



Delhi Policy Group

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ABOUT US

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

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

DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

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South Asia

India

[Raja Mandala: Delhi-Davos disconnect – India must find ways to take advantage of new opportunities](#)

January 21, 2020, The Indian Express

Given its growing stakes in the global economic order, Delhi ought to be at the leading edge of the current debate on the future of capitalism. India, though, seems too preoccupied sorting out the persistent legacies of feudalism.

[Why Brazil president's visit is important for India](#)

January 24, 2020, The Times of India

India's Republic Day chief guest this year is Brazil President Jair Messias Bolsonaro, who arrives in New Delhi on Friday for a four day visit January 24-28.

[The "others" headache in India's imports that could invite US, China-like import tariffs](#)

January 22, 2020, The Economic Times

Union Commerce Ministry has threatened to bring back the licence raj to control the import of non-essential goods if traders fail to declare the correct product classification of the goods they import into India and ship it under the residual classification "other items". The ministry action comes two days after Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Railways, Piyush Goyal publically stated that no imports will be allowed without HSN code into the country.

[Brazil President Jair Bolsonaro's India's visit: Food, Energy and Space Cooperation areas of focus](#)

January 22, 2020, Financial Express

President Bolsonaro on a State Visit to India from January 24-27 at the invitation of Prime Minister Modi is accompanied by seven senior ministers, top officials and a large business delegation with CEOs of big companies from different sectors. Talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President of Brazil Jair Bolsonaro later this week will focus on economic and financial dialogue, Bio-Energy, Oil and Gas and Mineral Resources, Science & Technology, Defence and Space Cooperation and about Brazil's role in India's Energy and Food Security.

[Government yet to take call on RCEP meeting invitation](#)

January 22, 2020, The Economic Times

India has received the invitation to attend the meeting of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) trade bloc on February 3-4 in Bali, about two months after the country opted out from the trade deal.

[India and EU have accomplished much. There is more to be done](#)

January 21, 2020, The Indian Express

India and the EU are both highly exposed to the terrorist threat. We have already brought together counter-terrorism experts from Europe and India to exchange experiences and best practices. As a result, an enhanced working relationship between our police officers is taking shape.

[Need to have fairer, more equitable terms in trade relations: Piyush Goyal](#)

January 21, 2020, The Economic Times

Speaking at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2020, the commerce and industry minister also called for greater cooperation among various nations to realise the huge growth prospects in the Indian Ocean region and also for tackling the important issue of climate change.

[India responsible for 80% of slashed global growth estimate: IMF chief economist Gita Gopinath](#)

January 20, 2020, India Today

Speaking during the World Economic Forum summit in Davos, IMF chief economist Gita Gopinath said that India's much lower-than-expected GDP numbers are the single biggest drag on its global growth forecast for two years.

[India ignores Donald Trump's mediation offer over Kashmir](#)

January 22, 2020, Live Mint

President Trump on Tuesday (WEF) summit in Davos revealed that he and Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan were "working together on some borders" and discussing the Kashmir issue. Officials of the Ministry of External Affairs said President Trump's offer wasn't new and that India's response isn't going to be new either.

[Pakistan says trade with India plunges significantly](#)

January 23, 2020, Economic Times

Pakistan's central bank has said that trade between Islamabad and New Delhi plummeted significantly this fiscal, apparently due to the ongoing tensions with India over the Kashmir issue. The State Bank of Pakistan data in the first half of

2019-20 fiscal starting from July 1 showed that Pakistan's exports to India during the period came in at an insignificant USD 16.8 million as compared to USD 213 million in first half of 2018-19.

[Indian Air Force commissions first squadron of Su-30MKI fighters armed with the BrahMos-A missile](#)

January 20, 2020, IHS Janes

The Indian Air Force (IAF) commissioned its first squadron of Sukhoi Su-30MKI multirole fighter aircraft armed with the BrahMos-A (Air) supersonic cruise missile. The recently re-activated No. 222 'Tiger Sharks' Squadron at Thanjavur Air Force Station (AFS) on India's southeast coast, will be tasked with "monitoring" India's eastern and western seaboard and the wider Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

[High-level Defence panel reviews work on the first IAC Vikrant](#)

January 22, 2020, Economic Times

A committee headed by the Defence Secretary on January 20 reviewed the progress of the Indian Navy's first indigenous aircraft carrier Vikrant, currently preparing to start basin trials. The Empowered Apex Committee (EAC) headed by Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar reviewed the progress of the Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) project at Cochin Shipyard Limited.

[Defence Ministry approves procurement of military hardware worth Rs. 5100 crore](#)

January 21, 2020, Times of India

The defence ministry on Tuesday approved procurement of military equipment worth over Rs 5,100 crore from indigenous sources and gave a go-ahead to construct six conventional submarines for the Navy in India under the ambitious strategic partnership model.

[India successfully test-fires 3,500 km range K-4 nuclear capable missile](#)

January 19, 2020, Live Mint

India successfully test-fired a 3,500 kilometre range nuclear capable missile that can be launched from a submarine. The 19th January test of the K-4 ballistic missile took place off the coast of Andhra Pradesh. The missile is being developed by India's DRDO and is to be fitted into the indigenously built Arihant-class nuclear-powered submarines of the Indian Navy.

[India plans to mandate cyber security measures for power grids](#)

January 21, 2020, Economic Times

India's electricity grid operators will have to install firewalls and other measures used by companies to avert an attack on their information technology systems

and check rising hacking incidents of power networks across the world. Grid operators and regulatory agencies will need to have a continuity plan handy in the event of a cyber-attack, according to draft rules published by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission.

