



Delhi Policy Group

# DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



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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 48

### ABOUT US

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

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

### DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

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Your comments and feedback can be addressed to Angana Guha Roy at [angana@dpg.org.in](mailto:angana@dpg.org.in).

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## South Asia

### India

#### [India to carry out four military exercises, including with Russia, China, next month](#)

November 28, 2019, The Economic Times

India will carry out major military exercises with several countries, including Russia and China, in different frontiers next month. The exercises are the 'Indra' tri-services with Russia, 'Hand in Hand' with China, 'Mitra Shakti' with Sri Lanka and 'Surya Kiran' with Nepal.

#### [India works to boost ties with Indo-Pacific countries](#)

November 25, 2019, The Times of India

As foreign minister S Jaishankar returns from a meeting of G20 foreign ministers in Nagoya, Japan, India is intensifying its engagement with key countries in the Indo Pacific.

#### [Unending UN Security Council reform process like a Greek tragedy: India](#)

November 26, 2019, Economic Times

India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin said that "sadly", the story of the 11 years since the start of the Intergovernmental Negotiations (IGN) process for Security Council reform, and 40 years since the inscription of the item on the agenda of the General Assembly, "reads more and more like a Sisyphean struggle".

#### [Initial nod for military projects worth Rs 22,800 cr, but Navy to get less sub-killing planes](#)

November 28, 2019, The Times of India

The government on Thursday gave preliminary approval to defence procurement projects worth Rs 22, 800 crore but slashed the Navy's long-standing proposal to acquire 10 more Poseidon-8I "submarine-hunting" aircraft to just six planes amidst the severe fund crunch being faced by the armed forces.

#### [India pays Russia \\$1.2 billion in technology transfer fees for T-90S tanks](#)

November 27, 2019, Defense News

The contract was signed with little fanfare earlier this month. The deal stipulates that Russian original equipment manufacturer UralVagonZavod and arms export agency Rosoboronexport will be paid \$1.2 billion for technology transfer, while

India's state-owned Ordnance Factory Board will be paid \$1.92 billion for local production of 464 T-90S tanks.

#### [S Jaishankar meets Japan's NSA, discusses foreign policy ties](#)

November 25, 2019, Economic Times

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday met Japanese National Security Advisor Shigeru Kitamura and discussed upon India and Japan foreign policy cooperation. Kitamura is on his first visit to India after being appointed as the NSA.

#### [India crosses 300 foreign satellite launch mark](#)

November 27, 2019, Economic Times

India crossed the milestone of launching 300 foreign satellites on Wednesday morning when its rocket Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle-XL (PSLV-XL) puts into orbit 13 nano satellites from the US.

### **Pakistan**

#### [Army announces major transfers, postings](#)

November 26, 2019, The News

With promotion of two Major Generals, the Pakistan Army announced postings and transfers in military's top brass. Major General Ali Amir Awan and Major General Mohammad Saeed have been promoted as three-star Generals.

#### [Govt ready for widespread administrative changes: Party unhappy with way Punjab working](#)

November 25, 2019, The News

The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf leaders expressed reservations over the Punjab government's administrative matters in a meeting of the party's core committee which was presided over by Prime Minister Imran Khan. Some committee members, particularly from Punjab, aired their reservations on the performance of Usman Buzdar and noted that he had not been able to launch any significant initiative on his own for the largest province.

#### [Huge reserves of oil, gas found in Sindh](#)

November 24, 2019, The News

New reserves of oil and gas were found in Sindh during the drilling explorations of Shale gas and Tight oil deposits. They claimed to have found 95 trillion cubic feet (TCF) Shale gas and 14 billion stock tank barrel (BSTB) Tight oil reserves that are enough to meet country's requirement for the next 90 years. The Oil and Gas

Development Company Limited (OGDCL) would start exploration from the next month.

#### ['WB restores budgetary support to Pakistan'](#)

November 23, 2019, The News

The World- Bank has restored budgetary support to Pakistan on account of strengthening of economic stability. Both ADB and WB had suspended budgetary support to Pakistan during 2017 due to rising macroeconomic imbalances that had arisen in the economy at that time.

#### [China, US spar over CPEC](#)

November 23, 2019, The News

The Trump administration urged Pakistan to ask tough questions from China on the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Alice Wells launched a blistering attack on the multi-billion dollar project.

#### [First indigenous fast attack craft launched](#)

November 28, 2019, Dawn

The launch ceremony of the first indigenous Fast Attack Craft (Missile)/FAC (M)-4, which is being built for Pakistan Navy, was held at Karachi Shipyard & Engineering Works (K&SEW) on November 27.

#### [Asim Bajwa made chairman of newly created CPEC Authority](#)

November 27, 2019, Dawn

The Pakistan Government appointed retired Lt Gen Asim Saleem Bajwa as chairman of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor Authority (CPECA) amid the opposition's criticism of formation of the authority.

#### [Pakistan army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa granted 6-month](#)

November 29, 2019, Business Insider

Pakistan Army chief Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa on Thursday got a six-month conditional extension from the Supreme Court, ending an unprecedented legal wrangle that shook the government of Prime Minister Imran Khan and pitted the powerful military against the judiciary.

## Afghanistan

### [Trump visits Afghanistan, says Taliban want to make deal](#)

November 29, 2019, Tolo News

President Donald Trump paid a surprise Thanksgiving visit to meet US troops in Afghanistan, where he announced the U.S. and Taliban have been engaged in ongoing peace talks and said he believes the Taliban wants a ceasefire.

