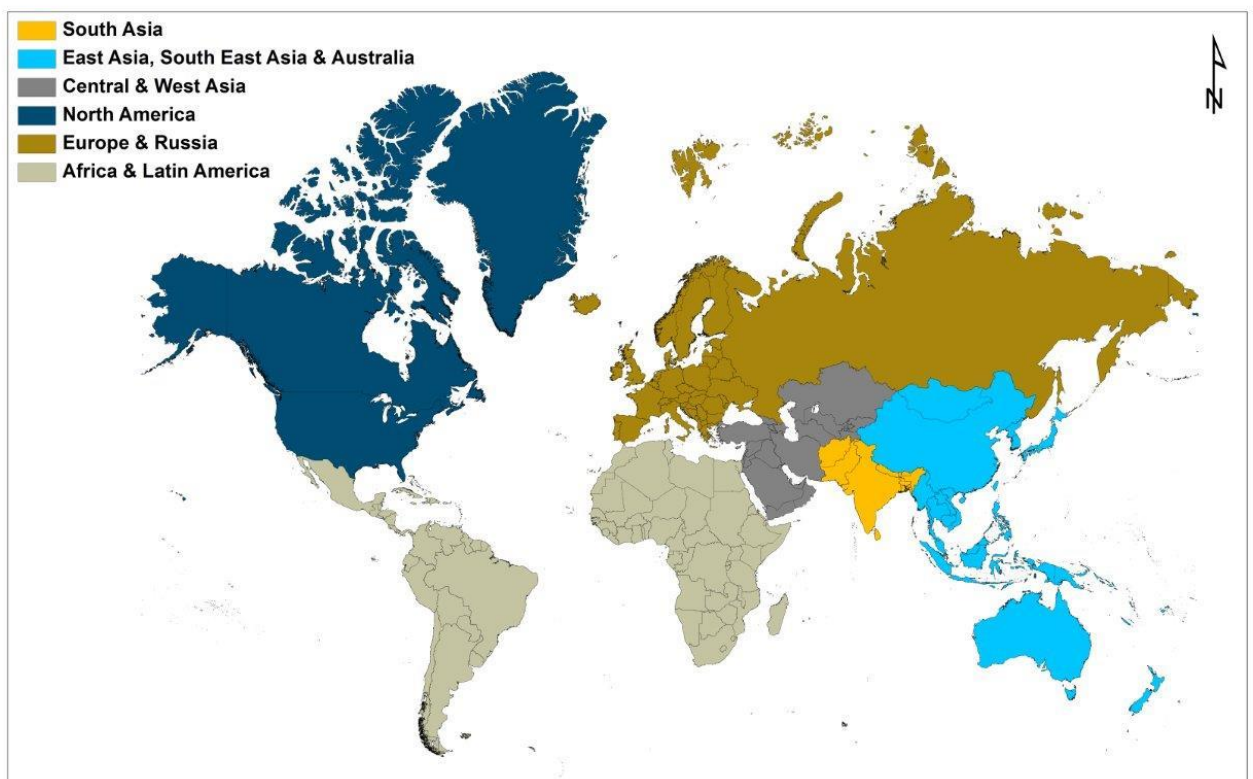




Delhi Policy Group

# DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



Volume III, Issue 46 | November 15, 2019

Delhi Policy Group  
Core 5A, 1st Floor, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi- 110003  
[www.delhipolicygroup.org](http://www.delhipolicygroup.org)



# DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

## Volume 3, Issue 46

### 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](mailto: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](http://www.delhipolicygroup.org)

## Contents

South Asia.....	1
East & South East Asia.....	12
Central & West Asia.....	21
United States.....	27
Europe & Russia.....	29
Africa & Latin America .....	32

## South Asia

### India

[No agreement was better than bad agreement: Jaishankar on India walking out from RCEP](#)

November 15, 2019, India Today

Delivering the fourth Ramnath Goenka memorial lecture, Jaishankar referred to India's decision to not sign the RCEP agreement, saying India negotiated till the very end and then, knowing what was on offer, it took a call.

[Modi woos BRICS business leaders, says India world's most open, investment friendly economy](#)

November 14, 2019, India Today

The five countries' grouping has led to economic development despite the global slowdown, Prime Minister Modi said in his address to the BRICS Business Forum.

[BRICS Summit: Modi meets Putin, reviews India-Russia relations; Says both nations will benefit from close ties](#)

November 14, 2019, Indus Dictum

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the 11th BRICS summit on 13 November. Both leaders reviewed the progress made in the bilateral relationship since Modi's visit to Vladivostok earlier this year.

[India, Switzerland ink pact on sharing financial information](#)

November 14, 2019, Economic Times

Indian government officials met their counterparts from Switzerland on Wednesday to discuss cooperation in tackling black money parked in offshore accounts according to a government release.

[US, India bolster their military partnership in Tiger Triumph exercise](#)

November 14, 2019, Defence News

The U.S. and India are set to kick off this week a major joint military exercise: Tiger Triumph. Tiger Triumph is the first U.S.-India military exercise to include all three of India's military services – Army, Navy and Air Force – and it represents the latest milestone in an increasingly important bilateral military partnership.

### [Moody's cuts India's GDP growth forecast to 5.6 per cent for 2019](#)

November 14, 2019, Economic Times

Moody's Investors Service on Thursday slashed India's economic growth forecast to 5.6 per cent for 2019, saying government measures do not address the widespread weakness in consumption demand.

### [India, Russia step up cyber security cooperation after attack on Kudankulam](#)

November 13, 2019, Economic Times

Deputy Chief of Mission of the Russian Embassy Roman Babushkin has said Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited has informed Russian authorities that the plant is safe and additional steps have been taken to enhance its security further.

### [India to fund 250 defence startups over next 5 years](#)

November 12, 2019, Economic Times

The defence ministry will be earmarking at least Rs 500 crore for its Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) initiative and will try to bring together innovators with public and private sector industry and the armed forces to find new technology solutions.

### [Centre inks pact with Goa Shipyard for two missile frigates](#)

November 15, 2019, Economic Times

The Centre has signed a contract with the Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) for construction of two advanced missile frigates for the Navy, Union Minister of State for Defence Shripad Naik said here.

### [Four Indian firms including Tata, Adani in final race for Rs 25,000 crore chopper deal for Navy](#)

November 12, 2019, Economic Times

Under the first project of the strategic partnership policy of the Narendra Modi government to develop indigenous industry's defence manufacturing capacity, 111 light helicopters have to be built indigenously through joint ventures between Indian and foreign firms.

### [India, China agree to hold next round of border talks after Modi-Xi meet in Brazil](#)

November 14, 2019, Economic Times

India and China have agreed to hold another meeting on matters relating to the boundary question after Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Chinese President Xi

Jinping on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit here, according to an official statement.

