



Delhi Policy Group

# DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



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# DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

## Volume 4, Issue 6

### 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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## Contents

South Asia.....	1
East & South East Asia.....	10
Central & West Asia.....	18
United States.....	23
Europe & Russia.....	26
Africa & Latin America .....	30

## South Asia

### India

#### [PM targets \\$5 billion defence exports over the next five years](#)

February 6, 2020, Live Mint

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday set a target of \$5 billion in defence exports in next five years for India as he invited private businesses to invest in the country, which he said would realize the twin objectives of handsome returns on investment and making Asia's third largest economy self reliant in defence manufacturing.

#### [Cabinet Waives Rule For Alliance Air's Operations On India-Sri Lanka Route](#)

February 06, 2020, NDTV

The Cabinet approved an ex post facto (with retrospective force) dispensation to Air India's subsidiary Alliance Air to conduct flight operations between India and Sri Lanka, waiving the rule that an airline needs to have minimum 20 aircraft to operate internationally.

#### [DefExpo 2020: US wants security partner India to purchase its arms](#)

February 05, 2020, Business Standard

The US ambassador to India, Kenneth Juster, has pitched strongly for India buying American military equipment because, as security partners, it would be useful for the country's weaponry and command and communications networks to be interoperable with those of the United States'. The US envoy was interacting with the media on the eve of DefExpo 2020. He minced no words in urging India to buy American weaponry. "US firms at this exhibition... have supplied modern land- and sea-based fighter aircraft, ballistic missile defence systems, the most advanced, networked avionics equipment, and secure communications equipment for the United States and our partners. They are poised to offer the same to India," he stated.

#### [Defence Procurement from India Falls 10.8% In FY19; Lowest In 5 years](#)

February 06, 2020, Inc42

After a continuous increase in defence spending in the country, leveraging Made in India products, the procurement from Indian vendors fell to its lowest level of five years in 2019. The details tabled by ShripadNaik, Minister of State for Defence in the Lok Sabha on February 05 showed that over the last five years, while the

procurement from Indian vendors had increased, in 2018-19, this fell by 10.8% on a Y-o-Y basis.

### [HAL in tripartite pact for UAVs](#)

February 05, 2020, Hindu Business Line

Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL), Israel Aerospace Industries Limited (IAI) and Dynamatic Technologies Ltd (DTL) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for marketing, manufacturing and selling IAI's unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) to potential Indian customers such as the Defence Forces, Paramilitary Forces and Central Armed Police Forces, at DefExpo 2020 in Lucknow.

### [French defence company Thales to ramp up India operations](#)

February 07, 2020, Economic Times

French defence and engineering giant Thales says that it looking at significantly ramping up its Indian operations and will be hiring "thousands of engineers" here in the near future as it focuses on emerging technologies like artificial intelligence (AI). The company, which has a major work share in French military platforms including the Rafale fighter jets that have been ordered by India, currently has 1,600 employees in India that work on cutting-edge technologies.

### [India, U.K. to sign pact on jet engine development](#)

February 06, 2020, The Hindu

Britain working on govt.-to-govt. framework for defence deals in future given New Delhi's preference for route

India and the U.K. are exploring various options for collaboration on joint defence projects and are close to signing a government-to-government agreement on jet engine technology development, U.K. Minister for Defence Procurement James Heapey said.

### [Israel Key Contributor to Indian Defence Preparedness: Apurva Chandra, DG \(Acquisition\), MoD](#)

February 06, 2020, Business World

Speaking at 'India-Israel Opportunities in Defence Cooperation: Future Vectors of the Digital Battlefield', organised by FICCI, in collaboration with SIBAT (Israel Ministry of Defence) and Indian Ministry of Defence (MoD) at DefExpo 2020, Apurva Chandra, Director General (Acquisition) and Additional Secretary, Department of Defence, Govt of India, said that Israel is the largest contributor to India's preparedness of any adversaries and has been always forthcoming to share

high-end technology. He expressed his confidence on a continued partnership with Israel as all the MoD contracts so far have been concluded on time and the overall experience with Israel has been highly satisfying.

#### [New weapons purchases suffer under India's latest defense budget](#)

February 05, 2020, Defense News

India's defense budget for 2020-2021 will be \$73.65 billion, but officials and analysts are warning the amount is unlikely to meet new demands for weapons purchases and military modernization, as India is set to spend about 90 percent of its defense funds on existing obligations. Of the total budget, \$18.52 billion is for weapons purchases; \$32.7 billion is for maintenance of the military's weapons inventory, pay and allowances, infrastructure, and recurring expenses; and \$21.91 billion is for defense pensions.

#### **Pakistan**

#### [PM regrets missing KL Summit over others' misconception 'it would divide ummah'](#)

February 4, 2020, Dawn

Prime Minister Imran Khan expressed his regret on being unable to attend the Kuala Lumpur Summit, held in Malaysia in December of last year, adding that there was a misconception among some countries that the conference would divide the ummah. Addressing a joint press conference following talks with Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad in Putrajaya, Prime Minister Imran said: "I want to say how sad I was that I couldn't attend the conference in Kuala Lumpur in the middle of December.

#### ['Stable outlook' for Pakistan's banks over the next 12-18 months: Moody's](#)

February 6, 2020, Dawn

Moody's Investors Services announced a "stable outlook" for Pakistan's banking system over the next 12-18 months underpinned by "robust funding and liquidity and close links with the sovereign".

#### [Three TTP terrorists arrested from Faisalabad](#)

February 4, 2020, The News

Three terrorists of banned Tehreek Taliban Pakistan (TTP) were arrested by CTD in an intelligence based operation (IBO) conducted in Faisalabad. A CTD team recovered explosives and arms from the terrorists.

### [Saudi Arabia unwilling to back OIC ministers' meeting on Kashmir](#)

February 6, 2020, Dawn

As the Senior Officials Meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation starts in Jeddah on Feb 9 to make preparations for the OIC's Council of Foreign Ministers, a diplomatic source said that Saudi Arabia has shown reluctance to accept Pakistan's request for an immediate meeting of the CFM on Kashmir.

### ['Africa likely to use Gwadar Port, CPEC to have access to CARs, China'](#)

February 4, 2020, The News

Africa countries have positively indicated to using CPEC (China-Pakistan Economic Corridor) and Gwadar Port to ensure access for its products to the markets of Central Asian Republics (CARs) and China. And more importantly Africa has also shown its willingness to start negotiations with Pakistan on Early Harvest that will stimulate the growth of Pak-African trade volume up to \$8 billion in the next five years' time. Kenya's central bank has also agreed to allow Pakistani banks to open up their branches to facilitate the country's exporters in Africa.