### [Afghan Peace Should be Inclusive: Indian Envoy](#)

November 28, 2019, Tolo News

Speaking at an event on the Afghan peace process at the Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies (AISS), Ambassador Vinay Kumar said that New Delhi has had serious talks with Washington about peace in Afghanistan, and he thinks Afghans should have full ownership of the peace process.

### [15 Afghan Civilians Killed In 'Taliban' Roadside Blast](#)

November 27, 2019, RFERL

Fifteen civilians, including women and children, were killed and two others wounded when their vehicle hit a roadside mine in the northern Afghan province of Kunduz. The region is the scene of regular clashes between Taliban fighters and Afghan forces.

### [Iran hosts Taliban delegation to talk Afghan peace](#)

November 27, 2019, Al-Monitor

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif confirmed that Tehran hosted a delegation of Taliban leaders to discuss the peace process in Afghanistan.

### [Afghan Forces Receive Five More MD530 Helicopters From US](#)

November 26, 2019, Tolo News

The Afghan Air Force received five MD-530 Cayuse Warrior light attack helicopters on November 22. The helicopters were delivered to Kandahar via a Boeing 747 cargo aircraft on October 27 and were reassembled for active service.

### [Indian women and children among 900 ISIS affiliates who surrendered to Afghan forces](#)

November 25, 2019, Khamaa Press

A group of ten Indian women and children, all relatives of ISIS affiliates have also surrendered to Afghan forces in eastern Nangarhar province. At least 900 ISIS affiliates including foreigners have surrendered to the Afghan forces since the launch of offensive on 12th of November.

## Bangladesh

### [Bangladesh army chief to pay rare visit to Myanmar](#)

November 26, 2019, AA News

Bangladesh's Army Chief is scheduled to pay a weeklong visit to neighboring Myanmar early next month amid an ongoing dispute about repatriating of Rohingya refugees. "The purpose of the visit is to improve existing military ties of both countries and find out the scopes of cooperation with each other," said Lt. Col. Abdullah Ibn Zaid, head of the army's Inter Services Public Relation (ISPR).

### [Bangladesh blasts Myanmar for propaganda against Dhaka](#)

November 24, 2019, Dhaka Tribune

In a strongly-worded press statement issued on Sunday, the Foreign Ministry placed arguments, justifying that Bangladesh is always prepared to begin the repatriation.

### [China to Play Important Role in Bangladesh's First 'Smart City'](#)

November 27, 2019, Benar News

A Sino-Bangladeshi joint venture company will build a U.S. \$72-million water distribution network for Bangladesh's first "smart city," which is to be constructed on the outskirts of Dhaka, officials said. The Bangladeshi and Chinese governments announced earlier this year that firms from China would play a major role in creating Bangladesh's "biggest planned township", a 6,150-acre (2,489-hectare), high-tech center in the northeast suburbs of the capital.

### [ADB provides \\$150m for skills development in Bangladesh](#)

November 25, 2019, The Daily Star

Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Bangladesh government signed an agreement of \$150 million in loan to continue support in skill development training.

## Nepal

### [Foreign Ministers of Nepal and Russia meet in Moscow](#)

November 26, 2019, My Republica

Minister for Foreign Affairs Pradeep Kumar Gyawali held delegation-level talks with his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov in Moscow on Monday.



### [Russia, Nepal agree to sign military cooperation agreement – foreign minister](#)

November 25, 2019, TASS

Russia and Nepal have agreed to sign an agreement in the sphere of military and technical cooperation, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Monday on the outcomes of the talks with his Nepalese colleague Pradeep Gyawali.

### [Nepal Seeks Full Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Membership – Foreign Minister](#)

November 27, 2019, Sputnik News

Nepal seeks full membership of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) where it is currently a dialogue partner, the country's foreign minister, Pradeep Kumar Gyawali said.

### [India, Nepal must seek mutually acceptable solutions to controversy over new map](#)

November 27, 2019, Indian Express

The India-Nepal border is unique in that neither country has allowed a political boundary to interrupt the age-old traffic of people who share ties of kinship, religion and culture.

## **Bhutan**

### [Foreign minister concludes visit to India](#)

November 25, 2019, Kuensel

Foreign minister Dr Tandi Dorji visited India at the invitation of India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar. The two ministers discussed the entire range of Bhutan-India relations and reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthen the special friendship that exists between the two countries, a press release from the foreign ministry stated.

### [Bhutan and Canada hold first biennial consultations](#)

November 26, 2019, Kuensel

Bhutan and Canada held its first biennial consultations on Monday in the capital, Thimphu following the signing of the memorandum of understanding, to establish a bilateral consultation mechanism between the two foreign ministries in December 2018.

## Sri Lanka

### [With Sri Lanka, Delhi must be seen as a friend of all communities](#)

November 29, 2019, The Indian Express

The return of the Rajapaksas has been widely feared as heralding the renewal of authoritarian rule in Sri Lanka. The election of a strong interlocutor, however, also offers Delhi an opportunity to explore the prospects for a reconstruction of the relationship.

### [Sri Lankan President arrives in India on an official visit](#)

November 28, 2019, The Colombo Page

Newly-elected Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa arrived in New Delhi Thursday (28) on a three-day official on the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. President Rajapaksa is scheduled to hold extensive talks with Prime Minister Modi on Friday on deepening further expanding ties between the two countries.

