



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

DPG West Asia Review contains major developments in West Asia of strategic relevance to India, compiled from open source media. To subscribe please [click here](#).

Your comments and feedback can be addressed to Sanket Joshi at sanket@dpg.org.in.

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Delhi Policy Group

Core 5A, 1st Floor,
India Habitat Centre,
Lodhi Road, New Delhi- 110003.
www.delhipolicygroup.org

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Bahrain

[Bahrain's Investcorp raises \\$130mln for projects in India](#)

January 15, 2020, Zawya

Bahrain-based alternative investment manager Investcorp has raised \$130 million in anchor commitments for projects in India. The commitments will provide last mile funding in India, a market currently going through a liquidity crunch, according to Investcorp.

[Bahrain targets Indian tourist market](#)

January 16, 2020, Trade Arabia

The Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA) concluded its first participation in the 26th edition of South Asia's leading travel show, SATTE 2020, which took place at India Expo Mart, in New Delhi, between January 8 and 10.

Egypt

[Egypt's Sisi heads to Berlin to participate in resolving Libyan crisis](#)

January 18, 2020, Egypt Independent

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi on Saturday is set to begin a foreign tour that includes Germany and Britain, to participate in efforts to resolve the Libyan crisis.

[Secretary of State Mike Pompeo 'Expressed Outrage' Over U.S. Citizen's Death in Egyptian Prison](#)

January 19, 2020, Time

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo "expressed outrage" to Egypt's president on Sunday at the death of an American citizen who insisted he had been wrongfully held in Egyptian prison, according to a state department spokeswoman.

[Nile River dam row: Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan make draft deal](#)

January 16, 2020, BBC News

Egypt, Ethiopia and Sudan have reached an initial deal on the filling and operation of what will be Africa's biggest hydro-electric dam. The three nations agreed, following a meeting in Washington DC, that the mega dam on the River Nile should be filled in stages during the rainy season.

[Egypt launches largest military base in Middle East](#)

January 16, 2020, Middle East Monitor

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi yesterday inaugurated Berrica military base, the largest in the region of the red sea, official media has reported.

Iraq

[US resumes joint military operations in Iraq](#)

January 17, 2020, Middle East Monitor

US troops resumed on Thursday joint military operations with Iraqi forces, which were suspended in the wake of the assassination of the Iranian General Qassem Soleimani in a US air raid in Baghdad earlier this month.

[Oil Jumps After Unrest Hits Key OPEC Producers Iraq and Libya](#)

January 20, 2020, Yahoo Finance

Oil jumped back above \$65 a barrel in London as supply disruptions in Iraq and Libya reignited concerns over the market's vulnerability to geopolitical risk in key production regions.

[Iraq protests revive amid anger at slow pace of reform](#)

January 19, 2020, Middle East Eye

Protests escalated across Iraq's south and its capital Baghdad on Sunday as demonstrators sealed off streets with burning tyres in outrage at the government's slow pace of reform.

[Iraq's Shia armed groups meet over 'US aggression': Spokesman](#)

January 20, 2020, Al Jazeera

The leaders of major Shia armed groups in Iraq gathered in Iran's city of Qom earlier this month to coordinate efforts to expel the United States' troops in Iraq.

[India's oil imports from Iraq, Nigeria and UAE increase in Nov 2019](#)

January 13, 2020, ET Energy World

India's oil imports from Iraq, Nigeria, and United Arab Emirates (UAE) increased in November 2019 as compared to the corresponding month a year ago as the country tries to replace Iranian and Venezuelan crude.

[US military resumes counter-Islamic State operations in Iraq](#)

January 16, 2020, India TV

The U.S. military is resuming operations against Islamic State militants in Iraq and is working to soon restart training Iraqi forces, U.S. officials said Wednesday, despite deep divisions over the American drone strike that killed a senior Iranian commander in Baghdad and the resulting missile attacks by Iran on Iraqi bases.

[Eleven U.S. troops injured in Jan. 8 Iran missile attack in Iraq](#)

January 17, 2020, Reuters

The United States treated 11 of its troops for symptoms of concussion after an Iranian missile attack on an Iraqi base where U.S. forces were stationed, the U.S. military said on Thursday, after initially saying no service members were hurt.

[Iraq's Caretaker Prime Minister Leaves Decision Whether to Expel U.S. Troops to Successor](#)

January 15, 2020, Wall Street Journal

Iraq's caretaker Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi indicated he would leave a decision whether to expel U.S. forces from the country to his successor, potentially slowing a push that could trigger American military-aid cuts and sanctions.

Iran

[Russia: Iran was spooked by reports of U.S. F-35s when it downed airliner](#)

January 17, 2020, Reuters

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Friday that Iran's accidental shooting down of a Ukrainian airliner last week occurred at a time when Tehran was spooked by reports of advanced U.S. stealth fighters in the area.