### [Foreign investment in govt debt touches \\$2.915 billion](#)

February 1, 2020, The News

Foreign investment in government securities has reached \$2.915 billion in the current fiscal year of 2019/20. The country received a net \$2.879 billion foreign investment in short term treasury bills from July 1, 2019 to January 30, 2020. Pakistan Investment Bonds attracted \$36 million foreign investment in the period under review.

## **Afghanistan**

### [American contractor kidnapped in Afghanistan by Taliban-linked terror group: report](#)

February 7, 2020, Fox

A U.S. contractor from Illinois was kidnapped by Taliban-associated militants in Afghanistan last week, prompting a nationwide search involving the FBI and State Department, according to a report. Mark R. Frerichs, 55, of Lombard, Ill., was abducted on January 31 in the province of Khost. The southeastern province borders the Federally Administered Tribal Areas, an underdeveloped region between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

### [Afghanistan begins work on CASA-1000 power project](#)

February 6, 2020, Tolo News

Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani officially inaugurated the work on the CASA-1000 hydro power project, one of the biggest power projects in the region, which will transfer 300 megawatts of electricity from Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan to Afghanistan and Pakistan.

### [Sources: 'US makes new terms for reduction in violence'](#)

February 6, 2020, Tolo News

US and Taliban delegates in Qatar are working out the terms for a reduction in violence as part of ongoing peace talks, and sources familiar with the talks say the United States has recently made several new demands with the reduction in violence plan.

### [India allocates \\$13.9 M for Chabahar Port](#)

February 4, 2020, Tolo News

The Indian government has allocated \$13.9 million for the development of the strategic Chabahar Port in southeast Iran. India's decision to more than double the outlay for developing the strategic Chabahar port in Iran in fiscal year 2020-21 signals the "government's determination to push ahead" with the project after a "clear signal" from the US that it won't be affected by sanctions.

### [Coronavirus outbreak affects China-Afghan trade: officials](#)

February 3, 2020, The News

Afghan officials say the coronavirus outbreak in China has affected trade relations between the two countries. Air corridors are the most direct route for Afghan investors to send their exports to China, and statistics by the Chamber of Commerce and Investment reveal that more than 20 metric tons of Afghan dry fruit and saffron are sent to China every week by Turkish Airlines flights, but the flights have stopped since the coronavirus outbreak.

## **Bangladesh**

### [India-Bangladesh joint military exercise begins in Meghalaya](#)

February 03, 2020, India Today

As part of the ongoing Indo-Bangladesh defence cooperation, a joint military training exercise Sampriti-IX has been started in Meghalaya. The ninth edition



exercise is scheduled to be conducted at the state-of-the-art Joint Training Node at Umroi Cantonment, about 25 km from Shillong, and will conclude on February 16. The exercise Sampriti is an important bilateral defence cooperation endeavour between India and Bangladesh and will be the ninth edition of the exercise which is hosted alternately by both countries.

### [3 instruments likely to be inked during PM's Italy visit](#)

February 02, 2020, Dhaka Tribune

Foreign minister Dr AK Abdul Momen has said three bilateral instruments between Bangladesh and Italy are likely to be signed during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to Rome starting on February 4. The prime minister is set to leave Dhaka for Rome on February 4, on a four-day bilateral official visit to Italy at the invitation of her Italian counterpart Giuseppe Conte. The proposed agreements are on cultural exchange, political consultations and cooperation in the diplomatic field, he added.

### [Army chief goes to Nepal today](#)

February 07, 2020, New Age Bangladesh

Chief of army staff General Aziz Ahmed would begin a five-day tour of Nepal. The army chief would meet Nepal's top leaders and visit civil and military installations in the land-locked country, according to the Inter Services Public Relations directorate. The visit is aimed at strengthening mutual cooperation between the armies of Bangladesh and Nepal including exchange of training.

### [Bangladesh Navy to get new bank](#)

February 03, 2020, Dhaka Tribune

The central bank of Bangladesh is planning to award a licence for a new commercial bank, called Maritime Bank Ltd, amid plenty of banks buffeted by dull business in a sagging investment regime. The bank was proposed by the Bangladesh Navy, the naval warfare branch of Bangladesh Armed Forces.

## **Bhutan**

### [Bhutan makes Indians pay 'sustainable development fee'](#)

February 04, 2020, Live Mint

Bhutan's lower house of parliament passed legislation meaning that visitors from India, Bangladesh, and the Maldives have to pay a fee of 1,200 ngultrums (USD 16.85) per day from July. Bhutan is introducing a "sustainable development fee" for

regional tourists following a spike in Indian visitors that has sparked worries for the unique Himalayan kingdom's cherished ecology.

### [Bhutan Stock Index launched](#)

February 06, 2020, Kuensel

The Royal Securities Exchange of Bhutan launched the Bhutan Stock Index (BSI) in Thimphu. The stock index shows the direction of security price movements and reflects market sentiments. There are 22 listed companies in RSEBL.

## **Nepal**

### [BHEL bags second hydroelectric project order in Nepal](#)

February 03, 2020, Economic Times

State-run engineering firm BHEL said it has bagged an order for electro-mechanical works for 40 MW Rahughat Hydroelectric Project in Nepal. This is the second consecutive success for BHEL in the hydro power sector of Nepal. Last year, it had won an order for the largest hydropower project in Nepal, 900 MW Arun-3 HEP, which is presently under construction.

### [SJVN ties up finance for 900 MW power project in Nepal](#)

February 06, 2020, Outlook

Power producer SJVN has tied up finance for its 900 MW hydropower project, which will cost around Rs 11,000 crore Nepalese rupees (INR 6,880 crore), a release said. Representatives of SJVN Ltd signed agreements with banks during a ceremony. The SJVN Arun-3 Power Development Company (SAPDC) will invest NPR 11,000 crore in the next five years.

## **Sri Lanka**

### [Mahinda Rajapaksa's visit could relaunch India-Lanka-Maldives NSA dialogue](#)

February 05, 2020, Economic Times

Sri Lankan PM Mahinda Rajapaksa visit from February 7-11 will seek to revive India-Sri Lanka-Maldives NSA level dialogue and trilateral maritime security coop in Indian Ocean Region amid growing Chinese interests. A pact to establish air link could also be established between Sanchi in MP and Sri Lanka for Buddhist pilgrims from the island nation.