[HSL-Adani bid for mega Rs 45,000 crore submarine project rejected, MDL & L&T get go ahead](#)

January 22, 2020, Economic Times

Rajnath Singh-led defence ministry has taken the call to go ahead with its `45,000 crore procurement plan for submarines with two Indian competitors, the state-owned Mazagaon Docks Limited and private sector giant Larsen and Toubro.

Pakistan

[Terrorist attacks fell by 18 percent in December 2019](#)

January 18, 2020, The News

Down by about 18 per cent from the November, 14 terrorist attacks were recorded in Pakistan during December 2019. These attacks claimed 16 lives-compared to 27 in the month before-and injured 24 others.

[FM Qureshi briefs Mike Pompeo on his visits to Iran, Saudi Arabia](#)

January 18, 2020, The News

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi briefed US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo about his trips to Iran and Saudi Arabia and Pakistan's efforts to help diffuse the ongoing tensions in the region.

[FPCCI fears CPFTA-II may not benefit Pakistan](#)

January 21, 2020, The News

Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry expressed fears that Pakistan might not be able to take advantage of opportunities under Phase II of China Pakistan Free Trade Agreement (CPFTA-II) due to shortage of surplus quantities of exportable goods.

[US has never been this close to Pakistan: Trump](#)

January 22, 2020, Dawn

US President Donald Trump said that the United States has never been as close to Pakistan as it is right now. Prior to a private meeting, the two leaders spoke during a media briefing on the sidelines of the summit being held in Davos.

[Blacklisted firms got CPEC project contracts, says Wells](#)

January 22, 2020, Dawn

Senior US diplomat Alice Wells renewed criticism of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), impliedly urging Islamabad to rethink its involvement with it. She alleged that there was no transparency in CPEC projects, claiming Pakistan's debt burden was growing due to the Chinese financing.

[Foreign LNG firms to invest \\$500m without off-take guarantees](#)

January 23, 2020, Dawn

Pakistan parliamentary body was informed that international companies investing in liquefied natural gas (LNG) will bring in roughly \$500 million foreign direct investment without any financial subsidy and off-take guarantees from the government which earlier placed unnecessary financial burden on the state.

[Islamabad hoping to get off FATF grey list](#)

January 24, 2020, The Express Tribune

Pakistan and Asia-Pacific Joint Group of the Financial Action Task Force's meeting ended in Beijing. Islamabad is hoping to acquire the United States' cooperation in next month's plenary aimed at avoiding any further adverse action by the global body.

[Turkey's president to visit Pakistan next month](#)

January 24, 2020, The Express Tribune

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan will visit Pakistan in the second week of next month to attend the Strategic Cooperation Council meeting, besides holding bilateral talks with President Arif Alvi, Prime Minister Imran Khan and the top military leadership.

Afghanistan

[Afghanistan President: Pakistan still shelters insurgents](#)

January 23, 2020, Reuters

Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani said that Pakistan continued to give sanctuary to an insurgent group that helps the Taliban in its war against Kabul and the United States, directly contradicting an earlier statement by Pakistan's prime minister.

[Afghan Parliament approves 2020 fiscal year's budget](#)

January 22, 2020, Tolo News

The Afghan parliament approved the current fiscal year's budget plan. The budget totals 428 billion Afghanis, with 289 billion Afghanis allocated for the "ordinary" budget and 139 billion Afghanis for development.

[Afghanistan's president says the country is 'totally ready' if Trump scales back US military presence in the country](#)

January 23, 2020, Business Insider

Afghanistan's president, Ashraf Ghani, said at a press conference at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, that his government is "totally ready" if President Donald Trump decides to scale back the US military presence in the country.

[Avoiding Iran, air traffic over Afghan airspace boosts revenue](#)

January 21, 2020, Tolo News

Transit flights through Afghanistan have been on the rise for the past twelve days following the accidental shoot-down of a Ukrainian aircraft in Iran and the diversion of many flights through Afghanistan. Currently, more than 400 aircraft passes through Afghanistan's airspace every day, according to aviation officials.

Bangladesh

[CAA was not necessary, but it's India's internal affair: Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina](#)

January 20, 2020, India Today

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has chosen to call the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC) an internal exercise of India. She, however, reminded that all this was not necessary.

[Bangladesh asks Myanmar to fully follow ICJ measures](#)

January 24, 2020, New Age Bangladesh

The Bangladesh government requested the Myanmar authorities to fully implement the interim measures declared by the International Court of Justice. The measures were determined by the court in order to create an environment conducive to full and sustainable repatriation of the displaced Rohingya people. 'Bangladesh is focused on a voluntary, full and sustainable repatriation of Rohingya people with dignity,' foreign secretary Masud Bin Momen said at a discussion.

[Bangladesh selects Apache for attack helicopter requirement](#)

January 24, 2020, Defence Connect

Bangladesh has confirmed the selection of the AH-64E Apache as the country's attack helicopter of choice after a broader request to the US to acquire advanced equipment, including multi-role combat fighters, surface-to-air missiles and lift helicopters. Boeing has confirmed the down-selection made by the Bangladeshi government.

[Bangladesh will have UAE economic zone by 2023](#)

January 18, 2020, Gulf News

Bangladesh will set up an economic zone for the UAE by 2023, Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said in Abu Dhabi. The initiative, which was kickstarted during the premier's February 2019 visit to the UAE, still requires some legal details, including a developer agreement and a land lease agreement, to be negotiated.

