



Delhi Policy Group

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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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Delhi Policy Group

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South Asia

India

[India-Pakistan tension: Indian Air Force, Army, Navy stand together to expose Pak Army](#)

Feb 28, 2019, Business today

Air Vice Marshal RGK Kapoor said Pakistan used F-16s in this mission through their electronic signatures. A part of AMRAAM, air to air missile which is carried only on the Pakistani F-16s was recovered east of Rajouri within the Indian territory.

[At Islamic Nations \(OIC\) Meet, Sushma Swaraj Points To Pak Hand In Terror](#)

Mar 1, 2019, NDTV

Sushma Swaraj had arrived in Abu Dhabi to attend the foreign ministers meet of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation or OIC.

[Sushma Swaraj raises Pulwama, Pakistan's inaction at RIC](#)

Feb 28, 2019, The Sentinel

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj on Wednesday raised the February 14 Pulwama terror attack by the Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) in Jammu and Kashmir during her bilateral meeting with Chinese counterpart Wang Yi at the 16th Russia-India-China (RIC) foreign ministers' meeting here.

[Abhinandan coming home, India won't budge on terror](#)

Mar 1, 2019, The Times of India

India made it clear to Pakistan that the pilot would not be a "bargaining chip".

[Full text: India on IAF strike at biggest Jaish terror camp in Pakistan](#)

Feb 26, 2019, The Times of India

Following is the text of the statement by India's Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale on the strike on Jaish-e-Mohammad's training camp.

[Global diplomacy in India-Pakistan](#)

Mar 1, 2019, The Indian Express

Donald Trump claims US helped ease tensions. How have US, others intervened from behind the scenes in the past?

[India refuses to join e-commerce talks at WTO, says rules to hurt country](#)

Feb 25, 2019, Business Standard

The government believes the push for initiating negotiations on substantive obligations related to e-commerce will oblige India to permanently accept the current moratorium on imposing customs duties.

[India, US expected to soon finalise a trade package to boost bilateral commerce](#)

Feb 22, 2019, Business Standard

To boost the bilateral trade, Commerce Ministry officials and the US Trade Representative (USTR) are in the process of finalising a trade package which would be announced soon, an official said.

[Government Imposes Ban On Jamaat-e-Islami Jammu And Kashmir](#)

Mar 1, 2019, NDTV

Several leaders of this controversial socio-religious organisation were raided by the central investigation agencies last week leading to the arrest of around 30 leaders.

[Limit cross-border data flow and set up regulator, says draft ecommerce policy](#)

Feb 24, 2019, The Economic Times

India has proposed regulating cross border data flows, locating computing facilities within India to ensure job creation and setting up a dedicated 'data authority' for issues related to sharing of community data.

Pakistan

[UN chief welcomes PM Khan's decision to free captured Indian pilot](#)

Mar 1, 2019, Dawn

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has welcomed Prime Minister Imran Khan's decision to release the captured Indian fighter pilot in what was seen as an effort to de-escalate the gravest crisis between the two countries in years.

[Efforts for de-escalation should not be considered weakness: PM Imran](#)

Feb 28, 2019, Geo News

Addressing the joint session of Parliament, the premier stressed, "All issues should be resolved through dialogue. Despite us opening the Kartarpur corridor, we received no response from India."

[Pakistan's armed forces on high alert along LoC: ISPR](#)

Feb 28, 2019, Geo News

Pakistan's armed forces are on high alert along the Line of Control (LoC) and ready for any eventuality, the military's media wing Inter Services Public Relations said.

[Sh Rasheed announces to resume Samjhauta Express train service from Mar 4](#)

Feb 28, 2019, Dunya News

Federal Minister for Railways Sheikh Rasheed said that Samjhauta Express train service will be resumed from Monday.

[Saudi FM arriving with message from crown prince](#)

Feb 28, 2019, Dawn

Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi told reporters that the Saudi envoy was coming to Pakistan with a special message from Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman.

