



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

[Iranian Cyberattack Hits Bahrain Oil Company](#)

January 10, 2020, Oilprice.com

A cyberattack with a data-wiping malware originating in Iran hit Bahrain's oil company Bapco in late December, ZDNet reports, citing unnamed sources. According to the report, the attack only affected some of Bapco's computers and the company managed to neutralize it early on.

[Pak's Qureshi speaks to Iraq, Bahrain counterparts over evolving situation in Middle East](#)

January 11, 2020, The Telegraph

Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Friday had telephonic conversation with his counterparts from Iraq and Bahrain as part of its diplomatic outreach in the context of the evolving situation in the Middle East.

Egypt

[We may need to request Egyptian Armed Forces intervention: Libyan speaker](#)

January 12, 2020, Egypt Today

Speaker of Libyan House of Representatives Aguila Saleh stated on Sunday that his country may need to request the intervention of the Egyptian Armed Forces if a foreign intervention takes place in Libya.

[In meeting with Mediterranean countries, Egypt displays wariness over Turkish moves in Libya](#)

January 12, 2020, The Arab Weekly

There is scepticism in Cairo about the ability of the international community to bring a quick end to the conflict in Libya or to Turkey's destabilising role in the Eastern Mediterranean.

[Egypt says it supports cease-fire in Libya](#)

January 12, 2020, Anadolu Agency

Egypt and Algeria on Sunday announced their support for the cease-fire in Libya, which was jointly urged by Turkey and Russia earlier this week.

[Chinese companies provide over 30,000 job opportunities in Egypt: Diplomat](#)

January 12, 2020, Egypt Independent

The Chinese Consul General in Alexandria Zhao Liying on Thursday said that the volume of Chinese investments in Egypt increased to about seven billion dollars, and that over 1,560 Chinese companies provide more than 30,000 job opportunities in Egypt.

[President of the European Council visits Egypt this week](#)

January 11, 2020, Egypt Today

President of the European Council Charles Michel will visit Egypt this week in a tour that includes Turkey, at the time where Libyan crisis sees a stand-off.

Iraq

[US-Iran conflict won't hit oil supplies to India: Iraq envoy](#)

January 11, 2020, Hindustan Times

Iraq welcomes India's call for peace and stability in West Asia against the backdrop of the Iran-US stand-off, and the tensions in the region will not affect oil supplies, Iraqi ambassador Falah Abdulhasan Abdulsada said on Friday.

[Iraq warned to keep US troops or risk financial blow](#)

January 12, 2020, Al Jazeera

The Trump administration warned Iraq that if it kicks US forces out of the country, Washington could respond by shutting down Baghdad's access to a key account which Iraq's central bank holds with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York - an account that is crucial to the management of Iraq's oil revenues and its overall financial stability.

[Rockets hit Iraq military base hosting US troops](#)

January 12, 2020, Al Jazeera

Rockets slammed into an Iraqi air base north of Baghdad on Sunday where US troops have been based, wounding at least four Iraqi troops. No immediate information about American casualties was reported.

['Avoid non-essential travel to Iraq', India tells its nationals after Iran attack on US bases](#)

January 8, 2020, Hindustan Times

India has advised its citizens to avoid all non-essential travel to Iraq in the wake of missile strike by Iran on American bases. Raveesh Kumar, the spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, said on Twitter, "In view of the prevailing situation in Iraq, Indian nationals are advised to avoid all non-essential travel to Iraq until further notification.

[Iran launches missile attacks on US airbases in Iraq](#)

January 10, 2020, Gulf News

Iran said it launched a missile attack on US-led forces in Iraq in the early hours of Wednesday in retaliation for the US drone strike on an Iranian commander whose killing has raised fears of a wider war in the Middle East.

[U.S. military eyes adjustments after Iran surprises with attack in Iraq: official](#)

January 10, 2020, Reuters

The U.S. military is weighing adjustments to its defensive posture in the Middle East after Iran upended assumptions by staging a missile attack in Iraq, a country where it wields influence, a U.S. defense official said on Thursday.

[Iraq's Outgoing Prime Minister Says U.S. Troops Must Leave](#)

January 7, 2020, Time

Iraq's outgoing prime minister said Tuesday that the United States has no alternative and must pull its troops out of the country, or else face an impending crisis. But President Donald Trump countered that it's not the right time for a pull-out and that it would be the worst thing that could happen to Iraq.