[Denying previous report, Iran to examine downed plane's black boxes itself](#)

January 19, 2020, Middle East Monitor

Iran said on Sunday it was trying to analyse the black boxes of a Ukrainian airliner that its military shot down this month, denying a report that a decision had been taken to send the voice and flight data recorders to Ukraine, reported Reuters.

[Iran to US: Don't test us; missile attack on base in Iraq was just a 'warning'](#)

January 18, 2020, Times of Israel

Iran's Defense Minister Amir Hatami issued a warning to Washington on Friday, saying that Iran's missile attacks on a US base in Iraq in response to the drone killing of Iranian commander Qassem Soleimani were "just a slap." Hatami also vowed to respond forcefully to US "adventurism."

[Iran's supreme leader calls Trump a 'clown' who will betray Iranians with a 'poisonous dagger'](#)

January 17, 2020, CNBC

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has called President Donald Trump a "clown" who merely pretends to support Iranian citizens but would push a "poisonous dagger" into their backs.

[Iran's Bid to Integrate With Global Economy Is Coming to an End](#)

January 20, 2020, Yahoo Finance

Iran's six-year push to integrate with the Western-dominated global economy appears to be coming to an end. On Friday, Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei said Europe has joined the U.S. in trying to "bring Iran to its knees."

[Key architect of 2003 Iraq war now key architect of Trump's Iran policy](#)

January 16, 2020, The Intercept

David Wurmser was a longtime advocate of war with Iraq in the Bush administration. Eventually, he got what he wanted, and it was a total disaster. Now,

Wurmser again has the ear of a president – this time, Donald Trump – and his sights are set firmly on Iran.

[Iran expects India to source its oil, devise new barter trade: Iranian minister](#)

January 16, 2020, Livemint

Amid mounting tensions between the US and Iran, Iranian foreign affairs minister Mohammad Javad Zarif on Thursday said India will not find a stable and reliable energy partner other than Iran.

[Iran's Zarif meets with Indian PM](#)

January 15, 2020, Mehr News Agency

The two sides discussed mutual ties, trade and economic cooperation, especially in the field of energy and also collaboration in Chabahar port, as well as significant regional and international issues during their meeting.

[Iran Says India Can Help Reduce Tension In Persian Gulf](#)

January 16, 2020, Caspian News

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif hopes that India can help reduce tensions in the Persian Gulf, referring to the recent situation between the Islamic Republic and the United States.

[Iran Faces Growing Criticism at Home, Abroad Over Downing of Ukrainian Plane](#)

January 13, 2020, Wall Street Journal

Iran's leaders grappled with a second day of protests that spread beyond Tehran as they tried to contain international criticism and domestic anger a day after they admitted the armed forces accidentally shot down a Ukrainian passenger airliner, following prior denials.

[Rouhani says Iran wants dialogue, working daily to 'prevent war'](#)

January 17, 2020, Times of Israel

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said Thursday he wants to avoid war after Tehran and Washington appeared on the brink of direct military confrontation in early January for the second time in less than a year.

Israel

[Netanyahu calls Israel "energy power"](#)

January 20, 2020, Outlook India

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said that the export of natural gas to Egypt started on January 15 has "turned Israel into an energy power".

[Palestine accuses U.S. of turning Palestinian statehood to Israel-controlled cantons](#)

January 20, 2020, China.org.cn

Palestine on Sunday accused the United States of trying to turn the future Palestinian state into cantons under the Israeli control.

[Trump said to soon decide whether to release peace plan before Israeli election](#)

January 19, 2020, Times of Israel

Report says US president's decision will be influenced by impeachment trial, Davos trip, feedback from Arab leaders and Kushner's expected meetings this week with Netanyahu, Gantz.

[Apple's Siri calls Israel 'Zionist Occupation State'](#)

January 20, 2020, The Jerusalem Post

Users on social media began posting videos of Apple's built-in virtual assistant Siri saying that Israeli President Reuven (Ruvi) Rivlin is "the president of the Zionist Occupation State," Business Insider reported on Sunday.

[Israel building underground defense system on Lebanon border](#)

January 19, 2020, Outlook India

Israel's military said it began construction of an underground defense system Sunday along its northern frontier with Lebanon to protect against cross-border tunnels.

[Israel Air Force inaugurates its second F-35 squadron](#)

January 17, 2020, Times of Israel

The Israeli Air Force on Thursday inaugurated its second squadron of F-35 fifth-generation stealth aircraft, known as the "Lions of the South," reviving the historic 116th Squadron.

