



Delhi Policy Group

DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH



Volume III, Issue 17 | APRIL 26, 2019

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



DPG WEEKLY WORLD WATCH

Volume 3, Issue 17

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

DPG Weekly World Watch is based on analysis of open source information. To subscribe please [click here](#).

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

© 2019 by the Delhi Policy Group

Delhi Policy Group

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

Contents

South Asia.....	1
East & South East Asia.....	10
Central & West Asia.....	16
United States.....	19
Europe & Russia.....	21
Africa & Latin America	24

South Asia

India

[Will not extend sanctions on Chabahar port project: US to India](#)

April 25, 2019, Business Standard

The US Department of State has informed India it will not be seeking to extend sanctions on the Chabahar port project, in which India has heavily invested – both financially and diplomatically.

[Now US may offer oil to India on concessional terms](#)

April 24, 2019, Live Mint

The US has also indicated its intent of supplying increased quantities of oil and gas to India on a short notice to prevent the country from facing any shortages.

[India seeks right balance of ties with US, Iran](#)

April 25, 2019, The Economic Times

New Delhi plans to assert its strategic autonomy by continuing to pursue its partnership with Tehran in long-term strategic interests, according sources.

[India to stop importing oil from Iran; make up lost volumes from alternate sources](#)

April 23, 2019, Business Today

India will stop importing crude oil from Iran following the US move to end sanction waivers, and will use alternate supply sources such as Saudi Arabia to make up for the lost volumes, top officials and industry sources said Tuesday. The Trump administration Monday decided not to renew waiver that let countries like India buy Iranian oil without facing US sanctions.

[India To Stay Away From Belt Forum As China Tries To Build Influence](#)

April 25, 2019, Defence Aviation Post

China is using the three-day Belt and Road Forum, which opens on Thursday, to exert its political muscle and establish itself as a rallying point for international business exchanges. This is besides the stated goal of the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), which is to construct infrastructure projects across the globe.

[US diplomat to visit India for Indo-Pacific talks](#)

April 23, 2019, Hindustan Times

The meeting comes ahead of Beijing's second Belt and Road Forum, which India and the US are not attending.

[Import duty on ICT products: Five countries seek to join EU to mount pressure on India at WTO](#)

April 24, 2019, The Hindu Business Line

India is likely to come under more pressure at the World Trade Organization (WTO) to roll back import duties on mobile phones, cameras and certain other products in the information and communication technology (ICT) sector with five countries, including Canada, the US, Thailand, Singapore and Chinese Taipei, seeking permission of the dispute settlement body (DSB) to join the consultations the EU has initiated with New Delhi on the matter.

[We could have inflicted heavy damage on Pakistan during aerial raid if we had 'tech asymmetry': IAF](#)

April 26, 2019, The Economic Times

The IAF said Pakistan Air Force has been consistently enhancing its air defence and offensive capabilities since the Kargil war in 1999 and there was a need for India to bolster its "technological asymmetry."

[12 more nuclear plants in India soon: DAE chief](#)

April 22, 2019, Business Standard

India will soon have 12 more nuclear plants soon to improve the power situation and ensure there is a free flow of uninterrupted power supply for both industries and residential use, a statement issued on Monday here quoted Secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), K.N. Vyas, as saying.

[Indian Battle Ships Take Part in Chinese Navy's Biggest Fleet Review, Pakistan Gives it a Miss](#)

April 23, 2019, News 18

A total of 32 vessels of the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) sailed in six groups, and 39 warplanes of the navy flew in ten echelons at the parade presided over by Chinese President Xi Jinping who is also the head of the military besides being the chief of ruling Communist Party of China (CPC).

Pakistan

[Developing Pak-China ties diplomatic priority : Qureshi holds talks with Wang](#)

April 25, 2019, Pakistan Observer

China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Wednesday appreciated Pakistan's efforts "in firmly combating terrorism and extremism", noting that Islamabad had Beijing's

support in the implementation of the National Action Plan, according to a joint statement issued by the two countries.

[PM Imran leaves for second official visit of China](#)

April 25, 2019, Dawn

Prime Minister Imran Khan left for his four-day official tour of China to "take the all-weather strategic cooperative partnership [between the two countries] to new heights", said an official statement.

[CPEC to remain priority of PTI govt, says PM Imran](#)

April 25, 2019, Geo News

Before embarking on an official visit to China, Prime Minister Imran Khan said on Thursday that the China Pakistan Economic Corridor will remain a priority for the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf government.

[How India used trade to wither Pakistan's support](#)

April 24, 2019, Pakistan Today

It appears Indian economics, too, is getting radicalised. Aside from shady efforts to isolate Pakistan under FATF, India is furious at China also. India tried to boycott import of cheap Chinese electronic goods, particularly transistors/chips.