[Iraqi PM received 'verbal message' from Iran about missile attack](#)

January 8, 2020, Al Jazeera

Iraq's caretaker Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi was alerted by Iran that its response to the US assassination of its top military general was either imminent or under way, according to his spokesman.

Iran

[Indian Navy ready to bring back Indians from Iran](#)

January 9, 2020, Deccan Chronicle

The Indian Navy already has one warship in the Gulf of Oman to come to the aid of any Indian merchant ship in the area.

[In an effort to ease tensions, Iran says allied militias not ordered to avenge Soleimani death](#)

January 12, 2020, Gulf News

An Iranian government spokesman said on Sunday that Iran has not asked its allies in the region to respond to the US killing of Iranian Revolutionary Guards Chief Qassem Soleimani.

[Tension between US and Iran far from over, says former Indian diplomat](#)

January 12, 2020, Livemint

There may have been a de-escalation in the confrontation between the US and Iran for the time being, but tensions will continue to simmer, thanks to maneuvering, and proxy or cyber attacks by US and Iran against each other, says Arun K Singh, former Indian ambassador to the US.

[US imposes new sanctions on Iran](#)

January 10, 2020, CNN International

The Trump administration on Friday imposed new sanctions on Iran following attacks on US and allied troops in Iraq earlier in the week.

[Thousands of Iranian protesters hit streets condemning leaders over downed plane](#)

January 13, 2020, CNN International

Apologies from Iranian leaders over the downing of an airliner last week have done little to quell mass anti-government protests spreading across the country.

[Iran admits to unintentionally shooting down Ukrainian plane](#)

January 13, 2020, CNN International

During an open session of Iran's parliament in Tehran today, Hossein Salami, the chief commander of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC),

apologized for the mistake committed by the country's defense system for shooting down a Ukrainian passenger plane.

[Japan's Abe warns conflict with Iran impacts entire world](#)

January 13, 2020, Al Jazeera

Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, on a visit to the Middle East hoping to ease tensions sparked by the killing of top Iranian general Qassem Soleimani, has warned that military confrontation with Iran will harm peace and stability across the world.

[Iran's foreign minister Javad Zarif to visit India next week](#)

January 9, 2020, Livemint

Iranian foreign minister Javad Zarif will be in New Delhi next week when India is expected to convey that peace, security and stability in the Gulf region was of importance given New Delhi's dependence on fuel imports and the presence of about 7-8 million Indian expatriates in the region.

[US denies visa to Iranian Foreign Minister Zarif before UN Security Council meeting](#)

January 7, 2020, USA Today

The U.S. denied Iran's foreign minister a visa to attend a United Nations meeting scheduled for later this week, the regime's top diplomat said in interviews on Tuesday.

[Will welcome any Indian peace initiative for de-escalating tensions with US: Iran](#)

January 8, 2020, Livemint

Iran will welcome any peace initiative by India to de-escalate tensions with the US following the killing of Iranian military commander Qasem Soleimani, the Iranian envoy here said on Wednesday while asserting that his country wants peace not war.

[Iranian foreign minister accuses US of 'state terrorism' as country's parliament votes to designate US forces as 'terrorists'](#)

January 7, 2020, CNN International

Iran's Foreign Minister Javad Zarif called US President Donald Trump's decision to order the drone strike that killed the country's top military commander an act of "state terrorism" in an interview with CNN on Tuesday.

[Iran's assault on US bases in Iraq might satisfy both sides](#)

January 8, 2020, The Guardian

Iran unleashed its “severe revenge” for the death of Qassem Suleimani, with short-range ballistic missile attacks on the largest US base in Iraq and another military site hosting American troops in Erbil on Wednesday morning. The attacks could provide an excuse for hawks inside the Donald Trump administration to kick off a full-blown war with Iran – but more likely, a pathway out of the crisis.

[U.S. and Iran Back Away From Open Conflict](#)

January 9, 2020, Wall Street Journal

President Trump moved Wednesday to de-escalate hostilities with Iran, signaling no new U.S. military strikes following an Iranian missile barrage on Iraqi bases housing American and allied military forces that resulted in no casualties.

[U.S., Allies Believe Ukraine Plane Was Shot Down by Iran](#)

January 9, 2020, The Wall Street Journal

U.S., Canadian and U.K. officials believe that a Ukrainian commercial aircraft that crashed shortly after takeoff from Tehran on Wednesday, killing all 176 people on board, was downed by a missile system fired by Iran, possibly by mistake.

