



Delhi Policy Group

DPG WEST ASIA REVIEW



Volume II, Issue 5 | February 3, 2020



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Volume 2, Issue 5

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](#).

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Delhi Policy Group

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Bahrain

[Maritime coalition to protect ships in the Gulf from Iran may 'be needed for years'](#)

February 2, 2020, Sky News

An international maritime coalition set up to deter attacks by Iran against shipping in the Gulf will be needed for months, possibly even years, a Bahrain naval officer has told Sky News.

[NRIs earning in UAE, Bahrain won't have to pay tax in India: Revenue Secretary Pandey](#)

February 2, 2020, The Print

The government has no intention of taxing non-resident Indians (NRIs) who earn an income in the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, Revenue Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey said in an interview, in what is likely to come as a relief to the Indian community living in those countries.

Egypt

[Modi government wants Egypt to buy surplus wheat, after refusing Turkey and desperate Iran](#)

January 31, 2020, The Print

The Narendra Modi government has reached out to Egypt to purchase India's surplus wheat, a month after it refused to sell the grain to Turkey and Iran.

[66 European MPs condemn human rights situation in Egypt](#)

February 3, 2020, Middle East Monitor

66 French European MPs from various political parties condemned the human rights situation in Egypt and the "unprecedented escalation of oppression," calling for the release of the imprisoned people "for their defence of human rights."

[Egypt's flag carrier suspends China flights starting Feb. over coronavirus](#)

January 30, 2020, Egypt Today

Egypt's national airline EgyptAir on Thursday announced suspending flights between Egypt and China, after the last Chinese delegation currently in Egypt departs on February 4th, amid an outbreak of a new deadly coronavirus.

Iraq

[Death toll from protests in Iraq hits 556: Rights group](#)

February 3, 2020, Anadolu Agency

The death toll from anti-government protests in Iraq has risen to 556, Iraq's Independent High Commission for Human Rights said Sunday.

[Suspicious oil deals dissipate Iraq's resources](#)

February 2, 2020, The Arab Weekly

The interim government approved a new round of licences, which had first been granted nine years ago by Hussain al-Shahristani, oil minister in the government of Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki. Subsequent investigations claimed the deals were corrupt and unfair to Iraq.

[Iraq's Basra airport to deny entry to travellers from China and Chinese citizens over coronavirus](#)

February 1, 2020, Reuters

Iraq's Basra International Airport will deny entry to passengers of any nationality travelling to Iraq from China, the state news agency reported on Friday amid fears from the coronavirus outbreak.

[Mohammed Allawi appointed new Iraq PM, protesters reject him](#)

February 2, 2020, Al Jazeera

Anti-government protesters in Iraq have been quick to dismiss President Barham Salih's appointment of Mohammed Tawfiq Allawi as prime minister-designate, as rallies took place in the capital, Baghdad, and cities in the country's southern provinces.

[More American Troops Sustain Brain Injuries From Iran Missile Strike in Iraq](#)

January 30, 2020, The New York Times

The Defense Department said that 64 troops had sustained traumatic brain injuries after the Iranian ballistic missile strikes on Ayn Al Asad Air Base in Iraq this month, up 14 from an earlier announcement this week.

Iran

[Indian Budget Allocates Close to \\$14 Million to Chabahar Port Project](#)

February 2, 2020, Financial Tribune

In India, Rs 17,300 crore (\$2.41 billion) have been allocated for the Ministry of External Affairs in the budget, with Rs100 crore (\$13.98 million) earmarked for the strategic Chabahar Port project in southeastern Iran, which gives India connectivity to Afghanistan bypassing Pakistan.

[Rouhani says Iran must have right to choose amid mass rejection of candidates](#)

February 2, 2020, Times of Israel

Iranians must have the “right to choose” between different political movements, President Hassan Rouhani said Sunday, as controversy grew over the disqualification of thousands of candidates in upcoming polls.

[Iran welcomes Allawi's appointment as Iraqi prime minister, calls for U.S. pullout](#)

February 2, 2020, Reuters

Iran on Sunday offered its full support for new Iraqi prime minister Mohammed Tawfiq Allawi and reiterated its backing for the government’s demand for U.S. forces to leave the country.