[Erdogan calls Imran, appreciates his offer to India for de-escalating tensions](#)

Feb 28, 2019, Geo News

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan telephoned Prime Minister Imran Khan and congratulated the latter on his statesman-like offer to India for de-escalating tensions and working towards peace.

Afghanistan

[President Ghani: Afghanistan is no more A Landlocked Country](#)

Feb 26, 2019, Daily Outlook Afghanistan

Afghan government, especially the national unity government has played important role in changing Afghanistan from a dependent land-lock country to a land-link and bridging state by opening several new aerial and ground transit routes

[Afghan, US diplomats discuss key issues](#)

Feb 27, Afghanistan Times

Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Idrees Zaman met with the Ambassador of the United States of America to Kabul Mr. John Bass, where they discussed important issues,

including ongoing peace talks between US Special Envoy Zalmay Khalilzad and US negotiating team in Qatar.

[Pakistan's airspace blocked for Afghan planes flying to India](#)

Feb 27, 2019, Afghanistan Times

The government of Pakistan has blocked air route for airplanes flying between Afghanistan and India, the Afghan Civil Aviation Authority said Wednesday, a move taken after Indian fighter jets attacked Pakistani-controlled area of Kashmir in an apparent retaliation to a suicide attack that targeted Indian army convoy, killing tens of soldiers.

[Pakistan to Allow Afghan Refugees to Open Bank Accounts: PM](#)

Feb 26, 2019, Daily Outlook Afghanistan

Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan announced his decision to allow registered Afghan refugees to open bank accounts in Pakistan which refugees say will help them do business.

[Civil Society doubts merit-based introduction of electoral commissioners](#)

Feb 27, 2019, Afghanistan Times

The Civil Society criticizes the introducing process of electoral commissioners, saying the commissioners are introduced by personal relationships.

Bangladesh

[Bangladesh-India joint army exercises begin Saturday](#)

Feb 28, 2019, Dhaka Tribune

Bangladesh and India will hold a joint army exercise from March 2 till March 15 at the Bangabandhu Senanibas (BBS) Cantonment in Tangail.

[India puts BSF on alert at Bangladesh border amid Indo-Pak tension](#)

Feb 28, 2019, Dhaka Tribune

India has put its Border Security Force (BSF) on alert at the Bangladesh border as tension simmers in the region because of an ongoing India-Pakistan conflict over Kashmir.

[Bangladesh tells UN it will no longer take in Myanmar refugees](#)

Mar 1, 2019, The New Straits Times

Bangladesh told the UN Security Council on Thursday that it will no longer be able to take in refugees from Myanmar.

[Bangladesh risks sanctions over failure to jail traffickers](#)

Mar 1, 2019, NewAge BD

Bangladesh could face sanctions because of its failure to convict human traffickers, a senior official said on Wednesday, as only about 30 people have been jailed under a 2012 law.

[Bangladesh Versus India in the Development Race](#)

Feb 25, 2019, Bloomberg

There's an old theory that as an organism develops, it progresses through the same evolutionary stages traveled by its ancestors. Traditionally, economic development has worked in a similar way. When a country first shifts from agrarian poverty to industrialization, it tends to start out in light manufacturing, especially textiles.

[Invest in Bangladesh](#)

Mar 1, 2019, The Daily Star

Bangladesh has urged French businessmen and investors to invest in Bangladesh's energy, infrastructure and other sectors, taking advantage of the country's demographic dividend and attractive packages that are on offer in 100 Special Economic Zones (SEZ).

Nepal

[Nepal calls for peace in region, dialogue between India and Pakistan](#)

Feb 27, 2019, Business Times

Nepal has asked India and Pakistan to come together for dialogue and resolve the ongoing tussle between them. Two nuclear powers engaged in aerial engagements today as Pakistan violated Indian airspace in response to a precise, non-military aerial attack on terror launch pads in its territory.

