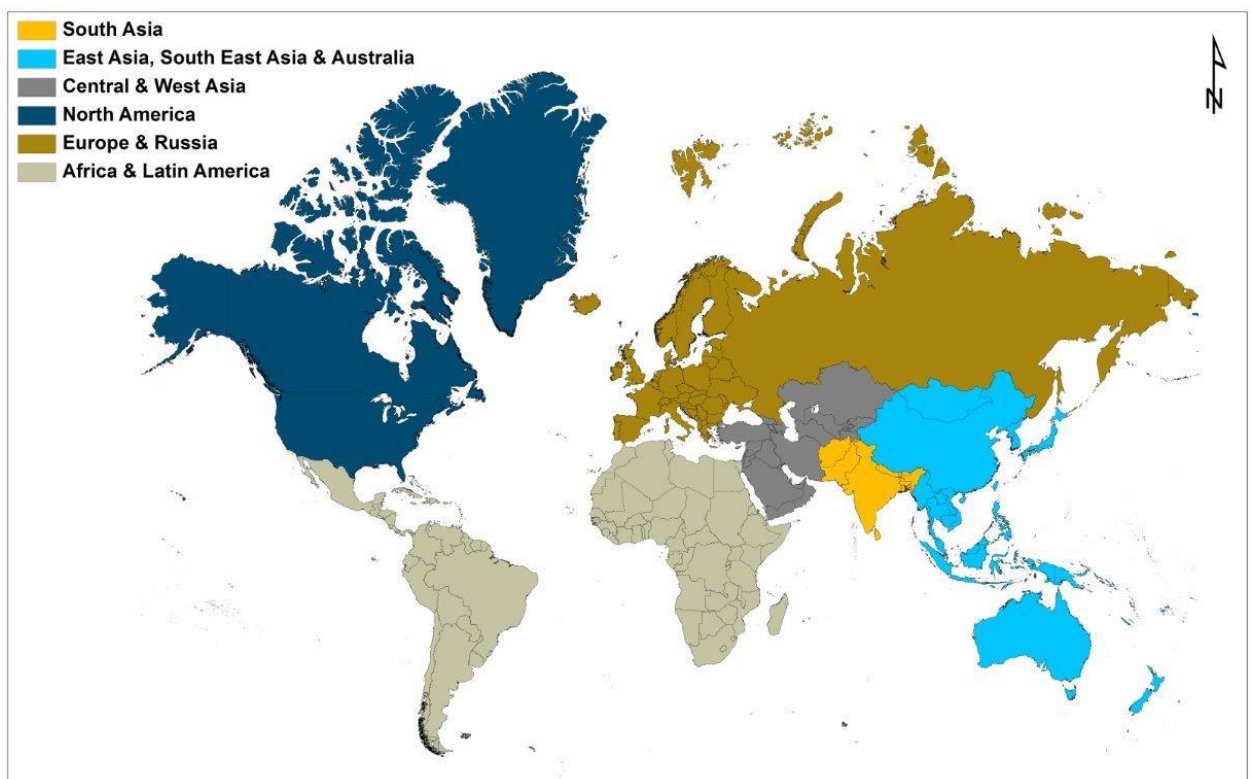




Delhi Policy Group

DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



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DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

Volume 3, Issue 10

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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Your comments and feedback can be addressed to Angana Guha Roy at angana@dpg.org.in.

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Delhi Policy Group

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

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South Asia

India

[India signals military action over for now, Pakistan makes first moves on Jaish](#)

Mar 6, 2019, The Indian Express

While the entire dossier was handed over to Islamabad last week, as sought by Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan, key excerpts of the dossier have now been given to Indian envoys across the world so that they can share it with foreign governments.

[US to 'terminate' India's designation as GSP beneficiary; no significant impact on exports, says Delhi](#)

Mar 5, 2019, The Indian Express

Under the United States GSP program, certain products can enter the United States duty-free if beneficiary developing countries meet the eligibility criteria established by its Congress.

