



Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power

INDIA'S PROXIMITY ARCHIVES

April 29, 2026

Authors

South Asia:

Shreyas Deshmukh

Southeast Asia & Central Asia:

Jayantika Rao T.V.

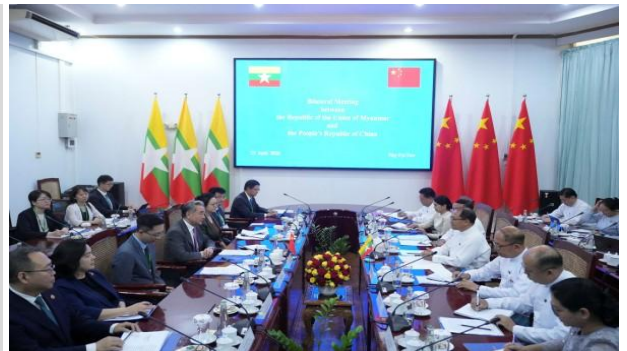
West Asia:

Sanket Joshi

Indian Ocean Region:

Divya Rai

Volume IV, Issue 17



Delhi Policy Group

Core 5A, 1st Floor, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi- 110003

www.delhipolicygroup.org



Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power

India's Proximity Archives

Vol. IV, Issue 17

April 29, 2026

ABOUT US

Founded in 1994, the Delhi Policy Group (DPG) is among India's oldest think tanks with its primary focus on strategic and international issues of critical national interest. DPG is a non-partisan institution and an independently funded non-profit Trust. Over past decades, DPG has established itself in both domestic and international circles and is widely recognised today among the top security think tanks of India and of Asia's major powers.

Since 2016, in keeping with India's increasing global profile, DPG has expanded its focus areas to include India's regional and global role and its policies in the Indo-Pacific. In a realist environment, DPG remains mindful of the need to align India's ambitions with matching strategies and capabilities, from diplomatic initiatives to security policy and military modernisation.

At a time of disruptive change in the global order, DPG aims to deliver research based, relevant, reliable and realist policy perspectives to an actively engaged public, both at home and abroad. DPG is deeply committed to the growth of India's national power and purpose, the security and prosperity of the people of India and India's contributions to the global public good. We remain firmly anchored within these foundational principles which have defined DPG since its inception.

India's Proximity Archives

India's Proximity Archives covers major developments in South Asia, Southeast Asia, West Asia, Central Asia and Indian Ocean Region of strategic relevance to India, compiled from open-source media. The research team includes Shreyas Deshmukh, Sanket Joshi, Jayantika Rao T.V, and Divya Rai, Research Associates. Your comments and feedback can be addressed to Sanket Joshi at sanket@dpg.org.in.

The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors and should not be attributed to the Delhi Policy Group as an Institution

Cover Images:

1. China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi held talks with Foreign Minister of Myanmar Tin Maung Swe in Nay Pyi Taw, on April 25, 2026. Source: [PRC MOFA](#)
2. Meeting of Defence Ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Member States took place in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on April 28, 2026. Source: [The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation](#)
3. USS Rafael Peralta enforces the U.S. blockade on Iranian ports against an Iranian-flagged ship attempting to sail to a port in Iran, April 24, 2026. Source: [X/@CENTCOM](#)

© 2026 by the Delhi Policy Group

Delhi Policy Group

Core 5A, 1st Floor,

India Habitat Centre,

Lodhi Road, New Delhi- 110003.

www.delhipolicygroup.org

India's Proximity Archives

Vol. IV, Issue 17

April 29, 2026

Contents

South Asia

Shreyas Deshmukh..... 2

Southeast Asia

Jayantika Rao T.V..... 3

West Asia

Sanket Joshi..... 5

Central Asia

Jayantika Rao T.V..... 6

Indian Ocean Region

Divya Rai..... 8

Watch Points

◇ *Political stability in Nepal amid challenges faced by newly elected government.*

