



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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Bahrain

[Bahrain, Karnataka sign pact on cooperation in fintech, AI, cyber security](#)

January 24, 2020, Moneycontrol

The Bahrain Economic Development Board (EDB) and Karnataka government on Thursday signed a pact to promote cooperation in AI, fintech and other emerging technologies.

[Bahrain Central Bank to trial crypto toolkit developed by the World Economic Forum](#)

January 24, 2020, International Investment

Bahrain's Central Bank is to pilot a new toolkit developed by the World Economic Forum to check the effect of usage of digital currency in its economy.

Egypt

[Voice of a 3,000-year-old Egyptian mummy reproduced by 3-D printing a vocal tract](#)

January 23, 2020, CNN International

Scientists have revealed what the voice of a mummified Egyptian priest who lived 3,000 years ago would have sounded like by 3-D printing his vocal tract.

[Egypt's FM heads to Washington for Nile dam talks](#)

January 26, 2020, CGTN

Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry on Sunday flew to Washington for talks over the disputed Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) on the Nile River.

[Egypt reveals reason for importing Israel gas](#)

January 25, 2020, Middle East Monitor

The statement revealed that the Egyptian private sector signed agreements to purchase gas from Israeli fields, to be pumped through the pipelines of the Egyptian Natural Gas Holding Company, liquefied at the Egyptian liquefaction factories, and then exported to Europe, thus enhancing Egypt's project to become a regional centre for trading gas and oil.

[Intensive security deployment in Egypt amid calls for demonstrations](#)

January 25, 2020, Middle East Monitor

Egyptian public squares are witnessing intensive security spread by the coup authorities, in conjunction with calls to celebrate the ninth commemoration of the Egyptian revolution that toppled Hosni Mubarak's regime.

Iraq

[Five rockets hit near US embassy in Baghdad, no casualty reported](#)

January 27, 2020, India Today

In an unclaimed attack on the American installations in Iraq, a number of rockets fell near the United States embassy in Baghdad on Sunday, security sources said. They added that at least five Katyusha rockets fell near the US embassy in the Iraqi capital. No casualties have been reported so far.

[US Calls On Iraq to Protect Baghdad Embassy After Rocket Attack](#)

January 26, 2020, Voice of America

The United States called on Iraq Sunday to protect American diplomatic facilities after the U.S. embassy compound in Baghdad was hit by three rockets.

[Iraq Al Ahdab Oil Field Resumes Production After Protests End](#)

January 26, 2020, Bloomberg

Iraq's Al-Ahdab oil field resumed production about a week after operations halted there due to protests by security guards amid unrest in one of OPEC's biggest producers.

[BP Quits Iraq's Kirkuk Oilfield As Studies Disappoint](#)

January 21, 2020, Oilprice.com

UK-based British Petroleum (BP) has withdrawn from the Kirkuk oilfield in northern Iraq after its field study contract expired, and no deal was signed for a potential expansion, likely because of discouraging study results.

[US seeking to carve out Sunni state as its influence in Iraq wanes](#)

January 23, 2020, Middle East Eye

Backed into a corner and influence waning, the United States has in recent weeks been promoting a plan to create an autonomous Sunni region in western Iraq, officials from both countries told Middle East Eye.

[More American troops leave Iraq for medical evaluation after Jan. 8 Iran missile attack](#)

January 22, 2020, Military Times

Additional U.S. troops have been flown out of Iraq for closer evaluation of potential concussion injuries from the Iranian missile attack of Jan. 8, U.S. defense officials said Tuesday.

[Iraqi Shia armed groups condemn Salih-Trump meeting](#)

January 23, 2020, Al Jazeera

Leaders of several Iraqi Shia armed groups have condemned President Barham Salih's meeting with his United States counterpart President Donald Trump, with some threatening to force Salih to resign.

Iran

[Zarif: It's a Disaster for Europe To Be So Subservient to the U.S](#)

January 24, 2020, Spiegel International

In an interview, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif warns of the threat of escalation in the nuclear dispute. He says Tehran won't rule out negotiations with Washington, even after General Qassem Soleimani's assassination, if the U.S. changes course and lifts sanctions.

