



Delhi Policy Group

DPG WEST ASIA REVIEW



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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 WEST ASIA REVIEW

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Delhi Policy Group

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Bahrain

[S&P revises Bahrain outlook to positive on improving fiscal position](#)

November 30, 2019, The National

S&P Global Ratings revised its outlook for Bahrain to positive from stable, citing expectations that the country's fiscal deficit will shrink as the government continues to implement its reform plans.

[Bahrain's Investcorp invests \\$44mln in India's NephroPlus](#)

November 25, 2019, Zawya

Bahrain's alternative asset manager Investcorp has closed an INR 316 Crore (\$44.08 million) investment in India's dialysis chain Nephrocare Health Services Private Limited (NephroPlus).

[Bahrain inaugurates Alba Line 6 Expansion Project](#)

November 26, 2019, The Hindu Business Line

Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa inaugurated the Alba Line 6 Expansion Project on Sunday at Aluminium Bahrain (Alba), the Bahrain-based aluminium smelter. It is the largest aluminium smelter outside China and will enhance the Kingdom's global competitiveness in Aluminium and boost GDP.

[USS Abraham Lincoln makes liberty port call in Bahrain after months in Arabian Sea](#)

November 27, 2019, US Navy Dispatch Newspaper

The roughly 5,000 crew members of the USS Abraham Lincoln arrived at the U.S. naval base in Bahrain on Tuesday, Nov. 26, after spending more than six months in the Arabian Sea on a deployment shaped by tensions with Iran.

Egypt

[Egypt to offer foreign investors a large share in power plants](#)

November 30, 2019, Al-Monitor

Egypt's sovereign wealth fund seeks to acquire 30% in power plants co-established by Germany's Siemens and offer a share of 70% to foreign investors and companies.

[Egypt wins membership in IMO council](#)

November 30, 2019, Egypt Today

Egypt won a C-category membership in the Council of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) garnering 132 votes out of 165 on Saturday in the election that took part in London.

[1st non-stop flight from Egypt's Cairo to China's Hangzhou takes off](#)

November 30, 2019, China.org.cn

The first non-stop flight from Egypt's capital Cairo to the city of Hangzhou in eastern China has taken off from the Cairo International Airport at 02:00 local time (00:00 GMT) on Friday morning.

[Egypt's Sisi appoints navy commander as vice president](#)

November 28, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi will appoint a navy commander as his vice president in a role that has not been occupied since 2013, according to a report published by the New Arab.

[Pompeo urges Egypt to respect freedom of press after journalist detentions](#)

November 27, 2019, Middle East Monitor

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Tuesday called on Egypt to respect freedom of the press, days after Egyptian security forces raided the office of independent news website Mada Masr and briefly detained three of its staff, reports Reuters.

[Amnesty: Egypt using 'sinister' secretive agency to crush dissent](#)

November 26, 2019, Al-Jazeera

Egypt's government is using a secretive security agency responsible for investigating national security threats to detain peaceful protesters, journalists and critics on false charges without trial, Amnesty International has said in a new report.

[Egypt Sentences Extremist Hisham Ashmawy to Death](#)

November 27, 2019, Asharq Al-Awsat

An Egyptian court sentenced to death on Wednesday extremist Hisham Ashmawy for his involvement in terror attacks, the army said. Ashmawy was convicted for his role in 14 crimes including a deadly firefight with police in Egypt's Western Desert in October 2017, an army spokesman said.

[Egypt to launch first military communications satellite accelerating Internet and tracking terrorists](#)

November 27, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Egypt is planning to launch the first Egyptian satellite for communications purposes TIBA-1, this November, after two failed attempts due to weather conditions. The satellite will be launched by the French company Arianespace on the launch missile Ariane-5, from the launch base in the city of Kourou in the territory of French Guiana, South America, according to a statement issued by the Council of Ministers.

[India to import 6,090 tonnes onion from Egypt](#)

November 26, 2019, CNBCTV18

Public sector trading firm MMTC, which has been tasked to import onion on behalf of the Centre to cool prices, has contracted to import 6,090 tonnes from Egypt, and the edible bulb will be supplied to states at a price range of Rs 52-60 per kg.

[EU: Egypt must enable media freedom](#)

November 26, 2019, Middle East Monitor

The European Union (EU) said on Sunday that there was a "decline" in media freedom in Egypt, calling on the local authorities "to enable journalists to work without fear."

[Foreign Minister: Egypt supports establishment of Palestinian state](#)

November 26, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Egypt supports the establishment of a Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital, said Egyptian foreign minister, Sameh Shoukry. "The Egyptian government supports the establishment of a Palestinian state on the borders of the land that was captured by Israel in 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital," Shoukry told Arab foreign ministers in an Arab League meeting in Cairo.

[Egypt Hands Down 7 Death Sentences on Terror Charges](#)

November 25, 2019, Asharq Al-Awsat

The Cairo Criminal Court has handed down death sentences to seven people convicted of carrying out attacks that killed 11 policemen in 2016.

[Egyptian Official Accuses Islamic Jihad, Israel of Blocking Truce Deal with Hamas](#)

November 25, 2019, Asharq Al-Awsat

An Egyptian official, described as a "high-level and close to Egyptian intelligence," blamed the Islamic Jihad and the Israeli government for obstructing advanced efforts to reach a truce agreement represented by a prisoner swap between Hamas and Israel.

