



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 WEST ASIA REVIEW

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Delhi Policy Group

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Bahrain

[Kingdom of Bahrain expresses support for U.S. strikes on Kata'ib Hezbollah facilities in Iraq, Syria](#)

December 30, 2019, Gulf Digital News

The Kingdom of Bahrain expresses support for the strikes conducted by the United States of America, targeting Kata'ib Hezbollah (KH) facilities in the Republic of Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic, as a response to KH repeated terrorist attacks.

Egypt

[Egyptian, US presidents discuss Ethiopian dam issue](#)

December 27, 2019, China.org.in

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and U.S. President Donald Trump discussed the recent developments in the talks on Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam in a phone call, the Egyptian presidency said in a statement. During the phone call, al-Sisi expressed his appreciation for the U.S. support for the talks between Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia.

[Egypt to import Chinese buses powered by electricity, natural gas](#)

December 24, 2019, Egypt Today

Minister of Local Development Mahmoud Shaarawy asserted Egypt's keenness on being up to the latest technological developments, especially when it comes to the manufacture of vehicles powered by electricity and natural gas.

[Chinese envoy to Cairo comments on allegations about Uighur](#)

December 24, 2019, Egypt Today

"Some countries want to damage the relations between China, and the Arab and Islamic worlds as well as Egypt," Chinese Ambassador to Cairo Liao Liqiang stated in a press conference held on Monday to respond to reports on alleged torture of Uighur Muslims in China.

[Egypt signs 4 oil, gas deals worth 155 million USD](#)

December 25, 2019, Xinhua Net

Egypt's Minister of Petroleum Tarek al-Molla on Wednesday said four new agreements valued at 155 million U.S. dollars were signed with local and international companies for exploration of oil and natural gas.

[Trump, Egypt's Sisi agree on need to end Libya conflict: White House](#)

December 27, 2019, Reuters

U.S. President Donald Trump and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi agreed in a phone call that they reject "foreign exploitation" in Libya and urged parties to the conflict to take "urgent steps" to resolve the fighting, the White House said.

[Egypt plans to send its first astronaut to space](#)

December 26, 2019, Egypt Independent

The first-ever competition to send an Egyptian astronaut to space is set to begin in January 2020, according to a recent announcement by Chairman of the Egyptian Space Agency Mohamed al-Qousy.

[Egypt is strategic Arab center: former PM Haider al-Abbadi](#)

December 26, 2019, Egypt Today

Head of the Victory Coalition in Iraq, former Prime Minister Haider al-Abbadi, told Egypt Today Wednesday that Egypt is a strategic Arab center, noting that Iraq needs integration with Egypt not only economically, but also strategically.

Iraq

[Iraq starts crude exports to China under oil for infrastructure deal](#)

December 29, 2019, Zawya

Iraq has started exporting 100,000 barrels of crude oil per day to China since October under a 20-year oil-for-infrastructure agreement between the two governments, the financial advisor to the Iraqi government said.

[US carries out 'precision defensive strikes' in Iraq and Syria against Iranian-backed militia](#)

December 29, 2019, CNBC News

The U.S. military carried out "precision defense strikes" in Iraq and Syria against a militia group following a string of attacks on Iraqi bases that host American servicemembers.

[Political unrest in Iraq creates loophole for terror groups to rise again: official](#)

December 26, 2019, Middle East Monitor

As the wave of mass protests sweeps across Iraq, there have been more frequent terror attacks in multiple parts of the country, said an Iraqi official.

[Iraqi president to resign as pressure mounts](#)

December 26, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Iraqi President Barham Salih said Thursday he is ready to resign before the parliament amid months-long protests that have gripped the country.

[Iran-backed bloc nominates Basra governor as PM](#)

December 25, 2019, Al Jazeera

An Iranian-backed bloc in Iraq's parliament on Wednesday nominated Asaad al-Eidani, the governor of the southern province of Basra, as the new prime minister, a move rejected by many protesters who demand a complete overhaul of the political system.

[Iraqi Parliament Approves New Electoral Law](#)

December 24, 2019, Asharq Al-Awsat

Iraq's parliament approved on Tuesday a new electoral law, a key demand of protesters to make elections fairer, but political deadlock is still holding up the selection of an interim prime minister, threatening renewed unrest.

[Israel says won't allow Iran to entrench in Iraq](#)

December 25, 2019, Anadolu Agency

Israel will not allow Iran to entrench in Iraq, Israeli army Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Aviv Kochavi said on Wednesday. Speaking at a conference in Herzliya, Kochavi accused Iran's Quds Force of moving weapons into Iraq on a monthly basis.