[Indian government approves proposal to build transmission line in Nepal](#)

Mar 1, 2019, The Kathmandu Post

The Indian government has approved an investment proposal to build the transmission line in eastern Nepal to export the electricity generated by Arun-3 Hydropower Project being developed by an Indian state-owned company.

[Nepal opens for Chinese investments](#)

Feb 28, 2019, Global Times

The pre-summit conference for the 2019 Nepal Investment Summit that will be held in Kathmandu from March 29 to 30, took place in Beijing on February 25. The event drew the participation of over a hundred guests including representatives of Chinese enterprises who want to take a closer look at the business opportunities that Nepal has to offer. The Nepalese Ambassador to China Leela Mani Paudyal and the CEO of the Investment Board of Nepal Maha Prasad Adhikari attended the event.

[Nepal's minister, 6 others die in chopper crash](#)

Feb 27, 2019, Nagaland Post

Nepal's minister, 6 others die in chopper crash.

[Nepal's rice economy](#)

Mar 1, 2019, Nepali Times

Nepal's rice economy is rain dependant, the government cannot take credit for the increased paddy harvests.

Bhutan

[Bhutanese exchange students face extortion, threats and hard times in Japan, families say](#)

Feb 25, 2019, The Japan Times

Bhutanese exchange students are being extorted by overseas employment agencies and threatened into silence, according to representatives who spoke to the press Monday on behalf of the Parent's Committee of the Learn and Earn Program.

Sri Lanka

[Sri Lanka Expresses Deep Concern Over India-Pakistan Tension, Says Stand With India In Fight Against Terrorism](#)

Feb 27, 2019, Republic World

Sri Lanka said that it was deeply concerned about the increasing tensions between India and Pakistan and asked the two nations to act in a manner that ensures the security, peace and stability of the entire region.

[Resolution of regional disputes through peaceful means is essential for stability and progress in South Asia - Pakistan HC](#)

Feb 28, 2019, Colombo Page

High Commissioner of Pakistan to Sri Lanka, Major General (R) Dr. Shahid Ahmad Hashmat spoke on 'Regional Security in South Asia: Pakistan Perspective' at the Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (RCSS), Sri Lanka as a Guest Speaker for an in-house discussion recently.

[Sri Lanka sets eyes on exiting FATF grey list by this June](#)

Feb 26, 2019, Daily Mirror

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the global policy setter on anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT), has made the initial determination that Sri Lanka has completed its action plan and warrants an on-site assessment to verify that the implementation of the country's AML/CFT reforms has begun and is being sustained and that the necessary political commitment remains in place to sustain the implementation in the future.

East & South East Asia

China

[Chinese State Councilor meets senior French diplomat, former US official](#)

March 3, 2019, The Global Times

Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi held separate meetings with diplomatic adviser to French President Philippe Etienne and former U.S. official Susan Shirk in Beijing Thursday.

[China's been very helpful for both the US and North Korea: Trump](#)

Feb 28, 2019, Global Times

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and US President Donald Trump canceled a planned working lunch after failing to reach an agreement on the North's nuclear issue at their meeting, citing differences over the lifting of sanctions.

[AIIB signs rural roads project worth 455 mln USD with India's southern state](#)

Feb 28, 2019, Global Times

The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the government of India on Thursday signed a 455-million-US-dollar loan to finance a rural roads project in India's southern state of Andhra Pradesh.

[China, Russia, India to strengthen cooperation after foreign ministers' meeting](#)

Feb 27, 2019, Global Times

China, Russia and India on Wednesday agreed to enhance coordination and cooperation, firmly uphold multilateralism and jointly fight against terrorism.

[Chinese, Russian and Indian foreign ministers call for enhanced counter-terrorism cooperation](#)

Feb 27, 2019, Global Times

Foreign ministers of China, Russia and India held the 16th trilateral meeting on Wednesday, calling for enhanced communication and cooperation in counter-terrorism cooperation.

