

Events Driving Global Instability and Risk



US: Government Shutdown and national emergency in Feb 2019

- The federal government underwent a 35 day shutdown, the longest in history, following Congress failing to fund the border wall with Mexico
- The president declared a national emergency to divert federal funds to build portions of the wall

Venezuela: Presidential crisis in Jan – Mar 2018

- National Assembly declares 2018 election invalid and appoints opposition leader as president
- Incumbent maintains power with help of national guard, and cuts off foreign and humanitarian aid from entering the country



Israel-Palestine: Risk of further escalation in the region in Mar 2019

- Two long range rockets fired from the Gaza strip hit Tel Aviv, wounding six people
- Israel retaliated with strikes at 100 targets in Gaza, prompting further rocket attacks in response by Hamas



UK: UK fails to agree Brexit in Jan– Mar 2019

- All three of Prime Minister Theresa May's Brexit deals rejected by U.K. Parliament
- The U.K. has secured an extension to the Mar. 29 deadline for leaving the EU, with a working exit plan still outstanding

US-North Korea: Summit between leaders ends in failure in Feb 2019

- Presidential summit ends early with no agreement between the parties
- New reports claim that Korea has started rebuilding a previously dismantled rocket launch site



China: Economy grows at slowest annual rate in nearly 30 years in Jan-Mar 2019

- GDP growth slows to 6%
- The trade war with the US and the country's crackdown on a debt-fuelled corporate spending spree is depressing output
- China's economic weakness is stoking worries about risks to the world economy



India-Pakistan: Military confrontation following terrorist attack in Feb 2019

- Mutual airstrikes on each other's territories
- Suicide bomb attack in Kashmir that killed 44 was countered by a mission by Indian Air force on terrorist base in Pakistan
- Pakistan's retaliatory airstrike lead to multiple aircraft shot down and the capture of an Indian pilot, later released
- Both remain on alert, but a rapid de-escalation followed broad condemnation of Pakistan



New Zealand: 50 people killed in a terror attack on two mosques in Christchurch in Mar 2019

- A gunman targeted two mosques in central Christchurch during Friday prayers, killing 50 and injuring another 50 people
- The attacker, a white supremacist, live-streamed the attacks on social media



Source: Various Press Articles

Events Driving Global Development and Progress

Politics, Economics and Society



Health: FDA approves first ever drug treatment for postpartum depression in Mar 2019

- Drug specifically for postpartum depression approved
- Current treatment take weeks – even months – to take effect



Environment: US coal consumption drops to lowest level in 40 years in Jan 2019

- Coal usage fell by 4% in 2018, the lowest since 1979 due to increases in gas and renewables



Politics: US and China resume high-level trade talks in Mar 2019

- Both sides determined to avoid trade war escalation



Environment: Adidas to scale production of shoes made of ocean plastic in Mar 2019

- Adidas is doubling the production of shoes made from recycled ocean plastics to 11m pairs this year



Environment: Renewables overtake coal as Germany's main energy source in Jan 2018

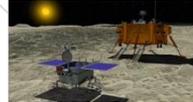
- Renewable overtook coal for the first time in 2018, accounting for 40% of electricity production



Politics: Slovakia elects first female president in Mar 2019

- Activist Zuzana Čaputová to become first female president of Slovakia
- Her win is expected to embolden anti-corruption activists and liberals

Science & Technology



Technology: China lands rover on moon's unexplored far side in Jan 2019

- China landed a vehicle on the 'dark side' of moon
- Mission to help learn more about the moon's origins and how to extract valuable minerals

Healthcare: Lenses developed to correct colour blindness in Mar 2018

- Specialized lenses to correct colour blindness developed in Canada inventor



Healthcare: Major breakthrough in curing diabetes in Feb 2019

- Stem cells transformed into mature insulin-producing cells
- Overcomes a key roadblock in regenerative medicine



Cleantech: Dow Chemicals converts plastic waste into roads in Mar 2019

- 26 miles of pavement constructed to date from 100t of waste
- Several pilot programs launched



Healthcare: Second person effectively 'cured' of HIV in Mar 2019

- Doctors have put HIV into "sustained remission" with a stem cell transplant
- This will encourage other doctor's work on new gene therapies based on similar principles



Cleantech: New solar-powered battery stores for winter in Feb 2019

- Retains energy harnessed from solar panels
- Non-toxic and reusable for hundreds of cycles

Cleantech: Australia becomes renewable energy leader in Feb 2019

- At current pace, Australia to be 100% renewable powered by 2032



Environment: NASA reports Earth is currently greenest in 20 years in Feb 2019

- Ambitious tree planting programs by India and China identified as the key reason for growth



Health: India slashes prices for 390 cancer drugs in Mar 2019

- The price cuts will prevent pharma companies and wholesalers from profiting off essential anti-cancer treatments



Society: IBM to train c.1m female students in three years in Mar 2019

- IBM will collaborate with the Indian central and state governments to upskill around one million female students
- Focus areas will be science technology, engineering and maths fields



Environment: World Bank commits US\$22bn for Africa to fight climate change in Mar 2019

- This amount is in addition to US\$200bn previously committed
- Funding to be utilized for climate-related projects across Africa over next 5 years



Society: Indian billionaire commits US\$7.5bn to charity in Mar 2019

- Azim Premji, committed c.63% of his wealth to his philanthropic foundation
- The foundation's carries out extensive field work in education across some of the most disadvantaged parts of India