[Pakistan, Japan agree to further strengthen bilateral relations](#)

April 23, 2019, Geo News

Pakistan and Japan have agreed to enhance their leadership level and people to people contacts to further strengthen bilateral relations.

[Iran, Pakistan Agree To Set Up Joint Border 'Reaction Force'](#)

April 22, 2019, Rferl.org

Iranian President Hassan Rohani and visiting Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan have agreed to set up a joint border "reaction force" to counter terrorism, Iranian state media reported.

[PM Imran's statement in Iran comes under intense opposition attack](#)

April 23, 2019, Dawn

Prime Minister Imran Khan's public acknowledgement in Tehran that terrorists had in the past misused Pakistani territory to undertake attacks against Iran came under a blistering attack by the opposition in the National Assembly on Tuesday.

Afghanistan

[Pakistan vows not to be part of any internal conflict in Afghanistan](#)

April 24, 2019, Pakistan Today

According to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's House, the Afghan conflict brought great suffering for both Afghanistan and Pakistan over the last 40 years and the peace process presented a historic opportunity for peace in the region.

[Heavy fighting flares between Taliban, Islamic State in Afghanistan](#)

April 25, 2019, Daily Outlook Afghanistan

Afghan Taliban insurgents are battling fighters loyal to Islamic State over control of territory in eastern Afghanistan in some of the heaviest clashes over the past year between the rival militants, officials said.

[Europe, US Envoys Meet on Afghan Peace](#)

April 25, 2019, Daily Outlook Afghanistan

Special envoys of the United Kingdom, United States, Germany, France, Italy, Norway and the European Union met in London on Tuesday-April 23- and discussed the Afghan peace.

[Karzai confident of "imminent" intra-Afghan dialogue](#)

April 24, 2019, Afghanistan Times

Former President, Hamid Karzai says that the intra-Afghan dialogue on Afghan peace was imminent to be held in the Persian Gulf state of Qatar.

[Khalilzad unhappy with "not serious actions" for intra-Afghan dialogue](#)

April 24, 2019, Afghanistan Times

The US peace envoy for Afghanistan, Zalmay Khalilzad claims that serious steps were not taken from Afghans regarding the peace process and an intra-Afghan dialogue, despite the US military withdrawal from Afghanistan would pose no threat to the world.

[China, Russia, US reach consensus on Afghanistan issue](#)

April 26, 2019, Global Times

Representatives of China, Russia and the United States on Thursday reached consensus on various aspects of the Afghanistan issue including sovereignty, internal dialogue, terrorism, military withdrawals and smuggling.

Bangladesh

[Fighting Terror: Precautions in place: PM](#)

April 26, 2019, The Daily Star

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the intelligence and law enforcement agencies were on alert as attempts were underway to carry out terror attacks in Bangladesh.

[Rakhine land grabbed in Barguna](#)

April 26, 2019, The Daily Star

Around 70 acres of agricultural land of some 20 Rakhine people have allegedly been grabbed by a private company for setting up a coal-fired power plant in Barguna's Taltali upazila.

[Third Bangladesh-UK Strategic Dialogue](#)

April 25, 2019, Gov.UK

The Dialogue demonstrated the full depth of the Bangladesh-UK relationship and involved exchange of views on political relations, celebration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations, trade and investment, education and skills, good governance and human rights, the future development partnership, migration and security and defence cooperation, and regional and global issues of mutual interest.

[UK keen to invest more in Bangladesh](#)

April 25, 2019, The Independent

United Kingdom is keen to invest more in Bangladesh, visiting UK under secretary of British Foreign and Commonwealth Office Simon McDonald said

[BRI can help boost Bangladesh economic zones, support poverty reduction measures](#)

April 25, 2019, Global Times

Though Bangladesh doesn't share a border with China, both countries enjoy deep ties - from economy to defense and people-to-people contact. However, economic relations between the friendly nations are the most significant aspect of their ties, which were elevated to a strategic partnership of cooperation in 2016.

Nepal

[India rebuilds Chhyoiphel Kundeling monastery in Nepal](#)

April 26, 2019, All India Radio

The Monastery has been reconstructed with Government of India grant of 18.9 million Nepalese rupees. The project also included building additional infrastructure such as residences, kitchen, sanitation facilities and compound wall.

[Nepal says 80 pct of reconstruction projects under China aid completed](#)

April 25, 2019, Xinhua Net

Around 80 percent of the reconstruction works carried out under China aid have been successfully completed in Nepal, according to National Reconstruction Authority (NRA), the authorized body to handle post-quake rebuilding in the country.

