



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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South Asia

India

[India drops down on World Press Freedom Index](#)

April 18, 2019, The Economic Times

India has dropped two places on a global press freedom index to be ranked 140th out of 180 countries in the annual Reporters Without Borders analysis released, with the lead up to the ongoing Indian general elections flagged as a particularly dangerous time for journalists.

[After India, Bhutan too likely to skip BRI Forum](#)

April 14, 2019, The Times of India

While India has rejected China's invite for Belt and Road Forum meet, most of its neighbours including the Maldives, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bangladesh have confirmed participation in the event.

[In unprecedented support, US defends India's space weapons test saying it understands New Delhi's concerns](#)

April 13, 2019, The Times of India

Some two decades after Washington came down like a ton of bricks on India for its Shakti nuclear tests, the United States expressed unprecedented understanding and support for New Delhi's security concern while defending its recent space weapons test.

[Scrapping India's trade privileges could hit US consumers](#)

April 13, 2019, The Times of India

A US plan to end preferential duty-free imports of up to \$5.6 billion from India could raise costs for American consumers, two senators have told their country's trade office, urging a delay in adopting the plan and seeking more negotiations.

[China ready for Wuhan-style summit meet with India despite differences over BRI: Chinese FM](#)

April 19, 2019, The Times of India

China said Friday it was ready to hold a Wuhan-style summit meeting with India this year to improve ties, notwithstanding the differences over the trillion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative in which CPEC is a flagship project.

[India readying for post Lok Sabha poll proximity to US](#)

April 19, 2019, The Tribune

India is readying itself for a much closer security embrace with the US soon after the elections are over, said government sources.

[In a show of intent, external affairs ministry sets up Indo-Pacific wing](#)

April 15, 2019, The Times of India

Making a strong strategic statement, India has just set up an Indo-Pacific division in the foreign office.

[Indo-Pacific strategy hinges on Sino-Indian differences](#)

April 18, 2019, The Economic Times

In the words of the Trump administration, the Indo-Pacific designates a region that extends from the Indian shores to the Pacific coast of the United States.

[F-21 will give India 'significant edge' with greater stand-off capability: Lockheed](#)

April 17, 2019, The Hindu Business Line

The F-21 multi-role fighter jet will give India a "significant edge" with greater stand-off capability, American defence giant Lockheed Martin has said and claimed that producing it locally will also strengthen the country's integration into the world-wide network of advanced fighter aircraft technology.

[Tejas wows Malaysia, but Pakistan & Korean jets still in the race](#)

April 17, 2019, The Times of India

What Group Captain Samrath Dhankar, the demo pilot of India's indigenously developed Tejas MK 1, thought would be a touch and go on the fighter's unique strengths, with the Malaysian PM, turned out to be longish and stimulating one.

[Navy's MiG-29K to take on France's Rafale-M off Goa](#)

April 17, 2019, The Times of India

India and France are all set to hold their largest-ever naval exercise with aircraft carriers, destroyers, submarines and fighters.

Pakistan

[Major reshuffle in PM Imran's cabinet](#)

April 19, 2019, Pakistan Observer

The Prime Minister's Office announced a major reshuffle of the federal cabinet today, with key portfolios of the finance, interior and information ministries seeing new faces.

[COAS calls on PM Imran, discusses security situation](#)

April 18, 2019, Geo News

Prime Minister Imran Khan on Thursday met with Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Qamar Javid Bajwa. The security situation was discussed in a high-profile meeting.

[Pakistan urges int'l community to compel India for Kashmir resolution](#)

April 18, 2019, Radio Pakistan

Pakistan has emphatically stated that foreign hands found involved in the recent acts of terrorism in Balochistan will not only be exposed but also effectively countered.

[No Pakistani soldier or citizen died in Balakot airstrike, admits Swaraj](#)

April 18, 2019, Geo News

Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj has finally admitted that no Pakistani soldier or citizen was killed in the Indian airstrike in Balakot, contrary to previous Indian claims of up to 300 casualties.