[India's national interests must not be subsumed by politically-motivated, competitive machismo masquerading as patriotism](#)

Mar 4, 2019, The Indian Express

The unthinkable has happened. For the first time ever, the air forces of two nuclear-armed neighbours, India and Pakistan, have crossed national boundaries and carried out kinetic attacks on each other's soil. Aerial combat has also resulted in casualties and losses on both sides.

[From Pulwama to Balakot: A new Line of Control](#)

Mar 3, 2019, The Indian Express

With the Balakot strike, India has set a fresh template for terror response against Pakistan, for any government that follows. The Indian Express on what went on beyond the 12 days between Pulwama and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

[No offer of mediation from OIC or Russia: India](#)

Mar 3, 2019, Newsrain.in

India has not received any offer of mediation to end the ongoing hostilities with Pakistan from either OIC or Russia, official sources here said. They were responding to reports that OIC was in touch with both countries to defuse the situation and to Pakistan's claims that Russia had proposed to arrange a venue for India-Pakistan dialogue.

Pakistan

[Pakistan says defeated India militarily, diplomatically and politically](#)

Mar 7, 2019, Geo News

Pakistan said that it defeated India militarily, diplomatically and politically in the ongoing border row, which has de-escalated over the past few days.

[Pakistan loses traction in US as Washington loses leverage over Islamabad](#)

Mar 7, 2019, The Times of India

The United States has curtailed visa validity for Pakistani citizens from five years to 12 months in a reciprocal move that speaks to Pakista's declining traction in Washington.

[Saudi Foreign Minister assures Pakistan of full cooperation to settle issues with India](#)

Mar 7, 2019, Dunya News

Saudi State Minister for Foreign Affairs Adel al-Jubeir called on Prime Minister Imran Khan in Islamabad.

['Nuclear exchange' between Pakistan, India 'most likely': NYT](#)

Mar 8, 2019, Geo News

The New York Times on Thursday claimed that "a nuclear exchange" between Pakistan and India was "most likely" and that it was "not North Korea".

[Masood Azhar's son, brother detained in govt crackdown against banned organisations](#)

Mar 5, 2019, Dawn

Forty-four under-observation members of proscribed organisations, including Mufti Abdul Raoof and Hamad Azhar (no relation to the Minister of State for Revenue) – the brother and son of Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) leader Masood Azhar, respectively – have been taken in "preventive detention" for investigation, said officials of the Ministry of Interior.

[China praises Pakistan's 'restraint' over tensions](#)

Mar 8, 2019, Dawn

China has praised Pakistan's "restraint" and willingness to talk with India to ease tensions between the two countries after a deadly bombing in India-held Kashmir (IHK) last month.

Afghanistan

[Karzai Expects Taliban To Engage In Intra-Afghan Dialogue](#)

Mar 7, 2019, Tolo News

As US-Taliban talks continue behind closed doors in Qatar, former President Hamid Karzai on Thursday expressed his hope that the group will “ultimately” endorse direct negotiations with the Afghan government.

[Explained: Taliban-US talks and the future of Afghanistan](#)

Mar 4, 2019, The Indian Express

The very fact that the US is talking to the Taliban legitimises their role in Afghanistan's present and future. All of this is worrying for India -- a Taliban government in Afghanistan in the near future will mean a hugely increased leverage for Pakistan in that country.

[U.S. Tries to Safeguard Afghan Peace Push from India-Pakistan Crisis](#)

Mar 5, 2019, Daily Outlook Afghanistan

The United States is trying to prevent simmering tensions between India and Pakistan from impacting a third country: Afghanistan, where a fragile peace push is underway to try to end more than 17 years of war with Taliban insurgents.

[U.S. Abrupt Withdrawal from Afghanistan will Bring 'Unpleasant Consequences'](#)

Mar 6, 2019, Daily Outlook Afghanistan

A number of civil society organizations and military experts have warned of Unpleasant Consequences if the United States abruptly withdraw from Afghanistan.

[US politicians introduce bill to end Afghanistan War](#)

Mar 6, 2019, The Afghanistan Times

Sens. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) and Tom Udall (D-N.M.) has introduced a bill that would end the nearly two-decade-long Afghanistan War.