[Conclusion of Indonesia-Bangladesh trade agreement expected in 2020](#)

January 23, 2020, Antara News

Indonesia and Bangladesh have outlined a target to conclude a preferential trade agreement (PTA) in the second semester of 2020. "We have targeted to complete and sign the IB-PTA in mid-2020," Director of Bilateral Negotiations of the Trade Ministry Ni Made AyuMarthini remarked after attending a business meeting held at the Bangladeshi Embassy in Jakarta on Thursday.

Nepal

[PM Narendra Modi, Nepal PM KP Sharma Oli jointly inaugurate Jogbani-Biratnagar check post today](#)

January 21, 2020, India Today

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Nepali counterpart KP Sharma Oli jointly inaugurated the second Integrated Check Post (ICP) at Jogbani-Biratnagar, built with Indian assistance to facilitate trade and people's movement. This is the second ICP on the Nepal border. The first was built at the Raxaul-Birgunj border in 2018.

[Nepal invites PM Modi for Sagarmatha dialogue](#)

January 24, 2020, Outlook India

Nepal has invited Prime Minister Narendra Modi to attend the first Sagarmatha Sambaad forum to be held in April to deliberate on the most prominent issues of

global, regional and national significance, Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali said. He also said that leaders of all SAARC countries, including Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, have been invited and Nepal would be happy to host all the regional leaders so that they can have discussions amongst themselves on the challenges facing the region.

Sri Lanka

[NSA Doval meets Lankan Prez, pledges \\$50 mn security assistance from India](#)

January 19, 2020, Business Standard

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval arrived in Colombo on Saturday on a previously unannounced visit during which he also met several foreign diplomats and discussed important issues of mutual interest. India pledged a \$50 million security assistance to Sri Lanka as Doval called on President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and discussed a range of bilateral issues, including strengthening cooperation in defence, intelligence sharing and maritime security.

Maldives

[India first responder to fight emergency health crisis in Maldives](#)

January 23, 2020, Economic Times

India on Thursday supplied 30,000 doses of Measles/Rubella vaccine to the Government of Maldives in response to their emergency requirement. While Measles has been eliminated from the Maldives, four cases have tested positive in the last one week.

East & South East Asia

China

[Virus-hit city temporarily shuts down local transportation](#)

January 23, 2020, China Daily

The local government of Wuhan, the center of the coronavirus, announced that all public transportation in the city – local buses, long-distanced buses, subway and ferry – will be temporarily closed starting at 10am on Thursday.

[China vows at Davos it will continue to uphold globalisation](#)

January 23, 2020, China Daily

Vice-Premier Han Zheng pledged on Tuesday that China will continue to defend globalization and open wider to the outside world despite the challenges posed by unilateralism and protectionism.

[WHO: Coronavirus not yet global health emergency](#)

January 24, 2020, China Daily

Top officials from the World Health Organization, or WHO, said on Thursday that the new coronavirus that has affected hundreds of people globally is not yet a global health emergency.

[Wuhan sealed to contain virus; isolated cases seen elsewhere](#)

January 24, 2020, China Daily

Central China's most populous city has been sealed, with some exceptions, in an emergency move to control a new virus that has caused 17 deaths amid increasing worries of a wider outbreak.

[Wuhan pneumonia a wake-up call for basic Chinese research](#)

January 22, 2020, Global Times

Science magazine published an article entitled "China's Missed Chance" in July 2003, arguing China lost an opportunity to show "growing scientific prowess" due to the lack of swift medical measures to bring SARS under control.

[Europe distancing itself from the US while moving closer to Russia](#)

January 23, 2020, Global Times

German Chancellor Angela Merkel visited Moscow on January 11 and met with Russian President Vladimir Putin for nearly four hours. According to information revealed by German and Russian authorities, the atmosphere of the meeting was

friendly, in contrast to the indifferent attitudes during the two leaders' contacts over the last five years.

[Long-term tech rivalry expected despite phase one deal](#)

January 23, 2020, Global Times

Despite the signing of the phase one trade deal, US pressure on Chinese technology companies including Huawei has not lifted. The US Commerce Department sent regulations to the Office of Management and Budget that would restrict US companies' sales to Huawei from their overseas facilities, according to a Wall Street Journal report citing people familiar with the matter.

[Tariff war risk may go beyond economic loss](#)

January 22, 2020, Global Times

When US President Donald Trump announced he would be attending this year's World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, many expected a toned-down version of the free trade-bashing Trump, whose tariff wars have caused serious damage to the world economy and the global value chain. After all, Trump had just completed what he boasted were the biggest trade deals ever made with China, Canada and Mexico.

[Why Wuhan is so important to China's economy and the potential impact of the coronavirus](#)

January 22, 2020, South China Morning Post

Concerns are mounting about the economic toll from a deadly outbreak of coronavirus in the central Chinese city of Wuhan, a transport hub that is home to more than 11 million people and a major engine of growth in the world's second largest economy.

[25 Indians trapped in wuhan](#)

January 24, 2020, The Times of India

Twenty-five Indian students, of whom 20 are from Kerala, are trapped in Wuhan after the Chinese city was locked down to contain the spread of a new strain of coronavirus.

Japan

[Japan should ban confiscation of foreign employees' passports, lawyer says](#)

January 24, 2020, Japan Today

The Japanese government should forbid employers from retaining the passports of their foreign workers, a lawyer said on Thursday after a Filipino woman sued her former employer for refusing to return her personal documents.

[Abe strikes conciliatory note on S Korea](#)

January 21, 2020, Japan Today

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Monday that South Korea was its "most important neighbor" and that the two shared basic values, taking a conciliatory tone towards the country that has been locked in a bitter row with Tokyo for over an year.