[Respecting Nepal's neutrality is in US interest](#)

April 25, 2019, Asia Times

Recently at the request of his American counterpart Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Nepalese Foreign Minister Pradeep Gyawali visited Washington to discuss the US government's "Free and Open Indo-Pacific" (FOIP) strategy.

[Nepal's slow recovery](#)

April 25, 2019, The Kathmandu Post

It has been four years since the devastating 7.8-magnitude earthquake hit Nepal. The quake, coupled with another 7.3 magnitude aftershock, among other smaller tremors, caused major destruction and claimed around 9,000 lives.

[President's state visit to China: All aspects of Nepal-China relations to be reviewed](#)

April 24, 2019, Setopati.net

President Bidya Devi Bhandari left for a nine-day state visit to the People's Republic of China at the invitation of her Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping.

Bhutan

[India-Bhutan finalized Rs 4.5K crore Mangdecchu Hydro project's power tariff protocol](#)

April 25, 2019, The Economic Times

Following prime minister level bilateral agreement between India and Bhutan, both the countries have finally signed tariff protocol for the output of 720

Megawatt Mangdechhu hydropower project. First yield of this INR 4.5K crore Bhutan project is to get into India's national power pool by May-June this year.

[Bhutan and UN's FAO agree five year plan to improve food and nutrition security](#)

April 25, 2019, Reliefweb

The Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) this week announced the development of a five-year Country Programming Framework (CPF) on technical cooperation and partnership to improve food and nutrition security.

[Bhutan: Oasis Of Peace – Analysis](#)

April 23, 2019, Eurasia Review

In the entire South Asian region, Bhutan is the only country which has remained free of even a single terrorism-related fatality, or for that matter, incident, for over a decade. Specifically, on December 30, 2008, four Bhutanese foresters were killed and another two injured after their tractor was blown up by an improvised explosive device (IED) planted on the road about four kilometres west of Singay village in the Sarpang District.

Sri Lanka

[Govt. to set up JOC to tackle terrorism](#)

April 26, 2019, Daily Mirror

President Maithripala Sirisena has told party leaders yesterday that arrangements have been made to set up a Joint Operation Command (JOC) to tackle the latest terrorist threat and that the entire security establishment would be overhauled.

[No laws to arrest people who join foreign terrorist groups – PM Ranil Wickremesinghe](#)

April 26, 2019, News.lk

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe notes that Sri Lanka does not have any laws to arrest individuals who join a foreign terrorist organisation.

[Defence Secretary Hemasiri Fernando resigns](#)

April 25, 2019, Daily Mirror

Defence Secretary Hemasiri Fernando has tendered his resignation to President Maithripala Sirisena today, sources said.

[President says, he was not aware of intel warnings: MP Herath](#)

April 25, 2019, News.lk

Propaganda secretary of the JVP MP Vijitha Herath expressed these views after attending the all-party conference chaired by the president.

[Sri Lanka reduces death toll from Easter Sunday suicide attacks by more than 100](#)

April 25, 2019, Colombo Page

Sri Lankan authorities today revised the death toll from the Easter Sunday multiple suicide bombings to 253, more than 100 less than originally estimated.

[Sri Lanka halts low season visa-free plan after bombings](#)

April 25, 2019, Daily Mirror

Sri Lankan Government said it was suspending plans to grant citizens of 39 countries visa-free entry during the country's tourism low season after Easter Sunday terror attacks.

[Sri Lanka bomber had visa in Australia: Aussie PM](#)

April 25, 2019, Daily Mirror

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison has confirmed that one of the suicide bombers involved in the Sri Lankan bombings spent time in Australia, Nine News Australia said.

[UK sends counter-terrorism team to Sri Lanka](#)

April 25, 2019, News.lk

Britain has sent a team of counter-terrorism police to Sri Lanka after the bombing attacks on Easter Sunday. UK Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt said family liaison officers had been sent to Sri Lanka to support and assist the families of British victims and help with repatriation of their bodies.

[ISIS claims responsibility for Sri Lanka bombings](#)

April 23, 2019, Colombo Page

Islamic state has claimed responsibility for coordinated bombings in Sri Lanka which killed 321 people and injured about 500 others, the group's AMAQ news agency said on Tuesday, Reuters reported.

[China warns citizens against travelling to Sri Lanka](#)

April 23, 2019, News.lk

China warned Chinese nationals against travelling to Sri Lanka in the near term after bomb blasts ripped through churches and luxury hotels across the island nation on Easter Sunday (April 21).

[Indian PM condemns 'horrific' blasts in Sri Lanka](#)

April 21, 2019, Colombo Page

India's Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, has strongly condemned the 'horrific' blasts in Sri Lanka that left at least 137 people dead and scores injured today.