Bangladesh

[Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia sign two investment agreements, four MoUs](#)

Mar 7, 2019, BD News 24. Com

The deals were signed between representatives of several local companies and organisations of Bangladesh and visiting Saudi officials in the presence of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her offices in Dhaka.

['A new chapter of Saudi-Bangladesh ties'](#)

Mar 7, 2019, The Daily Star

Saudi Arabia is looking to build and enhance its relationship with Bangladesh, its visiting high-powered delegation has said.

[Bangladesh to become higher middle income country soon: PM](#)

Mar 6, 2019, The Independent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Wednesday said Bangladesh will soon become an upper middle income country, as the government has been implementing massive development works in light of the "Vision-2021" and "Vision-2041".

[How legitimate are sectarian groups doing politics in Bangladesh?](#)

Mar 5, 2019, BD News 24. Com

Following the resignation of Bangladesh Jamaat-e Islami's Joint Secretary General of the central committee Barrister Abdur Razzaq and the dismissal of an executive committee member Mujibor Rahman Monju, many things are up in the air for the party.

[Op-ed: The India-Pakistan conflict was a parade of lies](#)

Mar 7, 2019, BD News24.com

The internet truly is super-duper fake, and thanks to the malleability of digital media and the jet fuel of network virality, a digital lie can spread more quickly, and cause more damage, than an analogue one.

Nepal

[US tries in vain to pull Nepal into its orbit](#)

Mar 8, 2019, Asia Times

In an effort to address the increasingly strained bilateral relationship between Washington and Kathmandu, a senior US official was sent to Nepal on February 25 on a diplomatic mission.

[Lawmakers raise concern about federalism related bills](#)

Mar 8, 2019, The Himalayan Times

Lawmakers from ruling Nepal Communist Party and main opposition Nepali Congress in the parliamentary State Affairs and Good Governance Committee today raised concerns about a few important bills related to the implementation of federalism, saying they needed to be passed as soon as possible in the ongoing winter session.

[India To Reconstruct 72 Schools In Nepal Damaged During 2015 Earthquake](#)

Mar 6, 2019, NDTV

The Indian Government has pledged to provide design and consultancy services to Nepal for the reconstruction of the schools.

[Nepal to use Chinese gauge for its railway](#)

Mar 6, 2019, The Himalayan Times

Nepal has chosen a railway-track gauge used by China for its network and not the main one India uses citing lower costs, a minister said today, a setback for India as it tries to limit Chinese involvement in the Himalayan country.

[Nepal, Bangladesh sign Double Tax Avoidance Agreement](#)

Mar 6, 2019, The Kathmandu Post

Nepal and Bangladesh signed a pact on Double Tax Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) at Ministry of Finance in Kathmandu.

Bhutan

[Loan repayment deferred for youth in Japan](#)

Mar 2, 2019, Kuensel Online

The government yesterday signed an executive order, providing a grace period to Bhutanese youth under the learn and earn programme in Japan, before they start paying back the loans.

[Bhutan Has Achieved 100% Electricity Access - Here's How](#)

Mar 8, 2019, Daily Bhutan

Afghanistan, Nepal and Bhutan are excellent examples of how renewable energy potential combined with government support can result in successful electricity solutions.

Sri Lanka

[Prez's delegation to Geneva shows he has no faith in govt.: Dinesh](#)

Mar 8, 2019, Daily Mirror

President Maithripala Sirisena has appointed a separate three-member delegation to represent the country at the forthcoming UNHRC sessions in Geneva as he does not have confidence in the government, MEP MP frontliner Dinesh Gunawardana said.

[Sri Lanka, Italy review bilateral relations](#)

Mar 6, 2019, Colombo Page

Sri Lanka's Minister of Foreign Affairs Tilak Marapana visited Italy from 01 - 03 March 2019, and held bilateral discussions with Undersecretary of State for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Italian Republic, Manlio Di Stefano on 01 March in Rome.