Iraq

[Iraqi prime minister to resign in wake of deadly protests](#)

November 30, 2019, Associated Press

A day after more than 40 protesters were killed by security forces, Iraq's prime minister announced Friday that he would submit his resignation to parliament, a step that carried uncertainty for the entire government and stirred fears of a possible political crisis.

[Iraq releases 2,500 demonstrators, pledges new reforms](#)

November 28, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Some 2,500 Iraqis who were arrested during the recent demonstrations in Iraq will be released, news agencies reported the Ministerial Council announcing late on Tuesday. Prime Minister Adil Abdul-Mahdi said that there had been "regrettable" incidents in the country that harmed the people and resulted in deaths and injuries among the demonstrators and armed forces.

[Iraq in turmoil as 45 shot dead by security forces in protests](#)

November 29, 2019, The Guardian

Iraqi security forces have shot dead at least 45 protesters after demonstrators stormed and torched an Iranian consulate in Najaf, in what could mark a turning point in the uprising against the Tehran-backed authorities.

[UN investigators eye 160 Daesh militants over Yazidi massacres](#)

November 27, 2019, Middle East Monitor

United Nations investigators have so far identified 160 Daesh militants accused of massacres of Yazidis in northern Iraq in 2014 and are building legal cases against them, the head of the team told the UN Security Council on Tuesday.

[Iraqi protesters burn down Iran's consulate in Najaf](#)

November 27, 2019, Associated Press

Anti-government protesters burned down an Iranian consulate building in southern Iraq on Wednesday, while six protesters were killed by security forces who fired live rounds amid ongoing violence in the country, Iraqi officials said Wednesday.

[Iraqi parliament debates draft electoral law as protests escalate](#)

November 26, 2019, Al Jazeera

The Iraqi parliament has discussed the draft of a law which seeks to strengthen electoral accountability, amid escalating anti-government protests in Baghdad and Iraq's mainly Shia south.

[Iraqi forces kill 5 Islamic State militants in northern Iraq](#)

November 25, 2019, Xinhua Net

The Iraqi forces, backed by U.S.-led coalition, killed on Monday five Islamic State (IS) militants, including a group leader, in Iraq's northern province of Kirkuk, the Iraqi military said.

[Iraq reopens border crossing with Iran](#)

November 26, 2019, Anadolu Agency

Iraq on Monday reopened al-Shib border crossing with Iran after a 9-day closure, the Iraqi Border Ports Commission said.

[Bloodshed in Baghdad as Sweden investigates Iraq minister for 'crimes against humanity'](#)

November 26, 2019, Anadolu Agency

Nine people were killed and dozens wounded in violent clashes between protesters and security forces in Iraq on Monday as prosecutors in Sweden said they were investigating an Iraqi minister for "crimes against humanity".

[Iraq minister: In talks to see Kurds hand over oil revenue to Baghdad](#)

November 26, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Iraqi Minister of Oil Thamir Ghadhban said yesterday that talks were good and positive with the delegation from the Kurdistan region on oil exports as well as other issues.

[Top U.S. general arrives in Iraq amid protests, questions over Iran's influence](#)

November 26, 2019, Reuters

The top U.S. general, Mark Milley, arrived in Iraq on Tuesday amid a spate of anti-government protests in the Middle East and questions about how they could impact Iranian influence in the region.

Iran

[Six European countries join EU-Iran financial trading mechanism INSTEX](#)

November 29, 2019, EURACTIV

Finland, Belgium, Denmark, Netherlands, Norway and Sweden will join the INSTEX mechanism to trade with Iran, the six countries declared in a joint statement.

[Iran says hundreds of banks were torched in 'vast' unrest plot](#)

November 27, 2019, Reuters

Iran's top leader on Wednesday denounced an outbreak of deadly unrest as a "very dangerous conspiracy" as authorities reported about 731 banks and 140 government sites had been torched in the disturbances.

[France raises possible return of Iran nuclear sanctions](#)

November 28, 2019, Yahoo News

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian on Wednesday raised the possibility of triggering a mechanism in the 2015 Iran nuclear deal that could lead to the reimposition of UN sanctions.

[Iran's joint wargame with Russia, China delivers message to world](#)

November 27, 2019, Mehr News Agency

Iran's Navy Commander Rear Admiral Hossein Khanzadi said the joint naval drill to be staged by Iran, China and Russia next month delivers a message to the world that any kind of security at sea must include the interests of all concerned countries.

[Iran continues dismantling JCPOA nuclear restrictions](#)

November 27, 2019, Al-Monitor

Iran is taking another step toward expanding its nuclear program by officially starting construction of the second unit of the Bushehr nuclear power plant.

[Iranian navy announces enhanced presence in Red Sea to protect navigation](#)

November 28, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Iran's Navy commander, Rear Admiral Hossein Khanzadi, said on Wednesday that the presence of his country's troops in the Red Sea would be reinforced to protect navigation routes.

[Iran says 200,000 took to streets in anti-government protests](#)

November 27, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Iran gave a glimpse on Wednesday into the scale of what may have been the biggest anti-government protests in the 40-year history of the Islamic Republic, with an official saying 200,000 people had taken part and a lawmaker saying 7,000 were arrested, Reuters reports.

[Khamenei says "deep" conspiracy behind Iran unrest](#)

November 27, 2019, DW News

Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei slammed a "conspiracy" behind this month's riots, pointing the finger at "Zionists" and "global arrogance" – a phrase he often uses to refer to the US.