### [Sri Lanka won't do anything that will harm India's interests: Gotabaya Rajapaksa](#)

November 26, 2019, The Hindu

Newly elected Sri Lankan President Gotabaya Rajapaksa said ahead of his visit to New Delhi that he wanted to work very closely with both India and China.

### [US and Japanese envoys call on Sri Lankan President](#)

November 22, 2019, The Colombo Page

The United States Ambassador in Sri Lanka Alaina B. Teplitz called on President Gotabaya Rajapaksa at the President's Office.

### [In Gotabaya's Lanka: Many fear the rise of majoritarian sentiment in Sri Lanka](#)

November 28, 2019, The Indian Express

In Sri Lanka, with the longest history of universal suffrage in Asia, every election excites the nation, and that will be the case with the upcoming parliamentary polls.

### [Sri Lanka President wants to reconsider leasing Hambantota Port to China for 99 years](#)

November 26, 2019, The Colombo Page

Sri Lanka President Gotabaya Rajapaksa says leasing the Hambantota port to China for 99 years was a mistake made by the previous government.

## East & South East Asia

### China

#### [Washington's browbeating over 5G wears thin: China Daily editorial](#)

November 28, 2019, China Daily

In what some are viewing as backpedaling from her previous stance on the Chinese telecommunications company Huawei, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Wednesday that Europe should work out a common strategy toward the rollout of the next generation 5G mobile network.

#### [Australia's spy stories defy belief: China Daily editorial](#)

November 28, 2019, China Daily

Some Australian media outlets are indulging in conspiracy theories in their attempt to hype up a China threat.

#### [US meddling in Hong Kong condones violent crime: Editorial](#)

November 28, 2019, China Daily

As expected, the US president signed into law legislation in support of those trying to create chaos in Hong Kong. His administration had already politicized the unrest in the special administrative region as part of its efforts to contain China and put pressure on Beijing, so it would have been a surprise if he had chosen to forego the opportunity to ratchet up the "maximum pressure" he so loves which was handed to him on a plate by Congress.

#### [Negotiators display their faith in a deal: China Daily editorial](#)

November 26, 2019, China Daily

The deadline for the United States and China to reach an agreement is looming ever closer, with further US tariffs set to come into effect on Dec 15. Although the US president could push back that deadline, as he did in October, there has been no indication yet that he will. And with a date and venue for their highly anticipated phase one deal having bitten the dust and no alternatives being forthcoming, there have been growing concerns that the feel-good consensus that some kind of deal was on the cards may prove vulnerable to the ravages of time.

[Result of district council election skewed by intimidation, dirty tricks: China Daily editorial](#)

November 25, 2019, China Daily

The result of Sunday's district council election marks a setback for Hong Kong's democratic development, as the results were skewed by the illegal activities of the opposition camp to the benefit of their candidates.

[US meddling in South China Sea to no avail: China Daily editorial](#)

November 25, 2019, China Daily

In a bid to contain China's peaceful rise, the United States has made the South China Sea a major venue for maintaining high strategic pressure on China in recent years, and for this purpose, the US Navy has increased the frequency with which its warships sail to China's doorstep.

[US has to exercise caution in using newly minted Hong Kong law](#)

November 25, 2019, Global Times

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday signed the so-called Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act, another show of US' nasty long-arm jurisdiction and hegemony.

[Hong Kong society needs to jointly resist US provocation](#)

November 28, 2019, Global Times

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday signed the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act. This amounts to typical US interference in China's Hong Kong affairs.

[Xinjiang gov't spokesperson slams foreign media for hyping so-called "leaked documents"](#)

November 28, 2019, Xinhua

A spokesperson for the government of northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region on Thursday said the recent hyping of fake news by some foreign media and organizations regarding the so-called "leaked documents" on Xinjiang is in disregard of the facts and absolutely unacceptable.

[China, Pakistan to hold joint maritime drill](#)

November 28, 2019, Xinhua

China and Pakistan will stage a joint maritime exercise in Pakistan in January 2020, China's Ministry of National Defense announced Thursday.

[China summons U.S. ambassador to lodge representations, protest against U.S. signing of HK-related act into law](#)

November 28, 2019, Xinhua

Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Le Yucheng on Thursday summoned U.S. Ambassador to China Terry Branstad to lodge stern representations and strong protest against the United States signing of the so-called Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act of 2019 into law.

[Chinese enterprises visit Pakistan to seek more cooperation opportunities under CPEC](#)

November 26, 2019, Xinhua

A Chinese business delegation of 22 enterprises is visiting Pakistan to communicate with local government officials and companies, seeking more cooperation opportunities under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

## Japan

[Japan won't sign Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership pact if India doesn't join](#)

November 29, 2019, The Straits Times

Japan is not considering signing a regional trade pact without India, the top Japanese negotiator said on Friday (Nov 29), ahead of a series of diplomatic exchanges in the coming weeks that include a visit to Delhi by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

[Japan, S Korea start working-level trade talks](#)

November 29, 2019, Japan Today

Japan and South Korea started working-level talks Thursday as part of efforts to address a bilateral trade row, a senior Japanese government official said.

[S Korean envoy to Japan seeks 'comprehensive' fix to wartime issues](#)

November 28, 2019, Japan Today

South Korea's ambassador to Japan called for the neighboring countries to find a "comprehensive" solution to disagreements over wartime issues.