[China Focus: Indonesian, Malaysian journalists visit Xinjiang](#)

Feb 28, 2019, Xinhua

A group of journalists from Indonesia and Malaysia visited the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region from Feb. 22 to 27 to interview the local people and find out about the region's development and how it implements policies on de-extremism.

["Come and see us," Huawei says in open letter to U.S. media](#)

Feb 28, 2019, Xinhua

The Chinese technology firm Huawei has issued an "An open letter to the U.S. media", inviting members of the U.S. media to visit Huawei's campuses and meet its employees.

[China hopes DPRK, U.S. will continue to have dialogue](#)

Feb 28, 2019, Xinhua

China hopes the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the United States will continue to maintain and conduct dialogue, a foreign ministry spokesperson said Thursday.

[Full text of joint communique of Russian, Indian, Chinese foreign ministers' meeting](#)

Feb 27, 2019, Xinhua

Russian, Indian and Chinese foreign ministers issued a joint communique Wednesday after wrapping up their 16th meeting in Zhejiang, China.

[China welcomes all like-minded countries to jointly build Belt and Road](#)

Feb 27, 2019, Xinhua

China welcomes all like-minded countries to take part in the joint construction of the Belt and Road, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson said Wednesday.

Japan

[Russia delivers high-speed Internet to disputed islands](#)

Feb 27, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

Russia has established high-speed Internet service on a chain of Pacific islands off its far eastern coast, state-run telecoms operator Rostelecom said on Tuesday, despite a decades-old dispute with Japan over the territory.

[Abe moves ahead with base work in Okinawa after 'no' referendum](#)

Feb 25, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Feb. 25 that land reclamation work will continue for a new U.S. air station in Okinawa Prefecture despite a referendum showing 72 percent of islanders oppose the project.

[Trump to visit Japan on May 26, discusses abduction issue](#)

Feb 21, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

U.S. President Donald Trump will visit Japan as a state guest on May 26 and will raise the abduction issue in his summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un next week, government sources said.

[Abe 'fully supports' Trump's decision at N. Korea summit](#)

Mar 01, 2019, The Yomiuri Shimbun

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe "fully" supports the decision by U.S. President Donald Trump to walk away from talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Vietnam, a move that resulted in the summit meeting ending abruptly Thursday without a deal.

[Official: Good to see no easy concession with Kim](#)

Feb 28, 2019, The Yomiuri Shimbun

A senior government official said Thursday it was "good" that U.S. President Donald Trump "made no easy concession" with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un at their just-ended summit in Hanoi.

[Govt protests Russian officials' visit to Shikotan](#)

Feb 27, 2019, The Yomiuri Shimbun

The government lodged a protest with Russia over Tuesday's visits by senior Russian government officials to Shikotan, one of the four northwestern Pacific islands held by Russia and claimed by Japan, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said Wednesday.

[Japan, India agree to join forces on 5G technology as Huawei concerns linger](#)

Feb 24, 2019, The Yomiuri Shimbun

The Japanese and Indian governments have agreed in principle to work together on measures to combat cyber attacks related to the development of 5G technology, with concern on the Japanese side centered mainly on the products of Chinese telecommunications equipment giant Huawei.

Korea

[Lack of progress at Trump-Kim summit will have mixed impact on China, South Korea and Japan](#)

Mar 1, 2019, The Japan Times

The ultimately fruitless U.S.-North Korea summit in Vietnam that ended Thursday will have a mixed impact on China, South Korea and Japan, each of which has different strategic interests at stake.

[As Trump returns empty-handed from summit with Kim, some in Washington breathe sigh of relief](#)

Mar 1, 2019, The Japan Times

Among some U.S. officials, congressional aides, analysts and others who track North Korea, there was a sigh of relief Thursday as President Donald Trump headed home from Vietnam empty-handed from his talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

[Even without a deal, North Korean leader made gains at the Kim-Trump summit in Hanoi](#)

Mar 1, 2019, The Japan Times

As Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump took their seats across from each other at the negotiating table, the North Korean leader confidently told reporters he had a gut feeling the two would conclude their second summit with some sort of an agreement.