[Eight with CIA links arrested for inciting deadly protests](#)

November 27, 2019, Al Jazeera

Iranian security agents arrested at least eight people linked to the CIA during last week's deadly unrest over petrol price increases, the official news agency IRNA reported on Wednesday.

[Iran foreign minister meets senior Taliban official in Tehran](#)

November 27, 2019, Reuters

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif held talks in Tehran with a Taliban delegation led by Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, one of the group's founders, the official IRNA news agency reported on Wednesday.

[Khamenei was Informed of Iran Guards' Plot to Attack Saudi Arabia](#)

November 26, 2019, Asharq Al-Awsat

Reuters revealed on Monday new details over Iran's involvement in the attack against Saudi Aramco oil facilities in September. Four months before a swarm of drones and missiles crippled the world's biggest oil processing facility in Saudi Arabia, Iranian security officials gathered at a heavily fortified compound in Tehran.

[Gasoline Hike Affects Prices of Goods in Iran](#)

November 26, 2019, Asharq Al-Awsat

With popular protests rocking the streets against an increase in fuel prices, Iranian lawmakers are discussing the implications of the decision to up prices of goods. After the US withdrew from the Iran nuclear deal, the cleric-led country has been suffering an ailing economic crisis.

[Iran blames US for 'intervention' in gas-linked protests](#)

November 26, 2019, China.org.cn

Iranian Foreign Ministry on Monday blamed the United States for its support to the recent protests in Iran over the price rise of gasoline.

[Iran's Revolutionary Guard threatens US and allies as Amnesty says protesters shot 'running away'](#)

November 26, 2019, South China Morning Post

Iran's Revolutionary Guard threatens US and allies as Amnesty says protesters shot 'running away'. The head of Iran's Revolutionary Guard threatened the United States and its allies Monday as he addressed a pro-government demonstration attended by tens of thousands of people denouncing last week's violent protests over a fuel price hike. General Hossein Salami, echoing other Iranian officials, accused the US, Britain, Israel and Saudi Arabia of stoking the unrest.

[Iran's Revolutionary Guard chief warns US and allies not to 'cross red lines'](#)

November 26, 2019, Al Jazeera

Iran will destroy the United States and its allies if they cross Tehran's red lines, the head of the country's elite Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said in an address to a pro-government rally denouncing last week's violent protests over the rise in fuel prices.

[Death toll from protests in Iran climbs to 143: Amnesty](#)

November 26, 2019, Anadolu Agency

At least 143 people in Iran have been killed since protests broke out earlier this month over the government's decision to raise fuel prices, Amnesty International said Monday.

[Pompeo: US has trove of evidence showing Iran abuse of protesters](#)

November 26, 2019, Fox News

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Tuesday the State Department has amassed more than 20,000 pieces of digital evidence showing the Iranian regime's abuses of street protesters -- days after calling on Iranians to send videos, photos and information documenting the regime's recent crackdown on demonstrators.

[Iran arrests 17 fuel protest leaders](#)

November 26, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Commander of Lorestan province's Law Enforcement Police Brigadier General Haji Mohammad Mahdian Nasab announced that his forces have identified and arrested 17 leaders of protests against fuel price rises in the western province.

Israel

[In possible climate breakthrough, Israel scientists engineer bacteria to eat CO₂](#)

November 28, 2019, Times of Israel

In a remarkable breakthrough that could pave the way toward carbon-neutral fuels, researchers at the Weizmann Institute of Science have produced a genetically engineered bacteria that can live on carbon dioxide rather than sugar.

[Palestinian teen shot dead by Israeli forces in Gaza Strip](#)

November 29, 2019, Al Jazeera

A Palestinian teenager has been killed and five others wounded by Israeli fire in the southern Gaza Strip.

[Gaza rocket explodes in open field in Israel; IDF strikes Hamas post in response](#)

November 29, 2019, Times of Israel

Rocket sirens wailed in Israeli communities near the Gaza Strip Friday night, with the army saying a rocket launched from the Palestinian territory exploded in an open field in Israeli territory. There were no reports of casualties or damage in the attack.

[Indian Army installs Israeli-made Spike anti-tank missiles along Pakistani border](#)

November 26, 2019, AMN Al-Masdar

After years of twist and turns, Indian Army has inducted the fire and forget Spike anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) along the Line of Control (LoC). The missiles were delivered to India as an emergency purchase against the backdrop of escalation with Pakistan in February of this year.

[Israel should develop defence system funded by Saudi Arabia and the UAE](#)

November 28, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Retired Brigadier General Efraim Sneh has said that Israel should develop a hypersonic missile defence system funded by Saudi Arabia and the UAE, Arabi21.com reported on Tuesday. In an article published by Haaretz Hebrew edition, Sneh said that the threat of precision missiles and drones is discussed widely today, but the threat posed by hypersonic missiles is not on the table.

[Israel's drone industry becomes global force](#)

November 28, 2019, AFP

In a fierce battle for market share against world superpowers China and the United States, Israel's drone industry likes to say it has a secret weapon -- military experience.

[Israeli government to expand global arms exports in 2020](#)

November 27, 2019, Middle East Monitor

The Israeli government is aiming to increase the volume of Israel's defence exports, reported Globes, which has revealed the main points of the plan for the first time.

[Hope For Early Resumption Of Dialogue Between Palestine, Israel: PM Modi](#)

November 28, 2019, NDTV India

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed hope for an early resumption of dialogue between Palestine and Israel to move towards a comprehensive and negotiated resolution, as he reiterated India's "strong support" for the Palestinian cause on the occasion of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people.