East & South East Asia

China

[Xi delivers keynote speech at opening of second Belt and Road Forum](#)

April 26, 2019, Global Times

Chinese President Xi Jinping said Friday that joint building of the Belt and Road has opened up new space for the world's economic growth. This week's Belt and Road Forum in Beijing is the diplomatic highlight of the year for China, with 37 world leaders in attendance, along with 5,000 other representatives from 150 countries.

[Xi pledges Belt and Road reboot amid rising 'debt trap' concerns](#)

April 26, 2019, Nikkei Asian Review

Standing before 37 world leaders and thousands of delegates in a cavernous Beijing hall, Chinese President Xi Jinping pledged to reboot his country's flagship Belt and Road initiative.

[Belt and Road Initiative can play crucial role in strengthening multilateral cooperation: PM Lee](#)

April 26, 2019, The Straits Times

As a strategy that promotes trade and connectivity, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) can play a crucial role in strengthening cooperation between countries, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said on Friday (April 26).

[2nd BRI Summit underway – China shows maps of J-K and Arunachal Pradesh as part of India](#)

April 26, 2019, Defence News India

As the second edition of Belt and Road Initiative Summit got under way in Beijing on Thursday, China has displayed a map with BRI routes that curiously shows entire Jammu & Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh as part of India.

[China eyes new regional development plans to bolster growth](#)

April 26, 2019, Xinhua Net

Chinese authorities are looking to renew regional development plans for the country's less developed western and northeastern regions to bolster broader growth, according to a report by the China Securities Journal.

[China, Russia to increase capabilities to jointly deal with security threats: Chinese defense minister](#)

April 26, 2019, Global Times

China and Russia will cooperate on an array of major strategic projects and increase capabilities to jointly cope with security threats and challenges, Chinese State Councilor and Minister of National Defense Wei Fenghe said.

[Naval exercises on agenda for Russia, Asian countries](#)

April 26, 2019, China.org.cn

China will conduct naval exercises with Russia and several Southeast Asian nations over the next few days, a spokesman for the Ministry of National Defense said

[China opposes interference in Ukraine's internal affairs by any foreign forces: envoy](#)

April 26, 2019, Xinhua Net

The signing of the new Minsk agreement in 2015, which is a renewal of its first protocol reached in 2014, has played a crucial role in politically mediating the Ukrainian crisis, said Wu, adding that the authority of the agreement has been highly recognized by all parties over the past four years.

[China to promote space cooperation for UN sustainable development](#)

April 25, 2019, China.org.cn

China will promote international space cooperation to contribute to sustainable development goals set by the United Nations, a senior official with the China National Space Administration (CNSA) said.

Japan

[Japan, US differ on currency intervention](#)

April 26, NHK World

Japan and the United States still disagree on whether to ban the practice of lowering currencies for competitive advantage as part of a new trade agreement.

[Trump-Abe Talks at White House to Focus on Trade, Economic Ties](#)

April 26, 2019, Bloomberg

President Donald Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe plan to discuss how to deepen trade and economic ties in energy, digital connectivity and infrastructure during talks Friday at the White House.

[Abe has busy day, meeting 3 PMs in Slovakia; then talking trade with EU in Belgium](#)

April 26, 2019, Japan Today

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Thursday asked the leaders of three Central European countries for help in a long dispute with North Korea over the abductions of Japanese citizens decades ago.

[After Italy's backing of China's 'Belt and Road,' Abe stresses caution on infrastructure with Conde](#)

April 25, 2019, Japan Times

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has moved on to the second and third legs of his six-nation European and North American tour with stops in Italy and Slovakia, where he met with the leaders of those two countries and others

[Abe and Macron agree to coordinate ahead of G20, while tiptoeing around Ghosn and Nissan](#)

April 24, 2019, Japan Times

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and French President Emmanuel Macron agreed Tuesday to coordinate closely in addressing global economic, trade and environmental issues before Japan hosts the Group of 20 summit in June.

[Japan's Abe departs for 8-day tour of Europe, North America](#)

April 22, 2019, UPI

Japanese Prime Minister departed Tokyo on Monday to begin an eight-day trip during which he's expected to discuss trade with his counterparts in Europe and North America.

[Promoting Japan's answer to China's Belt and Road](#)

April 25, 2019, Nikkei Asian Review

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has made his concept of a Free and Open Indo-Pacific the centrepiece of Japan's foreign policy.

[Japan's new era needs an optimistic new model](#)

April 24, 2019, The Straits Times

"A Japan where every person can have hope for tomorrow" sounds like a fairly modest aspiration. But that was the wish that Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe expressed for the new Reiwa imperial era, which will begin on May 1, when Crown Prince Naruhito ascends the imperial throne.

Korea

[Kim Jong-un slams US for 'bad faith' in Hanoi talks, invites Vladimir Putin to North Korea](#)

April 26, 2019, South China Morning Post

Remarks seen as putting pressure on US to be 'more flexible' in accepting Pyongyang's demands to ease sanctions.