[Abe says new unit will defend Japan from space tech threats](#)

January 20, 2020, Japan Today

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Monday that Japan will form a space defense unit to protect itself from potential threats as rivals develop missiles and other technology and the new unit will work closely with its American counterpart recently launched by President Donald Trump.

[Rohingya activists rebuke Japan envoy over denial of genocide](#)

January 20, 2020, Japan Today

Japan-based Rohingya advocacy groups have accused Japan of siding with Myanmar's military over an ambassador's recent remarks denying genocide against the minority group.

[Abe vows to boost Japan's role in U.S. security alliance](#)

January 20, 2020, The Asahi Shimbun

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pledged Sunday to bolster his country's role under its security pact with the U.S. in "outer space and cyberspace," as the allies marked the 60th anniversary of a treaty that has been the basis for their postwar defense alliance.

[Lawmakers grill ministers about MSDF dispatch to Middle East](#)

January 18, 2020, The Asahi Shimbun

Almost a week after Maritime Self-Defense Force aircraft headed for the Middle East, the government on Jan. 17 finally responded to questions by lawmakers.

[Japan's head of intelligence meets Putin for peace pact talks](#)

January 17, The Asahi SHimbun

Japan's intelligence chief met Russian President Vladimir Putin in an apparent bid to break an impasse over stalled talks on a bilateral peace treaty to formally end hostilities dating to World War II.

[The U.S.-Iran crisis and Tokyo's response](#)

January 20, 2020, The Japan Times

The purpose of Abe's visit to the Middle East was twofold: to explain the purpose of dispatching the Self-Defense Forces to Saudi Arabia and the UAE, which are hostile to Iran; and to set the stage for Abe to enable a peace dialogue between Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Iran by empathizing with the Hormuz Peace Endeavor (HOPE) proposed by Iran at the end of last year.

[Where India fits in Japan's Indo-Pacific strategy](#)

January 21, 2020, The Japan Times

India's naval capabilities are positively perceived by Japan in relation to China. Japan's primary concern is to avert any potential Chinese interference in SLOCs passing through the Indian Ocean as energy-deficient Japan is heavily dependent on Middle Eastern oil imports.

[The state of the Japan-U.S. alliance at 60](#)

January 20, 2020, The Japan Times

That seems to be the reaction to the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Japan-U.S. Mutual Security Treaty, a landmark achievement marked Sunday by ... very little, except for the statements by top government leaders on both sides. Business as usual might be a good thing, a sign of both countries' widespread acceptance of the integral nature of the alliance. Taking the alliance for granted seems risky, however, especially at a time of immense churn in international relations.

[In policy speech, Abe vows to establish 'new era of Japanese diplomacy'](#)

January 20, 2020, The Japan Times

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Monday declared 2020 a "crucial year to establish a new era of Japanese diplomacy" in a speech before the Diet, vowing to tackle international issues head-on.

Korea

[Korea vows stable trade ties with Britain](#)

January 21, 2020, The Korea Times

South Korea said it will prepare fully to maintain its trade with Britain amid London's planned departure from the world's largest economic bloc. During a meeting with officials from the British Embassy in Seoul, Chun Yoon-jong, director general for free trade agreement policy at South Korea's trade ministry, said the two countries will continue their preferential ties on the back of their bilateral free trade agreement (FTA).

[US envoy's blunt talks add to concerns on alliance](#)

January 19, 2020, The Korea Times

Ironically, it is Harris' straightforward yet blunt way with words that is viewed by Koreans as disruptive toward the alliance. And concerns over the impact of his communication style are apparently looming large after Cheong Wa Dae explicitly expressed discontent with him over his latest remarks. Speaking before foreign correspondents, Thursday, Harris said South Korea should consult with the U.S. about its plans to engage with North Korea to avoid any "misunderstandings" that may trigger sanctions.

[South Korea says US ambassador's remarks on inter-Korean ties 'very inappropriate'](#)

January 18, 2020, The Korea Times

Cheong Wa Dae openly reproached U.S. Ambassador Harry Harris for his remarks on President Moon Jae-in's stated plans to resume inter-Korean cooperation, calling them "very inappropriate." "It's very inappropriate for the ambassador to make such comments to the media over remarks made by the president of the hosting nation," a presidential office official told reporters.

[South Korea, US remain poles apart in defense cost-sharing](#)

January 17, 2020, The Korea Times

The sixth round of negotiations between South Korea and the U.S. over defense cost-sharing for the upkeep of United States Forces Korea (USFK) has finished without compromise, with the two sides only confirming different opinions on how much more South Korea needs to pay.

[Hormuz decision raises more questions](#)

January 23, 2020, The Korea Times

The government's decision to send a naval unit to the Strait of Hormuz still remains a contentious issue in political circles as critics claim it requires fresh approval.

[Moon looking for positive impact from Hormuz decision](#)

January 22, 2020, The Korea Times

One of the trickiest diplomatic challenges Cheong Wa Dae has faced in recent months is how it would respond to the U.S. request last year to join its naval mission in the Strait of Hormuz.

[North Korea to make Munich Security Conference debut in 2020](#)

January 23, 2020, The Korea Herald

North Korea will send a delegation to the Munich Security Conference for the first time in the 56-year history of the top diplomatic gathering, organizers said. An MSC spokesperson confirmed that North Korean vice foreign minister Kim Song-gyong would attend next month's event.

Southeast Asia

[After palm oil, India may impose import curbs on other crucial items from Malaysia](#)

January 23, 2020, Business Today

Miffed over Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's criticism on domestic issues like CAA (the Citizenship Amendment Act) and Kuala Lumpur's refusal to revoke the permanent resident status of controversial Islamic preacher Zakir Naik, India has set into motion an exercise that may place more curbs on exports from the Southeast Asian country.