[Sri Lanka Navy thwarts illegal migration attempt, arrests 30 persons](#)

Mar 7, 2019, Colombo Page

The Sri Lanka Navy (SLN) has foiled an illegal migration attempt when navy patrol craft intercepted a vessel sailing off the Southern coast of the island.

[Sri Lanka launches bond sale, orders top \\$3 bln - term sheet](#)

Mar 7, 2019, Times Online

Sri Lanka launched the sale of US dollar-denominated bonds on Thursday and orders topped \$3 billion, according to a term sheet seen.

East & South East Asia

China

[China, US stand to gain from cooperation, lose from confrontation: FM](#)

March 8, 2019, Global Times

China and the United States stand to gain from cooperation and lose from confrontation, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Friday.

[Huawei sues US govt](#)

March 7, 2019, Global Times

China's Huawei Technologies announced on Thursday it has sued the US government for "unconstitutional sales restrictions imposed by the US Congress," reflecting its efforts to turn a crisis into an opportunity, which will also help shape unified global standards for cybersecurity.

[Meng sues Canada's govt for arrest](#)

March 4, 2019, Global Times

Huawei chief financial officer Meng Wanzhou has filed a civil lawsuit against the Canadian government for her arrest in Vancouver, which Chinese analysts say is an effective way to fight back and creates the possibility of resolving her case in Canada.

[China opposes extradition proceedings against Meng Wanzhou](#)

March 2, 2019, Global Times

Canada should stop meddling in the case of Meng Wanzhou due to its political nature, and the decision to proceed with her extradition is a misstep by Canadian authorities, according to officials and lawyers.

[Former Canadian diplomat stole sensitive intelligence from China: authorities](#)

March 4, 2019, Global Times

Chinese authorities alleged on Monday that former Canadian diplomat Michael John Kovrig had stolen sensitive intelligence from China, and another detained Canadian national, Michael Peter Todd Spavor, was Kovrig's intelligence contact.

[China hopes DPRK, US to continue talks, stick to political solution](#)

March 4, 2019, Global Times

China hopes the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the United States will continue talks and stick to political solution which is key to resolving the Korean Peninsula issue, a spokesperson said Monday.

[Tsai's Japan courtship will 'fall'](#)

March 3, 2019, Global Times

Taiwan leader Tsai Ing-wen's "fawning" on Japan to win votes will "likely fall on stony ground," experts noted, after Tsai brazenly claimed that she aims to "cooperate" with Japan on security issues.

[China willing to play constructive role to ease Pakistan-India tensions: senior diplomat](#)

March 7, 2019, Global Times

China was willing to play a constructive role to help ease the tensions between Pakistan and India, and called on the two sides to refrain from taking any actions that could further escalate the situation, a senior Chinese diplomat said.

[Improving China-Japan relations meets common interests of two peoples: FM](#)

March 8, 2019, Global Times

China-Japan relations have got back on track and show a positive momentum toward improved and stronger ties, which fully meets the common interests of the two peoples, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Friday.

[No "vacuum" in Afghanistan needs to be filled: Chinese FM](#)

March 8, 2019, Global Times

There is no "vacuum" in Afghanistan that needs to be filled because that land belongs to the people of Afghanistan, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Friday.

[Decoupling from China means decoupling from opportunities, the future: FM](#)

March 8, 2019, Global Times

Decoupling from China means decoupling from opportunities and the future, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Friday.

[B&R Initiative is not "debt trap" but "economic pie": FM](#)

March 8, 2019, Global Times

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is not a "debt trap" that some countries may fall into but an "economic pie" that benefits local population, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Friday.

[Xi to attend opening ceremony of 2nd Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation: FM](#)

March 8, 2019, Global Times

Chinese President Xi Jinping will attend the opening ceremony of the second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF) in late April in Beijing and

deliver a keynote speech, Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Friday.

Japan

[Abe says he is willing to meet Kim Jong Un to settle issue of Japanese abducted to North Korea](#)

March 7, 2019, The Japan Times

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Wednesday he is willing to hold direct talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to break a deadlock over the abduction issue.