[Iraq protests: Christians heartened by Muslims' solidarity in midst of bloody crackdown](#)

December 25, 2019, Daily Express

Iraq's deadly protests which have seen hundreds killed and thousands injured in a bloody government clampdown has resulted in a strong sense of solidarity between the country's Muslims and its minority Christians, an expert in the region has claimed.

[1 killed, 4 injured in bomb attack in Iraq's Baghdad](#)

December 26, 2019, Xinhua Net

A civilian was killed and four others wounded on Wednesday in a bomb attack near a soccer field in east Iraqi capital Baghdad, an Interior Ministry official said.

Iran

[Iran issues stark warning to enemies - 'Spying aircraft will be destroyed'](#)

December 29, 2019, Daily Express

Iran's military has issued the nation's enemies a warning that any spying aircraft spotted near its joint drills with Russia and China will be destroyed.

[Iran's navy chief: U.S. dominance in the Middle East is over](#)

December 29, 2019, Tehran Times

"The security of our region will be definitely established by regional countries and hereby we invite all regional countries to join this convergence and regional coalition for the next rounds," Khazadi said. The era of dominance of the Americans and their partners over the region has ended and they need to leave the region immediately, the navy chief suggested.

[Tehran summons Kuwait envoy over anti-Iran meeting](#)

December 29, 2019, Gulf News

Signs of diplomatic tensions have surfaced between Iran and Kuwait after the latter hosted an Iranian opposition conference.

[Japan to send warship, aircraft to Middle East to protect vessels](#)

December 27, 2019, Al Jazeera

Japan will send a warship and patrol planes to protect Japanese ships in the Middle East as the situation in the region, from which it sources nearly 90 percent of its crude oil imports, remains volatile, a document approved by the cabinet showed on Friday.

[Magnitude 5.1 earthquake strikes Iran near nuclear power plant](#)

December 27, 2019, CNN International

A 5.1 magnitude earthquake struck southwestern Iran early Friday morning in a region which houses the country's first nuclear power plant.

[China, Russia, Iran to hold joint naval drills starting Friday](#)

December 26, 2019, Middle East Monitor

China, Iran and Russia will hold joint naval drills starting on Friday in the Indian Ocean and Sea of Oman, China's Defence Ministry said on Thursday, amid heightened tensions in the region between Tehran and Washington.

[Iran and India agree to speed up Chabahar port project](#)

December 23, 2019, Livemint

Tehran and Delhi have agreed to accelerate the development of an important Iranian port, India's foreign minister said during a visit to the sanctions-hit Islamic republic on Monday.

[Iran internet 'disrupted' ahead of protests](#)

December 25, 2019, BBC News

Internet services have been disrupted in parts of Iran amid reports it is being cut off ahead of planned anti-government protests on Thursday.

[Iran turns to China and India in the face of US sanctions](#)

December 25, 2019, East Asia Forum

In the face of the United States withdrawing from the Iran nuclear deal and adopting a 'maximum pressure' policy against Iran, Tehran is turning to China and India to circumvent US sanctions. In response, the United States is trying to deny Iran's access to Chinese and Indian resources to pressure Iran into returning to the negotiation table.

Israel

[Benjamin Netanyahu condemns Hanukkah attack in Monsey](#)

December 29, 2019, New York Post

Israeli leader Benjamin Netanyahu expressed outrage Sunday over a series of anti-Semitic attacks in the Big Apple – including the stabbing of four people in a Rockland County synagogue.

[Israel keen to support growth of Indian semi-conductor industry](#)

December 27, 2019, The Economic Times

With a growing demand in electronics and manufacturing in India and limited domestic manufacturing, semiconductor chips will soon become a significant import item for India.

[Netanyahu wins landslide victory in battle for Likud party leadership](#)

December 26, 2019, The Guardian

Benjamin Netanyahu has won a landslide victory in a primary election for leadership of the ruling Likud party in Israel.

[Israel considers denying entry of ICC investigators in response to war crimes probe](#)

December 24, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Israel is considering preventing the entry of officials from the International Criminal Court (ICC) in response to the chief prosecutor's decision to investigate its possible war crimes in the occupied Palestinian territories.

[Israel to reinstitute 'assassinations policy'](#)

December 26, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Israel's foreign minister on Thursday said Tel Aviv would return to "the policy of assassinations" against Palestinian resistance figures in the Gaza Strip.