[Malaysia Tries To Placate Angry India; Plans To Import More Sugar To Resolve Palm Oil Row](#)

January 23, 2020, Swarajya

Malaysia's top sugar refiner is going to increase sugar purchases from India. The move, as per a MoneyControl report attributing sources, is among various efforts to pacify the Indian government after it put import restrictions on Malaysian palm oil.

[ASEAN Outlook On Indo-Pacific: Seizing The Narrative? – Analysis](#)

January 24, 2020, Eurasia Review

The issuance of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) was one of the most important developments for ASEAN in 2019. However, it has been criticised for being yet another ineffectual ASEAN document. These criticisms, however, misunderstand the basis on which ASEAN operates.

[ASEAN's RCEP and sustainability challenges and achievements](#)

January 24, 2020, East Asia Forum

As the end of 2019 drew near, Thailand hosted two ASEAN summits under the theme 'Advancing Partnership for Sustainability'. Looking at how the meetings unfolded, one may ask: what were ASEAN's major economic achievements in 2019? And what key challenges remain for 2020?

[China-Indonesia South China Sea incident likely a blip in a long-term trend of mutual adjustment](#)

January 17, 2020, ASEAN Today

There are good reasons why an anti-China front within ASEAN is unlikely to materialise. These nations all want China's continued economic largesse and each has its own political and military reasons for not wanting to fall out of favour with Beijing. China has exploited individual claimants' economic and political needs to prevent such unity. Nevertheless, it may adjust its behaviour to at least partially and temporarily accommodate their concerns and deter US efforts to capitalise on the incidents.

[Top UN court orders Myanmar to protect Rohingya from genocide](#)

January 23, 2020, UN News

In its ruling, the ICJ imposed "provisional measures" against Myanmar, ordering the country to comply with obligations under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. Myanmar is urged to "take all measures within its power" to prevent the killing of Rohingya, or causing bodily or mental harm to members of the group, including by the military or "any irregular armed units".

[Myanmar's growing dependence on China](#)

January 23, 2020, The Hindu

Chinese President Xi Jinping's state visit to Myanmar last week is a vivid indicator of the region's changing geopolitics, reflecting adversely on the West and its allies. Its real significance transcends the 33 agreements signed, although it is an impressive number in itself for a short sojourn of a day and a half.

[After China, PH Coast Guard trains with Japan](#)

January 24, 2020, Inquirer. Net

A week after training with its Chinese counterpart, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) conducted joint maritime exercises with Japan Coast Guard (JCG). The five-day practical training course, which ran from Jan. 20 to 24, focused on towing and firefighting exercises, said PCG spokesperson Capt. Arman Balilo.

Central & West Asia

Central Asia

[Russia's Strategy in Central Asia: Inviting India to Balance China](#)

January 23, 2020, The Diplomat

Diplomatically, due to the increasingly close Sino-Russian relations, Russia would never publicly admit a desire to curb China's influence in Central Asia. Instead, Moscow will act strategically through the goal of greater economic cooperation with India.

[Kyrgyzstan bans uranium mining while Central Asia countries strengthen legislation](#)

January 17, 2020, The Times of Central Asia

Kyrgyzstan has banned the development of uranium and thorium deposits, as well as import of uranium-containing raw materials. Since the beginning of 2020, the relevant law has entered into force.

[Russia, Turkmenistan discuss prospects of co-op](#)

January 23, 2020, Trendz

Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Andrey Rudenko met with Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Russia Batyr Niyazliev in Moscow.

[Turkmenistan, Turkey set to strengthen ties](#)

January 21, 2020, Azer News

The parties noted the high level of cooperation between Turkmenistan and Turkey in political, trade, economic and cultural-economic spheres and confirmed the readiness to actively cooperate to further strengthen Turkmen-Turkish relations, the ministry said.

[Partners from Central Asia, Afghanistan discuss transboundary water resource management](#)

January 23, 2020, The Times of Central Asia

The United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) Smart Waters Project on January 22 convened water sector national partners from five Central Asian countries and Afghanistan for the eighth Regional Steering Committee for water coordination in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan. The meeting facilitated the exchange of information and ideas among participating countries and the sharing of national best practices at a regional level, the US Embassy in Kazakhstan said.

[Uzbekistan to cooperate with large German railway operator](#)

January 23,2020, Azer News

Ministry of Transport of Uzbekistan and German Deutsche Bahn signed a memorandum of cooperation for the development of Uzbekistan Railways, Trend reports referring to the ministry. The memorandum was signed following the meeting of First Deputy Minister of Transport Ilkhom Mahkamov with the delegation of the Deutsche Bahn company led by Regional director for Eastern Europe, Russia and the CIS Vincent van Houten.

West Asia

[Bahrain, Karnataka sign pact on cooperation in fintech, AI, cyber security](#)

January 24, 2020, Moneycontrol

The Bahrain Economic Development Board (EDB) and Karnataka government on Thursday signed a pact to promote cooperation in AI, fintech and other emerging technologies.

[Voice of a 3,000-year-old Egyptian mummy reproduced by 3-D printing a vocal tract](#)

January 23, 2020, CNN International

Scientists have revealed what the voice of a mummified Egyptian priest who lived 3,000 years ago would have sounded like by 3-D printing his vocal tract.

[US seeking to carve out Sunni state as its influence in Iraq wanes](#)

January 23, 2020, Middle East Eye

Backed into a corner and influence waning, the United States has in recent weeks been promoting a plan to create an autonomous Sunni region in western Iraq, officials from both countries told Middle East Eye.