[LDP secretary-general may visit China to pave the way for Xi's trip to Japan](#)

March 7, 2019, The Japan Times

Liberal Democratic Party Secretary-General Toshihiro Nikai may visit China as early as next month to lay the groundwork for Chinese President Xi Jinping's anticipated visit to Japan later this year, according to ruling party sources.

[Japan, U.S. and South Korea to hold high-level talks on North Korea nuclear issue](#)

March 6, 2019, The Japan Times

A senior Japanese Foreign Ministry official will visit Washington from Wednesday for high-level talks with U.S. and South Korean counterparts on North Korea's denuclearization, the ministry has said.

[Head of Japan's ground forces discusses defense cooperation with Philippine counterpart](#)

March 5, 2019, The Japan Times

The chief of staff of the Ground Self-Defense Force met with his Philippine counterpart on Monday and discussed defense cooperation and regional security.

[Russia calls U.S.-Japan security alliance an impediment to peace treaty talks](#)

March 2, 2019, The Japan Times

Russia has stiffened its stance against advancing talks with Japan on a peace treaty, calling Tokyo's security alliance with the United States a threat and an impediment to improving bilateral ties, diplomatic sources said Saturday.

[For Japan, 'no deal' at Kim-Trump summit beats a bad deal with concessions to nuclear North Korea](#)

March 1, 2019, The Japan Times

At a glance, this week's Kim-Trump summit meeting in Hanoi, held to foster progress toward the denuclearization of North Korea, generated few tangible victories — despite U.S. President Donald Trump's boasts of the "tremendous" achievements he had expected.

[MSDF chief of staff, destroyer set to attend fleet review in China](#)

March 2, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

Maritime Self-Defense Force Chief of Staff Yutaka Murakawa is expected to attend an international fleet review in China in April, a sign of improving ties between Japan and China.

Korea

[China linked with fine dust in South Korea: minister](#)

March 7, 2019, The Korea Times

South Korea's top diplomat said Thursday that there is a link between China and the worsening air pollution in South Korea, which officials here describe as tantamount to a disaster.

[Moon to visit Brunei, Malaysia, Cambodia next week](#)

March 4, 2019, The Korea Herald

South Korean President Moon Jae-in will embark on a three-nation Asian tour next week that will take him to Brunei, Malaysia and Cambodia, his office Cheong Wa Dae said Monday.

[Korean forced labor victims seek court seizure of Mitsubishi assets](#)

March 7, 2019, The Korea Herald

Four Korean victims of wartime forced labor are seeking seizure of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd.'s local assets as the company refuses to comply with the Supreme Court ruling that ordered the firm to compensate them.

Southeast Asia

[Philippine defence minister, fearing war with China, seeks review of US treaty](#)

March 5, 2019, The Straits Times

The Philippines' defence minister said on Tuesday (March 5) that the government should review a decades-old treaty with the United States, its long-time ally, to avoid provoking a potential armed conflict with China in the disputed South China Sea.

[Indonesia, Australia sign trade deal after months of tension](#)

March 5, 2019, The Straits Times

Indonesia and Australia yesterday signed a long-awaited trade deal after months of diplomatic tension over Canberra's contentious plan to move its Israeli embassy to Jerusalem.

[Beware of China 'debt trap', Malaysia's Mahathir tells the Philippines](#)

March 7, 2019, The Straits Times

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad cautioned the Philippines on Thursday (March 7) over falling into a "debt trap", as the country banks on China to bolster growth.

[Mahathir Mohamad: 'I'm pro-Malaysia, not anti-Singapore'](#)

March 8, 2019, South China Morning Post

"Not anti-Singapore. I claim to be pro-Malaysia." That was Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's response when asked by the South China Morning Post to comment on public sentiment in Singapore that blames him personally for a downturn in the relationship between the countries.

[I'd side with rich China over fickle US: Malaysia's Mahathir Mohamad](#)

March 8, 2019, South China Morning Post

Malaysia will make its own way in dealing with China's rise and not take cues from Western scaremongering over Huawei and the belt and road strategy, says PM. He spoke to the South China Morning Post in an exclusive interview, his first with overseas media this year.