[South Korea, UAE heads agree to expand economic cooperation](#)

Feb 27, 2019, The Korea Times

The leaders of South Korea and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) agreed Wednesday to further develop the countries' relationship and expand their economic cooperation to agriculture, clean energy and information and communication technology.

Southeast Asia

[US vows to defend Philippines against 'armed attack' in South China Sea](#)

Feb 27, 2019, The Straits Times

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Friday (March 1) vowed to defend the Philippines against "armed attack" in the disputed South China Sea in Washington's starkest warning yet against Chinese claims to most of the strategic waterway.

[Singapore will buy four F-35s jets and could add eight more to upgrade its fleet](#)

Mar 1, 2019, South China Morning Post

Singapore plans to buy four US-made F-35 jet fighters – one of the most advanced warplanes ever built – to update its ageing current fleet, the defence minister said on Friday.

[Mahathir's Malaysia still 'open for business' with China despite stalled rail link: top trade official DrOngKian Ming](#)

Feb 28, 2019, South China Morning Post

Upheaval over Beijing-financed projects such as the ECRL has not affected bilateral trade, says deputy minister of international trade and industry. DrOngKian Ming prefers to view economic ties in terms of the countries' total trade volume, which reached a record high of US\$108.6 billion in 2018.

[Philippine planning secretary Ernesto Pernia welcomes Chinese aid and investment despite public suspicion of Beijing](#)

Feb 26, 2019, South China Morning Post

Chinese firms plan to build large-scale integrated steel complexes on Mindanao Island. According to a nationwide survey last month, 60 per cent of Filipinos say China is 'not so trustworthy'.

Central & West Asia

[Four Top Revelations From Netanyahu's Charge Sheet](#)

Feb 28, 2019, The Jerusalem Post

We thought top Netanyahu aide Shlomo Filber was only involved in the Case 4000 Bezeq-Walla! media bribery affair. But Netanyahu is accused of using him as a middleman in more cases.

[UN says Israel's killings at Gaza protests may amount to war crimes](#)

Feb 28, 2019, The Guardian

UN investigators have accused Israeli soldiers of intentionally firing on civilians and said they may have committed war crimes in their lethal response to Palestinian demonstrations in Gaza.

[Shamima Begum flees Syrian refugee camp after IS brides issue death threats](#)

Mar 1, 2019, News.com.au

Angry IS brides have turned their wrath on Shamima Begum after they accused her of disgracing their cause, now she's on the run.

United States

[India-Pak tensions to end soon, have reasonably decent news: Trump](#)

Feb 28, 2019, The Economic Times

President Donald Trump voiced confidence that the hostilities between India and Pakistan would end soon, saying he has some "reasonably decent" news with the US involved in trying to help reduce tensions between the two nuclear-armed neighbours.

[US, North Korea offer dueling accounts of talks breakdown](#)

Mar 1, 2019, Associated Press

In open dispute, the U.S. and North Korea offered contradictory accounts of why the summit between Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un broke down, though both pointed to punishing American sanctions as a sticking point in the high-stakes nuclear negotiation.

[The Art of the Walk? Summit collapse and Trump's diplomacy](#)

Mar 1, 2019, Associated Press

President Donald Trump framed the breakdown of his nuclear summit with North Korea's Kim Jong Un as wisely knowing when "to walk." But the stunning collapse revealed the limits of his unique brand of personal diplomacy and raised concerns about future efforts to disarm a global threat.

[Trump surprises allies, claims US-backed forces reclaimed 100% of ISIS territory in Syria](#)

Feb 28, 2019, CNN

President Donald Trump declared Thursday that US backed forces have retaken 100% of the territory once claimed by ISIS in Syria, an announcement that surprised US officials and regional allies leading the fight who told CNN the battle isn't over.