[Naftali Bennett: Israel will no longer release the bodies of terrorists](#)

November 27, 2019, The Jerusalem Post

Israel will no longer release the bodies of terrorists, according to what appeared a new policy by Defense Minister Naftali Bennett. This will be the case regardless of which terrorist organization the person belonged to.

[US worried Israel may attack Iran to save Netanyahu](#)

November 27, 2019, Middle East Monitor

US and Israeli military officials met on Sunday and discussed the Iranian threat to Israel, an Israeli military source told the Anadolu Agency. The source, who preferred to remain anonymous, gave no further details but Israeli newspaper Haaretz published an article by Amos Harel revealing the essence of the discussions. Harel said that Israel and the US discussed guarantees regarding Iran.

[Israeli Defence Minister threatens Gaza, Lebanon and Syria](#)

November 26, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Israeli Defence Minister, Naftali Bennett, threatened on Monday the Gaza Strip, Syria and Lebanon, saying: "You know that our response will be very painful and to the point." Benett's made such a threat during his participation in the 63rd anniversary of the fall of Israeli soldiers in the 1956 tripartite aggression against Egypt, in the presence of Israeli President Reuven Rivlin in Jerusalem.

[Israel deports Human Rights Watch director for advocating BDS](#)

November 26, 2019, Israel Hayom

Human Rights Watch's Israel-Palestine director will be deported under Israel's anti-BDS law for promoting a boycott of the Jewish state.

[IDF hits Hamas targets in Gaza airstrikes in response to rocket fire](#)

November 27, 2019, Times of Israel

The Israel Defense Forces launched airstrikes on Hamas targets in the Gaza Strip late Tuesday night and early Wednesday in response to a rocket attack from the coastal enclave earlier in the evening, the army said.

[India consul general in United States calls for 'Israeli model' in Kashmir](#)

November 26, 2019, Middle East Eye

At a private event on Saturday in New York City, Sandeep Chakravorty, India's consul-general to the city, told Kashmiri Hindus and Indian nationals that India will build settlements modelled after Israel for the return of the Hindu population to Kashmir.

[India, Israel share same principles of democracy: Modi](#)

November 26, 2019, Deccan Herald

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday thanked the Israeli leadership for their wishes on Constitution Day, saying the two countries share and value the same principles of democracy.

[US, France, Israel call for action against 26/11 attacks perpetrators](#)

November 27, 2019, Hindustan Times

The US, France and Israel, whose nationals were killed in the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks, condemned terrorism on Tuesday on the 11th anniversary of the carnage amid calls for the prosecution of the Pakistan-based perpetrators.

[Indian Army inducts Israel made Anti Tank Guided Missiles Spike along LoC in J&K](#)

November 27, 2019, All India Radio

The Indian Army has inducted Israel made Anti Tank Guided Missiles Spike along the LoC in the northern command theatre in Jammu and Kashmir to bolster defence along the border with Pakistan. Known as the "fire and forget" missiles, Spike are portable by men and are powerful enough to destroy tanks and bust bunkers within four kilometres.

[Israelis will be able to visit Gulf States next year, says former minister](#)

November 26, 2019, Middle East Monitor

A former Minister of Communications in Israel has said that all Israelis will be able to visit the Gulf States from next year for business and political purposes, Maan News Agency reported on Tuesday. Ayoob Kara told Israel's i24news channel that normal ties will be declared between Israel and the Gulf States after the US has presented its "peace plan".

[Hamas agrees to the plan for holding Palestinian elections](#)

November 27, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Ismail Haniyeh, chief of Hamas's Political Bureau, announced that the movement forwarded to Hanna Nasser, Chairman of the Palestinian Central Elections Commission (CEC), its positive response to the Palestinian elections' execution map.

[Netanyahu not obliged to step aside after indictment, says attorney general](#)

November 26, 2019, Middle East Eye

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu does not have to step aside after being indicted for alleged corruption, the country's attorney general ruled on Monday, a reprieve for the Likud leader as he fights for his political survival.

[Palestinians protest US settlement decision in 'day of rage'](#)

November 27, 2019, Al Jazeera

Thousands of Palestinians demonstrated across the occupied West Bank on Tuesday to protest against the recent announcement by the United States that it no longer believes Israeli settlements in the West Bank violate international law.

Jordan

[Jordan simulates war with Israel in army 'maneuver'](#)

November 29, 2019, The Jerusalem Post

The Jordanian army conducted a military exercise simulating battle with Israel, according to the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI).

[Israeli President Considering Jordan Visit Amid Souring of Bilateral Ties](#)

November 28, 2019, Haaretz

President Reuven Rivlin is looking into the possibility of paying an official visit to Jordan. Rivlin met with a delegation of Jordanian officials in London this week. Haaretz has learned Thursday that following the meeting, contacts have been initiated between Jerusalem and Amman to hold the visit.

[United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East \(UNRWA\) faces 'worst financial crisis in memory'](#)

November 26, 2019, Reuters

The Acting Commissioner-General of UNRWA said on Monday that the Agency is confronted by "one of the worst financial crises in memory." Christian Saunders told the Advisory Commission to UNRWA in Jordan that, "We are basically out of cash and need your urgent support not only with what remains for this year in mind, but also for next year, 2020."

[Jordan plans to grab excess American weapons](#)

November 26, 2019, Al-Monitor

Jordan has obtained spare American fighter jets for an undisclosed sum and plans to upgrade large transport planes, a State Department official told Al-Monitor, as the Pentagon has moved in recent months to cultivate Middle East interest to keep production going for aging US weapons systems.