[Pakistan wants to expand scope of CPEC: PM](#)

April 12, 2019, Daily Times

Prime Minister Imran Khan said the government is not only giving top priority to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) project but wants to further expand its scope so that other countries could also become part of the gigantic project and a new era of progress and prosperity starts in the region.

Afghanistan

[Afghan Delegation's Trip To Doha Postponed](#)

April 18, 2019, Tolo News

The Afghan delegation's trip to Doha, Qatar, for talks with the Taliban was delayed for issues around the 250-member team's formation, sources confirmed.

[UN supports Afghan-led peace talks](#)

April 18, 2019, The Kabul Times

Chief Executive of the National Unity Government (NUG), Dr. Abdullah Abdullah met with the United Nations' Secretary General Special Representative Tadamichi Yamamoto at the Spidar Palace, his office said.

[Women's role crucial in peace talks](#)

April 17, 2019, Afghanistan Times

Chinese envoy in Afghanistan attended a seminar at the President Palace titled "The Role of Afghan Women in the Peace Process, where First Lady of Afghanistan Rula Ghani delivered speech, stressing over women's role in the peace talks.

[US exerting efforts to end Afghan war](#)

April 17, 2019, Afghanistan Times

The US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said this week that United States is trying to end the longest war in United States history in Afghanistan, the US Department of State said in a statement,

[Germany Pledges 59 Million Euros to Afghanistan](#)

April 17, 2019, Outlook Afghanistan

The German Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) committed to investing about AFN 5.1 billion (EUR 59 million) in Afghanistan, focusing on good governance, sustainable economic development as well as urban development and municipal infrastructure.

Bangladesh

[India's reaction to Bangladesh actors campaigning for TMC severe, say Bangladesh foreign minister](#)

April 18, 2019, India Today

Following complaints regarding the actor extending support to the Trinamool (TMC) in West Bengal, the MHA took the matter up with the Foreigners Regional Registration Office in Kolkata following which Ferdous Ahmed's visa was cancelled and he was sent back.

[Bangladesh, Brunei to sign 7 bilateral instruments](#)

April 18, 2019, Dhaka Tribune

Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen said Bangladesh and Brunei are likely to sign seven bilateral instruments on cooperation in various sectors during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's three-day visit to Bandar Seri Begawan on April 21-23.

[Rohingya repatriation: Fourth Bangladesh, Myanmar talks on May 3](#)

April 18, 2019, Dhaka Tribune

The fourth meeting of the Bangladesh-Myanmar joint working group (JWG) will be held on May 3 in Naypyitaw to discuss the repatriation of hundreds of thousands of Rohingyas forced to take shelter in Cox's Bazar to escape the brutalities of the Myanmar security forces, local Buddhist mobs, and people of various ethnic groups in Rakhine.

[Bangladesh-India to scout for new border haat in Sylhet](#)

April 15, 2019, Dhaka Tribune

A new border haat will be set up at the No Man's Land of Bholagonj area of Companiganj upazila in Sylhet bordering east Khashi hill of Meghalaya in India.

[Indian high commissioner: Media linkages important for Bangladesh-India relations](#)

April 13, 2019, Dhaka Tribune

Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Riva Ganguly Das has said increasing linkages between the media of India and Bangladesh is an important element in overall growth of bilateral relations between the two countries.

[Bhutan PM wants Bangladesh to rope in India for hydropower import](#)

April 14, 2019, Northeast Now

Bhutanese Prime Minister Lotay Tshering has asked Bangladesh to engage India for import of hydropower from Bhutan.

Nepal

[Nepal-Turkey Consultation Mechanism hold talks](#)

April 19, 2019, The Himalayan

The first meeting of Nepal-Turkey Political Consultation Mechanism was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kathmandu.