[Trump Nears Key Cuba Sanctions Decision Over Support for Maduro](#)

Feb 27, 2019, Bloomberg

Donald Trump's administration regularly denounces Nicolas Maduro as an autocratic Cuban puppet and may hit the Caribbean island with new sanctions over its support for the Venezuelan leader.

[U.S. economic growth in 2018 misses Trump's 3 percent target](#)

Mar 1, 2019, Reuters

The U.S. economy fell short of the Trump administration's 3 percent annual growth target in 2018 despite \$1.5 trillion in tax cuts and a government spending blitz, and economists say growth will only slow from here.

Europe and Russia

[UK MPs vote overwhelmingly in favour of March vote on extension of Article 50](#)

Feb 27, 2019, Euro News

Only two of the five amendments were passed, including a safeguard on EU and UK citizens' rights regardless of the outcome of Brexit, and an amendment to ensure the commitment made by UK Prime Minister Theresa May to hold a "meaningful vote" in mid-March.

[EU migration to UK lowest since 2009 as Brexit approaches](#)

Feb 28, 2019, Euro News

Net migration to Britain from the European Union fell to its lowest since 2009 in the 12 months to September, the decline steepening as Brexit draws closer, official data showed.

Europe & Russia

[Labour moving towards plan to let May's Brexit deal pass if it faces public vote](#)

Feb 28, 2019, The Guardian

Labour is moving towards a compromise plan that would allow Theresa May's Brexit deal to pass but make clear that parliament "withholds support" until it has been put to a public vote, according to multiple party sources.

[Minister Resigns, Fearing National 'Humiliation'](#)

Feb 28, 2019, BloombergQuint

Theresa May's move to allow Parliament to delay Brexit has cost her a junior minister. Negotiations continue on her unpopular deal, and the European Union has questioned what the point of an extension would be.

[Brexit: EU rejects 'mini deals' on citizens' rights](#)

Feb 28, 2019, BBC News

The EU has dismissed calls from MPs for an agreement to protect the rights of UK and EU expats in the event of a no-deal Brexit.

[France will block Brexit delay without 'new choice' by UK](#)

Feb 27, 2019, The Guardian

Emmanuel Macron has said France will block a Brexit delay unless there is a "new choice" by Britain, as Spain's prime minister said that merely postponing the no-deal deadline would not be "reasonable or desirable".

[Both sides declare first EU-Arab League summit a success](#)

Feb 25, 2019, Euro News

The first Arab League-European Union summit in Egypt came to an end on Monday with both sides saying the conference had been a success.

[Belgium to repatriate children of Isis, but leave mothers in Syria](#)

Feb 28, 2019, Independent

A court in Belgium has opened the way for the country to separate children of Isis members from their mothers in order to bring them back home.

[Putin expects India-Pakistan crisis to be settled shortly](#)

Feb 28, 2019, TASS

Russian President Vladimir Putin had a telephone conversation with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday, the Kremlin press service reports.

[Russia invited to next Kabul Process Conference](#)

Feb 28, 2019, TASS

Moscow has been invited to the third Kabul Process Conference, scheduled to be held in the Afghan capital on March 7, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said at a briefing.

[US persuading allies not to take part in Moscow Security Conference](#)

Feb 28, 2019, TASS

Washington is trying to persuade its NATO allies to limit their participation in the Moscow International Security Conference scheduled for April, sending only junior diplomats there.

[Russian diplomat bashes Washington's clumsy policy on Venezuela](#)

Feb 28, 2019, TASS

The shortsighted and ham-fisted US policy on Venezuela made Washington's allies cast doubt on its actions, Russian Foreign Ministry Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told reporters at a press briefing.

[Russian LNG will be cheaper for Europe than US alternative – Novatek](#)

Feb 28, 2019, RT

Europe will pay half as much for liquefied natural gas (LNG) from Russia than what US energy companies offer, according to independent Russian gas producer Novatek.