[IMF begins talks with Jordan for new three-year loan deal](#)

November 26, 2019, The National

The International Monetary Fund has begun talks with Jordan for a new, three-year financial assistance programme, noting the efforts the kingdom has made so far towards improving its fiscal position under its current financial support package.

Kuwait

[Kuwaiti Emir sends message to Qatar ruler](#)

November 28, 2019, Gulf News

Kuwait's Emir Shaikh Sabah Al Ahmad had sent a message to Qatar's Emir Tamim Bin Hamad, Kuwait media reported Thursday, as Kuwait has recently intensified its efforts to resolve a long-running diplomatic row pitting Doha against a Saudi-led bloc.

[Kuwait to use new environmental technologies in oil sector](#)

November 26, 2019, Xinhua Net

Kuwait will use the latest environmental technologies in the country's oil sector, the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) said Tuesday. At the signing ceremony of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between KISR and Kuwait Oil Tankers Company (KOTC), Samira Omar, director general of KISR, said the agreement includes applying the institute's latest findings in environmental protection.

[ICAI sign MoU with Kuwait auditors and accountants association](#)

November 27, 2019, The Economic Times

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has signed an MoU with Kuwait Accountants and Auditors Association.

[ADIA, Kuwait sovereign fund plan investment in Aramco IPO](#)

November 27, 2019, VCCircle

The sovereign wealth funds of Abu Dhabi and Kuwait plan to invest in the initial public offering (IPO) of Saudi Aramco, which is relying mainly on Saudi and Gulf investors to raise up to \$25.6 billion, sources familiar with the matter said.

[Kuwait has shut down maid soliciting apps/sites : Muraleedharan tells Lok Sabha](#)

November 28, 2019, The Hindu

The Kuwait government has taken necessary action against apps as well as similar other websites used to sell domestic helps, Union Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan said in a written reply to the Lok Sabha.

Lebanon

[Germany denies it will ban Hezbollah in its entirety](#)

November 28, 2019, Deutsche Welle

The German Interior Ministry has refuted reports that it plans to ban the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah. The US has recently put pressure on Europe to ban the whole group, not just its military arm.

[Petrol station strike paralyzes Lebanon as crisis deepens](#)

November 30, 2019, Al Jazeera

Angry motorists blocked roads with their vehicles in Beirut and other parts of Lebanon on Friday, creating traffic jams to protest against a strike by owners of petrol stations demanding an increase in gasoline prices as the local currency drops and the nation slides deeper into a financial crisis.

[Lebanon pays off maturing \\$1.5 billion Eurobond](#)

November 28, 2019, Reuters

Lebanon has paid off a Eurobond of \$1.5 billion that was due to mature on Thursday, plus the coupon, two financial sources familiar with the matter said.

[In Lebanon, financial collapse and security concerns loom](#)

November 28, 2019, Associated Press

Hundreds of Lebanese women marched across a former front line in the Lebanese capital Wednesday carrying white roses and Lebanese flags to denounce overnight clashes between rival groups that injured dozens of people. They pledged no return to civil war.

[Lebanon's Saad Hariri says he does not want to be next PM](#)

November 27, 2019, Al Jazeera

Lebanon's outgoing Prime Minister Saad Hariri announced on Tuesday he does not want to lead the next government - a "decisive" move he said aims to expedite the formation of a new cabinet in the protest-hit country.

[Second night of clashes in Lebanon amid anti-government protests](#)

November 26, 2019, Al Jazeera

Clashes have erupted between protesters calling for an overhaul of the political system and supporters of the main Shia groups Hezbollah and Amal amid reports of gunfire in some parts of Lebanon, according to local media.

[UK envoy: 'We support formation of new government in Lebanon'](#)

November 26, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Richard Moore, Director General for Political Affairs at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, expressed on Monday his country's support for the formation of a new government in Lebanon, stressing that the British endorsement of this step does not mean "interference" in the country's internal affairs.

Oman

[Oman India Joint Investment Fund II buys 9.9% in Capital SFB for Rs 84 cr](#)

November 26, 2019, Business Standard

Oman India Joint Investment Fund II (OIJIF), a mid-market private equity firm co-sponsored by State Bank of India (SBI) and State General Reserve Fund of Oman (SGRF), on Monday said it had invested Rs 84 crore for a 9.90 per cent stake in Punjab-based in Capital Small Finance Bank.

[Oman: Saudis, Al Houthis interested in deal](#)

November 26, 2019, Gulf News

Saudi Arabia, which is leading an Arab alliance fighting in Yemen, and Iran-allied Al Houthi militia are interested in reaching an agreement to end a years-long war there, according to a senior Omani official.

Qatar

[Qatari foreign minister's Saudi visit seen easing Gulf rift](#)

November 29, 2019, Reuters

Qatar's foreign minister has made an unannounced visit to Riyadh, two sources told Reuters, amid signs that a 2-1/2-year rift among U.S.-allied Gulf Arab states could soon subside.

[Indian university education available in Qatar next year](#)

November 28, 2019, The Peninsula Qatar

A long wait for the Indian parents for affordable, quality higher education in Qatar for their children seems to be ending next year. DPS MIS Group says they are opening colleges offering courses in arts, science, commerce and liberal arts in 2020.