#### [India's RCEP call won't hit Act East Policy: Jaishankar](#)

November 15, 2019, Economic Times

The recent debate about the RCEP (Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership) offers lessons in foreign policy as much as in the trade domain.

#### [Brazil's Bolsonaro accepts PM's invitation to be chief guest on R-Day](#)

November 14, 2019, Hindustan Times

Modi extended the invitation when he met Bolsonaro on the margins of the BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa) Summit in Brasilia on Wednesday. "The Brazilian President has accepted the invitation with pleasure," the external affairs ministry said in a statement.

#### [Dharmendra Pradhan woos foreign firms to invest in India's oil & gas sector](#)

November 11, 2019, Economic Times

Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, who is on a two-day visit to the United Arab Emirates, showcased investment opportunities, promising political and fiscal stability, predictable policies and a huge diverse market.

#### [China, India jointly hold training program for Afghan diplomats](#)

November 11, 2019, Xinhua

The second joint China-India Capacity Building Program for Diplomats from Afghanistan began here on Monday with the participation of 10 young Afghan diplomats.

The intensive two-week course is being organised by India's Ministry of External Affairs at New Delhi-based Foreign Service Institute (FSI). This will include training modules on various topics covering India's foreign policy, key international issues, multilateral diplomacy and diplomatic skills.

## Pakistan

### [All targets met, IMF okays issuance of fresh tranche](#)

November 9, 2019, The News

Pakistan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) reached a staff-level agreement on the first review under the Extended Fund Facility, according to which Islamabad will receive another instalment of US\$450 million.

### [Pak-China FTA to become effective from Dec](#)

November 9, 2019, The News

Pakistan-China Free Trade Agreement (FTA) would get effective from December 1, 2019, which would boost pakistani products' exports to China and also reduce trade deficit. China has approved the premature activation of the free trade agreement with Pakistan. This is the second phase of FTA with china that was signed in Beijing in April 2019.

### [Pakistan maintains emerging market status](#)

November 9, 2019, The News

Pakistan continued to maintain its emerging market status in the semi-annual index review for the Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI) equity indexes as all the three key blue chips complied with the free-float standards to qualify as the index constituents.

### [US hails Kartarpur Corridor opening](#)

November 10, 2019, The News

The US welcomed the opening of the Kartarpur Corridor. In a short message, US State Department's spokesperson Morgan Ortagus said that the US sees the opening of the Kartarpur Corridor as a positive example of neighbours working together for mutual benefit.

### [Nawaz rejects govt terms for his travel abroad](#)

November 13, 2019, Dawn

Ailing leader of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz and former prime minister Nawaz Sharif rejected the government's offer made on medical grounds and to pay Rs7 billion as surety bonds – equivalent to the fines imposed on him by an accountability court in two corruption cases Al-Azizia Steel Mills and Avenfield properties – in which he was convicted.

### [Fazl brings sit-in to abrupt end, launches Plan B](#)

November 14, 2019, Dawn

In a move that resembled more an exit strategy than an attempt to pile pressure on the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf-led federal government, Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam-Fazl (JUI-F) chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman called off the party's 13-day sit-in in Islamabad. However, the Maulana announced that his party would continue its anti-government protests in other regions of the country as part of its Plan B. The JUI-F chief directed his followers to reach their native areas as soon as possible for a nationwide lockdown.

### [Pakistan's envoy elected to head UN convention on conventional weapons](#)

November 14, 2019, The Express Tribune

Pakistan's permanent envoy to the United Nations in Geneva Khalil Hashmi has been elected as the chairperson of the annual meeting of states parties to the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW).

## **Afghanistan**

### [U.S. Troops to stay in Afghanistan several more years, top general says](#)

November 10, 2019, RFERL

U.S. Army General Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has predicted that American troops, already in Afghanistan for 18 years, would remain in the country "for several more years."

### [US provided \\$7.9B to Afghan Air Force since 2010: SIGAR](#)

November 10, 2019, Tolo News

A quarterly report by the United States Special Inspector to Afghanistan, or SIGAR, released on Oct. 30, reveals that the US provided up to \$7.9 billion to support and develop the Afghan Air Force, or AFF, between 2010 to 2019.

### [China steps up efforts for an intra-Afghan dialogue](#)

November 14, 2019, Daily Times

China's Special Envoy on Afghan Affairs Ambassador Deng Xijun met Foreign Secretary Sohail Mahmood in Islamabad on peace process in Afghanistan, a Chinese diplomat in Kabul met State Minister for Peace Affairs Abdul Salam Rahimi and discussed the upcoming intra-Afghan dialogue in Beijing. The Beijing



meeting is likely to be held later this month at a time when the peace process between the Taliban and the US is stalled.

[Afghan prisoner swap for American, Australian did not occur: diplomat](#)

November 13, 2019, Reuters

The planned exchange of two senior Taliban commanders and a leader of the Haqqani militant group for an American and an Australian kidnapped in Afghanistan in 2016 has not taken place.

[IEC: Election announcement again postponed](#)

November 13, 2019, Tolo News

The Independent Election Commission on November 13 said the announcement of the preliminary presidential polling results will once again be postponed. The announcement originally scheduled for Thursday, November 14, pushed farther out due to "tensions" hindering the vote recounting process at "8,000 polling stations."

## **Bangladesh**

[India condemns fake reports in Bangladesh of PM congratulating CJI over Ayodhya verdict](#)

November 14, 2019, India Today

India has strongly condemned a fake letter circulating in Bangladesh's local media claiming that Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed it to Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi, congratulating the five-judge Supreme Court bench for "their stupendous contribution to Hindu Rashtra".

[President of Bangladesh Md. Abdul Hamid meets his Nepali counterpart Bidya Devi Bhandari in Kathmandu](#)

November 14, 2019, All India Radio

President of Bangladesh Md. Abdul Hamid met his Nepali counterpart Bidya Devi Bhandari in Kathmandu on Wednesday evening. According to the Nepal President's office, matters relating to friendly relations existing between the two countries, mutual interest and matters of concern were discussed in the meeting.

[Over 2 million people evacuated as deadly cyclone Bulbul slams into Bangladesh and India](#)

November 11, 2019, CNN International

At least 10 people have been killed and millions displaced after Cyclone Bulbul smashed into India and Bangladesh over the weekend. The storm hit Bangladesh late on Saturday night, and led to severe flooding there and in neighboring India. The bad weather has since dissipated, but many are still waiting to return to their homes.

[China-Bangladesh to build Dhaka's mega new town project called Purbachal](#)

November 12, 2019, Hindustan Times

A Chinese company will play a leading role in building Bangladesh's first smart city and the biggest planned township on the outskirts of capital Dhaka including a mega water project which upon completion will divert water from the Meghna river to the settlement.