### [During Mahinda Rajapaksa's India visit, New Delhi likely to raise Sri Lankan Hindu Tamil's issues](#)

February 7, 2020, The Indian Express

Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa's official visit to India, that begins on Friday, is taking place a few months after he assumed office and his brother Gotabaya Rajapaksa was sworn in as president. The two were voted to office on a Sinhala nationalist wave, a sentiment that isn't primarily anti-Tamil this time, but a fallout of the Easter attacks on Christian shrines, including the Saint Anthony's shrine, in April last year.

### [Rajapaksa to finalize contours of \\$450 mn funding during visit](#)

February 05, 2020, Live Mint

India and Sri Lanka will work out the details of projects to be taken up under a \$450 million line of credit during Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa's visit to India from 7 to 11 February. The Sri Lankan leader's visit to India is his first abroad since being named prime minister in November last year.

### [Pakistan's Air Chief to visit Sri Lanka](#)

February 05, 2020, Colombo Page

Pakistan's Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Mujahid Anwar Khan NI (M) is scheduled to visit Sri Lanka on the invitation of Sri Lanka Air Force Commander, Air Marshal Sumangala Dias from February 05-10, 2020. During his stay in Sri Lanka, Air Chief will meet Commanders of the Air Force, Navy and State Minister for Defence. He will also call on Hon. Prime Minister of Sri Lanka.

### [Russian Commander-in-Chief of Land Forces arrives in Sri Lanka](#)

February 03, 2020, Lanka Business

Russian Commander-in-Chief of Land Forces, General of the Army, Oleg Salyukov of the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation arrived in Sri Lanka on a five-day goodwill tour at the invitation of his Sri Lankan counterpart, Lieutenant General Shavendra Silva. During his stay, he is scheduled to call on the President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, Prime Minister, acting Chief of Defence Staff and Commander of the Army, Commander of the Navy, and Commander of the Air Force.

## [Gopal Baglay appointed new Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka](#)

February 01, 2020, Adaderana Lk

Senior diplomat Shri Gopal Baglay has been appointed High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka, the country's Ministry of External Affairs said. Mr. Baglay, a 1992-batch officer of Indian Foreign Service, succeeds Taranjit Singh Sandhu who was recently appointed the Ambassador of India to the United States. Mr. Baglay, currently serves at the Prime Minister's Office and has held many key positions including spokesperson of the MEA and Deputy High Commissioner of India to Pakistan.

## East & South East Asia

### China

#### [Xi, Trump discuss China's efforts to fight virus in call](#)

February 7, 2020, China daily

The trend of China's economy to maintain sound development in the long term remains unchanged despite the challenges of the novel coronavirus outbreak, President Xi Jinping said.

#### [Govt unveils policies to aid outbreak-hit SMEs](#)

February 7, 2020, China daily

China's local governments are introducing a number of supportive measures to help small and medium-sized enterprises cope with the impact of the novel coronavirus outbreak.

#### [Doctor who warned of coronavirus passes away from the virus](#)

February 7, 2020, China daily

Dr Li Wenliang, one of eight people who tried to warn about the novel coronavirus when it first emerged in Wuhan, now the epidemic center of the disease, but was reprimanded by local police, passed away on Friday from the virus, according to the Central Hospital of Wuhan.

#### [Wuhan to isolate sources of virus](#)

February 7, 2020, China daily

Wuhan, the epicenter of the ongoing outbreak of the novel coronavirus, has begun making door-to-door visits to identify people who are infected or suspected to be in order to reduce sources of infection.

#### [67b yuan arranged for epidemic prevention, control](#)

February 7, 2020, China daily

The Ministry of Finance is formulating a plan to allocate a second round of special funds for the prevention and control of the novel coronavirus outbreak, said Vice-Finance Minister Yu Weiping on Friday.

#### [Time to strengthen health governance](#)

February 6, 2020, China daily

The sudden outbreak of the novel coronavirus ahead of this year's Spring Festival holiday has turned into a nationwide epidemic that poses severe challenges to China's public health and epidemic prevention management system. The

Communist Party of China Central Committee and the State Council, China's Cabinet, are paying the greatest attention to the epidemic prevention and control work, and a joint battle against the virus has been launched by the Party committees and governments at various levels.

### [India's actions should follow words on cybersecurity](#)

February 6, 2020, Global Times

China's tech giant 360 Security Technology announced on Wednesday that it had captured a cyberattack of advanced persistent threat (APT) launched by Indian hackers, who used the novel coronavirus as a lure to target China's medical sphere that is battling the epidemic.

### [China doomers are ill, not the Chinese economy](#)

February 7, 2020 , Global Times

Uncertainty remains over the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, but one prediction that has since been verified is how the epidemic has revitalized the chorus of foreign officials, experts, and reporters in their relentless push of conspiracy theories regarding the collapse of China and its economy, or in short, "China doomers."

### [China's Q1 GDP won't drop below 5% despite coronavirus](#)

February 4, 2020 , Global Times

Although the novel coronavirus will cause a drop in China's first quarter economic growth, the impact can be controlled, with the GDP growth rate expected to stay above 5 percent in the first quarter of 2020. The country's economic growth rate is likely to remain robust at 6 percent for the year.

### [Despicable Taiwan authorities make ill use of coronavirus](#)

February 4, 2020 , Global Times

Jaushieh Joseph Wu, leader of Taiwan's external affairs authority, tweeted Thursday attacking the World Health Organization (WHO), saying "What's wrong with you?" The Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) authority got so exasperated simply because WHO has adhered to its principles.

### [US tendency to politicize public health emergencies a hindrance](#)

February 6, 2020, Global Times

Since the US government declared the novel coronavirus a public health emergency on January 31, entry of foreign nationals who have traveled to China in the last two weeks has been suspended, visa issuance in China and flights to and from China have also been stopped, all of which is in contrast to WHO's

recommendation against "measures that unnecessarily interfere with international trade or travel."

#### [Shameful strike by HK medical workers](#)

February 6, 2020, Global Times

When the whole Chinese mainland is jointly fighting the novel coronavirus, thousands of Hong Kong medical workers have staged a five-day strike, regardless of the many hospitalized patients. This has been the first strike by medical staff in Hong Kong's history, and it will definitely be a shameful one. They are ignominious slackers while the virus goes rampant.