[Israel launches civil aviation cybersecurity plan](#)

January 13, 2020, China.org.in

The Israeli government approved a civil aviation cybersecurity program, the Israel National Cyber Directorate (INCD) reported on Sunday. As part of the plan, a national steering committee will be established, to advance Israel's capabilities in this field.

Jordan

[Jordan Parliament passes draft law to ban gas imports from Israel](#)

January 20, 2020, Al Jazeera

The Parliament of Jordan has approved a draft law to ban imports of Israeli gas just days after they started under a multibillion-dollar deal struck in 2016 that is opposed by much of the population.

[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.

Kuwait

[Philippines imposes total ban on sending workers to Kuwait](#)

January 16, 2020, Arab News

The Philippines has announced a total ban on sending Filipino workers to Kuwait. The development comes two weeks after the death of Filipino national Jeanelyn Villavende in the Gulf state.

Lebanon

[Hezbollah warns of 'chaos' if Lebanon government further delayed](#)

January 17, 2020, Times of Israel

A senior Hezbollah official warned Friday that Lebanon could fall into chaos and “complete collapse” unless a new government is formed.

[Hundreds wounded as clashes in Lebanon escalate](#)

January 19, 2020, France 24 News

Almost 400 people were wounded Saturday during running battles between Lebanese anti-government protesters and security forces in the capital Beirut.

['This is your fault': UN blasts politicians over Lebanon chaos](#)

January 15, 2020, Arab News

The UN accused Lebanese politicians on Wednesday of standing by while the country descends into chaos, after an overnight rampage by mobs targeting bank buildings in an upmarket area of Beirut.

[Crisis-hit Lebanon on brink of forming new government](#)

January 16, 2020, Reuters

Lebanon is on the brink of forming a new government, caretaker finance minister Ali Hassan Khalil said on Thursday, as pressure mounts to put forward an economic rescue plan to pull the country out of a deep financial crisis.

Oman

[PM Modi congratulates Sayyid Haitham on becoming Oman's Sultan](#)

January 13, 2020, India Today

Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended congratulations to the newly anointed Oman's Sultan HM Sayyid Haitham bin Tariq al Said. Tariq succeeded his cousin Qaboos bin Said who passed away on January 10.

Qatar

[Qatar signs \\$470 mn solar deal](#)

January 19, 2020, Yahoo News

Gas-rich Qatar signed a \$470-million deal on Sunday to build its first solar energy plant, capable of meeting up to one-tenth of peak national power demand.

[Former Barclays boss accused of 'funneling funds' to Qatar](#)

January 16, 2020, The Guardian

Prosecutors have accused a former Barclays boss of proposing two separate illegal deals before settling on an advisory agreement that allegedly disguised the true nature of £322m in payments to Qatar in 2008.

[India-Qatar bolster relationship with events as part of 'Year of Culture' series](#)

January 18, 2020, WION

The decision to jointly celebrate the India-Qatar Year of Culture in 2019 was taken during the visit of the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, to Qatar in June 2016. This understanding was reflected in the Joint Statement issued at that time. The Embassy of India, with the support of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, has since been organising a 'Festival of India' in Qatar, to showcase the deep cultural roots and people-to-people links between India and Qatar.

Saudi Arabia

[Official: Hamas relations with Saudi Arabia 'estranged'](#)

January 17, 2020, Middle East Monitor

A member of Hamas' political bureau Khalil Al-Hayya said Thursday that relations with Saudi Arabia are "estranged," denying enmity with Riyadh. "Perhaps [there] is a rupture of relations that the brothers of Saudi Arabia have imposed," Al-Hayya said in an interview published by the movement's official website.

[France deploys radar system in Saudi Arabia to 'reassure' kingdom](#)

January 17, 2020, Reuters

France has deployed a radar system on the eastern coast of Saudi Arabia to beef up its ally's defenses after missile attacks on the kingdom's oil infrastructure in September, French officials said.

[Saudi Arabia offers 'full support' to Cyprus amid Eastern Mediterranean tensions](#)

January 19, 2020, Arab News

Saudi Arabia's King Salman received on Sunday the Cypriot Foreign Minister Nikos Christodoulides. They discussed bilateral relations between the two countries and ways of enhancing and developing them. They also reviewed regional and international issues of common concern.

[Saudi Arabia has paid \\$500M toward the cost of US troops in country](#)

January 17, 2020, CNN International

Saudi Arabia has paid the US approximately \$500 million to begin to cover the cost of US troops operating in the country, according to a US official.

[Pentagon to soon resume Saudi training halted after base shooting](#)

January 17, 2020, Al Jazeera

US training for more than 800 Saudi Arabian military students could be restarted "in the coming days," the Pentagon said Thursday, nearly six weeks after a shooting by one Saudi trainee killed three sailors at a Florida base.