[Diet passes bill to tighten foreign investment rules for security](#)

November 25, 2019, Japan Today

The Diet has passed a bill to tighten regulations on foreign investments in Japanese companies related to national security, including arms production and

nuclear energy, following similar steps implemented in Europe and the United States.

#### [U.S. troop presence in Japan a concern for Russia: Lavrov](#)

November 24, 2019, Japan Today

The presence of U.S. soldiers on Japanese soil is hindering closer ties between Tokyo and Russia and remains of concern to Moscow, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said.

#### [Japan, S Korea agree to summit next month](#)

November 23, 2019, Japan Today

Japan and South Korea agreed on Saturday to hold formal talks next month, taking a step towards improving relations strained by decades of acrimony over their wartime past and exacerbated by a simmering trade dispute.

#### [Extension of S Korea-Japan intel pact likely to irritate N Korea](#)

November 23, 2019, Japan Today

A conditional extension of a military intelligence-sharing pact between Japan and South Korea is likely to irritate the North, which could cast a further shadow over its already stalled nuclear talks with the United States.

#### [Japan's promotion of coal-fired power plants leads to U.N. rejecting Abe's request to address September climate summit](#)

November 29, 2019, The Japan Times

The United Nations rejected Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's request to speak at its climate summit last September, government sources said, apparently due to the government's promotion of coal-fired power plants.

#### [Next SDF deployment will only serve U.S. interests, not Japan's](#)

November 28, 2019, The Japan Times

From my long experience serving in the government, there is no way we can send more Self-Defense Forces vessels and planes to the waterways in the Middle East because they can do almost nothing, and it would be a mistake to dispatch the SDF under the dubious legal basis of "research and investigation."

#### [Japan stresses to China importance of free, open Hong Kong](#)

November 25, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi told his Chinese counterpart that he is highly concerned about the Hong Kong situation and it is important that a free and open

Hong Kong keeps on prospering under the "one country, two systems" model, a Japanese government official said.

## Korea

### [China 'Ready to Accept N.Korea as Nuclear Power'](#)

November 28, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

China appears ready to accept North Korea as a nuclear power, according to a report by the Brookings Institution. The conservative think tank recommended that the U.S. should no longer rely on China to uphold sanctions against North Korea since Beijing has begun to deviate from the goal of North Korean denuclearization.

### [N. Korea hails 'successful test of super-large multiple rocket launcher'](#)

November 29, 2019, The Korea Times

North Korea said it successfully tested a super-large multiple rocket launcher's successive firing system under leader Kim Jong-un's guidance in the launch of two projectiles the previous day.

### [NK leader inspects border military unit, orders firing drills](#)

November 25, 2019, The Korea Times

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has inspected a front-line military unit on an island just north of the western sea border with South Korea and ordered firing drills, Pyongyang's official news agency said.

### ['US doubts Korea's reliability as ally'](#)

November 28, 2019, The Korea Times

Evans Revere, Brookings senior fellow and former acting U.S. assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, says the U.S. has raised serious questions about South Korea as an alliance partner after it threatened to pull out of the Korea-Japan General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA), an intelligence-sharing pact that the U.S. sees as integral to its efforts to contain China.

### [S.Korea Protests Against N.Korean Missile Test](#)

November 29, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

The South Korean military on Thursday lodged a rare protest against North Korea firing two short-range projectiles, presumably from a super-large multiple rocket launcher, into the East Sea.

### [Korea to Take over Air Traffic Control South of Jeju](#)

November 29, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

Korea is set to take over traffic control in an air corridor south of Jeju Island, where accidents have been feared due to the intermingling of the Korean, Chinese and Japanese air traffic control systems.

### [Korea, Malaysia to upgrade relations to strategic partnership](#)

November 28, 2019, The Korea Herald

President Moon Jae-in and Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad held a summit meeting in Seoul, agreeing in principle to upgrade bilateral relations to that of strategic partners next year. At the summit, Moon praised Malaysia's rapid economic growth and expanding South Korea-Malaysia relations, going on to express hopes for further cooperation.

## **Southeast Asia**

### [ISIS could move to Southeast Asia after losing territory in Iraq and Syria, Malaysian minister warns](#)

November 28, 2019, Business Insider

ISIS is looking for a new base of operations – and Southeast Asia might just be it, Malaysia's home minister has warned.

### [Peace, prosperity, people: ASEAN, South Korea vow to build stronger ties](#)

November 28, 2019, The Jakarta Post

ASEAN and South Korean leaders concluded their two-day summit on Tuesday, agreeing not only to step up economic and sociocultural cooperation but also to support denuclearization and permanent peace in the contentious Korean Peninsula.

### [China, ASEAN vow to deepen pragmatic cooperation in security](#)

November 28, 2019, Xinhuanet

China and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) pledged on Thursday to further strengthen pragmatic cooperation to safeguard regional security.

### [Damage control required for ASEAN-US relations](#)

November 28, 2019, East Asia Forum

The 35th ASEAN Summit and its related meetings ended on 5 November 2019 with stronger ASEAN solidarity and centrality. This was in part due to US President



Donald Trump's decision not to partake in the summitry and his high-handed manner in responding to the Southeast Asian diplomatic process.

#### [India, Singapore strengthen military ties](#)

November 26, 2019, Straits Times

India has further cemented its military ties with Singapore with its offer for the city state's armed forces to test missiles and rockets at its integrated test range in Chandipur. The two nations have also signed a letter of intent that concludes a memorandum of understanding to allow the use of the test range.