[Bangladesh secures top position in ship breaking](#)

November 14, 2019, Dhaka Tribune

The ship breaking industry of Bangladesh has captured the global market by dismantling around 47.2% world vessels. A report titled 'Review of Maritime Transport 2019' published by United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) revealed the data on October 30.

[Huawei all set for 5G technical support in Bangladesh](#)

November 9, 2019, China.org.cn

China's telecommunication giant Huawei is all set to facilitate Bangladeshi with technical support in the implementation of 5G technology. According to a statement received, Huawei's Senior Vice President Bruce Li talked about their readiness to help Bangladesh launch 5G when meeting Bangladeshi Post and Telecommunications Minister Mustafa Jabbar recently in Dhaka.

[Bangladesh can boost exports with better logistics: World Bank report](#)

November 13, 2019, China.org.cn

To meet the needs of its growing economy and to boost export growth, Bangladesh needs to improve its transport and logistics systems, says a new World Bank report launched.

### [Bangladesh to import onion from Pakistan after 15yrs](#)

November 10, 2019, Dhaka Tribune

An English-language Pakistan daily has claimed Bangladesh placed a 300 tons import order to Pakistan, after nearly 15 years of recess as India imposed a ban on export of the kitchen essential.

### [German minister hails Bangladesh over birth control](#)

November 13, 2019. Deutsche Welle

German Development Minister Gerd Müller has praised Bangladesh for its success in birth control and presented the country as a role model for Africa.

### [At least 12 dead after two trains collide in Bangladesh](#)

November 12, 2019, CNN International

At least 12 people have been killed and around 100 others injured after two trains collided in eastern Bangladesh in the early hours of Tuesday morning.

## **Nepal**

### [Nepal protesters burn Xi Jinping effigies over China's alleged border encroachment](#)

November 12, 2019, South China Morning Post

Protesters in Nepal this week burnt the effigies of Chinese President Xi Jinping after a recent government report indicated Beijing had encroached on 36 hectares of Nepalese land, roughly the size of 26 football fields.

### [India's Updated Political Map Sparks Controversy in Nepal](#)

November 11, 2019, The Diplomat

After sparking a regional and worldwide controversy by changing the internal status of Kashmir, India's new official political map is stirring criticism in Nepal, including from Nepal's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA).

### [Over \\$39 million earmarked by UN-backed fund to combat effects of climate change in Nepal](#)

November 13, 2019. UN News

More than \$39 million in funding was approved on Wednesday for a project that will build resilience and mitigate the effects of climate change, benefitting nearly one million Nepalis, according to the Board of the UN-backed Green Climate Fund (GCF).

### [India aims to promote Sikh heritage tourism through visit Nepal 2020](#)

November 10, 2019, Times of India

To promote Sikh heritage tourism in Nepal, India has approached the government to include the Sikh heritage tourism element in the visit Nepal 2020 event beginning next year.

## **Bhutan**

### [Global Happiness Alliance Aims To Spread Concept Of Gross National Happiness Worldwide](#)

November 08, 2019, Daily Bhutan

Discussions about Gross National Happiness (GNH) in Bhutan and abroad resonated with attempts to find solutions to global problems related to climate change, sustainability, inequality, poverty, environmental and biodiversity degradations.

### [Bhutan Bird Festival Set Bird Watching Haven Of Zhemgang Abuzz](#)

November 13, 2019, Daily Bhutan

The Bhutan Bird Festival was held from 11-13 November to commemorate the 64th birthday of His Majesty The Fourth Druk Gyalpo, and to pay tribute to his visionary efforts in the conservation of Bhutan's pristine environment and biodiversity.

## **Sri Lanka**

### [In Sri Lanka, fear and uncertainty ahead of presidential vote](#)

November 15, 2019, Al Jazeera

Former defence chief Rajapaksa's supporters stir ethnic tensions as he takes on the ruling party's Premadasa.

### [China-Friendly Strongmen Eye Return to Power in Sri Lanka Vote](#)

November 15, 2019, Bloomberg

A family of strongmen are eyeing a return to power in Sri Lanka's presidential election on Saturday, an outcome that could also shift the island nation back toward China

### [Sri Lanka's Presidential election outcome will be critical for India](#)

November 15, 2019, Deccan Chronicle

As Sri Lanka is all set to hold its crucial Presidential election on Saturday, the outcome will be critically important not only for the lovely little island but also for India, its northern neighbour.

### [Sri Lanka author attacked ahead of key polls](#)

November 14, 2019, Economy Next

Armed men stabbed and injured a writer in Sri Lanka on Thursday, a week after he published a book criticising the main opposition candidate at Saturday's presidential polls, police said.

### [Sri Lanka receives proposal for US\\$ 24 Bn strategic investment in petroleum refinery](#)

November 14, 2019, Colombo Page

Sri Lanka's geographical locational advantage between Singapore and the Middle East, and the availability of a new deep-water Port in Hambantota make the island an optimum location for establishing export oriented Petroleum and other commodity processing facilities.

### [UK Foreign Office issues new travel advice on Sri Lanka](#)

November 15, 2019, Colombo Page

The UK Foreign Office has warned visitors to Sri Lanka of possible outbreaks of violence in the run up to the presidential election on Saturday (November 16, 2019).

## **Maldives**

### [India to continue onion export to Maldives amid shortage](#)

November 10, 2019, Times of India

India is in the midst of onion crisis and the government has informed Maldives that it would continue to export onions to the island nation at the same quantity as before. Maldives is wholly dependent on India for all its essential commodities.

[Maldives formally becomes 22nd member state of IORA](#)

November 8, 2019, China.org.cn

The Maldives formally became the 22nd member state of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) after Maldivian Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdulla Shahid signed the Instrument of Acceptance on Thursday at the 19th Council of Ministers of the IORA in Abu Dhabi, local media reports said here Friday.

[Maldives government accused of manipulating trial to jail Yameen](#)

November 13, 2019, Daily Times

Maldives opposition parties have accused the sitting government of influencing the judiciary to manipulate the trial of former president Abdulla Yameen after the presiding judge in the case was suspended just 24hours prior to the scheduled sentencing.

## East & South East Asia

### China

#### [Tariffs will not get Washington what it wants: China Daily editorial](#)

November 14, 2019, China Daily

Were it not for the ups and downs already experienced over the past 17 months of trade frictions, it would no doubt have caused jitters when the US president warned on Tuesday that he would jack up tariffs substantially should the phase one deal with China fail to materialize.