[House votes to limit Trump's military action against Iran without congressional approval](#)

January 9, 2020, CNN International

The House of Representatives on Thursday voted to approve a resolution aimed at restraining the President's ability to use military action against Iran without congressional approval, amid simmering tensions between the US and Iran.

Israel

[Israel likely to face war in 2020, top think tank INSS warns](#)

January 11, 2020, Ynet News

The possibility of war in 2020 has risen, says a new report published this week by the Institute for National Security Studies, a think tank at Tel Aviv University.

[Israel to begin testing laser weapon to shoot down rockets](#)

January 11, 2020, The Telegraph

The Israeli military will soon begin testing a new laser weapon to shoot down incoming missiles and drones, the Israeli ministry of defence has announced.

[Israeli foreign minister cancels visit to Dubai](#)

January 12, 2020, Middle East Monitor

Israel's foreign minister has cancelled a visit to Dubai this month due to security concerns, The Jerusalem Post newspaper reported on Sunday.

[Israeli intelligence helped US carry out Soleimani's assassination](#)

January 13, 2020, Daily Mail

The US reportedly relied on Israeli intelligence in the assassination of top Iranian general Qassem Soleimani.

[US envoy: Next plan is to let Israel annex West Bank](#)

January 9, 2020, Middle East Monitor

US Ambassador to Israel David Friedman said yesterday that America's next step, after recognising Jerusalem as Israel's capital and Israel's sovereignty over the occupied Golan Heights, is the annexation of the occupied West Bank.

[Israel Strikes Weapons Truck Near Iraq-Syria Border, Report Says](#)

January 10, 2020, Haaretz

An Israeli drone struck targets on the Iraqi-Syrian border, Lebanon's Al-Mayadeen reported early on Friday. Explosions were heard near the Iraqi town of Al-Qaim, close to the Iraq-Syria border and the Albukamal crossing. According to the report, the strike targeted a weapons truck.

[Netanyahu says anyone attacking Israel will be dealt 'strongest blow'](#)

January 8, 2020, Reuters

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Wednesday, after an Iranian missile strike on U.S.-led forces in Iraq, that Israel would hit back hard against anyone who attacked his country.

[Netanyahu exploring possibility of a joint run with right-wing parties: report](#)

January 8, 2020, i24News

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has inquired in the last few days into the possibility of a joint run of all the right-wing parties under one faction bar the ultra-Orthodox parties.

[Israeli cyber-researchers find security flaws in popular Chinese app TikTok](#)

January 8, 2020, Times of Israel

Researchers at Israeli cybersecurity firm Check Point Software Technologies Ltd. have found that one of the world's most trending apps, China's TikTok, with over a billion users around the world, was vulnerable to hacking attacks that could expose personal details such as private email addresses and personal information like sensitive videos.

Jordan

[Jordan slams Israeli assaults on worshippers at Al Aqsa](#)

January 7, 2020, Jordan Times

Jordan on Tuesday condemned the Israeli assaults on worshippers at Al Aqsa Mosque/Al Haram Al Sharif, calling on Israeli occupation authorities to respect the sanctity of the place and the freedom and safety of worshippers.

[House plans oversight session on bill banning Israeli gas import](#)

January 13, 2020, The Jordan Times

Jordanian Lower House has decided to hold an oversight session next Sunday to discuss a draft law in the making that bans the import of Israeli gas to the Kingdom.

Kuwait

[Kuwaiti parliament receives Saudi, Kuwait deal to resume joint oil output](#)

January 9, 2020, The New Arab

The neutral zone agreement signed by Saudi Arabia and Kuwait at the end of December is now facing parliamentary approval from the Kuwaiti parliament, according to media reports on Thursday.

[Kuwait Says State News Agency Was Hacked to Say U.S. Troops Withdrawing](#)

January 8, 2020, Haaretz

Kuwait's government says that a Wednesday report of a U.S. troop withdrawal is incorrect and that the state news agency was hacked.

['Foreign' links of Popular Front of India under scanner](#)

January 10, 2020, Hindustan Times

In the eye of a storm for its alleged role in anti-Citizenship (Amendment) Act, or CAA, protests that turned violent, particularly in Uttar Pradesh, the Popular Front of India (PFI) gets significant funding through its multiple front organisations in the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and Oman, according to a dossier put together by the ministry of home affairs.

[Canada withdrawing troops from Iraq to Kuwait](#)

January 8, 2020, China.org.cn

Canada is withdrawing some soldiers from Iraq to Kuwait, Canada's Chief of Defense Staff Jonathan Vance said Tuesday.