#### [Indonesia proposes to replace public servants with AI](#)

November 28, 2019, Eand T

The current top four tiers in government agencies will be reduced to two as part of Widodo's plans to transition the country towards higher-end manufacturing such as electric vehicles.

#### [Myanmar begins court martial after probe into Rohingya atrocities](#)

November 27, 2019, Al Jazeera

Myanmar's military began a rare court martial of soldiers following a probe into alleged atrocities during a crackdown on Rohingya Muslims, a spokesman said, as the country prepares to face genocide charges at an international court in The Hague.

#### [Myanmar may have chemical weapons stockpile: US](#)

November 26, 2019, India Post

Myanmar is in breach of a global convention banning chemical weapons and may have a stockpile left over from the 1980s, the United States said on Monday. The southeast Asian nation may still have weapons at a "historic" facility where mustard gas was produced, a senior State Department official told the annual meeting of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

#### [Exclusive: China secretly building landing strip near Myanmar](#)

November 26, 2019, DNA

According to Defence sources, China is secretly building a landing strip in Sanchahe, south-west Myanmar, through which the Chinese Army can comfortably use fighter aircraft, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV), and transport aircraft. This comes as a shocking bit of news since it is generally held that the relationship between India and China had improved post-Doklam crisis when Beijing had really been arming itself to its teeth against New Delhi.

### [Mon refugees continue to flee Myanmar to Thailand](#)

November 29, 2019, The Thaiger

Myanmar's ethnic Mon civilians continued pouring across the border into Thailand yesterday, fleeing from the fighting between Burmese troops and rebels on the border near the western province of Kanchanaburi.

### [Israel denounces atrocities against Rohingya in Myanmar after diplomat's tweet](#)

November 28, 2019, The Times of Israel

The Foreign Ministry condemned the atrocities that occurred in Myanmar against the Rohingya Muslims after an Israeli diplomat tweeted support for government officials there facing a genocide trial in international court.

## Central & West Asia

### Central Asia

#### [Chinese repression of Muslims in Xinjiang echoes across Central Asia](#)

November 23, 2019, The Times of Central Asia

The growing anti-China sentiment in Central Asia countries, largely caused by Beijing's repressive policies towards the Muslim population of Xinjiang, is an increasing impediment to China's economic expansion in the region.

#### [Tajikistan might become next US target in Central Asia for Washington's political ambitions](#)

November 28, 2019, EU Reporter

Though the US impact and investments in Tajikistan's economy cannot be underestimated, history has assured that nothing is free and there is a certain price for everything. Tajikistan, a small country in Central Asia with poor economy but strong authoritative political system, could become a perfect potential target for US so-called democratization policy.

#### [Turkish defense company starts subsidiary in Kazakhstan](#)

November 28, 2019, Anadolu Agency

In a statement the company said it eyes close contact with its current and prospective clients in Central Asia with the establishment of Otokar Central Asia Ltd. at the Astana International Financial Center in the Kazakh capital Nur-Sultan.

#### [Turkmenistan, Italy discuss prospects for industrial cooperation](#)

November 27, 2019, Azer News

Italian ambassador to Turkmenistan Diego Ungaro has met with Turkmen Deputy Prime Minister Bayramgeldy Ovezov, who is responsible for the industrial and communications issues.

#### [Turkmenistan, EU discuss economic, humanitarian issues](#)

November 26, 2019, Azer News

The EU Special Representative for Central Asia, Peter Burian, and Governor of Turkmenistan's Ahal region, Serdar Berdimuhamedov, have discussed collaboration in the economic and humanitarian spheres, including the partnership between the business circles of Turkmenistan and the EU, according to Turkmen Foreign Ministry's official website.

### [Putin Arrives In Kyrgyzstan For Regional Security Summit](#)

November 28, 2019, Rferl.org

Russian President Vladimir Putin has arrived in Kyrgyzstan to take part in discussions on international and regional security issues with five other heads of state.

### [Kyrgyzstan officially passes chairmanship in CSTO Collective Security Council to Russia](#)

November 28, 2019, Kazinform

Kyrgyzstan has officially passed chairmanship in the CSTO Collective Security Council to Russia.

### [Uzbekistan aiming to lure Japanese investment with presidential visit](#)

November 26, 2019, The Japan Times

Uzbekistan aimingThe upcoming visit to Japan by Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev will hopefully boost Japanese private-sector investment in the Central Asian country, Deputy Prime Minister Aziz Abdukhakimov has said.to lure Japanese investment with presidential visit.

### [Indian observers to monitor Uzbekistan polls amid ongoing reforms](#)

November 26, 2019, The Economic Times

As many as 12 election observers from India will visit Uzbekistan, a key partner in Central Asia, for its Parliamentary elections next month amid President Shavkat Mirziyoyev's efforts to bring in transparent and efficient governance.

## West Asia

### [Iraq in turmoil as 45 shot dead by security forces in protests](#)

November 29, 2019, The Guardian

Iraqi security forces have shot dead at least 45 protesters after demonstrators stormed and torched an Iranian consulate in Najaf, in what could mark a turning point in the uprising against the Tehran-backed authorities.

### [Iraqi protesters burn down Iran's consulate in Najaf](#)

November 27, 2019, Associated Press

Anti-government protesters burned down an Iranian consulate building in southern Iraq on Wednesday, while six protesters were killed by security forces who fired live rounds amid ongoing violence in the country, Iraqi officials said Wednesday.

