



A Pakistani–Bangladeshi Reset?

Muhammad Himel Rahman | 24 January 2025

“At present, Bangladesh and Pakistan share no territorial dispute, geopolitical rivalry, or economic competition. Only the complicated history of 1971 presents a sphere of friction between the two states. Following the fall of the Awami League-controlled government on 5 August 2024, there have been increased calls for greater cooperation between the two states, and Dhaka and Islamabad have undertaken some steps in this regard.”

Read More: <https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2025/01/24/a-pakistani-bangladeshi-reset/>

Negotiating with Terrorists

Muhammad Amir Rana | 19 January 2025

“However, several critical factors are missing in the case of the TTP. Despite Noor Wali’s efforts to unify the group, the TTP remains an umbrella organisation, comprising various factions with divergent interests, and lacking a strong and cohesive leadership. Additionally, neither the Afghan Taliban nor the Haqqani Network can serve as neutral mediators since the TTP is ideologically, politically, and militarily entrenched within their ranks.”

Read More: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1886214/negotiating-with-terrorists>

Pakistan's Response to Terrorism

Attiya Munawer | 21 January 2025

“However, with the advent of the year 2025, the intelligence-based operations of the security forces have intensified and several operations were carried out against the Fitna khawarij in Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and more than 70 terrorists were killed in the first two weeks. An average of 130 operations are being conducted against terrorists on a daily basis.”

Read More: <https://www.nation.com.pk/21-Jan-2025/pakistan-s-response-to-terrorism>

Unlocking Pakistan's Workforce

Maleeha Lodhi | 23 December 2024

“Labour laws must promote equitable opportunities for men and women alike, while social safety nets can mitigate the impacts of sudden economic disruptions. Pakistan must align its employment policies with global standards, focusing on specialized programs for youth, high-quality education, and training in industries with growth potential.”

Read More: <https://www.nation.com.pk/24-Jan-2025/unlocking-pakistan-s-workforce>

Afghanistan Faces a Complex Set of Challenges in 2025 — Here's What You Need to Know

James Durso | 09 January 2025

“Despite global diplomatic efforts, including summits in Doha, Moscow and Tehran, the Taliban failed to secure global recognition as the legitimate government of Afghanistan. The U.N. Security Council meeting in December 2024 revealed sharp differences among permanent members on how to engage with the Taliban.”

Read More: <https://thehill.com/opinion/international/5074513-afghanistan-2025-challenges/>

Bangladesh-India Relationship: Is Diplomacy in Peril?

Ashraf ud Doula | 14 January 2025

“As both Bangladesh's foreign affairs advisor and army chief have emphasized, India and Bangladesh share a common future and need each other for mutual progress. This can only be achieved through mutual understanding, respect, and cooperation, rooted in the principles of sovereignty and independence.”

Read More: <https://www.dhakatribune.com/opinion/op-ed/370761/bangladesh-india-relationship-is-diplomacy-in>

How Pakistan's ISI is Helping Rohingya Armed Groups to Forge a United Front in Bangladesh

Rajeev Bhattacharyya | 27 January 2025

“Among the many consequences of Bangladesh’s growing bonhomie with Pakistan seems to be the emergence of a united front of Rohingya armed groups that could have a far-reaching impact on the region, including India. Sources in Cox’s Bazar disclosed that Pakistan’s ISI was engaged in the spadework to convince the armed groups to collaborate for ‘effective coordination’ in their campaign to recover their homeland in Myanmar.”

Read More: <https://www.firstpost.com/opinion/how-pakistans-isi-is-helping-rohingya-armed-groups-to-forge-a-united-front-in-bangladesh-13856825.html>

When Will the Revolution Reach Bangladesh’s Hills?

Julia Bleckner | 23 January 2025

“Activists have called for a Bangladesh 2.0, where rights are respected, security forces serve the public, and authorities—including the military—are held to account. Freedom and justice in the CHT region should serve as a test for whether these aspirations are a reality.”

Read More: <https://www.thedailystar.net/opinion/views/news/when-will-the-revolution-reach-bangladeshs-hills-3806476>

No, Sri Lanka’s Tamil Question Has Not Been Resolved

Mario Arulthas | 09 January 2025

“Tamils have learned through repeated painful experiences that a political solution will not come from the state. It is because of this broken faith that Tamils look to the international community for justice and accountability. Disrupting this pattern will require that the new government take clear steps towards dismantling the ethnocratic nature of the state and delivering meaningful accountability.”

Read More: <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2025/1/9/no-sri-lankas-tamil-question-has-not-been-resolved>

Beyond Economic Malaise: Charting Sri Lanka's Future for Prosperity

Dr. Manil J. A. Del Mel | 24 January 2025

“Sri Lanka’s path to economic recovery and prosperity requires a holistic approach that addresses immediate challenges while laying the foundation for long-term growth. By fostering fiscal discipline, enhancing competitiveness, empowering people, and committing to sustainable practices, the nation can rebuild its economy and secure a brighter future for its citizens.”

Read More: <https://www.dailymirror.lk/opinion/Beyond-economic-malaise-Charting-Sri-Lankas-future-for-prosperity/172-300820#>

Reflections and Roadmap: Maldives' Journey Through 2024 and Prospects for 2025

Umang Bhansali | 22 January 2025

“As the Maldives transitions into 2025, the nation must build on its achievements while addressing critical challenges to ensure sustainable growth and stability. Continued political stability will be vital in navigating economic challenges and maintaining the nation’s democratic foundations.”