[Philip Davidson, the top US officer in Asia, warns Beijing's military activity in South China Sea is 'not reducing in any sense of the word'](#)

March 7, 2019, South China Morning Post

Davidson also sought to reassure allies in Southeast Asia of American commitment to the region. He described China as 'paranoid' and criticised the 'desire to supplant rules-based international order'.

[US more likely than the Philippines to end up in 'shooting war' in South China Sea, says defence chief Delfin Lorenzana](#)

March 5, 2019, South China Morning Post

The Philippines is looking to review its defence treaty with the US to clarify the actions needed to be taken in the event of a conflict in disputed regions. The defence chief says US activity in the South China Sea may lead the Philippines to be 'involved in a war that we do not seek and do not want' under current treaty obligations.

Central & West Asia

[First India-Central Asia Dialogue: Resetting Ties](#)

Mar 6, 2019, IPP Review

On January 12-13, 2019, India and the five Central Asian countries – Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan – held their first ever ministerial dialogue in the beautiful and historic Uzbek city of Samarkand.

[Sino-Russian alignment in reality: The case of Central Asia](#)

Mar 6, 2019, Global Risk Insights

When it comes to China and Russia's foreign policy, there are multiple factors to consider. A Beijing-Moscow axis in practice is a complex reality, marred with competition in each state's traditional spheres of influence.

[Majlis Podcast: Where Is Kazakhstan Headed As Frustration Continues To Grow?](#)

Mar 3, 2019, Rferl.org

As has happened before in Kazakhstan, other issues were added to the initial cause of discontent and as the second half of February started, there were even some scattered calls for Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbaev to leave office.

[Kyrgyzstan: President holds national dialogue on regional development](#)

Mar 3, 2019, The Times of Central Asia

Conflicts between investors and the local population are the result of poor interaction between the relevant state bodies and local authorities, as well as the lack of outreach with the population.

[Assistance to Afghanistan discussed at regional level in Ashgabat](#)

Mar 7, 2019, Trend News Agency

The Turkmen Foreign Affairs Ministry hosted in Ashgabat a meeting of the technical working groups on the Regional Infrastructure Confidence Building Measures (RI-CBM) within the Istanbul Process on Afghanistan, Trend reports with reference to the OSCE Center in Ashgabat, co-organizer of the event.

[FIFA Considering Oman, Kuwait to Co-Host 2022 World Cup with Qatar](#)

Mar 7, 2019, Morocco News

FIFA has announced that it is considering Oman and Kuwait to host some of the games of the 2022 World Cup to be officially played in Qatar.

[Canada, Europe, Australia issue 1st rebuke of Saudi Arabia at UN rights forum](#)

Mar 7, 2019, CBC

Joint statement calls on kingdom to release activists, co-operate with Khashoggi murder investigation.

[Turkey, Iran to stage joint raid against Kurds](#)

Mar 6, 2019, Gulf News

Neighbours Turkey and Iran will carry out a joint operation against Kurdish rebels.

[The growing appetite for armed drones in the Middle East](#)

Mar 9, 2019, The Economist

For years Al-Anad air base was the springboard for America's drone war in Yemen. Remote-controlled Predator aircraft wielding Hellfire missiles would take off from the base in Lahej province, in the south-west, to clobber hundreds of suspected jihadists across the country.

[Lebanon Warns Israel Not to Violate Maritime Borders in Construction of Gas Pipeline](#)

Mar 7, 2019, Haaretz

Mike Pompeo is expected to arrive in Israel in coming days to discuss Israel's plan to export natural gas to Europe with Greece and Cyprus.

[EU, Canada, Australia issue rare rebuke against Saudi Arabia at UN rights forum](#)

Mar 7, 2019, France 24

Three dozen countries, including all 28 EU members, called on Saudi Arabia on Thursday to release 10 activists and cooperate with a UN-led investigation into the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi at its Istanbul consulate.

United States

[Trump moves to end special trade treatment for India](#)

Mar 5, 2019, CNN

US President Donald Trump announced plans Monday to end special trade treatment for India, accusing it of unfairly shutting out American businesses.