[Two Koreas skip director-level talks for ninth week at liaison office: MOU](#)

April 26, 2019, NK New.org

The two Koreas skipped a senior-level weekly meeting for the ninth consecutive week, South Korea's Ministry of Unification (MOU) said on Friday, even though directors of both countries are reportedly on duty at the inter-Korean liaison office.

[North Korea, Russia to deepen ties and cooperation: KCNA](#)

April 25, 2019, NK News

Though North Korean media also warned the Korean Peninsula at a diplomatic "standstill".

[Putin Pledges to Help Kim Jong-un Break Nuclear Deadlock](#)

April 26, 2019, Th Chosun Ilbo

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday offered to help North Korean leader Kim Jong-un find a breakthrough in denuclearization talks. Putin added North Korea needs security guarantees and multilateral talks should resume.

[Putin calls for six-way talks for North Korea's denuclearization](#)

April 25, 2019, The Korea Herald

Russian President Vladimir Putin called for the resumption of six-way talks on North Korea's denuclearization to move stalled negotiations forward.

[NK presses US for concessions](#)

April 26, 2019, The Korea Times

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un is pressing the United States, again, asking Washington to provide Pyongyang with such incentives as security guarantees and sanctions relief as prerequisites in advancing nuclear dialogue, political analysts in Seoul said.

[Seoul to diversify oil imports after scrapped sanctions waivers on Iranian oil](#)

April 26, 2019, The Korea Times

South Korea said Friday it is pushing to diversify sources of oil imports and support its exporters in a move to minimize the impacts of U.S. sanctions on Iran.

[Moon vows efforts for resuming tourism to N. Korea](#)

April 26, 2019, The Korea Herald

President Moon Jae-in said Friday his administration will continue a push to restart a major inter-Korean tour program, as he visited an eastern province bordering North Korea.

[President Moon returns home from 3-nation Central Asia tour](#)

April 23, 2019, The Korea Herald

President Moon Jae-in returned home Tuesday after an eight-day trip to Central Asia aimed at improving the country's relations with Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.

Southeast Asia

[China begins joint naval drills with six Southeast Asian nations](#)

April 26, 2019, South China Morning Post

Exercise shows Beijing is keen to boost its influence in region amid growing US activity, analyst says. Thailand, Philippines, Singapore, Vietnam 'and others' will take part in drills off coast of Qingdao, PLA Navy commander says.

[Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte tries to smooth over South China Sea tensions in meeting with China's Xi Jinping](#)

April 25, 2019, South China Morning Post

Philippine leader seeks to set differences aside and pledges support for belt and road plans as he meets Chinese counterpart

[Philippines open for business with China, but stands firm on insisting Beijing respects its sovereignty: trade secretary](#)

April 25, 2019, South China Morning Post

Speaking before the Belt and Road Forum, Ramon Lopez says China has not been an aggressor, but any threat to its jurisdiction might affect bilateral trade ties. This month, President Rodrigo Duterte threatened military action after Beijing let hundreds of vessels sail near a Philippine-claimed island in South China Sea

[Thailand hopes China-Thailand railway project finalized as soon as possible: PM](#)

April 26, 2019, Global Times

The Thai government is committed to the progress of the Thai-Chinese high speed rail project and hopes the project will be finalized as soon as possible, Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha said.

[China lobbies ASEAN on yuan use, cracking dollar dominance](#)

April 26, 2019, Nikkei Asian Review

ASEAN and its East Asian partners are considering adding the yen and the yuan to their \$240 billion currency swap safety net, a move that would reduce the framework's overreliance on the dollar while increasing China's economic clout.

[Malaysia to implement vehicle entry permit for foreign vehicles entering from Singapore from October](#)

April 25, 2019, The Straits Times

Malaysia will enforce mandatory registration for foreign vehicles entering from Singapore from October, the government announced on Thursday (April 25).

[Foreign money leaves Malaysia as economy slows](#)

April 25, 2019, Nikkei Asian Review

International investors are fleeing Malaysia, which has been battered by multiple economic headwinds and, as a result, is home to Asia's worst-performing major stock market.

Central & West Asia

[Uzbekistan fully supports China's Belt and Road initiative](#)

April 26, 2019, The Times of Central Asia

During their meeting in Beijing on April 25, President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev and China President Xi Jinping expressed shared interest in bringing the volume of China-Uzbekistan trade up to US \$10 billion in the coming years.

[China's military base in Tajikistan: What does it mean?](#)

April 26, 2019, The Times of Central Asia

China is the largest foreign investor in Tajikistan – and all of Central Asia – and Beijing's growing economic expansion in the region is being complemented by the growing military and security influence in this strategic area.