[Tens of Thousands of Needy Gaza Families Receive Qatari Cash Infusion](#)

November 27, 2019, Haaretz

Gaza authorities began Wednesday handing out Qatari funds to seventy thousand needy families in the Gaza Strip, amid reports of an additional Qatari cash infusion to the coastal enclave.

[Turkey-Qatar force command serves stability of region](#)

November 25, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Monday a joint force command of Ankara and Doha serves stability and peace of not only Qatar but also the Gulf region, reports Anadolu Agency.

[Qatar pact allows France military to move into country](#)

November 25, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Qatar and France signed a historic military agreement yesterday in order to ensure further security in the Gulf region, amid rising concerns over Iran and its actions.

[Kuwait, Qatar to Join US-Led Naval Coalition](#)

November 26, 2019, Asharq Al-Awsat

A US military official announced on Monday that Qatar and Kuwait told Washington that they will join a US-led naval coalition in the Gulf, established to respond to a series of attacks on oil tankers this year.

[Turkey, Qatar central banks raise currency swap limit to \\$5B](#)

November 26, 2019, Daily Sabah

Turkish and Qatari central banks have agreed to increase the size of a currency swap deal to \$5 billion. The decision came on the sidelines of President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan's official visit to the Gulf state earlier Monday.

Saudi Arabia

[Saudi Arabia assumes G20 presidency with new logo](#)

December 1, 2019, The National

Saudi Arabia assumed the G20 Presidency on Sunday, taking the reins from Japan and bringing the forum to the Middle East for the first time since the summit started in 2008.

[Aramco IPO Draws Bids of \\$44.3 Billion, as Global Investors Steer Clear](#)

November 29, 2019, The Wall Street Journal

Saudi Aramco's share sale attracted bids worth \$44.3 billion as of Friday, about 1.7 times the amount the kingdom's government plans to raise in what is on course to be the world's largest listing when it formally prices next week.

[Saudi Arabia celebrates 5th anniversary of King Salman's accession to the throne](#)

November 29, 2019, Saudi Gazette

The people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its residents are all set to celebrate on Saturday (Nov. 30, 2019) corresponding to Rabee' Al-Akhir 3, 1441H, the fifth anniversary of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman's accession to the throne as King of Saudi Arabia.

[With a boosted US military presence, Iran will think twice about attacking Saudi Arabia](#)

November 28, 2019, Gulf News

The United States is negotiating cost-sharing terms with Saudi Arabia for an expanding military mission aimed at ensuring the kingdom is protected from attacks on critical oil infrastructure, officials said.

[Cost of India refinery project with Aramco, ADNOC estimated at \\$70 billion](#)

November 28, 2019, Livemint

The cost of a giant oil and petrochemicals refinery project to be built jointly by Saudi Aramco and Abu Dhabi National Oil Co. (ADNOC) in India is expected to reach \$70 billion, WAM news agency reported on Wednesday.

[Cabinet gives post-facto approval to pact with Saudi Arabia to set up strategic partnership council](#)

November 27, 2019, Moneycontrol

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday accorded post-facto approval to an agreement India signed with Saudi Arabia last month to set up a strategic partnership council.

[Cabinet approves India-Saudi Arabia MoUs in smuggling, drug trafficking](#)

November 27, 2019, WION

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved MoUs inked between India and Saudi Arabia in the field of combating illicit trafficking and smuggling of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and chemical precursors.

[Russia targets Asia with expanded ESPO pipeline, competes with Saudi Arabia](#)

November 27, 2019, S&P Global

Russia brought the East Siberia Pacific Ocean pipeline to full planned capacity Wednesday, enabling the country to increase market share in Asia and compete with its OPEC+ partner Saudi Arabia.

[Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Oman elected to Unesco's world heritage committee](#)

November 28, 2019, Art and Culture

The regional nations now form part of the governing body that has the final say on what will be added to the World Heritage List.

[Saudi Arabia is stepping up crackdown on dissent, rights groups say](#)

November 27, 2019, The Indian Express

Saudi Arabia's long-running drive to muzzle dissent has escalated again in recent weeks with the arrests of several journalists, writers and academics who had not vocally criticized the government in years, according to two rights groups that monitor the kingdom.

[Houthis announce 350 dead and injured, including Saudi and Emirati soldiers](#)

November 25, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Yemen's Houthi militia announced on Monday that more than 350 Yemeni government soldiers, along with Saudi, Emirati and Sudanese fighters, have been killed or wounded in attacks on the western city of Mocha on 6 November.

[China's imports of Saudi Arabian crude hit new high, Venezuelan inflows vanish](#)

November 25, 2019, S&P Global

China's crude imports from Saudi Arabia surged 76% year on year to hit new high of 1.99 million b/d in October, while there were no arrivals from Venezuela in the month, according to the latest data from the General Administration of Customs showed Monday.

[Pakistan PM lauds stronger economic relations between Pakistan, Saudi Arabia](#)

November 26, 2019, Business Recorder

Prime Minister Imran Khan Tuesday expressed gratitude for Saudi Arabia's economic support to Pakistan and the initiatives which were underway to build a stronger economic relationship between the two countries.

[Muhammad Bin Salman for effective narrative to combat Islamophobia](#)

November 27, 2019, The News

Saudi Crown Prince Muhammad Bin Salman (MBS) Tuesday called up Imran Khan and underscored the importance of an effective counter narrative and concerted efforts to combat Islamophobia.

[Iran considered striking US bases before deciding on Saudi Arabian oil fields, officials claim](#)

November 26, 2019, Fox News

Iranian officials looking to hit back at the U.S. over crippling economic sanctions and its withdrawal from a nuclear deal initially considered attacking American bases before launching airstrikes on a massive Saudi Arabian oil facility instead, a new report claims.