[Zarif: Iran will quit NPT if nuclear issue referred to UN](#)

January 20, 2020, Ynet news

If Iran is reported to the United Nations Security Council over its nuclear activity, then Tehran will withdraw from the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Monday, according to the official IRNA news agency.

[Trump: US Will not Lift Sanctions to Negotiate with Iran](#)

January 26, 2020, Voice of America

The United States will not lift sanctions on Iran in order to negotiate, U.S. President Donald Trump tweeted late on Saturday, seemingly in response to a Der Spiegel interview with Iran's foreign minister.

[Top US official on Iran Brian Hook says China's oil purchases are 'funding Iran's terrorism'](#)

January 25, 2020, South China Morning Post

Washington's top official for Iran accused China on Friday of financing terrorism by continuing to buy Iranian crude oil and urged Beijing to take the "long view" by siding with the Iranian people rather than the government in Tehran.

[India's rice exports fall sharply as sanctions delay payments from Iran](#)

January 24, 2020, Money Control

Reluctance among Indian traders to ship premium basmati rice to Iran as US sanctions hobble its ability to pay has contributed to a sharp drop in overall exports from the world's biggest supplier of the grain, trade and government sources said.

[Top US Iran envoy: We will kill Soleimani's successor if another American is murdered](#)

January 23, 2020, Vox

The Trump administration's top envoy for Iran just put assassination back on the table when he said the US will take out the successor to slain Iranian military leader Qassem Soleimani – if the successor continues along the path of killing Americans.

[Iran will never seek nuclear weapons: President Rouhani](#)

January 23, 2020, Al Jazeera

Iran will never seek nuclear weapons - with or without the nuclear deal, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said on Wednesday.

[US calls Iran's \\$3m reward to kill Trump 'ridiculous'](#)

January 21, 2020, Arab News

An Iranian lawmaker offered a \$3 million reward to anyone who killed US President Donald Trump and said Iran could avoid threats if it had nuclear arms, ISNA news agency reported on Tuesday amid Tehran's latest standoff with Washington.

Israel

[US presidential candidate Michael Bloomberg vows to back Israel, takes dig at Bernie Sanders](#)

January 27, 2020, Moneycontrol

US presidential contender Michael Bloomberg on January 26 pledged to "always have Israel's back," while separately joking he was the only Jewish candidate who does not want to turn the United States into a "kibbutz."

[Former US ambassador to UN Haley defends timing of Trump peace plan rollout](#)

January 27, 2020, Times of Israel

Former US ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley defended the imminent unveiling of the US peace plan and rejected the idea that the Trump administration was trying to help out Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in his campaign for the upcoming elections.

[Israel Issues Warning for China Travel as Deadly Virus Spreads](#)

January 27, 2020, Haaretz

Israel's Health Ministry said on Sunday it is advising citizens against all non-essential travel to China and advised against any travel to Hubei Province, where an outbreak of the deadly coronavirus had resulted in 56 deaths to date.

[Air India doubles flights on Tel Aviv-New Delhi route to tackle passenger rush](#)

January 26, 2020, Livemint

In view of the increase in passenger traffic on the Tel Aviv-New Delhi sector, India's official carrier Air India will double the number of flights on the route to six per week from April.

[Bennett conditions support for Trump peace plan on immediate annexation of West Bank settlement](#)

January 26, 2020, Times of Israel

Defense minister says his Yamina party won't support establishment or recognition of Palestinian state, calls for government to apply sovereignty over settlements next week.

[Israel to allow Israelis to travel to Saudi Arabia: Reports](#)

January 26, 2020, Middle East Eye

Israel's Interior Minister Arye Dery signed a directive on Sunday that will permit Israelis to travel to Saudi Arabia for the first time in the country's history, according to Haaretz.

[Macron, Netanyahu agree on 'strategic dialogue'](#)

January 23, 2020, China.org.cn

French President Emmanuel Macron and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday agreed to convene a "strategic dialogue" over regional issues, said the Israeli prime minister's office.