#### [China should not worry about 'discrimination'](#)

January 31, 2020, Global Times

The World Health Organization (WHO) declared on Thursday (local time) the novel coronavirus outbreak a global public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC). At a press conference, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus praised the Chinese government for "extraordinary measures" it has taken to contain the outbreak. He also stressed that the declaration is not "a vote of no confidence on China." The WHO declaration also stated explicitly that it does not recommend limiting trade and movement.

#### [Suspending flights not to help curb epidemic, but sow panic: spokesperson](#)

February 6, 2020, Xinhua

Suspending flights by some countries against the World Health Organization (WHO) recommendations will not help contain the epidemic, but sow panic among the public, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said.

## Japan

#### [Japanese destroyer leaves for Middle East intel-gathering mission](#)

February 2, 2020, The Japan Times

A Japanese destroyer left its base in Kanagawa Prefecture for the Middle East on Sunday to join the Maritime Self-Defense Force's first long-term intelligence-gathering mission abroad.

### [Yogendra 'Yogi' Puranik: The first Indian voice in Tokyo politics](#)

February 6, 2020, The Japan Times

Everything changed for Yogendra Puranik the day he attended a committee meeting in 2016 discussing a plan to create a version of Singapore's Little India district in Nishikasai, an area of Tokyo's Edogawa Ward that boasts a sizeable Indian population.

### [China's Xi may postpone state visit to Japan over virus outbreak](#)

February 7, 2020, Japan Today

Chinese President Xi Jinping may postpone an upcoming state visit to Japan to deal with a coronavirus outbreak that has killed more than 400 in his country, diplomatic sources said.

### [U.S., Japan to cooperate on energy, infrastructure investment](#)

February 5, 2020, Japan Today

The United States and Japan have signed an agreement to jointly encourage more private investment in energy and infrastructure projects, the U.S. Treasury said.

### [Japanese coastal city to host Pacific islands summit in 2021](#)

February 4, 2020, Japan Today

The government said Monday that Japan will host a meeting next year of leaders from Pacific island countries and territories in the coastal city of Shima to discuss cooperation in mitigating risks of natural disasters.

### [EU food exports to Japan soar due to free trade pact](#)

February 3, 2020, Japan Today

Food exports from the European Union to Japan increased sharply in the February to November period immediately following the entry into force of their free trade agreement last year, the European Commission says.

### [Non-Japanese included on 4th charter flight from Wuhan](#)

February 7, 2020, The Asahi Shimbun

The fourth government-chartered flight from the coronavirus epicenter of Wuhan landed at Tokyo's Haneda Airport on Feb. 7 carrying for the first time spouses without Japanese passports.

### [41 new coronavirus cases confirmed on Yokohama cruise ship](#)

February 7, 2020, Nikkei Asian Review

Japan's health ministry on Friday confirmed 41 new cases of coronavirus infections on the Diamond Princess cruise ship quarantined off the coast of



Yokohama. So far 273 individuals have been tested, with a total of 61 positive results.

[Shinzo Abe says Tokyo Olympics will go on after Japan's Games chief expresses worries about coronavirus impact](#)

February 6, 2020, SCMP

Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has told parliament this year's Tokyo Olympic Games will not be cancelled or postponed despite fears about the novel coronavirus that has infected tens of thousands and cast a shadow over travel and tourism in Asia.

[Japan PM Abe orders government to take steps to mitigate virus impact on economy](#)

February 7, 2020, Reuters

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has ordered his government to take "all necessary steps" to mitigate the impact of the virus outbreak on the economy, including tapping state budget reserves, Economy Minister Yasutoshi Nishimura said.

[North Korea's 2020 vision: A nuclear shield, not a sword](#)

February 2, 2020, The Japan Times

The standard measure for good eyesight is 20/20. In 2020, several issues on the regional and global agendas that have been foggy for the last five years or so should become clearer. Two of the longest-standing regional concerns are Iran and North Korea. In the last five years they have influenced each other and this is likely to continue in 2020.

## Korea

[FM stresses Xi Jinping will visit Korea in first half](#)

February 6, 2020, The Korea Herald

Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha said Thursday there was no change in Chinese President Xi Jinping's plan to visit South Korea in the first half of the year, despite the outbreak of a coronavirus.

[Moon to meet Chinese, Japanese ambassadors for their credentials](#)

February 7, 2020, The Korea Herald

President Moon Jae-in will greet the new Chinese and Japanese ambassadors to South Korea at Cheong Wa Dae on Friday, an opportunity to discuss the issues of

the ongoing novel coronavirus epidemic and Seoul-Tokyo relations dampened by a drawn-out trade fight.

#### [UN panel approves sanctions exemptions to aid programs in NK](#)

February 7, 2020, The Korea Herald

A UN Security Council panel has approved sanctions exemptions to three aid agencies allowing humanitarian assistance to North Korea, its website showed Friday.

#### [Korea's national debt up 107 trillion won since 2016](#)

February 6, 2020, The Korea Herald

The Moon Jae-in administration has drawn up and approved a series of supplementary budgets in a bid to stimulate GDP growth and create jobs amid a tough employment market.

#### [Koreans in US discriminated over coronavirus](#)

February 6, 2020, The Korea Times

"I've lived in the U.S. for more than 15 years and this is the first time I've felt discriminated to this level on so many occasions in such a short period of time," said Yang. Many others living in the U.S. say they've also been racially victimized because of the virus.

#### [Moon's distress deepens over 'China dilemma'](#)

February 5, 2020, The Korea Times

The spread of the new coronavirus from Hubei Province, China, is posing a possible hindrance to bilateral relations between Seoul and Beijing.

#### [Coronavirus to worsen Korean banks' profits](#)

February 6, 2020, The Korea Times

The global economic slowdown led by the spread of the novel coronavirus will worsen financial stability and profitability of Korean banks over the next few quarters, according to S&P Global Ratings, Thursday.

#### [Coronavirus 'Spreading in N.Korea'](#)

February 5, 2020, The Chosun Ilbo

Several suspected coronavirus infections have occurred in North Korea even though it shut all its borders, sources claim. The infections most likely spread through porous parts of the border with China that see plenty of smuggling and other clandestine traffic.