[Senior CPC official meets Kyrgyz president](#)

April 26, 2019, Xinhua Net

Senior Communist Party of China (CPC) official Wang Huning on Friday met with Kyrgyz President Sooronbay Jeenbekov, who is here to attend the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation.

[Prime ministers of Kazakhstan and Hungary discuss increasing investment cooperation](#)

April 24, 2019, The Times of Central Asia

On April 23, the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Askar Mamin held a meeting with Prime Minister of Hungary Viktor Orban, the official website of the Prime Minister of Kazakhstan reported.

[New Round Of Syria Peace Talks Begins In Kazakhstan](#)

April 26, 2019, Eurasia Review

New Round Of Syria Peace Talks Begins In KaA fresh round of multilateral negotiations for establishing peace in Syria within a framework known as the Astana process kicked off in Kazakhstan's capital of Nur-Sultan, formerly known as Astana.

[Xi meets UAE vice president](#)

April 26, 2019, Global Times

Chinese President Xi Jinping met with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Vice President and Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, who is here to attend the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation.

[Rohani Says Iran Will Only Negotiate With Washington If The U.S. Lifts Pressure, Apologizes](#)

April 24, 2019, Rferl.org

Iran has responded to calls from Washington to renegotiate its landmark nuclear deal with world powers, with President Hassan Rohani saying Tehran would be willing to negotiate only when the United States lifts pressure and apologizes for what he called "illegal actions."

[Lebanon's Minister Threatens To Strike Ben-Gurion Airport In Future War](#)

April 25, 2019, The Jerusalem Post

Lebanon's Defense Minister Elias Bou Saab has warned that the Lebanese military would strike Israel's Ben-Gurion Airport if Beirut's Rafik Hariri International Airport were struck in a future conflict.

[Israel accuses Switzerland of funding legal procedures against it](#)

April 25, 2019, Middle East Monitor

An Israeli newspaper close to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday accused Switzerland of spending \$2 million on legal activities which it says harm Israel.

[Iraq, Russia sign agreements, MoUs in various fields](#)

April 26, 2019, Xinhua Net

Iraqi Foreign Ministry said that Iraq and Russia signed a number of agreements and memorandums of understanding (MoUs) in various fields.

[Russia deploys new forward air control vehicle to Syria](#)

April 25, 2019, Jane's 360

Russia has deployed a BOMAN (BOyevaya Mashina AviaNavodchika) forward air control vehicle to Syria, the Izvestia newspaper reported on 24 April citing well-informed military sources.

[Russia firm to take over Syria port for 49 years: Damascus](#)

April 25, 2019, Arab News

A Russian firm is to take over Syria's largest port for 49 years and invest \$500 million in expanding it, the transport minister in Damascus said Thursday.

[Russia begins naval drills off Syrian coast as US aircraft carriers enter Mediterranean](#)

April 25, 2019, Al Masdar News

Several loud explosions could be heard inside the Syrian coastal governorate of Tartous, today, as the Russian Navy conducted large-scale drills in the eastern Mediterranean.

[US warship enters eastern Mediterranean to send message to Russia in Syria](#)

April 24, 2019, Al Masdar News

The U.S. Ambassador to Russia, Jon Huntsman, reportedly boarded one of two U.S. aircraft carriers that entered the Mediterranean waters on Tuesday to deliver a stern warning to the Russians.

United States

[Ex-vice-president Biden launches 2020 presidential campaign](#)

April 26, 2019, The Star

Declaring the “soul of this nation” at stake, former Vice-President Joe Biden pushed into the crowded 2020 presidential contest Thursday and quickly sparked a fierce debate over the direction of the modern-day Democratic Party.

[U.S. Slaps Travel Ban On Chechen Prime Minister](#)

April 25, 2019, Rferl.org

The United States has imposed an entry ban on Muslim Khuchiyev, the prime minister of Russia's North Caucasus Chechen Republic.

[Days ahead of next round of talks, US slams China for 'failure' on intellectual property reform](#)

April 26, 2019, South China Morning Post

Report from US trade representative's office says China continues to engage in 'unfair and harmful conduct' that damages US intellectual property rights. China is to remain on Washington's 'priority watch list' for IP protection infringement, according to report

[Trump Administration's New Cuba Policy Threatens Discord With U.S. Allies](#)

April 25, 2019, Just Security.org

Last week, National Security Advisor John Bolton announced a major shift in U.S. policy toward Cuba intended, in part, to punish Havana for supporting the Maduro regime in Venezuela. Under the new policy, —Americans will be able to sue any company that “traffics” in property confiscated by the Cuban government during the Cuban revolution. Bolton heralded this step as a way to crack down on Cuba—reversing the Obama administration's diplomatic outreach and a two-decades-old policy of the United States.