◇ *Wang Yi wraps strategic three-nation visit in Southeast Asia.*

◇ *UAE's decision to exit OPEC and OPEC+ effective May 1, 2026.*

◇ *Rajnath Singh concludes SCO Defence Ministers's Meeting in Bishkek.*

South Asia

by

Shreyas Deshmukh

Home Minister of Nepal Sudan Gurung tendered his [resignation on April 22](#) due to escalating controversy surrounding his stock investments and alleged connections to a businessman being investigated for money laundering. Previously, Labour Minister Dipak Kumar Sah was compelled to resign [following accusations](#) of leveraging his official capacity to facilitate his relative's appointment to the Health Insurance Board. Citing 'special reasons', President Ramchandra Paudel [adjourned](#) the sessions of the federal parliament's two houses on April 23. Meanwhile, the government's decision to implement a mandatory customs duty on goods exceeding Rs 100 originating from India, coupled with the banning of student groups associated with political parties, led to [protests](#) erupting across Nepal.

Nepal's newly elected Balen Shah government is experiencing significant pressure to act on various fronts, such as concerns about economic policy, student protests, and claims of wrongdoing within the administration.

Following a week of Chinese-mediated peace negotiations in Urumqi aimed at resolving the conflict between Pakistan and Afghanistan, hostilities recommenced between the two nations. On April 27th, Pakistani strikes conducted in [Kunar province](#) resulted in seven fatalities and injured seventy-five individuals, encompassing women and children. In response to Pakistan's strikes, the European Union has issued a [condemnation](#), along with a warning to refrain from targeting civilians and educational sites. Fighting also broke out between the Taliban and Pakistani forces [along the border](#) in Spin Boldak, Kandahar.

Millions of people living in border areas are experiencing hardship due to the ongoing clashes between Pakistan and the Taliban-controlled Afghanistan. Aid agencies are facing difficulties due to the unstable security, which exacerbates the humanitarian situation.

Other Developments

[Trump envoy Gor visiting Nepal amid intensifying US-China diplomatic contest in Kathmandu](#)

[Bangladesh Police issue nationwide security alert over possible militant attack threats](#)

[Hackers steal \\$2.5 million from Sri Lanka Government, highest in its history](#)

[India approves ₹30 billion for Maldives under SAARC swap](#)

[Pakistan repays \\$3.45bn to UAE: SBP](#)

Southeast Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V.

On [April 29](#), Thailand's Foreign Minister, Sihasak Phuangketkeow, said in an interview that the Trump administration has not provided direct assistance to Thailand—a long-standing U.S. treaty ally—as it faces severe economic fallout from the ongoing American-Israeli war against Iran. Because of this lack of support, Thailand has been forced to seek help from U.S. rivals Russia and China. Sihasak explained that while U.S. officials “are aware there are consequences from the war,” they have not offered concrete measures to ease Thailand's burden. The only gesture, he noted, was President Trump's suggestion that countries in need of fuel purchase American oil and gas. “Our position is that this war should not have taken place in the first place,” Sihasak said. His remarks came after [Thailand hosted Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi](#) on April 24. He added, “We don't want to condemn the U.S. directly. But this is something that should not have started.

Thailand's criticism of Washington and its simultaneous outreach to Beijing underscores how the U.S.-Israeli war against Iran is accelerating a regional realignment, pushing Southeast Asian allies to hedge between traditional security ties with the United States and the economic lifelines offered by rival powers.

During his three-country tour of Southeast Asia—covering Cambodia, Thailand, and Myanmar—Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi sought to deepen regional ties and present Beijing as a stable alternative to the United States amid growing “risks.” Arriving in Myanmar on April 25, Wang met with Foreign Minister Tin Maung Swe and newly appointed President Min Aung Hlaing. In talks with Hlaing, Wang pledged that China would “firmly support” Myanmar in safeguarding its sovereignty and security, and backed the country's pursuit of a development path suited to its national conditions and supported by its people. Following the meeting, the Myanmar president's office reported that both sides discussed resuming border trade, expanding cooperation in energy and mining, strengthening collaboration in agriculture and technology, and jointly tackling online scams.