## Southeast Asia

### [The Coronavirus in Asia and ASEAN – Live Updates by Country](#)

February 6, 2020, ASEAN Briefing

Due to the developing situation in China and Asia concerning the Coronavirus, we will be operating this article as a running live update service to keep businesses involved in ASEAN and Asia updated with the latest relevant regional news.

### [ASEAN: Perceptions of power and security](#)

February 5, 2020, The Interpreter

The State of Southeast Asia: 2020 Survey Report, produced by the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute of Singapore, has confirmed the power rivalry between China and United States is one of the primary concerns of Southeast Asian states.

### [ASEAN members start standing up to China's maritime aggression](#)

February 3, 2020, Nikkei Asian Review

For decades, Beijing has sought to co-opt and lure its Southeast Asian neighbors into acquiescence with its maritime expansion through a package of economic incentives, military intimidation and a diplomatic charm offensive.

### [Protecting our sovereign rights in North Natuna Sea](#)

February 4, 2020, The Jakarta Post

Public discourse on the North Natuna Sea has been full of argument. Condemnations are addressed over the recurring presence of Chinese fishing vessels that harvest fish in the North Natuna Sea with protection from their country's coast guard.

### [Maritime Security Task Force plans to restructure amid rise in piracy in Singapore Strait](#)

February 4, 2020, Straits Times

The Maritime Security Task Force (MSTF) plans to restructure to deal with piracy at sea, including beefing up its assets, Defence Minister Ng Eng Hen said on Monday (Feb 3).

### [Myanmar Imposes Internet Shutdown on Rakhine State](#)

February 4, 2020, Albawaba

A leading global telecoms operator says Myanmar has imposed an internet shutdown in the country's western states of Rakhine and Chin, amid renewed violence and a few months after it partially lifted that same restriction.

### [Vietnam total confirmed coronavirus cases rise to 12](#)

February 6, 2020, Reuters

Vietnam said on Thursday it has confirmed two new cases of the coronavirus, bringing the total to 12. Both the new cases are Vietnamese nationals from the northern province of Vinh Phuc and had close contact with previously detected patients, the health ministry said in a statement.

### [Troubled relations between India and Malaysia](#)

February 7, 2020, Frontline

In December 2019, the Indian government imposed a de facto ban on the import of Malaysian palm oil. Private importers were “unofficially” told to stop placing orders by November last year. At the beginning of the year, the government officially announced that it would stop the import of palm oil from Malaysia.

### [India rejects reference to Kashmir in Pakistan-Malaysia joint statement](#)

February 6, 2020, Live Mint

India slammed the reference to Kashmir in a Pakistan-Malaysia joint statement, saying the Malaysian leadership should develop a better understanding of facts and acknowledge that Pakistan remains an epicentre of global terrorism.

## Central & West Asia

### Central Asia

#### [A New US Strategy for Central Asia: Continuity Under Better Conditions](#)

February 6, 2020, The Diplomat

The new strategy revolves around a familiar “holy trinity” – independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity – while acknowledging the power of new regional dynamics.

#### [The US is all talk when trying to compete with Chinese investment in Central Asia and elsewhere](#)

February 6, 2020, SCMP

Just as Central Asia’s dependence on China is an unfortunate reality, so is the participation of Huawei in Britain’s 5G network. Washington’s failure to acknowledge basic realities was on show during the US secretary of state’s recent tour.

#### [Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan says confrontation of great powers in Central Asia undesirable](#)

February 3, 2020, AKI Press

Uzbekistan does not want to feel undesirable political consequences of rivalry of the great powers in Central Asia, Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan Abdulaziz Kamilov said.

#### [‘Neutrality basis of Turkmenistan’s foreign policy’](#)

February 5, 2020, Andolou Agency

Turkmenistan’s Embassy in Ankara on Wednesday organized an event to promote the country’s declaration of 2020 as a year of Turkmenistan – Homeland of Neutrality.

#### [External Affairs Minister Jaishankar addresses India - Central Asia Business Council in New Delhi](#)

February 6, 2020, All India Radio

External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar today called upon Indian businesses to take initiatives vis-a-vis the Central Asian markets. He said, the time has come for India and Central Asia to create a common platform to share ideas and translate the goodwill and desires into practical outcomes.

### [Indian Foreign Minister urges industry to take greater interest in Central Asia](#)

February 6, 2020, The Economic Times

The suggestions were made by Jaishankar at the first ever India-Central Asia Business Council meeting. "I would like to say that within the framework of the India-Central Asia Dialogue, the governments have committed to a vibrant partnership and in realizing this, a big role has to be played by industry.

### [Turkmenistan presents Lapis Lazuli transport corridor project in Georgia](#)

February 6, 2020, Trend

The Embassy of Turkmenistan in Georgia jointly with CBA Kaizen organized a conference in Tbilisi on the investment climate of Turkmenistan. An exchange of views took place on the development of the transport and logistics system of Turkmenistan, in particular along the Lapis Lazuli, the Caspian Sea - Black Sea transport corridors, and other projects.

### [India eyes Chabahar Port, more air corridors to boost central Asia link](#)

February 7, The Times of India

Chabahar port and more air corridors could overcome the problem of direct connectivity between India and the five central Asian countries, foreign minister S Jaishankar said.

### [Perspectives | US strategy for Central Asia: An old recipe for a new situation](#)

February 6, 2020, Eurasia Net

It never once mentions China or Russia explicitly, although the shadow of those countries looms ever-present over the document.

### [Uzbekistan Repatriates Dozens More As Central Asia Frets Over Coronavirus](#)

February 5, 2020, Rferl.org

Uzbekistan Airways has returned 84 Uzbek nationals from the Chinese city of Wuhan, amid rising fears among Central Asian nations over the possible spread of the deadly coronavirus from its giant neighbor.

### [Pompeo Praises Kazakhstan's 'Real Reforms,' Urges Pressure On China Over Xinjiang](#)

February 2, 2020, Rferl.org

U. S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has lauded what he said were "real reforms" in Kazakhstan, saying Washington was "here to help" in the oil-rich country's "transformation."

## West Asia

### [Saudi Arabia rejects Pakistan's plea for discussion on Kashmir at OIC](#)

February 7, 2020, The Hindu

In yet another setback to Islamabad, Saudi Arabia has once again declined Pakistan's request for an urgent meeting of the council of Foreign Ministers on Kashmir at the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

### [Turkey hosts events to mark Kashmir Solidarity Day](#)

February 6, 2020, Anadolu Agency

The disputed region of Jammu and Kashmir, huddled between South Asian nuclear powers India and Pakistan, is a pressing issue that the international community should take up, said speakers at several events on Wednesday held to commemorate the Kashmir Solidarity Day in Turkey.