[India expresses solidarity with Israel as world leaders gather in Jerusalem against anti-Semitism](#)

January 23, 2020, Deccan Herald

India on Thursday expressed solidarity with Israel as the world leaders from 47 countries descended in Jerusalem to attend the World Holocaust Forum and commemorate the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz camp.

[On Israel trip for Auschwitz anniversary, Macron says Iran must never get nuclear weapons](#)

January 22, 2020, France 24

President Emmanuel Macron said France was determined Iran would never gain a nuclear weapon but it wanted to avoid any military escalation in the Middle East, after he met with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday.

[Abbas spokesman warns US and Israel not to cross 'red lines' with peace plan](#)

January 23, 2020, Times of Israel

Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas's spokesman warned Israel and the United States on Thursday not to cross any "red lines," following a flurry of reports in Hebrew media about the Trump administration's plan to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

[Donald Trump invites Israeli leaders to Washington to hear peace plan details](#)

January 23, 2020, The Guardian

Donald Trump has invited Israel's prime minister and leader of the opposition to Washington for talks on the "prospects of peace", signalling that the White House

was preparing to share details of its long-awaited "ultimate deal" for Israelis and Palestinians.

Jordan

[Envoy hails 'cordial' India-Jordan ties as embassy marks Republic Day](#)

January 26, 2020, MENAFN

Indo-Jordanian ties have always been 'cordial and trustworthy', Indian ambassador to Jordan Anwar Haleem said.

[Jordan's FM warns annexation would end chances for Israeli-Palestinian peace](#)

January 23, 2020, Times of Israel

Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi warned on Thursday that Israeli annexation of the Jordan Valley would spell the death of the two-state solution and terminate all opportunities to achieve peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

[Jordan's King meets Indian national security adviser](#)

January 20, 2020, MENAFN

His Majesty King Abdullah met with Indian National Security Adviser Ajit Doval on Sunday to discuss bilateral relations and the latest regional and international developments.

Kuwait

[Kuwait outraged after Filipino 'blood for blood' demand](#)

January 26, 2020, Gulf News

Kuwait has denounced as a "rejected transgression" remarks by a senior Philippine officer who demanded "blood for blood" in the case of a Filipina recently killed in Kuwait, triggering tensions between the two countries.

[Kuwait investor announces \\$8bn petroleum refinery in Jordan](#)

January 23, 2020, Middle East Monitor

The estimated cost of a petroleum refinery complex which will be set up in the southern Jordanian city of Ma'an has reached nearly \$8 billion, Kuwaiti investor Sheikh Mishaal Al Jarrah Al Sabah announced yesterday.

[Kuwait firm to set up Rs 49,000 cr oil refinery in Tamil Nadu: Chief Minister Palaniswami](#)

January 23, 2020, The Economic Times

Kuwait based Al Kharafi plans to set up an oil refinery and a petrochemical manufacturing facility at an investment of Rs 49,000 crore in Tamil Nadu, Chief Minister K Palaniswami said here on Thursday.

Lebanon

[Lebanon protests: New government ends months of deadlock](#)

January 22, 2020, BBC News

Lebanon has formed a new government, ending months of deadlock that have left the country adrift as an economic crisis deepens. The Hezbollah movement and its allies chose university professor Hassan Diab to replace him last month, but they could not agree the cabinet's make-up.

[Lebanon's 'Mother of the Revolution' ready to cling on until real change comes](#)

January 26, 2020, France 24

Lina Boubess became an icon of Lebanon's protest movement when a photograph of her trying to prevent an arrest went viral last year. More than 100 days after she took to the streets demanding change, Boubess tells FRANCE 24 she's not ready to quit – yet.

Oman

[Oman says supports Saudi readiness to react to coronavirus impact on oil market](#)

January 27, 2020, Reuters

Oman's energy minister Mohammed bin Hamad al-Rumhy told Reuters on Monday he fully supported Saudi Arabia's readiness to react to any impact the new coronavirus could have on the oil market.

[Iran, Oman Discuss Safety of Navigation in Hormuz Strait](#)

January 26, 2020, Iran Front Page

In the meeting, the two ministers discussed bilateral and regional issues, particularly the mutual cooperation between Iran and Oman in the Strait of Hormuz.