Wang Yi's visit to Myanmar reflects a broader regional trend in which governments that once dismissed Min Aung Hlaing's presidency as illegitimate are now gradually re-engaging, signalling a pragmatic effort to restore diplomatic and economic ties with Myanmar despite the continuity of its military leadership.

Other Developments

[14 Killed, 84 Injured After Trains Collide In Indonesia](#)

[Philippine tax agency orders probe on V-P Sara Duterte's businesses](#)

[Indonesians question Lebanon peacekeeping force as casualties grow](#)

[Malay parties unite in Malaysia's Negeri Sembilan in test of Anwar's fragile alliance](#)

[Philippines not concerned Iran war will distract US from region, top defence official says](#)

West Asia

by

Sanket Joshi

On April 28, the United Arab Emirates announced that it would exit the [Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries](#) (OPEC) and OPEC+ effective May 1, 2026. This decision is based on the UAE's comprehensive review of its production policy, its national interest, and a commitment to effectively meeting market needs. The departure of UAE from OPEC would allow it [to expand its oil production](#), as the country would no longer be bound by OPEC quotas. Abu Dhabi believes OPEC quotas have artificially suppressed its [output relative to its growing capacity](#).

The UAE's exit indicates a structural crack in the petroleum-exporting countries' cartel (OPEC), especially between Saudi Arabia and UAE, that has managed global oil supply for over six decades.

U.S. President Donald J. Trump informed that he was unhappy with Iran's latest [proposal to end the two-month war](#). Reports indicated that Tehran's proposal to end the conflict included setting aside the nuclear issue until the war ends and the shipping disputes were resolved. The second round of U.S.-Iran talks, to be mediated by Pakistan, remains stalled. Iranian analysts noted several key reasons for the [stalemate in Islamabad talks](#), which include the U.S.' illegal naval blockade of Iran's ports, demand that Tehran cease all Uranium enrichment, transfer highly enriched Uranium outside Iran, and Israel's influence on the U.S.' strategic decisions.

Iran's assertion that its "red lines" in talks with the U.S. are non-negotiable, and the U.S.' demands that Iran dismantle its nuclear programme, indicate that Islamabad talks would remain shrouded in uncertainty.

Other Developments

[Iran offers Hormuz deal without nuclear talks, as it seeks broader buy-in](#)

[Iran's interaction with Russia continues at highest level: FM Araghchi](#)

[How New Delhi stands to gain from UAE's withdrawal from OPEC](#)

[Iran's Guards seize wartime power, blunting Supreme Leader's role](#)

[PM Netanyahu finally comments on Lebanon ceasefire extension, accuses Hezbollah of trying to sabotage truce](#)

Central Asia

by

Jayantika Rao T.V.

On April 28, the [Shanghai Cooperation Organisation \(SCO\) Defence Ministers' Meeting](#) convened in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. India's Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh [led](#) a high-level delegation that discussed regional defence and security challenges, including international peace, terrorism, transnational crime, and emerging risks in information and cybersecurity. The ministers [stressed](#) the need to strengthen trust and mutual understanding among member states' armed forces, enhance practical cooperation through joint exercises and exchanges, and develop mechanisms for deeper military collaboration within the SCO. During the meeting, Iran's Deputy Defense Minister Reza Talaei-Nik [declared](#) that Iran was prepared to share its defense capabilities and experience with "independent countries," particularly SCO members. He framed the SCO as part of a broader shift away from what Tehran described as a "unipolar" world order, and used the recent conflict as an example, stating: "We are ready to share our experiences in defeating America with other members of the organization."