### [Maritime coalition to protect ships in the Gulf from Iran may 'be needed for years'](#)

February 2, 2020, Sky News

An international maritime coalition set up to deter attacks by Iran against shipping in the Gulf will be needed for months, possibly even years, a Bahrain naval officer has told Sky News.

### [Egypt's military is the 9th strongest in the world, jumping three places in 2019](#)

February 4, 2020, Egypt Independent

Leading international ranking website Global Fire has listed Egypt 9th out of 138 countries in terms of its military strength, with the country jumping three places compared to 2019, according to the website's freshly released 2020 report. The US military topped the list, while the Russian military came in second place, followed by China and India.

### [Iraq protesters rally in Najaf after deadly clashes with Sadrists](#)

February 7, 2020, Al Jazeera

Hundreds of anti-government protesters have taken to the streets of Iraq's holy city of Najaf, returning to the site of deadly clashes with supporters of influential Shia leader Muqtada al-Sadr the night before.

### [Europe worries as Trump seems to lose interest in new Iran deal](#)

February 6, 2020, Al-Monitor

European diplomats working to try to leverage the Donald Trump administration's Iran "maximum pressure" campaign into a negotiation for a new deal are increasingly worried as they say US officials seem in recent months to have convinced themselves that the Iranian regime is nearing the brink of collapse and show little interest in getting back to the negotiating table, even as Tehran's nuclear program expands.



### [Indian Budget Allocates Close to \\$14 Million to Chabahar Port Project](#)

February 2, 2020, Financial Tribune

In India, Rs 17,300 crore (\$2.41 billion) have been allocated for the Ministry of External Affairs in the budget, with Rs100 crore (\$13.98 million) earmarked for the strategic Chabahar Port project in southeastern Iran, which gives India connectivity to Afghanistan bypassing Pakistan.

### [Israel Completes Spike Missiles Supply To India Within Three Months Of Order](#)

February 7, 2020, Swarajya Magazine

Israel's Rafael Advanced Defence Systems' India Head, Eli Hefets, said on Wednesday (5 February), "We have completed the supply of the Spike-LR anti-tank guided missiles under the fast track procedure where the systems had to be delivered within three months of the order."

### [India signs deal with Israel to produce devastating unmanned military drones](#)

February 5, 2020, Daily Express

India's military is seeking to expand its use of drones for intelligence gathering, surveillance and reconnaissance. The state-funded Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) signed a memorandum of understanding with Israel's Elbit System to jointly develop rotary military drones.

### [Qatar To Acquire Submarines In New Twist In Gulf States' Big Naval Expansion](#)

February 4, 2020, Forbes

Qatar may become the first Arab Gulf state to operate submarines. A new memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Italian defense giant Fincantieri covers the "supply of cutting-edge naval vessels and submarines."

### [Qatar To Acquire Submarines In New Twist In Gulf States' Big Naval Expansion](#)

February 4, 2020, Forbes

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### [Tax exemptions for UAE sovereign investments in India's infrastructure sector](#)

February 6, 2020, Khaleej Times

In line with its ongoing efforts to create an ideal investment environment internationally, the UAE, in coordination with the relevant authorities in India, has managed to reach tax exemptions for the UAE's sovereign investments in India applicable to the infrastructure sector for all sovereign investment institutions in the UAE, both federally and locally.



[Yemen Al-Qaeda leader al-Raymi killed by US strike](#)

February 7, 2020, BBC News

The United States has killed the leader of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), President Donald Trump said. Qasim al-Raymi, who has led the jihadist group since 2015, was killed in a US operation in Yemen, the White House said.

## United States

### United States

#### [Indo-US trade deal likely to be sealed during Donald Trump's India visit](#)

February 4, 2020, Business Standard

India and the US are set to seal a trade deal during President Donald Trump's planned visit to India in the last week of this month, multiple sources said on Tuesday.

#### [Trump's approval rating hits highest mark since becoming president](#)

February 4, 2020, New York Post

President Trump's job approval rating soared to its highest point since he entered the White House in 2017, according to a poll that was conducted amid the Senate impeachment trial.

#### [Full Transcript: Trump's 2020 State of the Union Address](#)

February 5, 2020, New York Times

President Trump delivered his third State of the Union address on Tuesday to a joint session of Congress. The link is a transcript of his remarks, as released by The White House.

#### [5 takeaways from Donald Trump's State of the Union address](#)

February 5, 2020, CNN

Twenty-four hours after the first contest among the Democrats seeking to replace him in November and 24 before he will be formally acquitted in the Senate impeachment trial, President Donald Trump delivered his third State of the Union address to a bicameral session of Congress on Tuesday night.

#### [Pete Buttigieg keeps narrow lead in Iowa caucuses with 100% of precincts reporting](#)

February 7, 2020, CNN

Pete Buttigieg holds a slim lead over Bernie Sanders in the Iowa caucuses with the Iowa Democratic Party announcing on Thursday night that 100% of precincts are reporting.

### [US Army wants to expand pre-positioned stock in Pacific](#)

February 5, 2020, Defense News

The U.S. Army wants to expand its pre-positioned equipment in the Indo-Pacific region, Gen. Gus Perna, the head of Army Materiel Command, told reporters during a Feb. 4 Defense Writers Group event in Washington.

### [Donald Trump 'apoplectic' over Boris Johnson giving green light to Huawei](#)

February 6, 2020, Sky News

Donald Trump was "apoplectic" with fury in a phone call with Boris Johnson over the prime minister's decision to back involvement by Chinese phone giant Huawei in the UK's 5G mobile network, it has been claimed.

### [China's Dominance of 5G Networks Puts U.S. Economic Future at Stake, Barr Warns](#)

February 6, 2020, New York Times

Attorney General William P. Barr said Thursday that China's dominance of 5G telecommunications networks was one of America's top national security and economic threats, amplifying warnings issued for years by intelligence officials but that President Trump has sometimes undermined.

### [Al-Qaeda leader in Yemen killed by US forces, Donald Trump confirms](#)

February 7, 2020, Telegraph

The leader of Al-Qaeda's affiliate in Yemen was killed in a US airstrike ordered by Donald Trump, the White House confirmed last night.