[More American troops leave Iraq for medical evaluation after Jan. 8 Iran missile attack](#)

January 22, 2020, Military Times

Additional U.S. troops have been flown out of Iraq for closer evaluation of potential concussion injuries from the Iranian missile attack of Jan. 8, U.S. defense officials said Tuesday.

[Iraqi Shia armed groups condemn Salih-Trump meeting](#)

January 23, 2020, Al Jazeera

Leaders of several Iraqi Shia armed groups have condemned President Barham Salih's meeting with his United States counterpart President Donald Trump, with some threatening to force Salih to resign.

[Top US Iran envoy: We will kill Soleimani's successor if another American is murdered](#)

January 23, 2020, Vox

The Trump administration's top envoy for Iran just put assassination back on the table when he said the US will take out the successor to slain Iranian military leader Qassem Soleimani if the successor continues along the path of killing Americans.

[Iran will never seek nuclear weapons: President Rouhani](#)

January 23, 2020, Al Jazeera

Iran will never seek nuclear weapons with or without the nuclear deal, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said on Wednesday.

[US calls Iran's \\$3m reward to kill Trump 'ridiculous'](#)

January 21, 2020, Arab News

An Iranian lawmaker offered a \$3 million reward to anyone who killed US President Donald Trump and said Iran could avoid threats if it had nuclear arms, ISNA news agency reported on Tuesday amid Tehran's latest standoff with Washington.

[India expresses solidarity with Israel as world leaders gather in Jerusalem against anti-Semitism](#)

January 23, 2020, Deccan Herald

India on Thursday expressed solidarity with Israel as the world leaders from 47 countries descended in Jerusalem to attend the World Holocaust Forum and commemorate the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz camp.

[Donald Trump invites Israeli leaders to Washington to hear peace plan details](#)

January 23, 2020, The Guardian

Donald Trump has invited Israel's prime minister and leader of the opposition to Washington for talks on the "prospects of peace", signalling that the White House was preparing to share details of its long-awaited "ultimate deal" for Israelis and Palestinians.

[Jordan's FM warns annexation would end chances for Israeli-Palestinian peace](#)

January 23, 2020, Times of Israel

Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi warned on Thursday that Israeli annexation of the Jordan Valley would spell the death of the two-state solution and terminate all opportunities to achieve peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

[Kuwait firm to set up Rs 49,000 cr oil refinery in Tamil Nadu: Chief Minister Palaniswami](#)

January 23, 2020, The Economic Times

Kuwait based Al Kharafi plans to set up an oil refinery and a petrochemical manufacturing facility at an investment of Rs 49,000 crore in Tamil Nadu, Chief Minister K Palaniswami said here on Thursday.

[India may seek renegotiation of LNG price from Qatar: Dharmendra Pradhan](#)

January 24, 2020, ET Energy World

India may seek to reopen the pricing of its long-term LNG import contract with Qatar to reflect falling rates of the spot or current market, Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on Thursday. "Energy Minister of Qatar is coming for bilateral discussion (to India) at the end of the month.

[Saudis involved in hacking of Amazon boss Bezos' phone](#)

January 22, 2020, Middle East

Two UN officials will report on Wednesday that there is enough evidence suggesting that Saudi Arabia had hacked Amazon.com Inc founder Jeff Bezos' phone and both the kingdom and the United States should investigate, a person familiar with the matter said.

[Indian nurse in Saudi isn't affected by coronavirus, clarifies the kingdom](#)

January 24, 2020, Livemint

A Saudi health ministry affiliate said on Thursday there were no cases of coronavirus in the kingdom, denying earlier reports of an expatriate resident being infected.

United States

United States

[Impeachment: Democrats say conduct is 'not America first, but Trump first'](#)

January 24, 2020, The Guardian

In a stirring oration to conclude the third full day of Donald Trump's impeachment trial, the lead prosecutor Adam Schiff told senators that in the United States, "right matters" and "you know that what he did was not right".

[Democrats appeal for GOP help to convict 'corrupt' Trump](#)

January 23, 2020, Associated Press

House Democrats launched into marathon arguments in President Donald Trump's impeachment trial Wednesday, appealing to sceptical Republican senators to join them in voting to oust Trump from office to "protect our democracy."

[Trump says he'll likely release Middle East peace plan by Tuesday](#)

January 24, 2020, Al Jazeera

US President Donald Trump said on Thursday he will likely release his long-awaited peace plan for the Middle East before Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visits Washington, DC, next week.

[Trump is threatening a damaging new trade war with the United Kingdom after Brexit](#)

January 23, 2020, Business Insider

Donald Trump is threatening to launch a damaging new trade war with the United Kingdom as the country prepares to leave the European Union. In recent weeks the president and his allies have issued a series of threats to the UK on everything from telecoms, to vehicle tariffs, to security co-operation.

[Trump zeroes in on his next trade target: Europe](#)

January 23, 2020, CNN

Trump made clear at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, this week that his administration will move aggressively to negotiate a trade deal with Brussels. And if progress isn't made quickly, he said he'll impose tariffs of up to 25% on cars made in the European Union.

[Biden leads, while others gain momentum in bid for 2020 nomination](#)

January 24, 2020, Reuters

Former Vice President Joe Biden leads other candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination, while several others appeared to be gaining momentum in their bid for the White House, according to a Reuters/Ipsos national opinion poll released on Thursday.

[In Presidential First, Trump Will Attend Anti-Abortion March for Life](#)

January 22, 2020, The New York Times

President Trump plans to address an annual rally of anti-abortion demonstrators on Friday in Washington, in what would be the first appearance by a sitting president at the March for Life, one of the movement's marquee events.