Iran's assertive stance at the SCO Defence Ministers' Meeting signals how Tehran is leveraging the forum to legitimise its military role, promote multipolarity, and position itself as a willing partner for member states seeking alternatives to U.S. security influence.

On [April 28](#), Tajik President Emomali Rahmon met with Sergio Gor, the U.S. Special Envoy for South and Central Asia, in Dushanbe to discuss trade, investment, security, and cooperation under the C5+1 framework. According to the Tajik President's office, the talks reviewed the state of bilateral relations and explored ways to expand collaboration, with particular focus on agreements reached through the C5+1 dialogue. Rahmon emphasised Tajikistan's interest in strengthening ties with Washington, noting that the United States is among its top five investment partners. Discussions highlighted the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) as a tool for advancing practical cooperation, with Tajikistan seeking greater U.S. involvement in sectors such as hydropower, mining, mineral processing, light industry, food production, chemicals, and pharmaceuticals. Hydropower was presented as a cornerstone for regional energy trade and industrial growth, while mining and processing were linked to U.S. interest in critical minerals and supply-chain diversification. The two sides also identified digital cooperation—including artificial intelligence, infrastructure, and broader economic digitalization—as promising areas, alongside joint ventures in agricultural processing and investment promotion.

The meeting between Tajik President Emomali Rahmon and U.S. Special Envoy Sergio Gor highlights Washington's effort to deepen economic and security engagement in Central Asia through the C5+1 framework, while Tajikistan leverages U.S. interest in critical minerals, hydropower, and digital infrastructure to diversify partnerships and reduce reliance on traditional regional powers like Russia and China.

Other Developments

[Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan Sign Social Insurance Cooperation Deal](#)

[Armenia and Azerbaijan embrace peace-through-strength approach](#)

[China and Turkmenistan Inaugurate New Phase at Galkynysh Gas Field](#)

[Almaty to Host IMF Regional Capacity Development Center for Central Asia, Caucasus and Mongolia](#)

Indian Ocean Region

by

Divya Rai

On April 25, U.S. Naval forces [intercepted](#) the sanctioned tanker M/V Sevan in the Arabian Sea, forcing it to return to Iran. The vessel was part of a 19-ship "shadow fleet" illegally transporting Iranian energy products. The M/V Sevan, along with 18 other vessels, has been sanctioned by the U.S. Treasury Department for activities related to transporting billions of dollars' worth of Iranian energy, oil and gas products, including propane and butane, to foreign markets. Following the interception, the merchant vessel complied with military orders and sailed back to Iran. This operation marks the 37th vessel redirected by U.S. forces since the implementation of the current blockade.

The redirection of the 37th vessel underscores a systematic economic strangulation, resulting in pressure on Iran's energy markets. For India and the Indo-Pacific, these incident heightens risks to energy imports via Hormuz, potentially spiking global propane/butane prices and disrupting India's LNG supply routes.

INS Nireekshak [arrived](#) at the port of Colombo, Sri Lanka, on 21 Apr 2026 to participate in the 4th edition of IN-SLN DIVEX 2026, a bilateral diving exercise scheduled from April 21 to 27, 2026. The joint exercise will see diving teams from both the navies undertake a series of specialised diving operations and training aimed at enhancing interoperability, cohesion, and exchange of best practices. The week-long engagement reinforces the continued commitment towards strengthening Indo-Sri Lankan maritime ties and shared maritime interests.

IN-SLN DIVEX fosters trust, potentially paving the way for expanded joint patrols and interoperability between India and Sri Lanka.

Other Developments

[INS Sunayna arrived at Changi Naval Base, Singapore, for her fourth port call during the ongoing IOS SAGAR deployment](#)

[U.S. forces boarded a commercial vessel suspected of violating the blockade on Iran in the Arabian Sea](#)

[India and Australia are set to sign a new maritime cooperation pact this year](#)



Delhi Policy Group
Core 5A, 1st Floor,
India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road
New Delhi - 110003
India

www.delhipolicygroup.org