[The Trump administration and the Indo-Pakistan crisis](#)

Mar 7, 2019, The Economist

Previous crises, similarly sparked by attacks on India by jihadists connected to Pakistan, prompted high-powered American delegations to rush to both countries: for example in 2001 and 2008.

[With eye on Afghanistan talks, Trump vows to stop 'endless wars'](#)

Feb 6, 2019, Reuters

President Donald Trump told Americans on Tuesday his administration had accelerated talks for a political settlement in Afghanistan and would be able to reduce U.S. troops there as negotiations advance to end America's longest war.

[No pressure to withdraw from Syria by specific date: U.S. general](#)

Mar 7, 2019, Reuters

The general overseeing U.S. forces in the Middle East said on Thursday that he was under no pressure to withdraw forces from Syria by any specific date, after President Donald Trump ordered the drawdown of most U.S. troops from Syria.

[U.S. faces 'crisis' at southern border, Nielsen says](#)

Mar 7, 2019, Reuters

U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen on Wednesday defended the government's position that the country faces a dire crisis due to migration at the U.S.-Mexico border in the face of fiery questioning from Democrats in Congress.

[U.S. court says immigrants can challenge quick deportations](#)

Mar 8, 2019, Reuters

A U.S. Appeals Court ruled that immigrants ordered deported by U.S. authorities in a sped-up process have a right to take their case to a U.S. judge, giving them another avenue to challenge their removal from the United States.

[US trade deficit surges to 10-year high; a record gap with China](#)

Mar 6, 2019, Al Jazeera

The skyrocketing US trade deficit hit the highest level in a decade last year despite Trump's global-trade offensive.

Europe & Russia

[Brexit: May urges EU to agree backstop changes](#)

Mar 8, 2019, BBC News

Theresa May will urge the EU to help get her Brexit deal through the Commons by agreeing legally binding changes to the controversial backstop.

[Exports, investment, consumption drive euro zone fourth quarter GDP slowing growth](#)

Mar 7, 2019, Mar 7, 2019, Reuters

Net exports, investment and consumption drove euro zone economic growth in the last quarter of 2018, data showed on Thursday, offsetting a sharp drop in inventories.

[Germany extends ban on arms exports to Saudi Arabia](#)

Mar 6, 2019, Deutsche Welle

Germany announced it would extend a temporary ban on arms exports to Saudi Arabia until the end of the month

[Italy coalition chiefs clash as rail-link row escalates](#)

Mar 7, 2019, Reuters

A dispute in Italy's coalition over the future of a high-speed rail link with France escalated suddenly on Thursday and raised the risk of a government collapse, with one party chief accusing his partner of acting irresponsibly.

[Dutch recall ambassador to Iran amid diplomatic row](#)

Mar 4, 2019, Politico

The Netherlands recalled its ambassador to Tehran for consultations on Monday amid a diplomatic dispute over accusations that Iran was behind the killings of two Dutch citizens.

[Hungary to replace anti-Brussels billboards next week](#)

Mar 7, 2019, Reuters

Hungary's ruling Fidesz party will replace its anti-Brussels billboards after the European Parliament's main center-right group threatened to expel it from its ranks, Prime Minister Viktor Orban's chief of staff said.

[Chinese FDI in Europe drops, investment screening will cut it more -survey](#)

Mar 7, 2019, Reuters

Chinese foreign direct investment (FDI) in Europe fell 40 percent in 2018, hitting its lowest level in four years, and stricter European Union rules are likely to curb Chinese M&A activity even further, a survey showed.

[Russia laws ban 'disrespect' of government and 'fake news'](#)

Mar 7, 2019, BBC News

Russia's parliament has passed two bills outlawing "disrespect" of authorities and the spreading of what the government deems to be "fake news".

[Remove nuclear weapons from Europe for 'everyone's peace of mind' – Russian PM to US](#)

Mar 5, 2019, RT

The US should transfer its nuclear arsenal from Europe back to its own country and eliminate the nuclear infrastructure based on the continent, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said.