[China-constructed project achieves breakthrough in Nepal](#)

April 17, 2019, China.org.cn

Celebrating the breakthrough of a national project constructed by China, Nepali leaders and officials said in Surkhet Tuesday that the project has supported the country's determination to realize its national dream "Prosperous Nepal and Happy Nepali."

[Is Nepal drifting towards China ?](#)

April 17, 2019, The Hitavada

The extent of closeness between India and Nepal is often not appreciated by our hostile neighbours. The historical, cultural, ethnic, religious and kinship ties go back a long way and traditionally open border continue to reinforce these realities. Sadly political discourse between India and Nepal generally ignores these vital aspects.

[Nepal and China to sign at least half a dozen deals during President's visit to Beijing](#)

April 16, 2019, Kathmandu Post

Officials from Nepal and China are working to sign at least half a dozen agreements during the first visit of President Bidya Devi Bhandari to the northern neighbour beginning April 24.

[America would never ask a friend or partner to choose between itself and another country: US Ambassador to Nepal](#)

April 15, 2019, Kathmandu Post

US Ambassador to Nepal Randy Berry talks to the Post about the three things the United States is focussed on in Nepal

Bhutan

[Transforming The Economy Through Tourism: A High Value, Low Impact Dilemma](#)

April 16, 2019, Daily Bhutan

For international tourists, Bhutan has long been a much sought after "global hotspot", a rare destination. A veteran American tour operator who has been a promoter of high-end tours to Bhutan since the 1980s, now disagrees: "Bhutan used to be a high value, low impact destination," he said, just back from Paro Taktsang in early December. "But not anymore." If this is not quite a fact yet, it is a dire warning.

[We Are Landlocked But Our Minds Are Open: Prime Minister Dr Lotay Tshering Of Bhutan](#)

April 13, 2019, Daily Bhutan

The state visit to Bangladesh was a homecoming of sort for Bhutan's Prime Minister Dr Lotay Tshering, who spent 10 years in two medical colleges there.

[With Grants From Japan, Traditional Papermaking Centre Opens In Bhutan](#)

April 15, 2019, Daily Bhutan

On 12 April, the Trashiyangtse dzongdag, Thuji Tshering and the Economic and Development Minister, Kenko Sone from the Embassy of Japan inaugurated the Common Facilities Centre for traditional handmade papermaking.

[Bhutanese economy expected to grow moderately according to ADB report](#)

April 17, 2019, BBS

The growth forecasts are at 5.7 per cent this year and 6 per cent in 2020. This is due to the expected completion of the Mangdechhu hydropower plant, strengthening of private spending and increased government spending to implement the 12th Five-Year Plan.

Sri Lanka

[Two US Naval ships arrive at Hambantota](#)

April 18, 2019, Daily Mirror

Two US Naval ships, USNS Millinocket and USS Spruance, arrived at the Hambantota port today to participate in the annual naval exercise 'Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training Exercise (CARAT)-2019'.

[Sri Lanka's first satellite 'Raavana-1' launched](#)

April 18, 2019, Colombo Page

Sri Lanka's first satellite 'Raavana-1' was launched into space Thursday, marking Sri Lanka's entry into the global space age.

[Sri Lanka government plans to increase local job opportunities in tourism industry up to 600,000](#)

April 18, 2019, Colombo Page

The Sri Lankan government hopes to increase the number of employment opportunities in the tourism industry to 600,000. The Government also intends to increase the daily expenditure of tourists to US\$ 210 by the year 2020.

[Sri Lanka plans to offer free visa on arrival to Indians, Pakistanis](#)

April 17, 2019, Khaleej Times

Sri Lanka is aiming to boost its tourism industry and is set to give free visas on arrival to citizens of 36 countries. The Sri Lankan government will offer the promotion starting May 1 to travelers from the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, the European Union, Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, and South Korea.

Maldives

[Foreign freeholds amendment repealed from constitution](#)

April 15, 2019, Maldives Independent

The outgoing parliament voted Monday to repeal a controversial amendment brought to the constitution in July 2015 to authorise foreign ownership of Maldivian land.

