global Internet Freedom Ranking](#)

November 5, 2019, The Moscow Times

The Freedom House democracy watchdog's 2019 World Internet Freedom Index said online freedom worldwide has deteriorated for nine straight years. It ranked China as the world's worst abuser of the internet freedoms for the fourth consecutive year, while Iceland was the top performer.

[Ukraine joining NATO would take world dangerously close to nuclear war](#)

November 6, 2019, RT

Ukrainian membership of NATO would be a brazen provocation that could finally break the back of Moscow's patience. Besides, very few seem to worry about the ontology of Ukrainian nationalism.

Africa & Latin America

Latin America

[Chile protests: Concerns grow over human rights abuses](#)

Nov 7, 2019, BBC

President Pinera denies there's an institutional problem with his forces, instead arguing that any crimes are exceptions rather than the rule. But for as long as protests continue, the conduct of Chile's armed forces will be scrutinised.

[Libertadores final moved to Peru amid Chile unrest](#)

November 6, 2019, Andolou Agency

The 2019 Copa Libertadores Final has been moved to Peru due to continuing unrest in the Chilean capital Santiago over ongoing violent protests in Chile.

[Chile: president promotes minimum wage hike to quell unrest](#)

November 7, 2019, The Washington Post

Chile's president sent a bill to Congress on Wednesday that would raise the minimum wage, one of a series of measures to try to contain nearly three weeks of anti-government protests over inequality in one of Latin America's richest countries.

[Massive Chilean Protests Against Inequality Shatter Illusion of Neoliberal Success](#)

November 6, 2019, btl Online.org

Chile has witnessed some of the largest protests in its modern history, along with some of the worst examples of brutal government repression since the Pinochet military dictatorship ended in 1990.

[Bitter divides in Bolivia over president's re-election](#)

November 7, 2019, Al Jazeera

Protesters alleging electoral fraud call on President Evo Morales to resign amid violent clashes between the two camps.

[Brazil Oil Auction a 'Total Disaster' as Bidders Stay Away](#)

November 6, 2019, Bloomberg

Brazil's largest-ever auction of oil deposits flopped, sending the real tumbling, after state-controlled Petroleo Brasileiro SA did most of the bidding while other major oil companies stayed away.

[Trump administration sanctions 5 Venezuelan officials](#)

November 11, 2019, Fox News

The Trump administration imposed sanctions on five Venezuelan officials for allegedly committing violence against opposition protesters or having benefited from the "corrupt" government of Nicolás Maduro, according to the U.S. Treasury Department.

[Colombia defense minister resigns amid pressure over bombing casualties](#)

November 7, 2019, Reuters

Colombian Defense Minister Guillermo Botero said on Wednesday he would resign in the midst of mounting political pressure over alleged extrajudicial killings and the threat that Congress could force him out.

[Brazil likely to vote with U.S. against Cuba at U.N. over embargo](#)

November 7, 2019, Reuters

Brazil is expected to vote for the first time against an annual U.N. resolution on Thursday condemning the U.S. economic embargo on communist-run Cuba.

[Cuba attracts \\$1.7 billion in foreign investment despite U.S. sanctions](#)

November 7, 2019, Reuters

Cuba said the country had attracted \$1.7 billion worth of foreign investment over the past year despite a tighter U.S. trade embargo and worsening cash crunch, although it did not reach its goal of \$2 billion to \$2.5 billion annually.

[Cuba paying restructured Western debt despite crisis: official](#)

November 6, 2019, Reuters

Cash-strapped Cuba has begun paying a fourth installment on its renegotiated \$2.6 billion debt to 14 creditor nations, and its chief debt negotiator, Ricardo Cabrisas, told Reuters this week that all payments would be made, even if a bit late.

Africa

[ICC sentences Congolese rebel chief Ntaganda to 30 years in jail](#)

November 7, 2019, Al Jazeera

Ntaganda, known as 'The Terminator', was found guilty of war crimes in DRC's Ituri, including murder and sexual slavery.

[U.N. mulls slow DR Congo drawdown despite ongoing bloodshed](#)

Novemebr 7, 2019, WION

U.N. peacekeepers should progressively withdraw from DR Congo by the end of 2022 at the earliest, a strategic review said, in the first tentative timeline to exit a country grappling with militia violence and Ebola.

[France announces troop deployment to Burkina Faso](#)

November 7, 2019, Al Jazeera

Sources suggest French operation has already started and being carried out at request of Burkinabe authorities.

[Algeria's hydrocarbon reform adds fuel to protest movement](#)

November 7, 2019, Al Monitor

Thousands of demonstrators returned to the streets of Algeria on Oct. 30 to protest the system of entrenched power that they feel still has a stranglehold on the country despite a series of high-profile arrests and official resignations. "We're continuing to protest because we don't trust the system," Riad Mostefai, a young apprentice hairdresser, told Reuters from central Algiers. "It might regenerate."

[Zimbabwe civil servants protest as economy deteriorates](#)

Novemnber 6, 2019, The Guardian

Civil servants in Zimbabwe are demanding higher pay as economic conditions in the southern African country continue to deteriorate.

[From Pirates To Producers: Somalia's First Ever Oil Auction](#)

November 6, 2019, Oil Price.com

Somalia is preparing for the launch of its first-ever crude oil licensing round, with details about it to be announced in December, the country's oil minister told media.

[Sudan launches its first ever satellite in partnership with China](#)

November 6, 2019, Al Jazeera

Khartoum says the satellite, which was launched by China, will conduct research for military as well civilian purposes.



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

www.delhipolicygroup.org