[Israel Rejects International Court Probe into Gaza War Crimes](#)

December 24, 2019, Voice of America

Israel has rejected a decision by the International Criminal Court in the Hague to launch an investigation into whether Israel committed war crimes in the Gaza Strip. A court prosecutor said she also might investigate Hamas, which rules Gaza. Israel says the ICC has no jurisdiction because Palestine is not a state.

[Oil discovery raises stakes between Israel and Lebanon](#)

December 25, 2019, Al Jazeera

Prospect of conflict between Israel and Hezbollah heightens after the discovery of oil and gas reserves in waters disputed by the two sides.

[Limited Conflict With Iran is Possible,' IDF Chief Warns](#)

December 25, 2019, The Algemeiner

"Winning wars isn't enough. We have to make sure that we achieve a decisive result that ensures deterrence," Israel Defence Forces Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Aviv Kochavi said on Wednesday.

[Benjamin Netanyahu rushed offstage as rocket fired from Gaza into Israel](#)

December 25, 2019, CNN International

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was taken off the stage at a campaign event in southern Israel Wednesday night as a rocket was fired from Gaza toward the city of Ashkelon, just one day before the 70-year-old Israeli leader faces a leadership challenge within his Likud party.

[Hundreds of Jews Secretly Left Muslim Countries for Israel in Recent Years, Government Data Reveals](#)

December 25, 2019, Haaretz

Nearly 2,500 Jews have secretly left countries hostile to Israel in recent years, almost all of them with Muslim majorities, information released this week by the Interior Ministry shows.

[Israel army admits 'mistakes' over attack that killed Gaza family](#)

December 25, 2019, Al Jazeera

An attack in Gaza that killed nine members of the same family was due to faulty assessment of the risk to civilians, the Israeli army has said as it admitted "mistakes".

[Defense minister warns ICC: 'Israel will provide a legal Iron Dome to its service members'](#)

December 25, 2019, Israel Hayom

"The court is a breeding ground for modern anti-Semitism; We will fight terrorism as if there is no Hague and we will fight the Hague as if there is no terrorism,"

Naftali Bennett says days after International Criminal Court prosecutor proposes full-fledged investigation into Israeli conduct.

Jordan

[Jordan condemns Israeli Temple Mount visits](#)

December 25, 2019, The Jerusalem Post

The Jordanian Foreign Ministry condemned Israeli visits to the Temple Mount on Wednesday, referring to them as "ongoing Israeli violations against the Al-Aqsa Mosque", according to Jordan's official news agency.

Kuwait

[Kuwait says it respects Iran's integrity after 'private' meet with separatists](#)

December 29, 2019, Times of Israel

Kuwait said that it respects Iran's "territorial integrity," the Gulf state's official news agency reported, a day after Tehran summoned its envoy to protest against Kuwaiti officials meeting Iranian separatists.

[Oil Inches Higher But Struggles to Break Through \\$61 a Barrel](#)

December 23, 2019, Bloomberg News

Oil edged higher in light trading, but the rally was limited on news that Kuwait aimed to reach a deal with Saudi Arabia that will restore crude output along their border, and as U.S. shale drillers boosted drilling.

[Kuwaiti MPs urge help for Uighurs, Indian Muslims](#)

December 25, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Kuwaiti lawmakers have called on their government to intervene to stop persecution of Muslims in East Turkistan and India.

[Chinese ambassador says ties with Kuwait at best level in history](#)

December 25, 2019, Xinhua Net

Relations between China and Kuwait is at the best level in history, Chinese Ambassador to Kuwait Li Minggang said in Kuwait City on Tuesday.

Lebanon

[Protesters demand new PM's resignation in Lebanon](#)

December 29, 2019, Daily Sabah

Lebanese people are out on the streets calling on recently-appointed Hassan Diab to resign. This indicates that they are asking for a fundamental change in the country which is being prevented mainly by its sectarian constitution.

[Lebanon central bank head: 'nobody knows' how much pound could slump on black market](#)

December 26, 2019, Reuters

Lebanon's central bank governor said on Thursday "nobody knows" how much more the cost of dollars could rise on the black market as a dire crisis piles pressure on a 22-year-old currency peg.

[Pope prays for Middle East peace](#)

December 26, 2019, Arab News

Pope Francis called on Wednesday for an end to war and conflict in the Middle East, and made a particular appeal for a return to harmony in Lebanon.

[Heavy clashes erupt near Lebanon's central bank](#)

December 24, 2019, Xinhua Net

Heavy clashes erupted on Tuesday between demonstrators and the Lebanese army near the Central Bank of Lebanon amid attempts by protesters to block roads in the area.