[The Two Global Powers Controlling Iran's Oil Sector](#)

February 2, 2020, Oilprice.com

The last major foreign development firms that remain in Iran, principally from China and Russia, in the meantime, are equally keen to obfuscate the extent of their presence in Iran not just by engaging in these shared reservoirs in preference to standalone fields but also by operating where they can as just straightforward ‘contractors’, rather than fully-fledged field developers.

[Advisor To Iran's Khamenei Says People Should Fast To Resist US Sanctions](#)

February 2, 2020, Radio Farda

A military advisor to Iran’s Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei has said Iranians should fast Ramadan style to show “the enemy” they can resist its sanctions.

[Saudi Arabia blocks Iran from Islamic grouping's meeting: Tehran](#)

February 2, 2020, Reuters

Saudi Arabia has barred an Iranian delegation from an Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) meeting in Jeddah on Monday where U.S. President Donald Trump's Middle East peace plan will be discussed, the Iranian foreign ministry said.

[Iran suspends China flights due to coronavirus](#)

February 1, 2020, Tehran Times

Health Minister Saeed Namaki said that screening and surveillance is underway across all the country's air and sea borders, and no cases of coronavirus have been reported so far.

Israel

[Trump releases Middle East peace plan for Israel-Palestine](#)

January 28, 2020, Vox

President Donald Trump on Tuesday released his long-awaited Middle East peace plan. Speaking at the White House alongside Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Trump outlined his “vision for peace, prosperity, and a brighter future for Israelis and Palestinians.”

[Israel rejects Trump’s idea of redrawing borders, moving Arab towns to Palestine](#)

February 2, 2020, Times of Israel

Senior officials in the Prime Minister’s Office said that even if a Palestinian state is established under the Trump peace plan there will not be a redrawing of Israel’s borders to see Arab towns in the so-called Triangle area included in the future Palestine.

[Jared Kushner insists Middle East peace plan is ‘a real effort to break logjam’](#)

February 2, 2020, The Guardian

Though the Palestinian Authority has cut ties with the US and Israel over the Trump administration’s plan for Middle East peace, its author has insisted his plan is not dead yet.

[China apologizes after envoy says Israel’s travel ban reminiscent of Holocaust](#)

February 2, 2020, Times of Israel

China’s acting ambassador to Israel caused a stir Sunday when he noted that China had let Jews into the country during the Holocaust and expressed hope that Israel would not close the door to his countrymen in the face of the spread of a deadly virus.

[Netanyahu rejected an Omani proposal for Israel-Iran talks in 2013](#)

February 3, 2020, Axios

In mid-2013, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu rejected a proposal from the Sultanate of Oman to mediate a back channel between Israel and Iran, believing it would legitimize the secret U.S.-Iran talks that ultimately led to the 2015 nuclear deal, according to four former Israeli officials involved in the negotiations.

[Militants Suspected of Blowing Up Israel-Egypt Gas Pipeline, Officials Say](#)

February 2, 2020, Haaretz

Armed individuals are suspected of blowing up the gas pipeline stretching between Israel and Egypt, Egyptian security officials said Sunday night.

Jordan

[Jordan halts animal, plant products imports from China over Coronavirus](#)

February 3, 2020, Middle East Monitor

Jordanian authorities have announced a halt to the Chinese animal and vegetable products, as a precaution for the deadly Coronavirus, the agriculture ministry announced yesterday.

[King of Jordan confirms 'firm' stance on Palestine cause](#)

February 1, 2020, Middle East Monitor

Jordanian King Abdullah II confirmed on Friday his country's "firm" position on the Palestinian cause, as well as its support for the Palestinian people, Jordanian and official Palestinian media reported.

[Jordan agrees \\$1.3bn IMF programme - Petra](#)

January 31, 2020, Al Jazeera

Jordan has agreed a new \$1.3bn programme with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and will receive a first instalment of \$140m by the end of March, the state news agency Petra said on Thursday.

['Enemy Invasion': Jordanians slam \\$10bn deal with Israel](#)

February 3, 2020, Al Jazeera

Protesters in Jordan are decrying a deal that will see Israel pump \$10bn worth of gas into the country, calling it an "enemy invasion". Although Jordan has a peace treaty with Israel, it is also home to the largest population of Palestinians outside the Occupied Territories.

Kuwait

[Saudi Arabia, Kuwait to resume oil production from joint Khafji field](#)

February 3, 2020, Middle East Monitor

Saudi Arabia and Kuwait started preparing for the resumption of production from the Khafji oilfield jointly operated by the two countries.