### [U.S. steps up warnings on Russia over Syria's Idlib, military de-confliction](#)

February 6, 2020, Reuters

The United States on Wednesday stepped up warnings to Russia over its Syria policy, saying Moscow was trying to challenge the U.S. presence in north-eastern Syria by violating the terms of a de-confliction agreement and was also helping escalate the fighting in the north-western province of Idlib.

### [U.S. to Start Trade Talks with Kenya to Counter China's Influence](#)

February 6, 2020, New York Times

The Trump administration announced on Thursday that it would begin talks for a free-trade deal with Kenya, a step partly designed to counter China's influence in Africa.

### [China Cuts Tariffs on \\$75 Billion in U.S. Goods. That Was the Easy Part.](#)

February 6, 2020, New York Times

China said on Thursday that it would reduce tariffs on \$75 billion worth of American-made goods, a step that signals its intention to hold up its end of a trade truce with President Trump despite the coronavirus crisis unfolding largely within its borders.

### [Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov hits out at U.S. 'provocations' in Venezuela](#)

February 7, 2020, Reuters

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Thursday denounced U.S. foreign policy in Venezuela, criticizing U.S. "provocations" and attempts to create what he called a pretext for military intervention.

### [The Iraq War has cost the US nearly \\$2 trillion](#)

February 6, 2020, Military Times

Even if the U.S. administration decided to leave — or was evicted from — Iraq immediately, the bill of war to the U.S. to date would be an estimated \$1.922 trillion in current dollars.

## Europe & Russia

### Europe

#### [Portugal President to visit India from February 13-16, will review progress in ties](#)

February 6, 2020, The Times of India

Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa will visit India from February 13-16 during which he will hold talks with PM Modi to review the progress in bilateral ties in key sectors, the MEA said.

#### [What does Britain want from trade deal with United States?](#)

February 6, 2020, Reuters

British trade minister Liz Truss on Thursday set out the country's priorities for a post-Brexit trade deal with the United States. Truss said Britain would set out detailed negotiating objectives in due course.

#### [About 500,000 EU citizens yet to apply for UK residency after Brexit](#)

February 6, 2020, Reuters

An estimated 500,000 European Union nationals in Britain have yet to apply for a new immigration status, which most will need to remain in the country after Brexit.

#### ['No EU slavery!' Germans call for DEXIT a week after hailing Brexit success](#)

February 7, 2020, Express

Berlin's right-wing populist AfD party leader Björn Höcke is in the process of selling Dexit to the rest of the party in order to use it as the main feature of their manifesto in the next election. Mr Höcke said: "The majority of the German people also want to get out of EU slavery."

#### [German far-right political scandal reflects rise of Europe's populists](#)

February 6, 2020, Deutsche Welle

Across the continent, right-wing populist parties are trying to pass themselves off as respectable. This strategy just paid off for the far-right AfD's strategic gambit in the state of Thuringia. Bernd Riegert reports.

#### [EU Official Says Balkan Membership Expansion Is Priority](#)

February 6, 2020, New York Times

The European Union's proposed new system for adding members is meant to reinstate the bloc's influence in the Western Balkans, the bloc's enlargement commissioner said Thursday.

### [Oxfam accuses EU of tying aid money to African migration curbs](#)

February 6, 2020, CNN

Oxfam has accused the European Union of using African aid and development funding to strong-arm African countries into limiting migration to the continent.

### [France to spell out post-Brexit nuclear weapons strategy](#)

February 7, 2020, Channel News Asia

France, the European Union's sole nuclear power since Britain's exit from the bloc, will unveil on Friday how it intends to use its atomic arsenal as a deterrent in an increasingly unstable world.

### [South Africa, Germany hold talks to strengthen ties](#)

February 6, 2020, Anadolu Agency

South Africa and Germany Thursday agreed to deepen bilateral ties during a meeting between visiting German Chancellor Angela Merkel and host President Cyril Ramaphosa in the capital Pretoria.

### [Angela Merkel touts renewables in coal-hungry South Africa](#)

February 6, 2020, Deutsche Welle

Chancellor Merkel met with South Africa's president to discuss how his country can move towards renewable energy to fight climate change. The pair also discusses the war in Libya and business investments in South Africa.

### [Germany, France plot new steps for trinational fighter jet – but what about Spain?](#)

February 6, 2020, Defense News

The German Defence Ministry on Wednesday sent lawmakers new study plans for the Future Combat Air System, revealing that partner nation Spain has yet to be fully brought along to the next stage.

### [Spain's PM Meets Catalan Separatist Leader, Sets Out Roadmap for Talks](#)

February 6, 2020, New York Times

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez met Catalonia's pro-independence regional leader on Thursday for the first time in over a year to outline an agenda for wider negotiations with the region that are due to kick off later this month.

### [Spain's govt sets timing of talks with Catalonia leaders](#)

February 6, 2020, Associated Press

The Spanish government and leaders of the Catalonia region will start formal talks this month in a bid to end one of the biggest political crises since Spain's return to democracy in the late 1970s, the country's prime minister said Thursday.

## Russia

### [Russia to Offer Free E-Visas to 53 Countries, Snubs U.S. and Britain](#)

February 7, 2020, The Moscow Times

Citizens of 53 countries will be able to apply for free and simplified electronic visas to visit Russia starting next year. The 16-day e-visas will go into effect Jan. 1, 2021, for citizens of the European Union and different countries in Southeast Asia, the Middle East and Latin America.

### [Coronavirus Update: Russia Acts to Curb Spread](#)

February 6, 2020, The Moscow Times

As the new coronavirus that has killed more than 360 people in China continues to spread around the world, Russia has stepped up measures to tackle the health risk, including closing most entry points along its 4,200-kilometer border .

### [Russia Eyes Early Delivery of Advanced S-500 Air Defense System](#)

February 4, 2020, The Moscow Times

Russia's advanced S-500 air defense system could be delivered to the military as soon as 2020, five years earlier than previously disclosed, Russia's deputy defense minister has said.

### [Russia's reluctance for a production cut exposes possible crack in three-year-old OPEC alliance](#)

February 6, 2020, CNBC

Russia has not so far endorsed a recommendation from a technical committee for OPEC and its allies to deepen production cuts. Oil analysts said it shows a possible lack of harmony in the producers' alliance.