['Reshaping space market': Russia mulls building rocket plane with nuclear engine](#)

Mar 6, 2019, RT

Russian space agency Roscosmos is considering building a spaceplane powered by a nuclear reactor, according to a memo obtained by a Russian news agency. The move could "reshape" the market for space launches, the document says.

[Russia foiled about 600 spies in 2018 as foreign intelligence 'boost activities' – Putin](#)

Mar 6, 2019, TASS

Speaking to senior staff of the Federal Security Service President Vladimir Putin warned of foreign intelligence increasing activities against the country and ordered security services to step up their counter efforts.

[Russian embassy advises UK that getting ties with Moscow back on track would be smart move](#)

Mar 7, 2019, TASS

Moscow's attempts to establish cooperation to fight corruption, money laundering have come up against UK's indifference to cooperate with law enforcement, financial intelligence, the embassy said

[Lavrov's Persian Gulf tour covers trade, oil, space and Syria](#)

Mar 7, 2019, TASS

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov wrapped up a tour of the Persian Gulf states that kicked off on Sunday, during which he visited the capitals of Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates.

Africa & Latin America

[Guaido escalates campaign to topple Maduro as power struggle continues in Venezuela](#)

Mar 5, 2019, CBC

Appearing a day after his rival returned home to a tumultuous welcome, Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro denounced his opponents in a speech at a military ceremony but did not refer by name to opposition leader Juan Guaido.

[US envoy vows sanctions on banks backing Maduro – Venezuela crisis](#)

Mar 8, 2019, TRT World

US and dozens of other countries recognise opposition leader Juan Guaido as oil-rich country's interim leader against President Nicolas Maduro, who refuses to step down and accuses Guaido of being a US puppet.

[Venezuela Crisis Worsened by Sanctions: UN Rights Chief](#)

Mar 6, 2018, The Globe Post

A sanctions regime led by the United States has significantly worsened Venezuela's crippling economic and political crisis, the U.N. human rights chief said Wednesday as Washington warned it may expand measures targeting President Nicolas Maduro's socialist government.

[Venezuela expels German ambassador](#)

Mar 7, 2019, CGTN

Venezuela declared German ambassador in Caracas persona non grata for meddling in its internal affairs and ordered he leave the country in 48 hours.

[Trump Grants 30-Day Waiver for Companies Doing Business in Cuba](#)

Mar 4, 2019, Fortune

The Trump administration extended a waiver to legislation that would allow U.S. lawsuits over property confiscated during the 1959 Cuban revolution, providing a brief reprieve to companies that feared they might face punishment for doing business with that country's government.

[U.S., EU Turn up the Heat on Cameroon's Biya](#)

Mar 6, 2019, All Africa

The international community continues to pressure President Paul Biya and his government to respect human rights and address the security crisis in the country.

[Ethiopia PM in Nairobi to Mediate Kenya-Somalia Maritime Boundary Dispute](#)

Mar 6, 2019, All Africa

An Ethiopian-led mediation process kicked off in Nairobi Wednesday to resolve the latest diplomatic row between Kenya and Somalia over a 62,000 square miles triangle of disputed maritime territory in the Indian Ocean.

[Tanzania should stop banning newspapers: HRW](#)

Mar 7, 2019, Africa News

Human Rights Watch (HRW) has condemned the ban of Tanzania's leading newspaper, The Citizen, saying it is part of a series of attacks on freedom of expression by the government of president John Pombe Magufuli.

[Zimbabwe will continue lobbying US, EU to remove sanctions](#)

Mar 7, 2019, Africa News

Zimbabwe's government responded to the renewal of sanctions by the United States, saying the decision was regrettable and that it would continue engaging Washington and the European Union to remove the measures that have 'stifled' its economy.

[Ghana's ruling party operating militia training center – Media exposé](#)

Mar 8, 2019, Africa News

Ghana's ruling New Patriotic Party (NPP) is operating a militia training center in a government facility, a local media network reported.



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

www.delhipolicygroup.org