[Saudi Arabia Says It Slashed December Oil Production By 300,000 Bpd](#)

January 15, 2020, Oilprice.com

OPEC's largest producer and de facto leader, Saudi Arabia, told the cartel that its December crude oil production dropped by nearly 300,000 bpd from November to 9.594 million bpd, a much steeper decline than OPEC's secondary-sources

estimate of an 111,000-bpd fall, the organization's Monthly Oil Market Report (MOMR) showed on Wednesday.

Syria

[Israel attacked T-4 airbase, says Syria army](#)

January 15, 2020, Middle East Monitor

According to the Syrian Ministry of Defence, the Israeli Air Force attacked the T-4 military airport near the city of Homs in western Syria.

[US troops block Russian forces way to oil field](#)

January 19, 2020, Middle East Monitor

US soldiers present in regions under YPG group's control in Syria, on Saturday stopped Russian soldiers who wanted to reach oil fields, according to a report by Anadolu Agency.

[27,000 more civilians flee Idlib de-escalation zone](#)

January 19, 2020, Middle East Monitor

Around 27,000 civilians have fled their homes falling inside the Idlib de-escalation zone in Syria over the last three days due to attacks of regime and its allies.

[Syria's war: More than 20 killed in air raids on rebel-held Idlib](#)

January 17, 2020, Al Jazeera

At least 21 people were killed in Syria's rebel-held Idlib province as government forces and their Russian allies intensified an air offensive on the country's northwest.

Turkey

[Turkey to be involved in Libya until GNA's independence secured](#)

January 19, 2020, Daily Sabah

Turkey will reap the fruits of its efforts regarding Libya in the upcoming talks in Berlin, Erdoğan said in a joint news conference with Putin ahead of the summit on Sunday. The two presidents spoke in an inter-delegation meeting, which included Defense Minister Hulusi Akar, Foreign Minister Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, the head of Turkey's National Intelligence Organization (MİT) Hakan Fidan, Presidential Communications Director Fahrettin Altun, Presidential Spokesman Ibrahim Kalın and other top officials.

[India has not put curbs on imports from Malaysia, Turkey: Piyush Goyal](#)

January 16, 2020, Livemint

India's Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday said that New Delhi has not imposed any curbs on imports from Malaysia and Turkey.

[Turkey, India target \\$10B trade volume by 2020](#)

January 15, 2020, Anadolu Agency

Turkey and India have recently seen rapid expansion of trade and two-way investments, however, as G-20 countries, the potential is much higher, India's envoy to Ankara said on Wednesday.

[Turkey considering 'mission accomplished' in Syria - experts](#)

January 17, 2020, The Jerusalem Post

A meeting between the Turkish and Syrian intelligence chiefs in Russia is a sign that Ankara is moving closer to handing back lands in northern Syria to President Bashar al-Assad.

UAE

[UAE, India share 'strong sense of responsibility' to environment](#)

January 19, 2020, Khaleej Times

Dr Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, UAE Minister of Climate Change and Environment, has highlighted the strong bilateral ties between the UAE and India that extend beyond economic synergies at Kerala Literature Festival 2020.

[UAE civil court verdicts against loan defaulters can be executed in India](#)

January 20, 2020, Khaleej Times

Indian expats in the UAE can no longer seek safe haven in their home country if they are convicted in a civil case here. Verdicts against bank loan defaulters and other civil case convicts can now be executed in India, legal experts told Khaleej Times.

Yemen

[UN official warns Yemen could face brink of famine again](#)

January 16, 2020, The Republic

War-battered Yemen could face the threat of famine again because of the rapid depreciation of its currency and disruptions to salary payments, a senior U.N. humanitarian official warned the Security Council on Thursday.

[80 soldiers killed by Iran-backed Houthi rebels in Yemen](#)

January 19, 2020, CNN International

At least 80 Yemeni soldiers attending prayers at a mosque were killed and 130 others injured in ballistic missile and drone attacks by Iran-backed Houthi rebels, the UN Special Envoy for Yemen reported Sunday.

[Yemen resilient and 'unscathed' in face of latest Gulf crisis](#)

January 16, 2020, UN News

Despite the threat posed by recent tensions in the Gulf, Yemen was able to weather the crisis thanks in part to restraint exercised by its political leaders, the UN Special Envoy for the country said on Thursday.

[Humanitarian situation in Yemen remains fragile -- UN official](#)

January 17, 2020, Xinhua Net

The humanitarian situation in Yemen remains fragile despite improvements in many aspects in the war-torn country over the past year, said a senior UN official on Thursday.



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Core 5A, 1st Floor,
India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road
New Delhi - 110003
India

www.delhipolicygroup.org