Read More: <https://vifindia.org/article/2025/january/22/Reflections-and-Roadmap-Maldives-Journey-Through-2024>

Assessing China's Growing Footprint in Nepal

Kamal Dev Bhattarai | 28 January 2025

“While India has traditionally been Nepal’s closest developmental partner, China’s footprint in the country has grown rapidly in recent years. Nepal is now caught amid three major powers vying for influence — China, India, and the United States. Kathmandu should tread cautiously in its bilateral relations with each of these powers since its interests lie in engaging all of them.”

Read More: <https://southasianvoices.org/geo-m-np-r-china-footprint-nepal-1-28-2025/>

Charting Nepal's Energy and Tech Renaissance

Sixit Bhatta | 18 January 2025

“Nepal, with its immense hydropower potential, sits at a unique crossroads, capable of providing not just clean energy but also energy storage solutions akin to battery farms or photovoltaic cells. At the same time, Nepal’s geographic position and renewable resources offer an unprecedented opportunity to power the computational future – turning energy into data at the source.”

Read More: <https://kathmandupost.com/columns/2025/01/18/charting-nepal-s-energy-and-tech-renaissance>

Cost of Instability

Khem Raj Niraula | 27 January 2025

“Political instability results from frequent changes of government and its structures, either in a constitutional or unconstitutional way. On the other hand, economic growth is defined as the measure which reveals the number of monetary transactions happening within the economy of a country.”

Read More: <https://risingnepaldaily.com/news/56110>

Bhutan's Climate Resilience: Ten Years of Partnership and Path Forward

Lyonpo Gem Tshering | 25 January 2025

“Innovation sits at the heart of Bhutan’s plan. It will embrace Artificial Intelligence (AI), including Deep Learning and Machine Learning, to enhance the forecasting techniques. Rather than focusing on local-area modeling, NCHM will shift toward extending local observations and downscaling global and regional models through AI to provide highly localized and more accurate forecasts of extreme weather events.”

Read More: <https://kuenselonline.com/bhutans-climate-resilience-ten-years-of-partnership-and-path-forward/>

Power Shifts and Progress in Central Asia

Richard Pomfret | 22 January 2025

“In 2024, the European Union took the lead in promising funding, organising stakeholder meetings and preparing feasibility studies for the key infrastructure projects in Central Asia. The World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, Islamic Development Bank and various specialised agencies also worked on providing financial and technical assistance.”

Read More: <https://eastasiaforum.org/2025/01/22/power-shifts-and-progress-in-central-asia/>

Central Asia's Economic Growth to Reach 5% in 2025

Sadokat Jalolova | 23 January 2025

“Central Asia is expected to outperform the broader ECA region, with growth projected to accelerate to 5% in 2025 before softening to 4.2% in 2026. This growth will be driven by increased oil production in Kazakhstan, which will serve as a critical engine of recovery for the region.”

Read More: <https://timesca.com/central-asias-economic-growth-to-reach-5-in-2025/>

Assad's Fall Shakes Iran's Rulers, Reinvigorates Dissidents

Ali Afshari | 08 January 2025

“The fall of Assad has profound psychological implications for Iranian society. Millions of Iranians seeking structural change in Iran now perceive the state as weaker and less capable of imposing fear and repression. This perception erodes the government's authority and helps dissidents to bolster resistance and collective identity. Activism may gain momentum as people grow more confident in challenging the state's propaganda and misinformation.”

Read More: <https://www.iranintl.com/en/202501088340>

Why Syria is so Coveted

Rami G Khouri | 26 January 2025

“Syria today is the most dynamic diplomatic venue in the Middle East because it is the most strategically contested one – as it has been for millennia. The outcome of the competition to control Syrian governance and alliances will define political trends in the Levant and the wider Middle East for years to come.”

Read More: <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2025/1/26/why-syria-is-so-coveted>

Risks to Gaza Truce

Maleeha Lodhi | 27 January 2025

“If Israel annexed the West Bank, it would rule out chances of establishing an independent Palestinian state and spell an end to the two-state solution, for which there is international consensus as also reflected in UN Security Council resolutions. Support for the two-state solution remains the formal position of the US. Trump, however, has refrained from reaffirming it while Netanyahu has repeatedly rejected it.”

Read More: <https://www.dawn.com/news/1887964/risks-to-gaza-truce>

REGION IN PICTURES

Foreign secretary Vikram Misri meets the Taliban's acting foreign minister Amir Khan Muttaqi in Dubai on January 8, 2025.



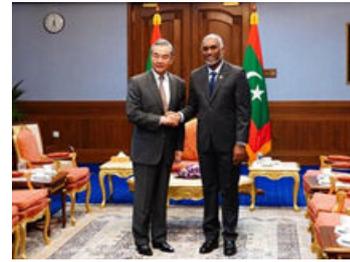
Pic Credits: Hindustan Times

Chinese President Xi Jinping and Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake shake hands during a signing ceremony at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China on January 15, 2025.



Pic Credits: Deccan Herald

Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu meets with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Maldives on January 10, 2025.



Pic Credits: The Sen Times

U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio meets with Indian External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong, and Japanese Foreign Minister Iwaya Takeshi at the State Department in Washington, U.S., January 21, 2025.



Pic Credits: Reuters



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