[Eight with CIA links arrested for inciting deadly protests](#)

November 27, 2019, Al Jazeera

Iranian security agents arrested at least eight people linked to the CIA during last week's deadly unrest over petrol price increases, the official news agency IRNA reported on Wednesday.

[Israeli government to expand global arms exports in 2020](#)

November 27, 2019, Middle East Monitor

The Israeli government is aiming to increase the volume of Israel's defence exports, reported Globes, which has revealed the main points of the plan for the first time.

[India consul general in United States calls for 'Israeli model' in Kashmir](#)

November 26, 2019, Middle East Eye

0At a private event on Saturday in New York City, Sandeep Chakravorty, India's consul-general to the city, told Kashmiri Hindus and Indian nationals that India will build settlements modelled after Israel for the return of the Hindu population to Kashmir.

[Cost of India refinery project with Aramco, ADNOC estimated at \\$70 billion](#)

November 28, 2019, Livemint

The cost of a giant oil and petrochemicals refinery project to be built jointly by Saudi Aramco and Abu Dhabi National Oil Co. (ADNOC) in India is expected to reach \$70 billion, WAM news agency reported on Wednesday.

[Cabinet gives post-facto approval to pact with Saudi Arabia to set up strategic partnership council](#)

November 27, 2019, Moneycontrol

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday accorded post-facto approval to an agreement India signed with Saudi Arabia last month to set up a strategic partnership council.

[China's imports of Saudi Arabian crude hit new high, Venezuelan inflows vanish](#)

November 25, 2019, S&P Global

China's crude imports from Saudi Arabia surged 76% year on year to hit new high of 1.99 million b/d in October, while there were no arrivals from Venezuela in the month, according to the latest data from the General Administration of Customs showed Monday.

[United States restarts Islamic State patrols in Syria](#)

November 27, 2019, The Times

US troops have restarted operations against Islamic State in eastern Syria after six weeks of chaos that followed President Trump's order to withdraw.

[Turkey tests S-400 radar, says it wants more locally-made weapons](#)

November 26, 2019, The Jerusalem Post

Turkey showed that it thinks nothing of US concerns about its acquisition of the S-400 by testing the radar against F-16s on Monday.

[US rejected UAE request to purchase F-35 fighter jets](#)

November 26, 2019, Middle East Monitor

The United States has rejected a request by the United Arab Emirates to purchase the F-35 Stealth Fighters, Israeli Channel 13 reported. According to the news station Pentagon officials said they would not allow the sale of F-35 Stealth Fighters to the UAE in order to preserve Israel's qualitative military edge (QME).

[Saudi-led coalition says it freed 200 Houthi prisoners](#)

November 26, 2019, Middle East Monitor

A Saudi-led military coalition said on Tuesday it had freed 200 prisoners from the Iran-aligned Houthi movement in a step that could further efforts to end the nearly five-year war in Yemen.

## United States

### United States

[President Trump surprises US troops in Afghanistan on Thanksgiving, marking his 1st trip to that country](#)

November 28, 2019, ABC News

He visited troops at Bagram Air Field to thank the men and women for their service, calling them "courageous American warriors."

[Trump Visits Afghanistan and Says He Reopened Talks With Taliban](#)

November 28, 2019, The New York Times

President Trump paid an unannounced Thanksgiving visit to American troops in Afghanistan on Thursday and declared that he had reopened peace negotiations with the Taliban less than three months after scuttling talks in hopes of ending 18 years of war.

[Thousands in Hong Kong praise Trump with 'Thanksgiving' rally as more protests loom](#)

November 29, 2019, The Guardian

Thousands of protesters in Hong Kong, some draped in American flags, have staged a "Thanksgiving" rally in the heart of the city after the approval by Donald Trump of human rights legislation aimed at protecting them.

[China Condemns U.S. Over Hong Kong. That Won't Stop Trade Talks.](#)

November 28, 2019, The New York Times

Legislation signed by Trump poses a direct challenge to Beijing's rule, but trade and the softening Chinese economy present bigger problems.

[Trump directed Ukraine quid pro quo, key witness says](#)

November 23, 2019, Associated Press

Ambassador Gordon Sondland declared to impeachment investigators Wednesday that President Donald Trump and his lawyer Rudy Giuliani explicitly sought a "quid pro quo" with Ukraine, leveraging an Oval Office visit for political investigations of Democrats. But he also came to believe the trade involved much more.

### [What Trump wants from global trade](#)

November 28, 2019, BBC

President Donald Trump's approach to international trade is driven to a large extent by his belief that the United States is being unfairly treated by other countries.

### [United States accuses Venezuela, Cuba of exacerbating regional unrest](#)

November 28, 2019, Yahoo News

The United States on Wednesday accused its adversaries Venezuela and Cuba of fomenting strife in South America, where a number of countries have seen major protests.

### [Time Is Running Out for Trump's North Korean Diplomacy, Analysts Say](#)

November 28, 2019, The New York Times

Analysts fear a looming crisis as North Korea warns of a Dec. 31 deadline for a new proposal from the United States on denuclearization.

### [Apple, Bowing to Russian Pressure, Recognizes Crimea Annexation on Map](#)

November 28, 2019, The New York Times

The tech giant, following Google and others, has bowed to Russian demands that its apps not show Crimea as belonging to Ukraine on digital maps seen in Russia.