Lebanon

[Lebanon loses UN voting rights due to non-payment of dues](#)

January 11, 2020, Gulf News

Lebanon's voting rights at the General Assembly have been temporarily suspended because of its failure to settle outstanding dues to the United Nations.

[Lebanon slaps travel ban on Ghosn](#)

January 9, 2020, Al Jazeera

A top Lebanese judge has issued a travel ban on former Nissan CEO-turned-international fugitive Carlos Ghosn over a non-binding Interpol arrest warrant relating to charges of financial misconduct that Ghosn is facing in Japan.

Oman

[India declares state mourning on Monday in view of demise of Oman's Sultan](#)

January 12, 2020, Hindustan Times

The government has declared one-day state mourning on Monday in view of the demise of the Sultan of Oman, the home ministry announced on Sunday.

[World leaders pour into Oman to offer condolences for Qaboos](#)

January 12, 2020, Al Jazeera

Foreign officials have arrived in Oman's capital, Muscat, to offer condolences to Sultan Haitham bin Tariq Al Said, the successor to the late Sultan Qaboos who died on Friday after nearly 50 years at the throne.

[India, Oman hold joint naval exercise](#)

January 8, 2020, Times of Oman

The Royal Navy of Oman (RNO), represented by several RNO vessels military vessels of the Indian Navy, are conducting a joint naval drill (Sea Breeze), with the assistance of the Royal Air Force of Oman (RAFO) jets in the Indian state of Goa.

[Oman calls on U.S., Iran to give precedence to dialogue](#)

January 6, 2020, Xinhua Net

Oman on Sunday called on the U.S. and Iranian governments to give precedence to dialogue and look for diplomatic means to resolve their conflict.

Qatar

[Iran and Qatar to expand ties, says Rouhani](#)

January 12, 2020, Gulf News

Iran's president Hassan Rouhani has said on Sunday that Iran and Qatar plan to expand their ties.

[Qatar emir in Iran, calls for regional de-escalation at 'sensitive' time](#)

January 12, 2020, Reuters

Qatar's ruler, Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani, said during a visit to Iran on Sunday that de-escalation and dialogue were needed to resolve regional crises at a "sensitive" time.

Saudi Arabia

[Arab-African alliance announced in Saudi Arabia](#)

January 7, 2020, Middle East Monitor

Saudi Arabia yesterday announced the establishment of the Council of Arab and African States bordering the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden. Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal Bin Farhan Al Saud announced the signing of the charter of the council in a press conference held in the capital Riyadh.

[Saudi crown prince 'fully supports' Japan MSDF mission in Middle East](#)

January 13, 2020, The Japan Times

Saudi Arabia Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman expressed full support for Japan's dispatch of a Maritime Self-Defense Force destroyer and patrol aircraft to the Middle East, during a meeting with visiting Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Sunday.

[Japan PM Shinzo Abe meets King Salman in Riyadh and crown prince in AlUla](#)

January 12, 2020, Arab News

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe met Saudi Arabia's king and crown prince on Sunday, to discuss the situation in the region, during the first leg of his Middle East tour.

[Saudi Aramco adds \\$3.8 billion to its record IPO](#)

January 12, 2020, Market Watch

Saudi Aramco said it netted an additional \$3.8 billion from its record initial public offering as it sold more shares to meet investor demand, boosting Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's war chest to reshape the country's oil-dependent economy.

[Pakistan foreign minister to visit Iran, Saudi Arabia to discuss developments in Middle East](#)

January 12, 2020, The New Indian Express

Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi will embark on a visit to Iran and Saudi Arabia on January 13 to discuss the latest developments in the Middle East region.

[Saudi Arabia military students sent home after probe into Pensacola shooting](#)

January 12, 2020, Washington Times

A number of military students from Saudi Arabia will be removed from a training program in the United States and returned to their home country after an investigation into a deadly shooting by a Saudi aviation student at a Florida navy base last month, a U.S. official told The Associated Press.

[Nervous Saudis try to ease Middle East tensions](#)

January 9, 2020, The Guardian

Saudi Arabia has sent a message to Washington and London that it wants to see a de-escalation of the United States' struggle with Iran, in a sign that Saudi is nervous about its vulnerability to Iranian missile strikes – and still uncertain about the reliability of Donald Trump's long-term commitment to his Gulf allies.