Africa & Latin America

[U.S., Russia fail in rival bids for U.N. action on Venezuela](#)

Mar 1, 2019, Michelle Nichols

The United States and Russia both failed in rival bids to get the United Nations Security Council to take action on Venezuela, cementing a global split over how to deal with a political and humanitarian crisis in the South American country.

[Venezuela's oil exports drop 40 percent after U.S. sanctions](#)

Mar 1, 2019, Reuters

Venezuela's oil exports sank 40 percent in the first full month after the beginning of U.S. sanctions designed to oust Socialist President Nicolas Maduro, according to data from state-run oil firm PDVSA and Refinitiv Eikon.

[Venezuela's Guaido vows to return to Caracas despite threat of prison](#)

Feb 28, 2019, Reuters

Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaido, visiting Brazil to drum up support for his bid to push for a change of government in his country, said on Thursday he will return to Caracas by Monday despite threats of imprisonment.

[Venezuela blocks off second bridge to Colombia as Guaidó flies to Brazil](#)

Feb 27, 2019, The Guardian

Venezuelan authorities have blockaded a second bridge to Colombia amid fresh skirmishes between protesters and security forces loyal to the embattled leader Nicolás Maduro.

[Venezuela's Crisis Is Drawing New Ideological Lines in Latin America](#)

Feb 28, 2019, WPR

It wasn't very long ago that Venezuela anchored one side of a left-right divide in Latin America, with the late President Hugo Chavez inspiring a wave of leftist electoral victories across the hemisphere. More recently, the region's leftward drift has stopped, even reversed, but Venezuela is again the catalyst in the new political alignments. The current crisis in Venezuela has forced governments everywhere, but especially in Latin America, to clarify where they stand on the future of Nicolas Maduro's presidency.

[Nicaragua talks on political crisis begin; dozens of prisoners freed](#)

Feb 28, 2019, Central Maine

Representatives of President Daniel Ortega and the opposition sat down face-to-face in a restart of long-stalled talks on resolving Nicaragua's political crisis Wednesday, shortly after authorities released dozens of people arrested in last year's crackdown on anti-government protests.

['We can't supply you with dollars anymore,' SA banks tell Zim](#)

Feb 26, 2019, Fin 24

Zimbabwe is in a Catch-22 situation as South African banks are de-risking from supplying the troubled southern African country with US dollar notes, an official with the central bank told miners on Tuesday.

[China's €52m parliament gift to Congo on course for 2020 completion](#)

Feb 28, 2019, Africa News

A project under which the Chinese government is building a free parliament complex for the Republic of Congo is far advanced and on schedule for completion next year.

[UK Ready to Increase Investments in Ghana - Minister for Africa](#)

Feb 26, 2019, All Africa

The United Kingdom's (UK) Minister of State for Africa, Harriet Baldwin has affirmed the UK government's commitment to increase her investment in Ghana and ensure greater economic harmonization between the two countries.

[World's First 'Blockchain Baby' Is Tanzanian](#)

Feb 26, 2019, All Africa

In an effort to improve access to healthcare, an Irish medical project made history by registering the world's first 'blockchain baby' in Tanzania, news reports revealed. The groundbreaking feat was attained last July but has just come to light.

[AU Commission Conducts Malabo Declaration On Agriculture Training of Trainers for Biennial Review Process](#)

Feb 27, 2019, All Africa

The African Union Commission's Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture (DREA) and the AUDA-NEPAD last week organized a workshop for the Training of Trainers on the AU Malabo Declaration Biennial Review process.

[Liberia's Central Bank 'acted unilaterally and unlawfully'](#)

Mar 1, 2019, BBC

Liberia's Central Bank acted "unilaterally and unlawfully" by printing and importing into the country three times the amount of banknotes it had been authorised to do, a US-contracted international investigation has found.



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