[US to 'work with Russia to denuclearize N.Korea'](#)

April 26, 2019, NHK World

A US government official has indicated that the country needs the cooperation of Russia and other nations to denuclearize North Korea.

['Stopping the bad stuff': Japan's Abe visits White House in latest bid to soothe Trump's ego – and avoid his ire](#)

April 25, 2019, The Washington Post

But beyond the pleasantries lies a more difficult reality for Abe and a test of his resilience at a time when Trump is demanding that Japan engage in negotiations for a bilateral free trade agreement that Tokyo has long resisted, and is ratcheting up threats to impose tariffs on Japanese automobiles.

[How China is replacing America as Asia's military titan](#)

April 26, 2019, The Japan Times

Xi has accelerated the PLA's shift to naval power from a traditionally land-based force. He has broken up its vast, Maoist-era military bureaucracy. A new chain of command leads directly to Xi as chairman of the Central Military Commission, China's top military decision-making body. Operational leadership of naval, missile, air, ground and cyber forces has been separated from administration and training – a structure that Chinese and Western defense analysts say borrows from U.S. military organization.

Europe & Russia

[May sets new deadline with Britons to vote in EU elections](#)

April 26, 2019, Express.co.uk

Theresa May has set herself a new Brexit deadline of June 30 to ensure that British MEPs elected next month never take up their seats, Whitehall sources revealed last night.

[EU, UN launch joint project to prevent nuclear terrorism acts](#)

April 25, 2019, Xinhua Net

The European Union (EU) and the United Nations (UN) launched Thursday a joint project to prevent acts of nuclear terrorism through the promotion of the universal ratification and effective implementation of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT).

[26th EU-Japan Summit: Taking our strong partnership to a higher level](#)

April 25, 2019, European commission

The 26th EU-Japan Summit further strengthened bilateral ties, focusing on the implementation of two landmark agreements concluded last year: the EU-Japan Strategic Partnership and Economic Partnership Agreements. These agreements have taken political and economic relations to a higher level.

[European Union and Japan prepare for Brussels summit as new trade deal underway](#)

April 25, 2019. Euro News

The EU-Japan summit will bring together leaders from both sides to discuss trade, strategic cooperation and preparations for the forthcoming G20 gathering.

[EU, Japan reiterate support for Iran nuclear deal despite U.S. pressure](#)

April 25, 2019, Xinhua Net

The European Union (EU) and Japan on Thursday reiterated their "joint support for the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)", commonly known as the Iran nuclear deal, despite mounting pressure from the U.S. on the Islamic republic.

[Macron promises 'significant' tax cuts, reforms after months of Yellow Vest protests](#)

April 25, 2019, France 24

President Emmanuel Macron promised significant tax cuts but also a return to public order in France as he revealed his long-awaited response to nearly half a year of street protests.

[U.S. Called On To Boycott German Cars Until Hezbollah Banned From Germany](#)

April 25, 2019, The Jerusalem Post

Merkel's administration is vehemently opposed to banning Hezbollah's entire organization in Germany, where at least 950 Hezbollah members operate.

[German income inequality a cause for concern as east-west divide deepens](#)

April 24, 2019, Deutsche Welle

A new study has found that residents in Germany's south have twice as much disposable income as those in the north and east. Experts have called on the federal government to act.

[Along Russia's Border to Norway, a Big Show of Military Force](#)

April 24, 2019, The Moscow Times

Sounds of explosion rocked through the borderlands as 1,000 forces and more than 340 military vehicles, tanks and aircraft engaged in military training.

[Germany, Poland Halt Oil Imports From Russia Over Quality Concerns](#)

April 25, 2019, The Moscow Times

Poland and Germany have suspended imports of Russian oil via a major pipeline, citing poor quality and triggering a rare crisis over supply from the world's second-largest crude exporter.

[U.S. Envoy Warns Russia With 'Warship Diplomacy'](#)

April 24, 2019, The Moscow Times

U.S. Ambassador to Russia Jon Huntsman has boarded one of two U.S. Navy aircraft carriers that arrived in the Mediterranean on Tuesday to caution Moscow against its activities in Syria and around the world.

[Putin To Brief China On Kim Talks, Says Willing To Share Details With U.S. As Well](#)

April 26, 2019, Rferl.org

Russian President Vladimir Putin is in Beijing to brief Chinese leaders on his just-concluded summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and said he is also willing to share details of the talks with the United States.

[Putin Rejects Criticism Of His Plan To Grant Russian Citizenship To Ukrainians](#)

April 25, 2019, Rferl.org

Russian President Vladimir Putin has rejected international criticism about his decision to ease the process of granting Russian citizenship to Ukrainians in territory of eastern Ukraine that is held by Russia-backed separatists.