[Behind the numbers: Maldives parliamentary elections](#)

April 15, 2019, Maldives Independent

The official results of the parliamentary elections announced last Thursday confirmed a historic landslide victory for the Maldivian Democratic Party.

[India-first policy stays but will be friends with China too: Maldives ex-President Nasheed](#)

April 15, 2019, The Print

Mohamed Nasheed and Ibrahim Solih's Maldivian Democratic Party won Maldives' parliamentary polls with a massive mandate on 6 April.

East & South East Asia

China

[Xi hails progress of ties with Bahrain](#)

April 19, 2019, China Daily

President Xi Jinping and Bahraini King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa exchanged congratulatory messages on Thursday to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between their countries.

[Second Belt and Road Forum to be held on April 25-27](#)

April 19, 2019, China Daily

The second Belt and Road Forum on International Cooperation will be held in Beijing on April 25-27.

[Much work remains in Sino-US trade negotiations](#)

April 19, 2019, China.org.cn

China and the United States have made new progress in negotiating the text of an economic and trade deal, but much work remains to be done, the Ministry of Commerce said.

[China-Africa friendship and cooperation: A strategic partnership](#)

April 19, 2019, China.org.cn

Sino-African relations are witnessing unprecedented breakthroughs at all levels, whether it be in the political, economic, commercial or cultural spheres.

[China, France raise cooperation ahead of 2nd BRI forum](#)

April 18, 2019, Global Times

Economic and trade cooperation between China and France has been strengthened ahead of the upcoming second Belt and Road Forum with a strong start to bilateral trade this year and amid ongoing cooperation projects.

[Chinese diplomat fires against US accusations in a third charged defense](#)

April 17, 2019, Global Times

In the latest harsh rebuttal by Chinese officials to US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's accusation against China's engagement in Latin America, a Chinese diplomat said on Tuesday that China will not force Latin America to pick sides between China and the US, calling the US official and media hype on the matter slanderous to China and "an insult" to the wisdom of China and Latin American countries.

Japan

[Aso to travel to U.S. on April 25 for meeting with Mnuchin](#)

April 19, 2019, Japan Today

Japanese Finance Minister Taro Aso will travel to the United States on April 25 to meet Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin on the sidelines of a summit between Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and U.S. President Donald Trump.

[Trump to visit Japan in late May to meet new emperor](#)

April 19, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

U.S. President Donald Trump and his wife Melania will make a state visit to Japan at the end of May to meet the newly enthroned emperor.

[Trade, North Korea on agenda for Abe-Trump White House meeting April 26](#)

April 18, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is expected to meet U.S. President Donald Trump at the White House on April 26 to discuss trade and efforts to contain North Korea's nuclear program, a U.S. official said.

[Abe has abandoned June timeline for Japan-Russia peace treaty](#)

April 18, 2019, The Japan Times

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has given up on reaching a broad agreement on a Japan-Russia peace treaty when he meets with Russian President Vladimir Putin in June amid persisting differences over how to settle a long-standing territorial dispute.

[Motegi: Japan and U.S. hold 'frank and good' trade talks](#)

April 16, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

Japan's economy minister said he had "frank and good" trade talks with his U.S. counterpart on Monday, but stressed that currency rates should be discussed in a different context, between finance ministers.

[China says Japan should seek cooperation, not competition](#)

April 16, 2019, The Asahi Shimbun

China urged Japan to do more to follow through on its intention of seeking cooperation with China rather than competition, warning that there was still weakness in their relationship.

Korea

[US ready to continue nuclear talks with N. Korea: State Dept.](#)

April 19, 2019, The Korea Herald

The United States said that it stands ready to continue nuclear disarmament talks with North Korea, a response to Pyongyang's calls on Washington to change tack and replace its top negotiator.