#### [BRICS members rally to counter shocks of bullying, protectionism: China Daily editorial](#)

November 14, 2019, China Daily

From Athens to Brasilia, Chinese President Xi Jinping has been calling for multilateral approaches to counter an impending global economic downturn.

#### [Tsai's travel trick will not avail her: China Daily editorial](#)

November 13, 2019, China Daily

It seems the Tsai Ing-wen administration has forgotten the inconvenience it caused Taiwan compatriots during the Spring Festival holiday last year, when it prevented some airlines from providing additional flights.

#### [There can be no lawless land in HK - that includes university campuses: China Daily editorial](#)

November 13, 2019, China Daily

The subversives in Hong Kong have stepped up their crusade to paralyze the city with a "blossom everywhere" campaign of violence and vandalism across the city.

#### [Rioters' sense of mission delusional: China Daily editorial](#)

November 12, 2019, China Daily

When the radical protesters in Hong Kong viciously attack those who oppose their views and law enforcers trying to maintain public order, as well as anyone they believe to be from the Chinese mainland, they seem willing to justify their descent into the depths of inhumanity by convincing themselves they are fighting the good fight for what is right.

[NATO should beware US love of walls: China Daily editorial](#)

November 12, 2019, China Daily

The White House did not specify what topics United States President Donald Trump and NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg will discuss at their working meeting scheduled for Thursday. But the latter will almost certainly get an earful of US worries about its European allies embracing telecommunications equipment from China. Even if not from the US president himself. He has maintained a distance between himself and the all-out assault by some members of his administration on Chinese tech companies such as Huawei, in order to leave himself some wiggle room.

[Welcome sign of goodwill from US: China Daily editorial](#)

November 11, 2019, China Daily

US Ambassador to China Terry Branstad extended a warm invitation to Chinese students to study in the United States in a signed article published by China Youth Daily on Monday. This has been seized on as a ray of hope by those fearing the delay in signing of the "phase one" trade deal between China and the United States may lead to relations relapsing into acrimony.

[Attack on HK legislator part of terror tactics: China Daily editorial](#)

November 11, 2019, China Daily

Hong Kong society is still in shock after last week's attempted murder of a legislator in a busy street in broad daylight. The attack and recent spate of violence indicate how far and how low the coalition of local and foreign anti-China forces is willing to go in pursuit of their aims.

[Pompeo still busy trying to build his wall: China Daily editorial](#)

November 11, 2019, China Daily

That Chancellor Angela Merkel said Germany will not single out individual telecom suppliers, while ensuring the safety of new 5G standards, can be seen as testimony to the latest failure of the United States' top diplomat to discredit the Chinese company.

[High anxiety exposed in TikTok probe: China Daily editorial](#)

November 7, 2019, China Daily

The seat left empty by TikTok in a congressional hearing on "how corporations and big tech leave our data exposed to criminal, China and other bad actors" in Washington on Tuesday showed the company's attitude to US legislators'



seemingly thoughtful exercising of their duties, which, however, is nothing but a politically motivated abuse of public power.

[Xi's trip to Greece and Brazil highlights China's championing of multilateralism: China Daily editorial](#)

November 7, 2019, China Daily

China's Belt and Road Initiative has received a lot of criticism from the United States and some of its allies, which have tried to denigrate it as a means to spread Chinese influence abroad and saddle countries with unsustainable debt. US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, for instance, has alleged it amounts to China peddling "corrupt infrastructure deals in exchange for political influence".

[United stand puts common interests first: China Daily editorial](#)

November 6, 2019, China Daily

The Chinese government issued 4 billion euro-denominated sovereign bonds on Tuesday in Paris, the first time since 2004, to help the latter pursue its dream of becoming an international financial center.

[BRICS ties vital in uncertain world](#)

November 14, 2019, Global Times

The BRICS Summit ended in Brazil's capital Brasilia. This year has been bad for the whole world. Negative impacts brought by the US-launched trade war against China have been spreading. Some Western media outlets have cast doubt on the BRICS meeting, claiming that BRICS cooperation is declining.

[Cotton industry symbolizes Xinjiang's human rights](#)

November 14, 2019, Global Times

Cotton is the latest tool some Western media outlets, human rights groups and observers use to slander the human rights situation in Northwest China's Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. Claiming that cotton products from Xinjiang are tainted by the "forced labor" of Uyghurs, they are demanding that global brands, such as Japanese retailers Muji and Uniqlo, stop buying cotton from their Xinjiang-based suppliers.

## [Macron's 'brain-dead' label for NATO points at growing chasm between Europe and US](#)

November 14, 2019, Global Times

Recently, French President Emmanuel Macron rubbed European leaders the wrong way by calling NATO brain-dead, further aggravating the trans-Atlantic rift that has often seen the US and Europe at loggerheads. His comments were published by The Economist which also quoted the young French leader as saying "America is turning its back on the European project."

## [China-Japan ties shouldn't be subject to US' whims](#)

November 13, 2019, Global Times

Relations between China and Japan have seen an uptick since the China-Japan-South Korea Trilateral Summit in Tokyo in 2018. The two countries agreed in principle to Chinese President Xi Jinping's state visit to Japan next spring at the invitation of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. The exchange visits of the leaders come after years of fraught ties.

## [Many questions for India after temple verdict](#)

November 13, 2019, Global Times

The Indian Supreme Court's decision on Saturday made history by clearing the decks for the construction of a Hindu temple by giving the ownership of a disputed plot of land at Ayodhya in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh to Hindus.

## [Degree of tariff cancelation should reflect importance of China-U.S. "phase one" deal: MOC](#)

November 14, 2019, Xinhua

China reiterated Thursday that canceling tariff hikes is an important condition for China and the United States to reach a trade agreement, noting that the degree of tariff cancelation should fully reflect the importance of a "phase one" deal.

## Japan

### [North Korea assembles large fleet of military aircraft at east coast airport](#)

November 15, 2019, The Japan Times

North Korea may be preparing for a massive show of force, according to an analysis Friday of new satellite imagery that shows dozens of military aircraft parked wingtip to wingtip at an airport on the country's east coast.

### [Japan's economy grinds to near standstill as U.S.-China trade war bites](#)

November 14, 2019, The Japan Times

Growth in Japan's economy ground to a near standstill in the third quarter, at its weakest in a year, as the U.S.-China trade war and soft global demand knocked exports and kept pressure on policymakers to ramp up stimulus in order to bolster a fragile recovery.

### [Time right for Taiwan, Japan to talk regional trade pact](#)

November 15, 2019, Japan Today

Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen said Thursday that the timing is right for Taiwan and Japan to talk about the self-ruled island's bid to join a multinational trade agreement in which Japan plays a leading role.

### [Abe's mission unaccomplished: Pushing to revise Japan's pacifist charter](#)

November 14, 2019, Japan Today

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe surged back to power seven years ago, pledging to bolster Japan's defenses in response to a growing threat from China and aiming to amend the pacifist constitution.