[Afghanistan Is Ready for Major U.S. Troop Reduction, Ghani Says](#)

January 23, 2020, The New York Times

Afghanistan is prepared for a major reduction in United States forces there, President Ashraf Ghani said on Thursday, adding that he had given that message to President Trump, a step toward winding down the costly American military presence as diplomats struggle to finalise a peace deal with the Taliban.

[Philippines' Duterte threatens to end military deal with the United States](#)

January 23, 2020, Reuters

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte warned the United States on Thursday he would repeal an agreement on deployment of troops and equipment for exercises if Washington did not reinstate the visa of a political ally.

['Birth tourism': US steps up scrutiny of pregnant visa applicants](#)

January 23, 2020, BBC

The US Department of State has unveiled new rules to deter pregnant women from travelling to the US to give birth.

[United States cautions Britain over Huawei](#)

January 23, 2020, Reuters

The United States cautioned Britain ahead of a decision by Prime Minister Boris Johnson on what role Huawei will have in 5G telecommunications networks that Washington still had significant concerns about the Chinese telecoms behemoth.

[A year in, the United States still stands behind Venezuela's interim government](#)

January 23, 2020, Atlantic Council

As the interim government of Venezuela continues to fight for freedom and democracy against the regime of Nicolás Maduro, the United States is “unwavering in [its] commitment” to helping Interim President Juan Guaidó.

[The U.S. Can Deter Iran but Not Its Proxies](#)

January 23, 2020, Foreign Policy

The assassination of Iranian military commander Qassem Suleimani met with widespread concern that U.S. foreign-policy decisions are devoid of any overarching strategic vision.

[Greta rejects U.S. Treasury chief's degree dig in latest climate clash](#)

January 23, 2020, Reuters

U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin told Greta Thunberg on Thursday she should study economics, a jibe which prompted the climate activist to say she did not need a degree to know the world was not meeting its climate targets.

Europe & Russia

Europe

[Brexit: EU withdrawal bill clears final parliamentary hurdle](#)

January 22, 2020, BBC

Queen Elizabeth II gave her formal assent on Thursday for Britain to end its decades-long involvement in the European Union and seek a more independent but uncertain future at the end of the month.

[EU can do a trade deal if UK keeps level playing field, Gentiloni says](#)

January 23, 2020, Reuters

The European Union can do a trade deal with post-Brexit Britain if London ensures a level playing field, European Commissioner for Economic Affairs Paolo Gentiloni said on Thursday.

[Even 'bare bones' EU-UK deal will be complex, tough to clinch - diplomats](#)

January 23, 2020, Reuters

Wrapping up even a "bare bones" deal on the future relationship between the European Union and Britain will be fraught with complexity and, with so little time to get it done, a painful "hard" Brexit on Dec. 31 cannot be ruled out, diplomats said.

[UK-EU trade deal? Here's what Europe's leaders, officials and business want](#)

January 23, 2020, CNBC

The U.K. is about to take the momentous step of leaving the EU on January 31 and it has an ambitious deadline to strike a trade deal with the bloc by the end of 2020.

[France uses Davos to pursue global 'digital tax' goal](#)

January 22, 2020, Reuters

French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire is optimistic of reaching a deal on a global tax on digital companies, despite an initial failure to agree one with the United States.

[Europe to Avoid Triggering Sanctions if Iran Limits Expansion of Nuclear Work](#)

January 23, 2020, Wall Street Journal

European powers won't move to reimpose international sanctions on Iran and kill the 2015 nuclear deal as long as Tehran restrains expansion of its nuclear work, diplomats said, potentially increasing tensions with the Trump administration.

[Europe confronts Poland over its trampling on the rule of law](#)

January 22, 2020, The Economist

Ever since the populist Law and Justice (PiS) party took power in 2015, Adam Bodnar, Poland's human-rights ombudsman, has been warning against its relentless efforts to get control of the courts.

[German Chancellor Angela Merkel arrives in Turkey](#)

January 24, 2020, Hurriyet Daily News

The visit comes at the request of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and the two leaders will also discuss steps for further developing cooperation between the two countries, Turkey's Communications Directorate earlier said in a statement.

[Risky to shut out any 5G provider completely: Merkel](#)

January 23, 2020, Reuters

Diversification is crucial to ensuring a country's security in the rollout of 5G mobile technology and shunning one supplier altogether risks being counterproductive, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Thursday.

[Putin proposes 2020 summit with leaders of Russia, France, China, U.S. and UK](#)

January 23, 2020, Reuters

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday proposed holding a summit between the leaders of Russia, China, the United States, France and Britain in 2020 to discuss the conflict in Libya and other global problems.

Russia

[Russian military to have twice as many radars able to spot stealthy hypersonic projectiles in Arctic](#)

January 23, 2020, RT

Moscow apparently plans to boost the number of state-of-the-art radars – designed to locate even the stealthiest flying targets – it has in the Arctic. The deployment will "significantly" increase Russia's defense capabilities.

[UN welcomes Putin's initiative to organise summit of UNSC permanent members](#)

January 24, 2020, TASS

The United Nations welcomes Russian President Vladimir Putin's initiative to organise a meeting between the leaders of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council to discuss global problems, Deputy Spokesperson for the UN Secretary-General Farhan Haq said.

[US considering possibility of new sanctions against Russia over Venezuela – Pompeo](#)

January 24, 2020, TASS

The United States is looking closely at the possibility of imposing new sanctions on Russia over Moscow's support for Nicolas Maduro's government in Venezuela, US Secretary of State Pompeo said.