[Moscow Confirms Putin-Kim Jong-un Summit](#)

April 19, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

According to a diplomatic source, the summit will be held in Vladivostok around April 24-25, before Putin flies to China.

[S. Korean president to hold summit with Uzbek president](#)

April 19, 2019, The Korea Herald

South Korean President Moon Jae-in was set to hold a summit with his Uzbek counterpart, Shavkat Mirziyoyev on ways to further improve the countries' bilateral ties and expand economic cooperation.

[Does NK turn to 'pendulum diplomacy' between China and Russia?](#)

April 19, 2019, The Korea Herald

North Korea appears to be embracing a delicate diplomacy between its major-power backers -- Russia and China -- as it prepares for a summit with Moscow amid stalled nuclear talks with Washington and less-than-expected support from Beijing.

[N.Korea: Pompeo Not Welcome at Nuclear Negotiations](#)

April 19, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

North Korea is demanding that U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo no longer take part in any further talks involving its nuclear weapons program.

[Pyongyang slams Seoul over military drills](#)

April 18, 2019, The Korea Herald

North Korea's propaganda outlets criticized the South Korean government for conducting military exercises with the US, which it called "provocative actions" that destroy peace on the Korean Peninsula.

[N.Korea Tests New 'Tactical Guided Weapon'](#)

April 18, 2019, The Chosun Ilbo

North Korea has tested a new "tactical guided weapon," the latest display of Pyongyang's military capabilities.

[Korea issues travel ban for Myanmar's Rakhine state](#)

April 18, 2019, The Korea Times

The Korean government has issued the highest-level travel restriction to ban its citizens from visiting the western region of Myanmar.

[NK missile experts killed by Israeli airstrike in Syria](#)

April 18, 2019, The Korea Times

North Korean missile experts who worked on Syrian weapons development were killed and wounded in an Israeli airstrike in Syria, according to an Israeli media report.

Southeast Asia

[Vietnam and Thailand lead drive to make Southeast Asia cashless](#)

April 18, 2019, Nikkei Asian Review

Governments across Southeast Asia are pushing ahead with efforts to create cashless economies, with less developed countries such as Vietnam and Thailand leapfrogging richer ones like Singapore and Malaysia in electronic payments.

[Indonesia's presidential election puts SE Asia's democracy to the test](#)

April 19, 2019, Nikkei Asian Review

Indonesian President Joko Widodo secured a second five-year term on Wednesday in the country's fourth presidential election since former President Suharto's dictatorship collapsed in 1998.

[Philippines to take legal action against China for clams harvest](#)

April 16, 2019, Al Jazeera

The Philippines is considering legal action against China for allegedly harvesting giant clams in a disputed shoal in the South China Sea.

[India, ASEAN vow to boost ties in maritime sector, strengthen connectivity](#)

April 13, 2019, Business Today

India and ASEAN have resolved to strengthen ties by deepening cooperation in the maritime sector and boosting connectivity.

Central & West Asia

[Weekly Digest of Central Asia](#)

April 13, 2019, The Times of Central Asia

This Weekly Digest which compiles what other media have reported on Central Asia over the past week is published by The Times of Central Asia.

[Tajik, Russian Leaders Vow To Continue Security Cooperation](#)

April 18, 2019, Central Asia News.net

Russia President Vladimir Putin and Tajik President Emomali Rahmon have vowed to continue their countries' security cooperation.

[Tajikistan: Rahmon pleads with Putin for amnesty on deported migrants](#)

April 18, 2019, Central Asia News.net

The president of Tajikistan embarked this week on his first official visit to Russia in 12 years in an attempt to revoke travel bans slapped on hundreds of thousands of aspiring labor migrants.

[Germany's Merkel Urged To Tackle Rights Situation In Talks With Kyrgyz President](#)

April 15, 2019, Rferl.org

Kyrgyz President Sooronbai Jeenbekov is due to hold talks in Berlin on April 16 with Chancellor Angela Merkel amid calls by activists for the German leader to press for improvement in the Central Asian country's human rights situation.