### [Japan-S Korea meeting of defense chiefs being arranged](#)

November 12, 2019, Japan Today

Japan is making final arrangements with South Korea for their defense ministers to hold talks in mid-November on the sidelines of a regional meeting in Thailand, amid soured bilateral ties, a government source said.

### [Esper to visit S Korea to discuss expiring intel pact with Japan](#)

November 11, 2019, Japan Today

U.S. Defense Secretary Mark Esper will leave on Wednesday for South Korea and other Asian countries to enhance defense cooperation amid the growing influence of China in the region, according to the Pentagon.

### [Economy nearly stalls in Q3, growth hits low amid trade war](#)

November 14, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

Japan's economy ground to a near standstill in the third quarter with growth at its weakest in a year as the U.S.-China trade war and soft global demand knocked exports, keeping pressure on policymakers to ramp up stimulus to bolster a fragile recovery.

### [Japan wants 'sensible response' from S. Korea over pact](#)

November 15, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

A senior Japanese diplomat on Friday asked his South Korean counterpart for a "sensible response" regarding Seoul's decision not to renew an intelligence sharing pact, known as GSOMIA, with the agreement expiring in a week.

### [Japan, U.S. say 3-way ties with S. Korea are key to security](#)

November 13, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

The chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Mark Milley, agreed with Japanese officials Tuesday that three-way cooperation with South Korea is key to regional security and that an intelligence sharing pact between Tokyo and Seoul should not be scrapped.

## **Korea**

### [UN to Probe Deportation of N.Korean 'Killers'](#)

November 15, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

The UN human rights agency could investigate South Korea's secret deportation last week of two alleged North Korean mass murderers who reportedly wanted to defect.

### [N.Korea Threatens 'New Path' Military Drills Resume](#)

November 14, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

North Korea in a statement Wednesday threatened to take a "new path" should the U.S. and South Korea resume joint military exercises.

### [NK says it will remove S. Korean facilities from Kumgangsan](#)

November 15, 2019, The Korea Herald

Pyongyang sent an ultimatum to Seoul on Monday, warning that it will unilaterally remove all South Korean-built facilities from the Kumgangsan resort unless Seoul tears them down on its own, North Korean state media said.

### [Moon firm on GSOMIA termination despite 'maximum' US pressure to back down](#)

November 15, 2019, The Korea Times

Washington is putting pressure on Seoul to renew the General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) with Tokyo ahead of the Nov. 22 notification deadline to terminate the pact, which was signed at the U.S. initiative in 2016.

Washington has sent key defense officials to Seoul this week ahead of the deadline.

[US pursues 'its own benefit' over GSOMIA, defense cost-sharing issues: experts](#)

November 14, 2019, The Korea Times

Amid a series of U.S. defense officials' visits to Seoul this week, Washington is stepping up pressure on the South Korean government on many fronts, including the renewal of a military information sharing pact between Seoul and Tokyo, increasing Seoul's contribution to the defense cost-sharing with Washington and the transfer of wartime operational control (OPCON) from Washington to Seoul.

[South Korea, US top military commanders discuss GSOMIA, OPCON transfer](#)

November 14, 2019, The Korea Herald

The top military commanders of South Korea and the United States discussed the allies' military readiness and the security situation on the Korean Peninsula at the 44th Military Committee Meeting in Seoul

[FM cancels meeting with Pompeo in US](#)

November 14, 2019, The Korea Times

Ahead of the official expiration of a bilateral intel-sharing pact between Seoul and Tokyo, Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha had planned a visit to the United States for a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. However, her Washington visit was canceled last minute.

## **Southeast Asia**

[India-Asean bilateral trade may double by 2025 to \\$300 billion: Study](#)

November 12, 2019, Business Standard

With India pulling out of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), country's existing engagement with ASEAN is back in focus with an industry study suggesting that India's bilateral trade with the ASEAN economies would double by 2025 to \$300 billion from the current level of \$ 142 billion (2018).

[Not shifting away from Act East Policy: Jaishankar](#)

November 15, 2019, The New Indian Express

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said that India's decision not to join the China-led Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) does not indicate a shift away from its Act East Policy.

### [Trump gamesmanship risks ASEAN ties](#)

November 15, 2019, Bangkok Post

Apart from India's withdrawal from the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, the other memorable outcome of the recent Asean Summit and 14th East Asia Summit was the second consecutive absence of US President Donald Trump.

### [Defense Minister Visit Highlights Singapore-Brunei Security Collaboration](#)

November 14, 2019, The Diplomat

Singapore's defense minister paid a visit to Brunei. While the three-day trip was itself a routine and prearranged development, the latest high-level defense engagement between the two sides once again put the spotlight on the ongoing security collaboration between the two countries amid wider domestic and regional developments.

### [ICC approves probe into Myanmar's alleged crimes against Rohingya](#)

November 15, 2019, Al Jazeera

Judges approve request to investigate alleged crimes against humanity over Myanmar's crackdown against ethnic group.

### [India resumes buying Malaysian palm oil as Kuala Lumpur offers discount](#)

November 15, 2019, The Times of India

Indian refiners have resumed buying Malaysian palm oil after a near one-month suspension linked to a political row as Kuala Lumpur began offering a \$5 a ton discount over supplies from rival Indonesia.

### [Malaysia signs two trade deals to sell palm oil in South Asia, China](#)

November 14, 2019, The Edge Markets

Malaysia has signed an agreement with a major supply chain manager for the export of palm oil next year in the South Asian region, amidst the recent spat with Indian oil associations as well as EU's potential displacement of palm biofuels.

### [Cambodian opposition leader in Indonesia, ponders next move](#)

November 14, 2019, The Washington Post

Exiled Cambodian opposition leader Sam Rainsy arrived Thursday in Indonesia to meet some of the country's lawmakers as he considers when and how to make his long-promised return to his homeland.

## [Vietnam Needs to 'Struggle' More in the South China Sea](#)

November 15, 2019, The Diplomat

Now that the months-long standoff between China and Vietnam has finally ended at the disputed Vanguard Bank, it makes sense to take stock of how Hanoi's security strategy fared in countering Chinese coercion in the South China Sea. Vietnam seeks simultaneous "cooperation and struggle" with all countries – including, most significantly, China – in a highly calibrated and nuanced approach to secure Vietnamese national interests.

## [Hanoi struggles to curb fake 'Made in Vietnam' goods](#)

November 14,, 2019, CNA

The move has also prompted concerns on a rise in manufacturers illegally claiming their products are from Vietnam when they in fact originate in China - and authorities have vowed to crack down with more stringent inspections and punishments.