[Lebanon calls on international community to prevent Israel from violating its sovereignty](#)

December 24, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Lebanon's caretaker Defence Minister, Elias Bou Saab, yesterday called on the international community to intervene to prevent "repeated Israeli attacks on Lebanese sovereignty".

Oman

[India, Oman sign agreement on maritime transport](#)

December 26, 2019, Arab News

Oman's ambassador to India said on Wednesday that a bilateral maritime pact would have a "far-reaching impact" on stability in the Arabian Gulf. The agreement, signed on Tuesday, enables India to expand its footprint in the western Indian Ocean, the Arabian Gulf and East Africa.

Qatar

[75,000 Gaza families to receive Qatar aid](#)

December 23, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Qatar's Ambassador Mohammed Al Emadi today announced that the monthly payment for 75,000 Palestinian families in Gaza will be distributed soon.

Saudi Arabia

[Saudi Arabia gives in to Pakistan's demand, will hold OIC meet on Kashmir](#)

December 29, 2019, India Today

In a move that might irk India, Saudi Arabia will be calling for a meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) foreign ministers to discuss the situation in Kashmir.

[Saudi foreign minister in Pakistan on maiden trip](#)

December 26, 2019, Gulf News

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal Bin Farhan arrived here on Thursday on a maiden visit to Pakistan. The newly-appointed minister was received by his Pakistani counterpart Shah Mahmood Qureshi at the airport.

[OIC backs Saudi judiciary in Khashoggi case](#)

December 26, 2019, Arab News

The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) said on Thursday that the preliminary rulings issued by Saudi Arabia's criminal court regarding the case of journalist Jamal Khashoggi were issued in accordance with the Kingdom's judicial procedures.

[UAE stands with Saudi Arabia: Jamal Khashoggi case sentence reiterates integrity, efficiency](#)

December 24, 2019, Gulf News

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of UAE on Sunday said that the sentences issued by Saudi Arabia in relation to the murder of Jamal Khashoggi reaffirm the Kingdom's commitment to implementing the law in complete transparency and fairness.

[China says it supports Saudi Arabia's handling of Khashoggi case](#)

December 25, 2019, Arab News

China says it has noted Saudi Arabia's ruling on the case of journalist Jamal Khashoggi and supports the Kingdom's handling of the case, Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Geng Shuang said on Wednesday.

[U.S. welcomes Saudi Arabia's Khashoggi verdicts as 'important step': official](#)

December 24, 2019, The Hindu

The United States on Monday welcomed death sentences issued by Saudi Arabia against five people over the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

Syria

[WHO voices concern over humanitarian situation in Idlib](#)

December 26, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Nearly 130,000 civilians have been displaced in Syria's northwestern province of Idlib, the World Health Organization said Wednesday. Some 12 million people are in need of medical assistance in Syria as regime and Russian jets pound civilian settlements, according to a statement.

[Trump warns Russia, Syria, Iran against killing civilians in Idlib](#)

December 26, 2019, Middle East Monitor

US President Donald Trump warned Russia, Syria and Iran against killing civilians in Syria's Idlib province and said Turkey was working hard to stop the "carnage."

[More than 200,000 people have fled their homes in northwest Syria amid assault by Assad: relief group](#)

December 25, 2019, Global News

More than 200,000 men, women and children fled their homes in northwest Syria in buses, trucks and cars in recent weeks, amid intense air and ground bombardment by government forces, a Syrian relief group said Wednesday.

[Khamenei's advisor: Sooner or later, Israel will get an answer for bombing Syria](#)

December 25, 2019, The Jerusalem Post

"Sooner or later, Israel will have to answer for its bombing attacks in Syria," an advisor to Iranian leader Ali Khamenei said Tuesday. "Israel must stop. The advisor, Ali Akbar Velayati said that "the unlawful Israeli attacks in the region cannot pass without a response."

[Syrian Troops Close In on Strategic Idlib Town](#)

December 25, 2019, Voice of America

Syrian government troops, supported by Russian warplanes, have advanced on a rebel-held town in the northwestern province of Idlib, local sources said Wednesday.

[U.S. has 'no right' to Syrian oil, adviser to President Assad says](#)

December 25, 2019, NBC News

A top adviser to Syria's president says the United States has no right to Syria's oil and has warned of "operations" against American troops guarding the oil fields.

Bouthaina Shaaban, who is a political and media adviser to Bashar al-Assad, recently told NBC News that the U.S. has “absolutely no right; it is our oil.”

[Dialogue between Kurds and Damascus finished, says Syrian foreign minister](#)

December 25, 2019, Ahval

The dialogue between the Syrian government and Kurds intensified ahead of Turkey's latest offensive in northern Syria. The Syrian government forces have been deployed along the Turkish border in the Kurdish-controlled northeast of the country in early November.