[As Turkish-US Tensions Escalate, Ankara Looks to NATO](#)

April 19, 2019, Central Asia News.net

As tensions escalate between Turkey and the United States over the procurement of Russian missiles, Ankara is looking to NATO, which it sees as taking a more nuanced stance on the controversial weapons purchase.

[9,000 Isis Fighters And 60,000 Family Members Held In Syria](#)

April 18, 2019, The Jerusalem Post

ISIS was largely defeated in Baghouz in March and around 60,000 of its members were taken into custody. Although ISIS sleeper cells still pose a threat, a much larger challenge is now posed by how to deal with the detainees.

[Syria fuel crisis worsens as opposition and international coalition block illegal oil transfers](#)

April 18, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Areas under the control of the Syrian regime are facing a serious fuel crisis after an Iranian credit line was halted six months ago, intensifying the impact of international sanctions and opposition blockages.

[Iran moves to facilitate Turkey-Syria understanding ahead of Astana summit](#)

April 18, 2019, Al Monitor

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif paid an official visit to Turkey on April 17, following his visit to Syria the previous day. Although bilateral issues were a part of the agenda of Zarif's meetings in both countries, the timing of the trip and the content of his talks in Damascus and Ankara indicated that his diplomatic tour was, more than anything else, related to the international efforts to solve the Syrian crisis.

[Syrian safe zone must be controlled by Turkey – Turkish presidential spokesperson](#)

April 18, 2019, Ahval

Ankara will continue to press for control of the proposed 20-mile security zone along Turkey's border in northern Syria, the Turkish presidential spokesperson İbrahim Kalın said.

[Iraqi delegation in Riyadh cements ties with Saudi Arabia](#)

April 19, 2019, Arab News

A large Iraqi delegation, featuring government departments and representatives from the private sector, has arrived in Saudi Arabia to take part in a host of events, talks and opening ceremonies to cement ties between the two nations.

[Saudi Arabia to host region's first G20 summit in November](#)

April 18, 2019, Gulf News

Saudi Arabia will host the Group of 20 (G20) summit in Riyadh next year, featuring heads of state of the top developed and emerging economies in the world. The two-day summit opens November 21 and will mark the first time the G20 is being held in the Arab region.

[UAE, Saudi Arabia send aid to flood-stricken Iran](#)

April 18, 2019, Middle East Monitor

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia have organised aid packages to help those affected by floods in Iran.

[US sticks Iraq in middle by calling Iran's IRGC terrorists](#)

April 17, 2019, Al Monitor

After US President Donald Trump designated Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) as a foreign terrorist organization, all eyes turned to Iraq, where thousands of US troops remain and many armed factions operate with the IRGC's support.

[Iran's Hassan Rouhani urges regional powers to 'unite against US'](#)

April 18, 2019, Al Jazeera

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has called on countries across the Middle East to unite against the United States during an address at an Army Day parade in Tehran.

United States

[Mueller report: House issues subpoena for full unredacted version](#)

April 19, 2019, The Guardian

The House judiciary chairman, Jerry Nadler, on Friday issued a subpoena for the full, unredacted report by special counsel Robert Mueller on Russian interference in the 2016 US election and the Trump campaign.

[The Mueller report, annotated](#)

April 18, 2019, The Washington Post

Special counsel Robert S. Mueller III was appointed on May 17, 2017, by Deputy Attorney General Rod J. Rosenstein to investigate Russia's interference in the 2016 White House race and whether the Russian government coordinated with individuals associated with Donald Trump's campaign. The special counsel also examined whether President Trump obstructed justice by seeking to block the Russia investigation.

[Trump Russia investigation: Attorney General Barr backs Trump](#)

April 18, 2019, BBC News

The US Attorney General has defended President Trump over allegations of obstruction of justice, while reiterating that "no collusion" was found between his team and Russia.