## Central & West Asia

### Central Asia

#### [Uzbekistan Opens Up for Foreign Investment, Spurring Rivalry With Kazakhstan](#)

November 13, 2019, Bloomberg

Uzbekistan's recent opening up for foreign investment will spur a "healthy rivalry" in Central Asia, potentially boosting the economy of neighboring Kazakhstan, the International Monetary Fund said.

#### [Uzbekistan Urges Media Not To Politicize Suspicious Death Of Critical Journalist](#)

November 13, 2019, Rferl.org

Uzbek authorities told reporters not to politicize the death of a prominent journalist and outspoken government critic killed in a late-night road accident last week that many believe is suspicious.

#### [US and Russia Watching Closely Uzbekistan's Economic Choices](#)

November 12, 2019, The Diplomat

Tashkent is reopening its negotiations to join the WTO and considering Eurasian Economic Union membership. Russia and the West are watching.

#### [Muraleedharan visits Kazakhstan, holds bilateral talks to strengthen cooperation](#)

November 14, 2019, Outlook

Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan was on a two-day visit to Kazakhstan from November 11 during which he held discussions to strengthen bilateral cooperation in various areas, including in the fields of energy, trade and investment, civil aviation and in the multilateral fora like the UN.

#### [Kazakhstan begins exporting gasoline to European market](#)

November 14, 2019, New Europe

The Atyrau Oil Refinery began shipping the first batch of unleaded gasoline Ai-92 of ecological class K5 to European markets, the press service Kazakhstan's Energy Ministry said on 14 November. The volume of the first export batch is 1,827 tonnes.



### [Kazakhstan offers to host Russia-Ukraine meeting](#)

November 12, 2019, The Washington Post

Kazakhstan's ex-president said Tuesday he offered to host the leaders of Russia and Ukraine for talks on settling the conflict in eastern Ukraine, but the Kremlin was noncommittal about such an encounter.

### [Turkey among Kazakhstan's key strategic partners](#)

November 14, 2019, Azer News

Turkey is one of Kazakhstan's key strategic partners and the ties between the two countries are developing in all areas, Kazakh Prime Minister Askar Mamin told Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan during his official visit to Ankara on November 11.

### [Italy invests \\$6.6 billion in economy of Kazakhstan](#)

November 14, 2019, Akipress

Italy has invested \$6.6 billion in the economy of Kazakhstan by today, the MFA of Kazakhstan said following the first Kazakh-Italian business forum in Nur-Sultan.

### [Turkmenistan, Qatar mull prospects for economic co-op](#)

November 15, 2019, Menafn.com

A meeting was held in the Turkmen Foreign Ministry between the Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan Rashid Meredov with the newly appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the State of Qatar in Turkmenistan Mubarak Abdurrahman Mubarak Al Nasr on Nov. 13, Trendreports referring to the Turkmen ministry.

## **West Asia**

### [Israeli forces kill top Islamic Jihad commander in Gaza air raid](#)

November 12, 2019, Al Jazeera

An Israeli air strike killed a top commander of the Palestinian group Islamic Jihad in the besieged Gaza Strip on Tuesday and fighters responded by firing a barrage of rockets towards Israel. Islamic Jihad's armed wing announced the killing of Bahaa Abu al-Ata in a statement after Israel confirmed it targeted the 42-year-old leader.

### [Tentative Cease-Fire Falters Between Gaza Militants and Israel](#)

November 14, 2019, New York Times

A tense cease-fire between a Gaza militant group and Israel was teetering early Friday after Israel resumed airstrikes in the Palestinian territory following two days of rocket-fire from the enclave, threatening to ignite a broader conflict.

### [Hundreds of Israeli settlers raid Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem](#)

November 14, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Protected by the Israeli police, 244 Israelis today raided Al-Aqsa Mosque, the Palestinian Ministry of Religious Endowment said. According to a statement issued by the ministry, 99 settlers, 97 students from religious schools, 40 government employees and eight intelligence officers raided the holy site.

### [Rouhani warns Muslim countries against 'friendship' with Israel](#)

November 15, 2019, Times of Israel

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani warned Muslim countries against working with Israel in a speech aired Thursday by Iran's IRINN TV news broadcaster.

### [Secret Iranian Network Behind 'Aggressive' U.S. Cyberattacks Exposed In New Report](#)

November 14, 2019, Forbes

The Iranian hacking group behind a Microsoft Outlook attack earlier this year that prompted a U.S. Cyber Command warning is back in the news. The U.S. government has warned of an increasing threat from Iran as tensions escalate in the Gulf.

### [Islamic State is relocating to Afghanistan; it's threat for India too: Iran foreign minister](#)

November 14, 2019, India Today

Days after Islamic State (IS) chief Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi was killed in raids carried out by the United States in Syria, Iran Foreign Minister Javad Zarif has said the terror group is shifting its base to Afghanistan.

### [Iran Announces The Biggest Oil Discovery Of 2019](#)

November 12, 2019, Oilprice.com

Iran has discovered a new oil field with reserves estimated at more than 50 billion barrels, President Hassan Rouhani said, adding the reserves from the field will be added to the country's total, which is currently 150 billion barrels.

### [Saudi Arabia, Yemen's Houthi rebels in indirect peace talks](#)

November 13, 2019, Associated Press

Saudi Arabia and Yemen's Iran-backed rebels are holding indirect, behind-the-scenes talks to end the devastating five-year war in Yemen, officials from both sides have told The Associated Press. The negotiations are taking place with Oman, a Gulf Arab country that borders both Yemen and Saudi Arabia, as mediator.

### [Saudi Arabia issues first permanent residencies to foreigners](#)

November 13, 2019, Gulf News

Saudi Arabia granted 73 foreigners "premium" residency under a new program to attract overseas investment by enabling selected people to buy property and do business without a Saudi sponsor.

### [Germany reduces arms sales to Saudi Arabia](#)

November 13, 2019, Deutsche Welle

Germany drastically cut arms sales to Saudi Arabia in the first six months of 2019 – but did not cut them completely. The government had pledged no more sales after the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi in 2018.

### [Saudi Arabia listed feminism, atheism, and homosexuality as forms of extremism](#)

November 13, 2019, Washington Post

Over the weekend, Saudi Arabia's State Security released a video on Twitter listing feminism, homosexuality, atheism and more than three dozen other categories as forms of extremism.

### [Egypt and UAE to set up \\$20bn joint investment platform](#)

November 14, 2019, Al Jazeera

The Emirates and Saudi Arabia remain key backers of the economic reforms of Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi.