Turkey

[Greek PM: Athens to seek world court if talks with Turkey fail](#)

December 29, 2019, Al Jazeera

Greece's prime minister said in remarks published on Sunday that if Athens and Ankara cannot solve their dispute about maritime zones in the Mediterranean they should turn to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague to settle the disagreement.

[Turkey's block on Wikipedia violates rights, court rules](#)

December 26, 2019, Reuters India

Turkey's Constitutional Court ruled on Thursday that a more than two-year block on access to online encyclopaedia Wikipedia in the country is a violation of freedom of expression.

[Erdogan: Turkey to send troops to Libya at Tripoli's request](#)

December 26, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Turkey will send troops to Libya at the request of Tripoli as soon as next month, President Tayyip Erdogan said on Thursday, putting the north African country's conflict at the centre of wider regional frictions.

[Turkey's Erdogan discusses Libya ceasefire during surprise Tunisia trip](#)

December 25, 2019, Reuters News

Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan paid a surprise visit to Tunisia on Wednesday to discuss cooperation for a possible ceasefire in neighboring Libya, where Ankara supports the internationally recognized government.

[Turkey plans to establish naval base in Cyprus](#)

December 25, 2019, Daily Sabah

Turkey may establish a naval base in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) as a group of experts are surveying the area to determine the location of such a base, reported the Milliyet daily Wednesday.

UAE

[UAE condemns terrorist car bomb attack in Saudi Arabia](#)

December 29, 2019, Gulf News

The UAE yesterday (Sunday) condemned a terrorist car bomb attack that was foiled by Saudi security forces in Dammam in Saudi Arabia.

[UAE marching towards becoming a \\$500b economy](#)

December 27, 2019, Khaleej Times

Rapid economic diversification underpinned by a string of bold reforms and a series of government stimulus measures are set to drive UAE growth at a steady pace as its gross domestic product (GDP) remains on track to surpass the \$500 billion mark over the next few years.

[Indians travel to Dubai, UAE the most: Report](#)

December 24, 2019, Gulf News

Dubai, Sharjah and Abu Dhabi were the most-booked international cities for Indian travellers in 2019, and the United Arab Emirates the most-booked country, a travel booking platform said.

[UAE witnesses rare public protest](#)

December 23, 2019, Middle East Monitor

In a rare display of public opinion in Dubai, a small demonstration has been held to protest against Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's controversial citizenship law passed earlier this month.

Yemen

[Yemen: Houthis blamed for attack on military parade](#)

December 29, 2019, BBC News

A missile strike that targeted a military parade in southern Yemen has killed at least five people. The attack came at the end of a graduation ceremony for recruits to the Security Belt forces - a powerful organisation backed by the United Arab Emirates - in the town of al-Dhalea.

[UN: 17 Civilians Killed in 3rd Attack on Yemen Market](#)

December 26, 2019, Voice of America

Seventeen civilians were killed in an attack in a market in Yemen's northern Saada governorate, the United Nations said, the third deadly assault on the same location in just over a month.

[Aid agencies stop work in Yemen town after attacks UN calls 'alarming escalation'](#)

December 25, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Twelve aid agencies in the Yemeni town of al-Dhalea have stopped work after attacks on their buildings that the United Nations called an "alarming escalation" amid media campaigns against aid organisations, reports Reuters.

[Saudi Arabia blamed for Christmas eve market attack in Yemen that kills 17](#)

December 26, 2019, Middle East Eye

Saudi Arabia has been accused by Yemen's Houthi rebels of carrying out a deadly attack on a busy market which killed 17 civilians, including 12 Ethiopians. Houthi spokesperson Mohamed Abdelsalam blamed the kingdom for the "heinous crime," the third such attack to target the same location in northern Yemen in just over a month.

[Saudi-led coalition to investigate Yemen market attack](#)

December 26, 2019, Middle East Monitor

The Saudi-led coalition fighting in Yemen promised on Thursday to investigate a military operation this week that the United Nations said killed at least 17 civilians in the latest of three attacks this month on a market

[French arms killed dozens of Yemenis, say Houthi rebels](#)

December 26, 2019, Middle East Monitor

Yemen's Houthis accused France on Wednesday of providing arms and logistics to the Arab coalition led by Saudi Arabia fighting the rebel group in the war-ravaged country. "France has killed and injured more than 38 Yemenis by artillery shelling in Al-Raqou market in Manbeh border district in Saada governorate," Mohamed Al-Houthi, a top Houthi rebel tweeted.



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