[US allowing lawsuits over properties seized by Castro's Cuba](#)

April 17, 2019, Al Jazeera

Trump administration's decision, which will take effect on May 2, is strongly opposed by the European Union.

['Remain in Mexico' program eases border crisis](#)

April 19, 2019, Boston Herald

President Trump scored a win last Friday when a federal appeals court gave a temporary green light to the president's "remain in Mexico" program. The idea is to keep asylum seekers south of the border until they get their day in court. It's urgently needed to help border towns such as McAllen, Texas, and Las Cruces, N.M., which are being overwhelmed.

Europe & Russia

[Brexit: Nancy Pelosi steps up pressure on UK over Irish border](#)

April 18, 2019, BBC News

The most powerful US Democrat, Nancy Pelosi, visited the border and delivered a stark message.

['No evidence' French weapons resulted in Yemen civilian casualties](#)

April 18, 2019, RFI

French Defence Minister Florence Parly on Thursday denied that French weapons sold to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates were deployed as part of ongoing offensives in the war in Yemen. The French government had come under fire for allegedly allowing French arms to be used in the conflict, resulting in civilian casualties.

[Greece parliament demand Germany pay WWII reparations](#)

April 19, 2019, Euro News

Greek lawmakers voted on Wednesday to give a mandate to the government to seek reparations from Germany for the Nazi occupation during World War II, a move likely to exacerbate relations with Berlin.

[Notre Dame, one of Paris's most iconic landmarks, damaged in a massive fire](#)

April 16, 2019, VOX

Officials are inspecting the cathedral to gauge the full extent of the damage but say that many of the most prized relics appear to have survived.

[Europe's poorest nation goes to the ballot box - Ukraine elections.](#)

April 19, 2019, Deutsche Welle

This weekend Ukrainians will elect a new president, but for many voters the war with Russia isn't the defining issue. Instead it's corruption and low standards of living.

[Baltic Leader Set to End Decade-Long Silence by Meeting Putin](#)

April 18, 2019, The Moscow Times

The almost decade-long hiatus in high-level meetings between Baltic presidents and Russia's Vladimir Putin is set to end this week.

[Rosneft Threatens to Ban Reuters in Russia Over Venezuela Report](#)

April 19, 2019, The Moscow Times

The Rosneft oil giant has threatened to ban Reuters from operating in Russia after the international news agency released a report saying that Venezuela had sold oil to Russia in an attempt to evade U.S. sanctions.

[U.S. Ignored Russia's Nuclear War Prevention Pact – Reports](#)

April 19, 2019, The Moscow Times

Russia sent the United States a draft joint declaration on how to prevent nuclear war, only to never hear back from Washington, the Kommersant business daily reported.

[Mueller report 'poor quality' & 'not worth taxpayers' money' – Kremlin](#)

April 19, 2019, RT

The newly released redacted version of the Mueller report contains no proof or new information on alleged Russian meddling in the 2016 US election, the Kremlin's spokesman has said.

[U.S. Calls On Countries to Deny Airspace to Russian Planes Destined for Venezuela](#)

April 19, 2019, The Moscow Times

The U.S. State Department spokesperson has called on countries to "follow Malta's example" and block Russian military planes en route for Venezuela from using their airspace.

Africa & Latin America

[Venezuela skirts US sanctions by 'funneling oil sales via Russia'](#)

April 19, 2019, Al Jazeera

Reuters news agency report reveals Venezuelan oil sales routed through Russian state energy giant Rosneft.

[Venezuela: Guaido to Attempt Annuling Arbitration Award to ConocoPhillips](#)

April 17, 2019, Stratfor

Venezuela's partially-recognized interim President Juan Guaido will attempt to annul an \$8.7 billion arbitration award to U.S.-based energy company ConocoPhillips in the World Bank's International Center for Settlement for Investment Disputes, Reuters reported April 16.