[Saudi Arabia broke its own 2-year blockade of Qatar by flying its soccer team across the border, suggesting the feud could be thawing](#)

November 26, 2019, Business Insider

Saudi Arabia broke its own blockade of Qatar on Monday by flying its national soccer team over the border for a tournament, suggesting a two-year impasse between the countries could be easing.

Syria

[Syria constitutional talks end without consensus on agenda: U.N. envoy](#)

November 29, 2019, Reuters

A second week-long round of Syrian talks has ended without a meeting of the group of 45 delegates meant to be negotiating on the constitution, United Nations Special Envoy Geir Pedersen said on Friday.

[Syrian currency drops at unprecedented rate](#)

November 28, 2019, Gulf News

The Syrian lira seems to be falling from one pitfall to another, trading at almost 790 SP to the US dollar.

[United States restarts Islamic State patrols in Syria](#)

November 27, 2019, The Times

US troops have restarted operations against Islamic State in eastern Syria after six weeks of chaos that followed President Trump's order to withdraw.

[Assad raises prospect foreign Isil suspects could be tried in Syrian regime courts](#)

November 27, 2019, The Telegraph

President Bashar al-Assad has said that foreign Islamic State suspects could be tried in Syrian courts, raising the prospect the regime could use them as leverage against the West.

[Turkey's 'safe zone' in northern Syria unsafe for civilians, says report](#)

November 27, 2019, The Guardian

Turkey's newly established "safe zone" in northern Syria is far from safe, according to a report by a human rights watchdog, citing ongoing fighting and abuses such as executions and home confiscations.

[Turkey says car bomb kills 17 near Syria's Ras al Ain](#)

November 26, 2019, Reuters

A car bomb killed 17 people near a Syrian border town seized by Turkish-backed forces last month, Turkey's Defence Ministry said on Tuesday, in an attack which it blamed on Syrian Kurdish YPG fighters.

[Assad: Iran to re-build new cities in Syria](#)

November 27, 2019, Middle East Monitor

The Syrian regime and Iran yesterday agreed signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to build new cities and suburbs in Syria. The MoU was signed during a meeting by the Syrian-Iranian Joint Committee in the field of Public Works and Housing began at the Iranian Ministry of Roads and Urban Development in Tehran.

[Russia: Syria Kurds must abide by agreement with Turkey](#)

November 27, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Russian foreign minister Sergei Lavrov yesterday called on Syria's Kurdish forces to abide by the Russia-Turkey agreement on its withdrawal from the safe zone.

[Turkey: 370,000 Syrians return to terror-free areas](#)

November 26, 2019, Anadolu Agency

Around 370,000 Syrian refugees in Turkey voluntarily return to terror-free areas of their home country, said Turkey's vice president on Tuesday.

[Pompeo: Turkey's test of Russian weapons system 'concerning'](#)

November 26, 2019, Reuters

Turkey carrying out tests with the Russian defense system it purchased was "concerning," U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Tuesday, but added that talks between Washington and Ankara to resolve the issue were still underway.

[Syria Constitution Committee meeting stalled in Geneva](#)

November 27, 2019, Middle East Monitor

The meeting of the Syrian Constitutional Committee in Geneva, stalled on Tuesday, due to differences between the regime and opposition delegations on its agenda.

Turkey

[Turkey-Libya maritime deal triggers Mediterranean tensions](#)

November 29, 2019, Deutsche Welle

Turkey has boosted military aid to allies in Libya, but the maritime deal that comes with it has inflamed Mediterranean geopolitics. Greece and Egypt were among those to voice vehement objections.

[Turkey hosts Silk Road business summit to promote trade, investments under BRI](#)

November 28, 2019, China.org.cn

The 4th International Silk Road Businessmen Summit held in Turkey has promoted trade and investments among the countries along the routes of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), experts said.

[Pakistan's Prime Minister praises Turkey's diplomacy model](#)

November 28, 2019, Anadolu Agency

Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan on Thursday praised Turkey's international diplomacy and asked his country's envoys to follow Ankara as a model in terms of diplomacy.

[Turkey wants to join European Union: Turkish spokesperson](#)

November 28, 2019, Anadolu Agency

Turkey is a strong member of NATO with its second largest army and wants to join the EU as a full member, Turkish presidential spokesperson Ibrahim Kalin said Wednesday.

[Turkey dismisses Macron's Syria criticism, says he sponsors terrorism](#)

November 28, 2019, Reuters

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu on Thursday dismissed French President Emmanuel Macron's criticism of Turkey's offensive in Syria against the Kurdish YPG militia, saying the French leader sponsors terrorism.

[Turkey's Erdogan to deliver 'important messages' at NATO Summit](#)

November 28, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan will deliver important messages during his participation in the NATO summit next week, Presidential Spokesperson Ibrahim Kalin said.

[Turkey tests S-400 radar, says it wants more locally-made weapons](#)

November 26, 2019, The Jerusalem Post

Turkey showed that it thinks nothing of US concerns about its acquisition of the S-400 by testing the radar against F-16s on Monday.

[Turkey signs maritime boundaries deal with Libya amid exploration row](#)

November 28, 2019, Reuters

Libya's internationally recognized government and Turkey have signed an agreement on maritime boundaries in the Mediterranean Sea that could complicate Ankara's disputes over energy exploration with other countries.