[Russia's Novatek to sell stake in Arctic gas project to Chinese partners](#)

April 26, 2019, Nikkei Asian Review

Novatek, Russia's top independent gas producer, Thursday signed binding deals on the conditions to sell a 20 per cent stake in its second Arctic gas liquefaction project to Chinese partners, equally split between China National Oil and Gas Exploration and Development Corporation and China National Offshore Oil Corporation.

Africa & Latin America

[Anti-government protests break out throughout Colombia; police brutality reported in Bogota](#)

April 25, 2019, Colombia Reports

Largely peaceful demonstrations took place across Colombia, from cities to villages, with thousands taking to the streets for anti-government marches.

[Brazil: Native groups protest against 'anti-indigenous' Bolsonaro](#)

April 25, 2019, Al Jazeera

Thousands from indigenous communities across Brazil gather for annual event to protest against attacks on native rights.

[A Weak President Macri Has Investors Dumping Argentina](#)

April 25, 2019, Forbes

Investors are dumping Argentina bonds now that it looks even more certain that the man who brought the International Monetary Fund back to Buenos Aires is six months away from losing the presidency.

[Maduro's government calls counter-rallies against Guaido](#)

April 23, 2019, CGTN

Venezuela's government announced on Monday two marches to counter protests opposition leader Juan Guaido have been planned. The street demonstrations in favor of President Nicolas Maduro will be launched on Saturday, and May 1, Labor Day.

[Venezuelan migrant boat sinks, a new horror for a collapsing nation](#)

April 25, The Washington Post

Authorities launched a desperate search for survivors Thursday after a vessel carrying migrants from Venezuela to Trinidad capsized and sank in the deep waters between the two nations, a disaster that called new attention to the plight of those trying to escape hunger and repression in the collapsing socialist state.

[Cuban migrants stage mass escape from center in south Mexico](#)

April 26, 2019, The Washington Post

At least 1,300 mainly Cuban migrants fled on foot from an immigration detention center on Mexico's southern border Thursday in the largest mass escape in recent memory.

[Brazilian FM says China important for economic growth](#)

April 26, 2019, Xinhua Net

China is important for the growth of Brazil's whole economy, especially in the area of agribusiness, Brazilian Foreign Minister Ernesto Araujo said.

[Cyclone Kenneth Poses a Humanitarian Nightmare as it Slams Into Mozambique](#)

April 25, 2019, Gizmodo

For the second time in a month, Mozambique is dealing with a catastrophic cyclone. Cyclone Kenneth roared ashore on the country's north coast with the strength of a major hurricane. Like its predecessor Cyclone Idai, the storm is expected to linger inland and dump feet of rain.

[African Union gives Sudan's military three months to transfer power to civil rule](#)

April 23, 2019, Sudan Tribune

African Union leaders have given Sudan's transitional military council three months to achieve power transfer to civilian rule stressing that this delay should not be prolonged.

[Haftar's military spending cost Libya over \\$25 billion in debt](#)

April 25, 2019, The Libya Observer

Khalifa Haftar has funded his "eastern state" with a mix of unofficial bonds, Russia-printed cash and deposits from eastern banks, building up a debt worth around 35 billion Libyan dinars (\$25.18 billion) outside the official banking system in Libya.

[Libya's Presidential Council's Head accuses France of backing up "dictator Haftar"](#)

April 24, 2019, The Libya Observer

The Head of the Presidential Council Fayez Al-Sarraj has accused France of supporting warlord" Khalifa Haftar who started an offensive on April 04 on Tripoli.

[Mali appoints new PM days after government resigns](#)

April 22, 2019, Al Jazeera

Malian President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita has appointed a new prime minister, days after the government resigned amid a spike in violence in the restive West African country.

[Nigeria seeks Russia's help to end Boko Haram insurgency](#)

April 25, 2019, Naij.com

The federal government has solicited the cooperation of Russia to eliminate the Boko Haram insurgents from Nigeria and the Lake Chad Basin countries.

[China, Central African Republic vow to deepen cooperation](#)

April 26, 2019, Global Times

Zheng Jianbang, vice chairperson of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, and Faustin-Archange Touadera, president of the Central African Republic (CAR), vowed on Wednesday in Bangui to deepen cooperation.

[Tanzania, China have enjoyed rock-solid relations for 55 years: minister](#)

April 25, 2019, Global Times

Tanzania's education minister on Wednesday described the diplomatic relations between Tanzania and China as rock-solid that has weathered the past 55 years.

[Zimbabwe pledges to strengthen cooperation with China](#)

April 26, 2019, Global Times

Zimbabwe pledged to deepen bilateral cooperation with China to the benefit of the two nations.



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

www.delhipolicygroup.org