[Peru: Former president Garcia kills himself to avoid arrest](#)

April 17, 2019, The Santiago Times

A former Peruvian president has died after shooting himself in the head after police arrived at his home in the capital Lima to arrest him in connection with a bribery investigation.

[Mexico getting tougher on migrants as thousands wait for visas in Chiapas](#)

April 18, 2019, Mexico Daily News

Mexican authorities have begun implementing stricter immigration policies amid pressure from the United States to stop the flow of migrants from Central America.

[Militia detains migrants at gunpoint along the US-Mexico border](#)

April 19, 2019, BBC News

A video has emerged of armed right-wing militia members stopping over 300 migrants as they cross the Mexico border into the US state of New Mexico.

[Argentina's foreign exchange regime is broken](#)

April 17, 2019, Financial Times

When it comes to saving the peso, Argentina has tried everything under the sun, from an assortment of crawling bands and pegs in the 1970s and 80s, to a legal peg to the US dollar in the 90s, to (very) dirty floats in the 2000s. Sooner or later, they all ended in tears.

[The IMF is fueling an Argentine crisis – again](#)

April 19, 2019, New Europe

Argentina first needed to borrow from the International Monetary Fund back in 1958. In the six decades since the country has signed 22 agreements with the Fund. Most were subsequently derailed or ended in failure.

[Crisis deepens in Nicaragua a year into anti-Ortega protests](#)

April 17, 2019, Channel News Asia

Nicaragua's opposition has called on its supporters to defy a police ban and protest against the regime of President Daniel Ortega to mark the anniversary of the "civil and peaceful insurrection" that left 325 people dead last year.

[Bolsonaro's Popularity Sinks After a Rocky 100 Days in Brazil](#)

April 14, 2019, The New York Times

"I wasn't born to be president," Brazil's president, Jair Bolsonaro, said during a recent address at his official residence. "I was born to be a soldier."

[Sushma Swaraj urges Indians stranded in Tripoli to leave immediately](#)

April 19, 2019, Indian Express

Ever since the ouster and assassination of strongman Muammar Gaddafi, Libya has been in a state of civil war for the last eight years with multiple factions led by different warlords raising rebellions and claiming authority in different parts of the country.

[Libya's UN-backed government suspends cooperation with France, accuses it of backing rebel forces](#)

April 19, 2019, Euro News

Libya's UN-backed Government of National Accord (GNA) accused France of backing rebel commander Khalifa Haftar on Thursday and said it would suspend all security cooperation with Paris.

[Libya's Military Prosecutor issues arrest warrant of Haftar and six of his loyalists](#)

April 18, 2019, Libya Observer

The Military Prosecutor's Office at the Tripoli-based Defense Ministry issued arrest warrants of Khalifa Haftar and six military figures under his command.

[IS claims its first attack in DR Congo](#)

April 19, 2019, CGTN Africa

Islamic State has claimed its first attack in the Democratic Republic of Congo after two Congolese soldiers and a civilian were killed in a shootout.

[Mali government resigns over March massacre that claimed 160 lives](#)

April 19, 2019, Africa News

Mali's prime minister and his whole government resigned, four weeks after a massacre of some 160 Fulani herders by an ethnic vigilante group shocked the nation.

[Nigeria tribunal bans high court's chief justice from office](#)

April 18, 2019, Star Tribune

A tribunal in Nigeria has ordered the country's chief justice removed from the bench and banned him from holding public office for 10 years.

[Sudan protesters 'to name transitional government'](#)

April 19, 2019, BBC News

The leaders of Sudan's protest movement say they will name members of a transitional authority on Sunday, to replace the current military junta.

[Egypt's referendum on constitution amendments commences in 124 countries](#)

April 19, 2019, Egypt Independent

Egypt's referendum on the proposed constitutional amendments will commence on Friday in the Egyptian diplomatic missions of 124 countries comprising 140 voting committees over the course of 3 days, said the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



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