### [In the U.S. embargo on Venezuelan oil, Russia is a clear winner](#)

February 7, 2020, The Washington Post

In the year since the Trump administration declared what amounted to economic war against the Venezuelan government of President Nicolás Maduro — an oil embargo that cut it off from its biggest petroleum buyer, the United States — the move has yielded some clear losers, including U.S. investors now shut out of the market.

### [Lukashenka Complains About Halt On Russian Oil Supplies Ahead Of Putin Talks](#)

February 6, 2020, Rferl.org

Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka has arrived in Russia's Black Sea resort of Sochi, state news agency BelTA reported, for talks with Russian President

Vladimir Putin that are expected to focus on disagreements over tariffs for Russian oil.

### [Russia Plans S-400 Deliveries to India in 2021](#)

February 5, 2020, The Moscow Times

Russia plans to start deliveries of its S-400 air defense system to India late next year, a Russian official said Wednesday of the arms deal that risks landing Delhi under U.S. sanctions.

### [India, Russia try to resolve impasse over Ka-226 helicopter deal](#)

February 6, 2020, The Hindu

Issues concerning the production localisation of Ka-226T light utility helicopters are in the process of being resolved, N.M. Srikanth, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Indo-Russian Helicopters Limited (IRHL), said on Thursday. The final deal for manufacturing the helicopters in India has been held up for a while.

### [Documents Reveal U.S. Military Is Tracking Russian Government News Agencies For Disinformation On Coronavirus](#)

February 6, 2020, Newsweek

Military planners are actively tracking disinformation campaigns promulgated by accounts operated by — or attributable to — the Russian government. Between January 28 and February 3, the "coronavirus" hashtag was the most used by major Russian news Twitter accounts, according to the documents.



## Africa & Latin America

### Latin America

#### [At least 138 sent from US to El Salvador were killed](#)

February 5, 2020, MSN

At least 138 people deported to El Salvador from the U.S. in recent years were subsequently killed, Human Rights Watch says in a new report that comes as the Trump administration makes it harder for Central Americans to seek refuge here.

#### [Venezuela rounds up US oil executives as Guaidó visits DC](#)

February 6, 2020, AP

Six American oil executives under house arrest in Venezuela were rounded up by police hours after President Donald Trump met Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro's chief opponent at the White House, according to family members of the men.

#### [U.S. condemns detention of Citgo executives in Venezuela; hints at sanctions on Russia](#)

February 7, 2020, Reuters

The United States on Thursday condemned the "cruel and indefensible" detention of executives from U.S. refiner Citgo in Caracas, said the top U.S. envoy for Venezuela, who also warned Russia over its support for Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro.

#### [Venezuela's Maduro Blasts US Threats as Trump Hosts Guaido](#)

February 6, 2020, Venezuelanalysis.com

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro slammed Donald Trump Wednesday for "threats" and "disrespect" towards the Venezuelan people. Maduro's comments came in reaction to his US counterpart's State of the Union address before the US Congress.

#### [Mexico in talks with Russia to buy new batch of military helicopters: foreign minister.](#)

February 7, 2020, Yahoo News

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Thursday said Mexico was in talks to buy a batch of Russian-made military helicopters.

### [Brazil, US to collaborate on oil, gas regulatory issues](#)

February 3, 2020, S&P Global

Brazil and the US will discuss issues surrounding oil and natural gas regulations in an effort to boost trade between the two countries and increase American investments in Latin America's largest economy, the top energy officials of each nation said Monday.

## **Africa**

### [India pitches as reliable defence supplier to Africa](#)

February 6, 2020, The Economic Times

India have had defence partnerships with Zambia, Nigeria, Ghana, Ethiopia, Botswana, Uganda, Namibia and Mozambique and is seeking to expand this to include more countries across the vast continent. It may be recalled that in the post-colonial Africa India had assisted to set up military academy in Ethiopia, defence college and Naval war college in Nigeria.

### [India-Africa look to boost anti-terror ties, says Rajnath Singh](#)

February 7, 2020, The Hindustan Times

Addressing the first India- Africa Defence Ministers' Conclave held as part of the DefExpo- 2020 in Lucknow, Rajnath Singh said India was interested in taking its defence engagements with African countries to the next level.

### [Nigerians in limbo after Trump adds country to US travel ban list](#)

February 7, 2020, Al Jazeera

A presidential proclamation on January 31 cited Nigeria's failure to comply with security and information sharing requirements, and its high "terror" risk to the US as reasons for imposing the restriction.

### [South Africa, Germany hold talks to strengthen ties](#)

February 6, 2020, Andolou Agency

South Africa and Germany Thursday agreed to deepen bilateral ties during a meeting between visiting German Chancellor Angela Merkel and host President Cyril Ramaphosa in the capital Pretoria.

### ['Progress' in talks between Libya rivals: UN envoy](#)

February 7, 2020, Al Jazeera

The United Nations' special envoy for Libya has reported "progress" in talks between military representatives of the country's warring parties on efforts to achieve a lasting ceasefire that could include a monitoring role for the world body.

### [Between US and China, Kenya's president asks 'Why choose?'](#)

February 6, 2020, Al Jazeera

Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta announced today that he will pursue closer ties with both the United States and China, on the eve of his meeting with US President Donald Trump on a potential free trade agreement.

### [Rwanda, China To Sign Financing Deal For Nyabarongo Power Project](#)

February 6, 2020, KT Press

Rwanda and the people's Republic of China will tomorrow, February 7, sign a financing agreement to construct the Nyabarongo II Hydro-power project.

### [Cameroon boosts security after suspected separatist attacks](#)

February 5, 2020, Al Jazeera

Police in Cameroon are on high alert after a number of suspected separatist attacks in the political capital Yaounde and the economic hub Douala.

### [Netanyahu says Israel and Sudan to normalise ties soon](#)

February 4, 2020, Al Jazeera

Israel and Sudan have agreed to move towards forging normal relations for the first time, Israeli officials said on Monday, after the leaders of the two countries met in Uganda.

### [France to send 600 more troops to fight armed groups in Sahel](#)

February 2, 2020, Al Jazeera

France has said it would boost its military presence in the Sahel by adding 600 troops to its 4,500-strong operation in Mali and four other countries in the region.

### [Zimbabwe Refugees Lose Fight to Remain in Botswana](#)

February 6, 2020, VOA

About 60 Zimbabwean refugees have lost their battle to remain in neighboring Botswana. The host government rejected their appeal against repatriation. The refugees are reluctant to return to Zimbabwe, citing political persecution.



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