[Saudi Arabia condemns Iran violation of Iraqi sovereignty](#)

January 9, 2020, Arab News

Saudi Arabia on Thursday condemned Iran's violation of Iraqi sovereignty after Tehran launched 22 missiles at military bases housing US troops.

[Kuwait sees oil output in zone shared with Saudi Arabia at 250,000 bpd by end 2020](#)

January 9, 2020, Reuters

Kuwaiti oil output in the Neutral Zone (NZ) it shares with Saudi Arabia is expected to reach 250,000 barrels per day (bpd) when production restarts at the end of this year, the country's oil minister said on Thursday.

[King Salman Offers Australian PM Saudi Help in Combating Bushfires](#)

January 10, 2020, Asharq Al-Awsat

Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz offered on Thursday Saudi Arabia's help to Australia as it combats its worst ever bushfires.

Syria

[Security Council beats midnight deadline, renews Syria cross-border aid in contentious vote](#)

January 10, 2020, UN News

The Security Council on Friday evening renewed a UN operation delivering humanitarian aid across the Syrian border to millions of civilians, but some of the body's members expressed disappointment that the "watered down" measure cut in half the number of crossing points and duration of the authorization.

[At least 17 killed in Syrian army bombing of rebel-held Idlib: witnesses](#)

January 11, 2020, Reuters

At least 17 people were killed and more than 40 injured on Saturday after Syrian army air strikes struck four cities in the country's northwestern region of Idlib, witnesses and a local civil defense center said.

[Syrian regime forces civilians to flee NW Syria](#)

January 12, 2020, Anadolu Agency

The Bashar al-Assad regime in Syria is forcing civilians in the country's northwest to flee their houses amid a cease-fire there, according to an Anadolu Agency correspondent on the ground on Sunday.

[Thousands of young Syrians opt to learn Russian at school](#)

January 9, 2020, Reuters

24,000 Syrian youngsters now learning Russian at school after the country added the language of the government's most powerful ally to the curriculum.

Turkey

[U.S. killing of Soleimani brings more benefits than costs for Erdoğan](#)

January 11, 2020, Ahval

U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to kill Qassem Soleimani, a targeted assassination befitting an official who had incorporated the tactics of the Nizari into his practice of diplomacy on behalf of the Islamic Republic of Iran, will have little to no negative impact on his personal relations with his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdoğan or official relations between the United States and Turkey.

[Turbulence for Turkey as breakaway parties make gains on Erdoğan](#)

January 13, 2020, The Guardian

Turkey is gearing up for another turbulent year in both domestic politics and on the world stage as its president, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, deploys troops to Libya while fighting off new breakaway parties at home.

[Haftar forces accept Turkey, Russia call for cease-fire](#)

January 12, 2020, Daily News

Forces loyal to Libya's renegade Gen. Khalifa Haftar accepted a joint call by Turkey and Russia for a cease-fire and truce in the battle for Tripoli on Jan. 10.

[Russia announces ceasefire deal with Turkey in Syria's Idlib](#)

January 10, 2020, Al Jazeera

Russia and Turkey have announced a ceasefire in Syria's Idlib province, paving the way for a pause in continuing government-led bombardment in the country's last rebel-held stronghold, while allowing the delivery of humanitarian aid.

UAE

[UAE offers 5-year tourist visa for all nationalities under new scheme](#)

January 7, 2020, India Today

United Arab Emirates (UAE) has always fascinated travellers around the world. Now travelling to UAE would become much easier, as the country has decided to issue a multiple-entry tourist visa scheme for all nationalities.

Yemen

[Yemen's warring parties conflicted over Soleimani's killing](#)

January 9, 2020, Al Monitor

Yemenis had a host of reactions to the killing of Soleimani. Houthis were shocked and furious, but the Saudi-backed UN-recognized government was euphoric and felt victorious. Both sides' reactions have ideological roots that point to the sectarian schism that has taken over the country the last five years.

[US targeted Iranian official in Yemen in failed strike](#)

January 11, 2020, Al Jazeera

The United States military tried, but failed, to kill another senior Iranian commander Abdul Reza Shahlai, on the same day a US drone strike killed the Islamic Revolutionary Guard's top general, Qassem Soleimani, US officials said Friday.

[European Delegation Supports Yemeni Efforts to Implement Riyadh Deal](#)

January 13, 2020, Asharq Al-Awsat

A number of European Union ambassadors visited the temporary capital Aden on Sunday to mainly discuss the implementation of the Riyadh Agreement as part of their international efforts to support the legitimate Yemeni government, official sources said.



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