From the world's most important power relation to key elections in the region, here's what our foreign correspondents around the world will be keeping an eye on in the coming year.

**JANUARY**

- **North Korea leader Kim Jong Un visits New York's skyline**
- **South Korea to mark the 100th anniversary of a key independence movement in the country and abroad.**
- India to unveil a new national anthem expected to be popular and to cater to a wide range of people.

**FEBRUARY**

- **The world's largest free trade deal – between the European Union and Japan – enters into force, accounting for a third of the global economy and covering more than 630 million people.**
- **India to unveil a new national anthem expected to be popular and to cater to a wide range of people.**
- Former Malaysian prime minister Najib Razak goes on trial on charges of corruption.

**MARCH**

- The Philippines holds mid-term elections seen as a test of confidence in President Rodrigo Duterte. Twelve of the 24 seats in the Senate and all 297 seats in the House are up for grabs.
- Australia is expected to hold a general election likely to be fought over trade relations and immigration, climate change and the country's revolting politics. Polls indicate that the Scott Morrison-led coalition will lose the election.
- The European Parliament holds elections in a climate of uncertainty as a wave of populism sweeps across Europe. Several countries, including Germany, have faced doubts by nationalist and far-right parties.

**APRIL**

- **The 30th anniversary of one of China's most politically sensitive incidents will go unmarked on the mainland. Beijing will suppress any discussion on the 1989 protests, pushing the events to the back burner.**
- **Qatar marks the second anniversary of blockade by its bigger neighbours. The Gulf blockade and other regional developments will be discussed at the 40th session of the shredded Arab League (AL) meeting to be held in the United Arab Emirates, but no dates are set.**

**MAY**

- **Greece marks the 300th anniversary of its liberation from the Ottoman Empire, as ties remain tense over trade row and other frictions.**
- **Also on Oct 1, Beijing’s new international airport, projected to be the world’s largest, will begin operations. Beijing Daxing International Airport will eventually handle 800,000 flights and 100 million passengers each year.**
- **China marks the 100th anniversary of the May Fourth Movement, an event that sparked the五四运动 in 1919 that brought to the fore modern ideas of science, democracy and progress in the country and sowed the seeds for the birth of the Chinese Communist Party more than 100 years later.**

**JUNE**

- **The 193-member United Nations General Assembly will hold annual meetings in New York. The Palestinian issue will be at the top of the agenda, with the outcome seen as a test of global resolve to step up the fight against climate change.**
- **The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first landing on the moon.**

**JULY**

- **Japan holds Upper House elections. The ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) hopes to win a majority, but there are doubts about its ability to remain in power.**
- **North Korean leader Kim Jong-un will make his first landmark visit to Japan since he took office in 2013, as ties remain tense.**

**AUGUST**

- **North Korean leader Kim Jong-un will visit South Korea for the first time.**
- **The 19th anniversary of a key independence movement in the country and abroad.**

**SEPTEMBER**

- **The 50th anniversary of the first landing on the moon.**
- **Poland holds parliamentary elections. If right-wing party Law and Justice (PiS) were to extend its surprise victory in 2015, it could signal a turning away of the Poles from pro-European policies.**

**OCTOBER**

- **The People's Republic of China turns 70, the first of three consecutive landmark years. In 2020, China – the world’s second-largest economy – aims to eradicate poverty and establish a modern socialist country.**
- **The death anniversary of journalist Jamal Khashoggi will be observed. Jamal was killed in Saudi Arabia and his death has raised questions about the future of democracy in the Gulf Arab states.**

**NOVEMBER**

- **Trade ministers and leaders to meet in Chile for the annual Apec summit, which will focus on digital economy regional connectivity, and women’s role in economic growth.**
- **Macau marks 20th anniversary of return to China. The former Portuguese colony is a key part of Beijing’s plan to develop the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area into an economic powerhouse.**

**DECEMBER**

- **South Korea is hosting Asean- China Commemorative Summit to mark 25 years of the Asean- China Dialogue Relations.**
- **Japanese and Chinese leaders are expected to discuss the future of their relationship on New Year’s Day.**