[Putin Opens Leningrad Siege Memorial in Jerusalem](#)

January 23, 2020, The Moscow Times

Russian President Vladimir Putin inaugurated a new monument in Jerusalem dedicated to the defenders and victims of the Siege of Leningrad. More than 800,000 people died during the Nazi encirclement of Leningrad – now called St. Petersburg – from starvation, disease and bombardment, making it one of the most devastating episodes of World War II. An estimated 1,300 survivors of the 872-day siege currently live in Israel.

[Russia ready to boost cooperation with Palestine, sees its concerns, Putin says](#)

January 23, 2020, TASS

Russia is willing to ramp up cooperation with the Palestinian side and understands its concerns about the settlement with Israel, Russian President Vladimir Putin said at the beginning of his meeting with Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas.

[Bulgaria Charges 3 Russians Over Poisoning Possibly Linked to Skripal Case](#)

January 23, 2020, The Moscow Times

Bulgarian prosecutors have charged three Russians with the attempted murder of three men whose poisoning is being investigated by Sofia for possible links with the 2018 nerve-agent attack on ex-Russian spy Sergei Skripal. The prosecutors did not name the three Russians, but said European arrest warrants had been issued and that they would seek their extradition to Bulgaria.

Africa & Latin America

Latin America

[Venezuela crisis: Pompeo pledges more US support for Guaidó](#)

January 20, 2020, BBC

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo says his country will take additional measures in support of Venezuela's opposition leader Juan Guaidó. Mr Pompeo called on other countries to co-operate in efforts to remove President Nicolás Maduro from office.

[Venezuela's Guaidó in Davos plea for help to overturn 'dictatorship'](#)

January 23, 2020, The Guardian

Venezuela's opposition leader, Juan Guaidó, has urged the world not to turn its back on his struggling country and the millions of people who have fled across its borders to escape poverty and political turbulence.

[Spain-Venezuela encounter by tarmac unleashes speculation](#)

January 24, 2020, Associated Press

A secretive meeting this week by the tarmac of Madrid's international airport between two prominent officials from Spain and Venezuela triggered a political storm with conservative parties pressing Spain's left-wing government for full disclosure. Venezuelan Vice President Delcy Rodríguez, the powerful right hand of President Nicolás Maduro, is on a European Union sanction list barred from entering the territory of any of the bloc's members. Despite that, she held talks in the early hours of Monday with José Luis Ábalos, Spain's Transportation Minister and a key figure in Spain's ruling Socialist party.

[Mexico is cracking down on another US-bound migrant caravan](#)

January 21, 2020, VOX

Violence broke out on Mexico's border with Guatemala after Mexican immigration authorities denied entry to a caravan of thousands of migrants, mostly from Honduras. About 4,000 migrants had requested passage by presenting a petition addressed to Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador on the bridge across the Suchiate River, which connects the port of entry at Ciudad Hidalgo to Guatemala.

[Former Bolivian leader Morales holds rally in Argentina marking end of term](#)

January 23, 2020, Reuters

Bolivian ex-president Evo Morales, who is looking to steer his party to a new election win from afar this year, held a "celebratory" event to mark the end of his presidential term on Wednesday from exile in Buenos Aires.

[Brazil's Bolsonaro Creates 'Amazon Council' To Protect Forest](#)

January 20, 2020, International Business Times

Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro said Tuesday he will create an "Amazon Council" to coordinate the protection and sustainable development of the world's largest rainforest. Bolsonaro, who has faced a firestorm of criticism for his environmental policies since taking power in January 2019, presided over a surge in deforestation in the Amazon last year.

Africa

[Scores of civilians killed in Burkina Faso terrorist attack](#)

January 22, 2020, Vatican News

Scores of civilians were killed in Burkina Faso this week in what the government has called a terrorist attack on a market in a north central province. The Pope and the Catholic bishops of the West African nation have appealed repeatedly for dialogue and peace.

[Gambia welcomes UN court order for Myanmar on Rohingya](#)

January 23, 2020, Andolou Agency

International Court of Justice unanimously approves provisional measures asked by Gambia, urges Myanmar to protect Rohingya. Gambia also "called on the UN Security Council to fulfill its role in ensuring compliance with the court's order."

[Turkey's Erdogan to launch Africa tour with Algeria visit](#)

January 23, 2020, The New Arab

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan will travel to Algeria on Sunday, marking the first stop of an African tour as the Turkish premier attempts to expand his reach across the continent. Erdogan will spend two days in Algiers before travelling onwards to Gambia and Senegal, local media reported.

[The Turkey and Algeria rapprochement on Libya, explained](#)

January 24, 2020, TRT World

Algiers and Ankara boosted their diplomatic ties by signalling cooperation on the Libyan crisis, while the former fears Libya's unrest may spill over into its territory.

[Libya's neighbors seek solutions at Algeria peace meet](#)

January 23, 2020, Andolou Agency

Tunisia, Egypt, Niger, Chad, Mali and Sudan are participating at the meeting in the capital Algiers. The meeting which was initiated by Algeria aims to find a political solution for the crisis in Libya.

[UK-Africa Summit: wooing Africa after Brexit](#)

January 20, 2020, BBC

After Brexit, the UK wants to boost business trade with Africa, but as a major UK-Africa business summit starts in London, Matthew Davies asks if there really will be new opportunities for the continent.

[33rd African Union Summit opens under theme "silencing the guns"](#)

January 21, 2020, Black Star News

Under the theme "Silencing the guns: creating conducive conditions for Africa's development," the 33rd African Union (AU) Summit opened on 21 January 2020, at the African Union Headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, with the conference of the Permanent Representatives' Committee (PRC) who were meeting at their Thirty-Ninth (39th) Ordinary Session.



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