### [After early success, Kamala Harris's presidential bid is fizzling](#)

November 29, 2019, The Washington Post

The California Democrat won high marks in last week's debate, but indecision and dwindling funds are weighing down her campaign.

### [Stocks hesitate just short of new peaks as clouds darken over U.S.-China ties](#)

November 29, 2019, Reuters

Asian markets slipped on Friday leaving global shares just short of an all-time peak as investors turned cautious, fearing a new U.S. law backing Hong Kong protesters could torpedo efforts to end the U.S.-China trade war.

### [U.S. economy growing modestly, labor market still tight: Fed report](#)

November 28, 2019, Reuters

The U.S. economy expanded modestly from October to mid-November and the outlook for growth was generally positive while labor markets remained tight across the country, the Federal Reserve said in a report.



[The U.S.-China divide isn't just about trade.](#)

November 26, 2019, The New York Times

But there are some tectonic changes underway behind the Trump noise machine that demand a serious national discussion, like the future of U.S.-China relations. Yet it's not happening — because all we talk about is Donald Trump.

## Europe & Russia

### Europe

#### [New EU chief vows to fight climate threat, boost growth](#)

November 27, 2019, Reuters

Germany's Ursula von der Leyen vowed on Wednesday to step up the fight against climate change while expanding economic growth as EU lawmakers granted final approval for the bloc's new executive she will lead from December 1.

#### [European Parliament declares climate emergency amid momentum for a Green Deal](#)

November 28, 2019, The Washington Post

The largely symbolic move comes as the new European Commission is under growing pressure to take more decisive action on climate change.

#### [Germany to tighten foreign investment rules for critical sectors](#)

November 28, 2019, Reuters

Germany plans to screen non-European investors that want to buy into firms in high-tech sectors such as robotics and artificial intelligence in a move widely seen as targeting Chinese state-backed investors.

#### [Germany's Social Democrats to pick new leader to decide fate of Merkel coalition](#)

November 28, 2019, Reuters

Germany's Social Democrats (SPD) on Saturday will choose a new leader whose first task will be to decide whether to quit their ruling coalition with Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives, possibly triggering a snap election.

#### [Angela Merkel Demands European 5G Agency for Joint China Approach](#)

November 27, 2019, Bloomberg

Angela Merkel said Europe should set up an agency that certifies components for the region's fifth-generation wireless networks, in a bid to address safety concerns over equipment from Chinese suppliers including Huawei Technologies Co.

#### [France and Germany propose EU overhaul after Brexit upheaval](#)

November 26, 2019, Reuters

France and Germany put aside bilateral tensions on Tuesday to call for an overhaul of the EU, which has been buffeted over the past decade by a euro zone debt crisis, an influx of migrants and refugees, rising eurosceptic populism and Brexit.

### [Merkel ally calls for better Franco-German ties after NATO row](#)

November 24, 2019, Reuters

Germany and France must bury their differences and pursue a constructive partnership with concrete ideas, an ally of German Chancellor Angela Merkel said after a public spat between the two European Union heavyweights over NATO.

### [Brexit could cut UK car production in half](#)

November 28, 2019, CNN

UK auto production is already plummeting and Brexit could make things even worse, limiting annual output to just 1 million cars, about half what the industry was planning to make in 2020 just a few years ago.

### [European shares continue climb on U.S.-China trade optimism](#)

November 27, 2019, Reuters

European stocks rose for the fourth session on Thursday, as telecom stocks rose after a report that Deutsche Telekom is examining a possible merger with France's Orange, while hopes for an end to the U.S.-China trade dispute also helped the mood.

### [Europe's Backlash Against Huawei Has Arrived](#)

November 27, 2019, Foreign Policy

Resistance to Chinese technology is growing in Germany—and the ripple effects could reach across the continent.

## Russia

### [Russia's Taymyr plan: Arctic coal for India risks pollution](#)

November 29, 2019, BBC

Natural riches come in two conflicting types in Russia's Arctic north: valuable minerals and spectacular wildlife. But sadly for many threatened species, the decline in Arctic sea ice has created a new economic opportunity for Russia in their remote habitat.

### [France's Macron Denies Accepting Putin's Anti-Missile Proposal](#)

November 29, 2019, The Moscow Times

French President Emmanuel Macron denied having accepted a Russian proposal to impose a moratorium on missile deployments in Europe, but said it was important the Kremlin initiative not be simply dismissed.

### [Russia, Syria Agree to Restore Ancient Palmyra](#)

November 28, 2019, The Moscow Times

Russian and Syrian state museums have signed two agreements to begin restoring the ancient city of Palmyra after it was heavily damaged by the Islamic State, the State Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg has said.

### [U.S. Accuses Russia of Helping Syria Cover up Chemical Weapons Attack](#)

November 28, 2019, The Moscow Times

The United States accused Russia of helping Syria conceal the use of banned toxic munitions in the civil war by undermining the work of the global chemical weapons agency trying to identify those responsible.

### [US says Russian troops are destabilizing Libya](#)

November 26, 2019, CNN

David Schenker, the State Department's assistant secretary for near eastern affairs, told reporters that Russia is deploying troops in "significant" numbers to support Libyan Gen. Khalifa Haftar, whose Libyan National Army launched an April offensive to seize Tripoli from the UN-backed Government of National Accord.