Qatar

[Qatar UN envoy reiterates call to settle dispute with blockade countries](#)

January 20, 2020, Middle East Monitor

Qatar has reiterated its call to settle its dispute with the blockade countries – namely Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Egypt and Bahrain – “peacefully”, through constructive and unconditional dialogue, preserving the sovereignty of states within the framework of the United Nations Charter, international law and the principles of friendly relations between countries.

[Qatar 'fake news' law signals 'worrying regression': Rights group](#)

January 24, 2020, Al Jazeera

A new law in Qatar that criminalises the publication of statements deemed “false” or “biased” could lead to significant restrictions on freedom of expression, an international rights group has warned.

[India may seek renegotiation of LNG price from Qatar: Dharmendra Pradhan](#)

January 24, 2020, ET Energy World

India may seek to reopen the pricing of its long-term LNG import contract with Qatar to reflect falling rates of the spot or current market, Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said on Thursday. “Energy Minister of Qatar is coming for bilateral discussion (to India) at the end of the month.

[Indian Coast Guard Ship to visit Qatar to mark India's 71st Republic Day celebrations](#)

January 23, 2020, The Peninsula

In the framework of the deep-rooted friendly ties and multi- faceted and growing cooperation between India and the State of Qatar, Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Samudra Paheredar will be visiting Hamad Port from January 23 to 27 in conjunction with the celebrations of India's 71st Republic Day (January 26).

[Saudi official tells Qatar to stop supporting terrorists](#)

January 22, 2020, Gulf News

Qatar must stop supporting terrorism and spreading hate, Saudi Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Adel Al Jubeir said amid a lingering row between the kingdom and a Saudi-led Arab bloc.

Saudi Arabia

[Saudi Arabia, UAE slam 'Houthi' missile attack in Yemen's Marib](#)

January 20, 2020, Al Jazeera

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, key players in a military coalition battling the Houthi rebels in war-torn Yemen, have condemned a missile attack that killed more than 100 Yemeni soldiers.

[Aramco IPO Proceeds To Fund Saudi Defense Projects](#)

January 22, 2020, Oilprice.com

Saudi Arabia will use part of the money raised through Aramco's initial public offering to strengthen its defense capabilities, Saudi Finance Minister Mohammed al-Jadaan told Reuters in an interview at the World Economic Forum in Davos.

[Coronavirus: Saudi airports take precautionary measures](#)

January 26, 2020, Gulf News

Saudi authorities have said they are enforcing precautionary measures at the kingdom's airports against the new flu-like coronavirus, which has claimed dozens of lives in China.

[Indian nurse in Saudi isn't affected by coronavirus, clarifies the kingdom](#)

January 24, 2020, Livemint

A Saudi health ministry affiliate said on Thursday there were no cases of coronavirus in the kingdom, denying earlier reports of an expatriate resident being infected.

[Saudis involved in hacking of Amazon boss Bezos' phone](#)

January 22, 2020, Middle East Monitor

Two UN officials will report on Wednesday that there is enough evidence suggesting that Saudi Arabia had hacked Amazon.com Inc founder Jeff Bezos' phone and both the kingdom and the United States should investigate, a person familiar with the matter said.

Syria

[General: US committed to Syria fight; Missions up against IS](#)

January 26, 2020, Associated Press

Gen. Frank McKenzie, the U.S Middle East commander, knows the future is not certain. But at least for today, he said, "this is an area where we made a commitment. I think we're going to be here for a while."

[US forces block Russian convoy for fourth time in 8 days amid tension over Syrian oil fields](#)

January 26, 2020, Daily Sabah

Tensions between U.S. and Russia military forces over gaining control over key oil fields in northeastern Syria are intensifying, as American troops on Sunday blocked a Russian convoy trying to gain access to the oil fields for the fourth time in the last eight days.

[The Final Battle for Syria Has Begun](#)

January 26, 2020, Daily Beast

Syrian activists report that the Assad regime has launched its most intense assault since the beginning of the war almost nine years ago. The target is Idlib, the last opposition holdout in northwestern Syria.