[Turkey holds up NATO military plans over Syria dispute - sources](#)

November 26, 2019, Reuters

Turkey is refusing to back a NATO defense plan for the Baltics and Poland until the alliance offers Ankara more political support for its fight against Kurdish YPG militia in northern Syria, four senior alliance sources said.

[Former Erdogan ally says Turkey 'in dark tunnel', plans new party by year-end](#)

November 27, 2019, Reuters

Former Turkish deputy prime minister Ali Babacan warned on Tuesday of the dangers of "one man rule" and said he hoped to have formed a new political party by the end of the year to challenge President Tayyip Erdogan's ruling AK Party.

[Russia hopes to seal new S-400 missile deal with Turkey next year \](#)

November 26, 2019, Euro News

Russia hopes to seal a deal to supply Turkey with more S-400 missile systems in the first half of next year, the head of Russian state arms exporter Rosoboronexport, Alexander Mikheev, said in an interview with RIA news agency published on Tuesday.

[Russian FM urges Kurds to honor Russia-Turkey deal on northern Syria](#)

November 26, 2019, Xinhua Net

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov called Tuesday on the political leaders of the Syrian Kurds to keep their word and honor the Russian-Turkish memorandum on joint actions to resolve the situation in northeastern Syria.

[Erdogan says Turkey aims to have its own fighter jet in five-six years](#)

November 26, 2019, Ekathimerini

Turkey plans to have its local-made fighter jet ready for flight in the next five to six years, President Tayyip Erdogan said on Tuesday, amid an ongoing dispute with the United States over the purchase of F-35 jets.

[Turkey's Erdogan meets Qatar's emir to discuss regional issues](#)

November 25, 2019, Al Jazeera

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan arrived in Qatar on Monday to meet Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani on an official visit to discuss regional issues and bilateral relations.

UAE

[Chinese investors set focus on Dubai's warehousing industry](#)

November 30, 2019, Gulf Today

As online retail shopping booms globally and domestically, and consumer confidence rises ahead of Expo 2020, the demand for storage spaces and fulfilment centers is also increasing. This trend, according to the CEO of Lootah Real Estate Development Saleh Abdullah Lootah, is translating to a higher interest for warehouses and other cost-effective logistic solutions, particularly from the Chinese investors.

[UAE and Saudi Arabia confirm plans for joint digital currency](#)

November 29, 2019, Yahoo News

Mohammed bin Salman, Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, has made his second official visit of 2019 to the United Arab Emirates to discuss the deployment of a joint digital currency between the two nations.

[India to showcase space, IT might at Dubai Expo 2020](#)

November 26, 2019, Deccan Herald

India will get a permanent place to do business at the World Expo 2020 in Dubai that kicks off next year. The India pavilion, on which the country is spending around Rs 230 crore, will be a permanent structure that will be retained after the expo gets over in April 2021.

[AIM and Chinese firm sign MoU to boost investment opportunities](#)

November 28, 2019, Gulf Today

Annual Investment Meeting (AIM), world's largest investment platform, and China Venture Capital Research Institute (CVCRI) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for a long-term strategic partnership to share resources and to boost investment opportunities within the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

[Saudi crown prince pays sudden visit to UAE](#)

November 27, 2019, Middle East Monitor

After meeting Chairman of US Joint Chiefs of Staff General Mark Milley, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman visited the UAE, Al-Arabiya reported.

[Business opportunities expanding for Dubai in Africa](#)

November 28, 2019, Euro News

In its fifth edition, the two-day event in Dubai explored the challenges and opportunities associated with doing business in Africa with many companies looking to the continent as the next big investment frontier.

[UAE and Saudi Arabia sign four memorandums of understanding](#)

November 27, 2019, Gulf News

The UAE and Saudi Arabia on Wednesday signed four memorandums of understanding (MoUs) during the second meeting of the Saudi-Emirati Coordination Council in Abu Dhabi.

[US sends investigators to UAE and Saudi to probe CNN weapons violations findings](#)

November 26, 2019, CNN International

The US State Department and Pentagon are sending teams to the UAE and Saudi Arabia to investigate CNN's findings that American-made weaponry has been transferred to rebel fighters and separatist militia in Yemen.

[US rejected UAE request to purchase F-35 fighter jets](#)

November 26, 2019, Middle East Monitor

The United States has rejected a request by the United Arab Emirates to purchase the F-35 Stealth Fighters, Israeli Channel 13 reported. According to the news station Pentagon officials said they would not allow the sale of F-35 Stealth Fighters to the UAE in order to preserve Israel's qualitative military edge (QME).

[UAE's Indian expats reminded of duties on Constitution Day](#)

November 26, 2019, Gulf News

The Indian Consulate in Dubai marked the 70th anniversary of the adoption of the Indian Constitution on Wednesday by reminding expats about their fundamental duties as Indian citizens.

Yemen

[Yemen's Houthi rebels say they shot down Saudi Apache helicopter](#)

November 29, 2019, Al Jazeera

Yemen's Houthi rebels have claimed shooting down a Saudi Apache helicopter near the border with its northern neighbour, killing two pilots a day after more than 100 Houthi prisoners were released by Saudi-led coalition.

[Saudi-led coalition says it freed 200 Houthi prisoners](#)

November 26, 2019, Middle East Monitor

A Saudi-led military coalition said on Tuesday it had freed 200 prisoners from the Iran-aligned Houthi movement in a step that could further efforts to end the nearly five-year war in Yemen.



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