### [Turkey begins deporting suspected ISIS fighters to US, UK, Germany](#)

November 14, 2019, CNN International

Turkey has begun the process of returning alleged foreign ISIS fighters to their home countries, starting with an American, a Briton and seven Germans. Turkey's Interior Ministry said an American who is suspected of being an ISIS fighter was being deported to the US, a British suspect to London and seven Germans to Berlin.

### [Trump, Erdogan Have 'Frank' Discussion About Syria](#)

November 13, 2019, NPR

President Trump had what he called a "wonderful and very productive" meeting with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Wednesday, at the same time as House impeachment hearings got underway on the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue. It was the first meeting between the two presidents since Turkey undertook a military offensive in northern Syria that angered U.S. lawmakers on both sides of the aisle.

### [Qatar crisis: Move to play football in Qatar, signals thaw in Gulf ties](#)

November 13, 2019, Gulf News

Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Bahrain will participate in this month's Gulf Cup football tournament in Qatar, organisers said on Wednesday, signalling a thaw in their two-year feud with Doha. The three Gulf states as well as Egypt cut relations with Qatar in June 2017.

### [Tehran welcomes China's presence in Middle East](#)

November 14, 2019, Al-Monitor

China's special envoy to the Middle East, Zhai Jun, visited Iran recently to discuss key developments in the region with high-ranking Iranian officials. During the Oct. 21 trip, Iranian leaders described relations with China as strategic and called on Beijing to play a more prominent role in the Middle East. They also highlighted the achievements of the so-called "Axis of Resistance" (Iran, Syria and Lebanon's Hezbollah) in altering the balance of power in the region.

### [Lebanon's crisis is 'dangerous', evokes start of '75 war-defense minister](#)

November 14, 2019, Reuters

Lebanon's Defense Minister said on Thursday the country was in a "very dangerous situation" and compared street unrest of recent days to the start of 1975-90 civil war.

### [Over 300 Killed as Hundreds of Thousands Take Part in Iraqi Protests](#)

November 13, 2019, Time

Iraqi protesters draped in their country's flag have been taking part in demonstrations since Oct. 1 that have left at least 319 people dead and at least 8,000 injured according to the U.N.

[Russia establishes airbase in Syria at former US site](#)

November 14, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Russia has announced the arrival of new combat helicopters and the establishment of an airbase at a site which was formerly a US-controlled stronghold in northern Syria, the state-run TASS news agency reported today.

[Erdogan: Turkey won't give up on Russia's S-400](#)

November 14, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Turkey will not give up on Russian S-400 air defense system to acquire US Patriots, the Turkish president said on Wednesday, stressing his country "can buy Patriots too", Anadolu Agency reports.

## United States

### United States

#### [Trump hikes price tag for US forces in Korea almost 500% as Seoul questions alliance](#)

November 15, 2019, CNN

Secretary of Defense Mark Esper landed in South Korea on Thursday to navigate renewed threats from an "enraged" North Korea and newly heightened strain in the alliance with Seoul that congressional aides, lawmakers and Korea experts say has been caused by President Donald Trump.

#### [South Korea, U.S. defense chiefs reaffirm commitment to defend against North Korea](#)

November 15, 2019, Reuters

The defense chiefs of South Korea and the United States reaffirmed on Friday U.S. commitment for the defense of South Korea against North Korea and efforts to denuclearize the North, the South's Defense Minister JeongKyeong-doo said.

#### [Trump impeachment inquiry: Why Ukraine is so important to the US](#)

November 15, 2019, BBC

For much of its 28-year independent history it has been unclear whether Ukraine would end up aligned with Russia or the West. In 2014, after a bloody street revolution, Ukraine's new leaders asserted that the country's future lay with closer association with Europe and the West.

#### [Oil gains as hopes build for OPEC supply curbs; new optimism on U.S.-China trade deal](#)

November 15, 2019, Reuters

Oil prices rose on Friday as OPEC's outlook for oil demand next year fueled hopes that the producer group and its associates will keep a lid on supply when they meet to discuss policy on output next month.

### [The US and China clash over key trade issues as Trump threatens more tariffs](#)

November 15, 2019, Business Insider

President Donald Trump displayed pomp and conviction as he rolled out the first stage of an interim trade agreement with China in October. But weeks later, the terms of that agreement have appeared increasingly uncertain.

### [Amid Tensions, Trump-Erdogan Meeting Changes Little](#)

November 14, 2019, CFR

Trump and Erdogan resolved few of the sharp U.S.-Turkish differences over defense and Middle East policy but the visit likely boosted Erdogan's stature at home.

### [India-US meet: Medical devices, agriculture, exports on discussion agenda](#)

November 13, 2019, Business Standard

Issues pertaining to medical devices, agriculture, and restoration of export incentives by America for domestic players would figure in the meeting of trade ministers of India and the US in Washington, an official said.

### [Pentagon presses for US access to special EU defense projects](#)

November 14, 2019, Defense News

U.S. Deputy Defense Secretary David Norquist stuck up for American defense firms Thursday, saying they should not be cut out of European Union programs to strengthen its industrial base, the European Defence Fund and the Permanent Structured Cooperation program.

### [As Talks With Putin Loom, Ukraine Looks in Vain for U.S. Help](#)

November 14, 2019, The New York Times

Ukrainians are used to hearing the West call for stability in their country. This fall, the roles have reversed.

### [Trump energy pick faces questions on coal, nuclear power](#)

November 14, 2019, Reuters

President Donald Trump's pick to run the U.S. Energy Department faced questions on emissions from energy operations and the future of nuclear power at his U.S. Senate confirmation hearing on Thursday, but was greeted warmly by senators from both parties who want to see him quickly confirmed..

## Europe & Russia

### Europe

#### [Why President Trump Is Playing a Surprising Role in Britain's Upcoming Election](#)

November 14, 2019, Time

President Trump isn't running for office in the U.K., but his presence is nonetheless looming over the country's election, scheduled for Dec. 12.

#### [No more surrender for Brexit Party's Farage in election](#)

November 14, 2019, Reuters

Brexit Party leader Nigel Farage on Thursday rejected demands to further help British Prime Minister Boris Johnson in next month's general election by pulling out of contests with the opposition Labour Party, saying he aimed to win enough seats to hold Johnson to account.

#### [UK Liberal Democrats enter election spending race with big pledges on climate](#)

November 15, 2019, Reuters

Britain's anti-Brexit Liberal Democrats will promise on Friday to spend 100 billion pounds (\$128 billion) on tackling climate change if they win a Dec. 12 election.

#### [MEPs approve Thierry Breton as France's European Commissioner](#)

November 14, 2019, France24

European Parliament members approved French businessman Thierry Breton as France's European Commissioner on Thursday, according to sources, after a grilling final hearing focused on conflict of interest concerns.