[Over 31,000 civilians flee Idlib](#)

January 26, 2020, Anadolu Agency

Around 31,600 more civilians have fled their homes in Idlib de-escalation zone in Syria over the last two days due to attacks by the regime and its allies.

[Syria war: Jihadist assault 'kills dozens of soldiers'](#)

January 23, 2020, BBC News

Up to 40 Syrian soldiers have been killed in an assault by hundreds of militants in north-western Syria, according to Russia's defence ministry.

[Tensions in Syria's Daraa are getting out of hand](#)

January 26, 2020, Middle East Eye

Assad may have conquered the cradle of the Syrian revolution, but attacks on his forces there show the province is far from tamed.

Turkey

[Turkey's Erdogan: No military solution to the conflict in Libya](#)

January 26, 2020, Al Jazeera

Unilateral recourse to force will not bring peace to Libya, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan cautioned on the first of a two-day visit to Algeria.

[Turkey pledges to prevent Libya from becoming 'playground' of terrorists](#)

January 26, 2020, Daily Sabah

Turkey will continue to side with the Libyan people to prevent the conflict-ravaged country from becoming a playground for terrorist groups and warlords, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said Sunday in Algeria, the first stop of his three-nation African tour.

[Erdogan embarks on 3-country Africa tour](#)

January 26, 2020, Anadolu Agency

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Sunday departed for Algeria, the first stop of his three-nation African tour.

[Death toll rises to 36 and at least 1,607 hospitalized in Turkey earthquake](#)

January 26, 2020, CNN International

At least 36 people died and more than 1,607 have been hospitalized in eastern Turkey after an earthquake rattled the region on Friday evening, according to state broadcaster TRT Haber. The 6.7-magnitude quake struck near the town of Sivrice, in eastern Elazig province, causing at least 10 buildings to collapse.

[Israel-Greece-Cyprus take on Turkey in the Mediterranean](#)

January 23, 2020, Al-Monitor

The Israel Defense Forces published its annual intelligence assessment Jan. 15 and for the first time reportedly included the aggressive regional policies of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan as a top danger to watch, but it does not foresee a direct confrontation with Turkey in 2020.

UAE

[UAE issues travel warning to China following coronavirus outbreak](#)

January 27, 2020, Khaleej Times

In its official Twitter account, the ministry called on Emiratis to postpone their travel to the People's Republic of China, "except in cases of extreme necessity".

['The world is one family' theme for Indian Republic Day celebrations in UAE](#)

January 26, 2020, Khaleej Times

A flag-hoisting ceremony was organised at the Indian diplomatic missions in Abu Dhabi and Dubai, with smaller celebrations in other emirates. The UAE-India relations, 'Vasudev kutumbakam' (the Sanskrit phrase for 'the world is one family'), and the upcoming Dubai Expo 2020 were highlighted as major themes in the celebrations.

[UAE embassy issues statement on China coronavirus outbreak](#)

January 23, 2020, Khaleej Times

The UAE embassy in China has shared an article on how the country is taking 'strictest measures' to contain the coronavirus outbreak. Taking to Twitter on Thursday, the embassy tweeted a comprehensive article by China Daily on what steps the government has taken so far to stop the mysterious virus from spreading after it was first detected in Wuhan in December of last year.

Yemen

[Yemen rebels advance as loyalists beat 'tactical' retreat](#)

January 25, 2020, Al Jazeera

Houthi rebels have gained ground east of the Yemeni capital Sanaa, in what the defence minister acknowledged as a "tactical withdrawal" by government loyalists.

[Fighting escalates in Yemen since Houthi mosque attack](#)

January 26, 2020, Middle East Eye

Fighting between Saudi-backed forces loyal to internationally recognised president Abd Rabbuh Mansour Hadi and the Houthis near Sanaa, Yemen's capital, has intensified after a Houthi air strike on a mosque killed more than 100 people in Marib last week.

[UN envoy arrives in Yemen's capital to push for de-escalation](#)

January 24, 2020, Xinhua Net

The UN envoy to Yemen Martin Griffiths arrived in Yemen's rebel-held capital Sanaa on Thursday in an attempt to calm down tension as fighting near the capital threatens to fail the peace process.



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