### [Russia Ignores OPEC Commitment Two Weeks Before Landmark Meeting](#)

November 27, 2019, Oil Price.com

For yet another month, Russia is producing above its quota under the production cut deal, potentially complicating next week's OPEC+ meeting set to discuss how to proceed with the pact.

### [What is behind the Russia-Hamas rapprochement?](#)

November 27, 2019, Al Jazeera

In recent weeks there has been a considerable increase in the number of official high-level exchanges between the Russian government and Hamas. But could this deepening relationship help the latter break the isolation imposed on it by the United States and its allies?

### [Russian Rocket Launcher for UAE Military Satellite](#)

November 28, 2019, The Moscow Times

The Russian-made Soyuz ST rocket launcher will be used for the Falcon Eye 2 launch next year, replacing the European Vega launcher which was used in a failed launch of the UAE's Falcon Eye 1 satellite earlier this year.

### [Russia Refuses State Funding for New Arctic Gas Projects](#)

November 28, 2019, The Moscow Times

The Russian Finance Ministry has not included any of natural gas company Novatek's desired projects in its 2020 draft budget. The firm has been pushing hard for the allocation of around 124 billion rubles (\$1.9 billion) to build the Utrenneye liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminal in Gydan in Russia's Arctic north, as well as reloading terminals in northern port city Murmansk and Kamchatka in the Russian Far East.

### [Russian Military Launches Secret Surveillance Satellite Into Orbit](#)

November 27, 2019, Space.com

Russian Military Launches A Russian Soyuz rocket launched a top-secret military satellite designed to scope out other satellites in space on Monday, according to government reports. The Soyuz-2.1v launch vehicle brought the satellite into orbit from the Plesetsk Cosmodrome, which is roughly 500 miles or 800 kilometers north of Moscow, for the Russian Defense Ministry, the ministry said in a statement.

## Africa & Latin America

### Latin America

#### [Brazil outrage as minister references authoritarian AI-5 decree](#)

November 26, 2019, Al Jazeera

Brazil's economy minister, referencing a draconian security measure used during the country's nearly 20-year dictatorship, sparked outrage while warning against anti-government street protests.

#### [U.S. sanctions Cuban company for operating with Venezuela](#)

November 28, 2019, Cuba News

As a result of this measure, assets that the company may have under U.S. jurisdiction are frozen and financial transactions with U.S. entities are forbidden.

#### [Protests in Peru after court orders release of Keiko Fujimori](#)

November 26, 2019, Al Jazeera

Peru's Constitutional Tribunal ordered the release of opposition leader Keiko Fujimori, sparking protests in capital Lima.

#### [Colombians join Latin America's protests](#)

November 28, 2019, Hartford Courant

Thousands of people have protested in Colombia over the past week, voicing discontent with the conservative government of President Ivan Duque. Most demonstrations have been peaceful, but riots erupted in some areas and three people were killed, prompting authorities to impose curfews in Cali and Bogota.

#### [Yes, Mexico's drug cartels count as terrorists](#)

November 28, 2019, New York Post

Now President Trump says he wants to take a significant step: designating the cartels as terrorist groups. Good. The current Mexican government has proved to be deeply unserious about confronting the cartel threat. While assassinations are rampant, and the cartels have emerged as parallel governments in some areas, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador's "hugs, not bullets" approach is laughable.

#### [Bolivia renews diplomatic relations with Israel](#)

November 28, 2019, Ynetnews

The Foreign Ministry held intensive talks recently with Bolivia in an effort to re-establish the ties between the two countries, which were officially severed on

January 14, 2009, following Operation Cast Lead – Israel's 2008 military campaign against Palestinian terror factions in the Gaza Strip.

## Africa

### [Namibia awaits election result amid economic doldrums](#)

November 28, 2019, CGTN

Voters in Namibia are awaiting the result election, which will determine who runs the southern African country for the next five years as it faces a corruption scandal, drought and troubled economic fundamentals.

### [Algeria condemns European Parliament's resolution criticizing Algeria's freedom situation](#)

November 29, 2019, Xinhua Net

The European Parliament approved a resolution to express "deep concern over the human rights breaches and the lack of freedoms in Algeria," as the country witnesses since Feb. 22 rallies demanding changes.

### [Hungary Signs USD 50 million Tied Aid with Kenya](#)

November 28, 2019, Hungary Today

Hungary has agreed with Kenya to launch a 50 million US dollar tied aid programme, Péter Szijjártó, the minister of foreign affairs and trade, said on Thursday after meeting his Kenyan counterpart Monica Juma.

### [Kenya welcomes Chinese firms in bid to boost industrial capacity at Nairobi trade show](#)

November 29, 2019, CGTN Africa

Scores of Chinese companies have gathered in the Kenyan capital Nairobi for a three-day trade fair. The China-Africa Industrial Capacity Cooperation Expo is focused on China's role in Kenya's economic pivot towards the manufacturing sector.

### [Sudan approves new law 'dismantling' Omar al-Bashir's regime](#)

November 29, 2019, Al Jazeera

Sudan's transitional authorities approved a law late on Thursday to "dismantle" the regime of former President Omar al-Bashir, including the dissolution of his political party and confiscation of all its properties - in response to a key demand of protesters that helped overthrow his government in April.

## [Sudan and South Sudan extend oil exporting deal to 2022](#)

November 28, 2019, Reuters

Sudan and South Sudan have agreed to extend an oil deal that allows South Sudan to export its crude through its northern neighbour's ports through to 2022, Sudan's state news agency SUNA said.





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

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