#### [Germany narrowly avoids recession despite trade war hit](#)

November 14, 2019, BBC

Germany has narrowly avoided a recession, according to new official data. The country's economy grew by 0.1% in the third quarter of the year after contracting in the previous three months.



## [A Post-Post-Cold-War NATO](#)

November 13, 2019, National Review

It is a bit rich to hear French president Emmanuel Macron announce that NATO is suffering “a brain death” because of “a lack of American commitment”.

## [On Russia and EU enlargement, Macron pushes a radical agenda](#)

November 15, 2019, Reuters

French President Emmanuel Macron’s stark description of the “brain death” of transatlantic military alliance NATO grabbed headlines last week, but his views on Russia and European Union enlargement may well have greater long-term impact.

## **Russia**

### [Putin supports continuing cooperation with OPEC on stabilizing oil market](#)

November 15, 2019, TASS

Russia will continue working together with OPEC to stabilize the oil market not only through output regulation but also in other spheres as well, Russian President Vladimir Putin told reporters after the BRICS summit in Brazil.

### [Russia and US officials discuss New START in Geneva – US Department of State](#)

November 15, 2019, TASS

The eighteenth session of the Bilateral Consultative Commission under the US-Russia New START Treaty was held in Geneva on November 6-13

### [Why Bolivian Politics Suddenly Matters to Putin](#)

November 11, 2019, The Moscow Times

Russian opposition leaders rejoiced at the forced resignation of Bolivian President Evo Morales, while the Russian foreign ministry branded it an “orchestrated coup.” The interest in the drama playing out so far from Moscow is understandable, and not just because Morales had handed lucrative projects to Russian state companies.

### [Russian diplomat calls on US to return control over oil deposits to Syria](#)

November 15, 2019, TASS

Russia's first deputy permanent representative to the UN Dmitry Polyansky said that "Syria should be immediately liberated from illegal foreign military presence"

### [Russia Could Trigger World War III, U.K. Defense Chief Says](#)

November 11, 2019, The Moscow Times

Threats from Russia are escalating, the U.K.'s Chief of the Defense Staff Nick Carter said, as new tools and weapons including disinformation and mercenaries could lead to miscalculations or even war.

### [Russia Tests ISIS Orphans' DNA Ahead of Repatriation](#)

November 15, 2019, The Moscow Times

Russia has taken DNA samples from 49 orphans in Syria to confirm their relations to Russian citizens and clear their return home, Russia's top children's rights official said.

### [MH17 Crash Probe Releases Intercepted Calls Between East Ukraine Rebels and Russian Officials](#)

November 14, 2019, The Moscow Times

A team of international prosecutors has released a new batch of intercepted audio recordings of calls it says are between pro-Russian separatist fighters in eastern Ukraine and high-ranking Russian officials in the weeks leading up to the 2014 downing of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 over eastern Ukraine.

### [Russia Questions Authenticity of Dutch MH17 Phone Intercepts](#)

November 14, 2019, The Moscow Times

The Russian Foreign Ministry said on Thursday that the authenticity of phone intercepts which Dutch investigators said show Moscow's influence over pro-Russian rebels accused of downing Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 was not confirmed.

## Africa & Latin America

### Latin America

#### [BRICS leaders adopt summit declaration, declares president of Brazil](#)

November 14, 2019, TASS

The document presents a shared vision of the BRICS nations on such issues as a reform of the system of international relations, strengthening of international financial and economic architecture, future cooperation.

#### [China reportedly wants to invest in Brazilian port project](#)

November 14, 2019, Al Jazeera

Protesters in Chile expressed scepticism on Monday over the government's announcement it would take steps to change the country's dictatorship-era constitution.

#### [Chile: Protesters reject government plan to rewrite constitution](#)

November 12, 2019, Al Jazeera

Many protesters say any new constitution must include the input of the public through a constitutional assembly.

#### [Mexico grants asylum to Bolivia's Evo Morales](#)

November 12, 2019, Al Jazeera

Mexico granted asylum to Bolivia's former President Evo Morales on Monday as unrest shook the South American country, helping cement the Mexican government's emerging role as a bastion of diplomatic support for left-wing leaders in Latin America.

#### [Bolivia's Interim Leader Pledges to 'Reconstruct Democracy'](#)

November 13, 2019, The New York Times  
The leader, Jeanine Añez Chavez, appointed a new cabinet, but backers of the ousted Evo Morales have promised to disrupt the new government.

#### [Clashes Rock Bolivia as its New Interim Leader is Challenged](#)

November 14, 2019, TIME

Renewed clashes rocked Bolivia's capital Wednesday as the woman who claimed the presidency, a second-tier lawmaker thrust into the post because of a power vacuum, faced challenges to her leadership from supporters of the ousted Evo Morales.

### [Canada hesitates to recognize Bolivia's new president](#)

November 14, 2019, CBC

Trudeau government doesn't follow U.S. in backing politician with a history of anti-Indigenous statements.

### [Oil tankers 'go dark' off Venezuela to evade US sanctions](#)

November 14, 2019, Yahoo Finance

As the Trump administration has clamped down on President Nicolas Maduro with sanctions set on depriving him of easy cash from Venezuela's vast oil reserves, some ship captains and their employers are eager to help the embattled socialist by "going dark" to hide tankers brimming with crude.

### [Mexico has replaced Central America as largest source of migrants taken into custody at the border](#)

November 15, 2019, The Washington Post

Mexico has outpaced the Central American countries of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador to become the largest single source of migrants taken into custody along the U.S.-Mexico border, U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials said

## **Africa**

### [United Nations supports voluntary repatriation of refugees to DR Congo](#)

November 13, 2019, Reliefweb

After around 14,700 refugees opted to return spontaneously to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) by their own means from mid-August, the United Nations, including its Refugee Agency (UNHCR), is now supporting the organized voluntary repatriation of Congolese refugees to their regions of origin.

### [DR Congo doctors hope to eliminate Ebola by end of year](#)

November 12, 2019, Al Jazeera

More than 2,000 people, including 160 health workers, have died since the most recent Ebola outbreak last year.

### [DR Congo forces kill leader of splinter Hutu armed group](#)

November 11, 2019, Al Jazeera

DR Congo army says FDLR leader Musabimana Juvenal killed in a security operation in North Kivu province.

[Africa summit explores progress on issues affecting women](#)

November 15, 2019, Al Jazeera

Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta opened summit by pledging to end female genital mutilation by 2022.

[Zimbabwe distributes new banknotes but keeps curb on withdrawals](#)

November 13, 2019, Moneyweb.za

Zimbabwean banks started distributing low-denominated banknotes on Tuesday to help end a crippling cash shortage, more than a decade since the nation had its own hard currency.



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

[www.delhipolicygroup.org](http://www.delhipolicygroup.org)