Lebanon

[Hundreds protest against US Mideast peace plan in Lebanon](#)

February 2, 2020, France 24 News

More than 200 Lebanese and Palestinians held a protest Sunday near the U.S. Embassy in Lebanon against a White House plan for ending the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

[Lebanon spells out 'painful steps' required in financial rescue plan](#)

February 2, 2020, Arab News

A policy statement by Lebanon's new government calls for interest rate cuts and bank recapitalization in a rescue plan that includes "painful steps" to address a financial crisis.

Oman

[No move by Indian government to levy income tax on NRIs](#)

February 2, 2020, Times of Oman

Indians in Oman and other overseas countries do not have to pay income taxes to the Indian government, unless they work for the overseas office of an Indian company.

Qatar

[Qatar Emir names Khalid Bin Khalifa Al Thani as Prime Minister](#)

January 28, 2020, Gulf News

Qatar's ruler appointed a new prime minister on Tuesday, the state news agency reported, replacing veteran regime insider Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani.

[Qatar not keen to renegotiate LNG contracts with India](#)

January 28, 2020, Middle East Monitor

Qatar is not willing to renegotiate prices under its long-term liquefied natural gas (LNG) contracts with India, Qatari energy minister, Saad Sherida Al-Kaabi, announced.

[UAE nuclear reactor ready; Qatar views it as a threat](#)

January 30, 2020, Middle East Monitor

The United Arab Emirates Barakah nuclear power plant is ready to operate, the UAE's state-run Emirates News Agency (WAM) reported.

Saudi Arabia

['Special flight' evacuates 10 Saudi students from Wuhan amid coronavirus outbreak](#)

February 2, 2020, Gulf News

Saudi Arabia has evacuated 10 Saudi students from Wuhan, according to Saudi state television which quoted a Saudi diplomat. The 10 students were not displaying any symptoms of the virus and will be kept in quarantine upon arrival.

[Saudi Arabia and other Gulf States to fund US 'deal of the century'](#)

January 28, 2020, Middle East Monitor

Saudi Arabia along with a number of the other Gulf States have pledged to fund US President Donald Trump's "deal of the century" for the Israel-Palestine conflict.

[Saudi Arabia's FM meets with US, Indian ambassadors in Riyadh](#)

January 30, 2020, Arab News

Saudi Arabia's foreign minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan met with the US ambassador to the Kingdom John Abizaid in Riyadh on Thursday. During the meeting, the two discussed global developments and the ongoing situation in the Middle East.

Syria

[Rebel-held Idlib 'hit by 200 air strikes in three days'](#)

January 30, 2020, BBC News

There have been 200 air strikes on opposition-held territory in northern Syria in the last three days, mainly targeting civilians, the US has said. Special envoy James Jeffrey told reporters the attacks in Idlib province had been carried out by the Syrian government and its ally, Russia.

[Children bearing the brunt of latest escalation in Syrian civil war](#)

February 2, 2020, CNN International

Children are suffering in the latest escalation in the nine-year Syrian civil war as civilians face a bleak choice – leave for a life of misery in overcrowded makeshift camps or die. Those are the only options as the Syrian government and its Russian backers pummel the more than 3 million civilians stuck in the last opposition enclave in northwestern Syria.

[Displacement of 700,000 Syrians to Turkey due to regime campaign in Idlib and Aleppo](#)

February 1, 2020, Middle East Monitor

Thousands of people in the Idlib Governorate have become homeless, as a result of the Syrian regime's campaign against opposition-held areas. The United Nations disclosed on Thursday that 700,000 Syrians are fleeing towards the Turkish borders, due to the Syrian regime's campaign that achieved victories in Idlib and Aleppo.

Turkey

[Turkey deploys tanks to Syrian border amid fresh Idlib violence](#)

February 3, 2020, Al Jazeera

Turkey has deployed additional armed vehicles and soldiers to its border with Syria as an intensifying military push by Syrian government forces in the country's last major rebel-held stronghold has prompted fears of a new refugee crisis.

[Russia and Turkey standoff over Syria fighting](#)

February 2, 2020, The Jerusalem Post

Hundreds have been killed in Syria in fighting that spanned around 50 km. from western Aleppo to the town of Saraqib in Syria's Idlib province. The fighting appears to pit Russian-backed Syrian regime forces against areas where Turkish-backed Syrian rebels and extremists are located.

[Turkey's Erdoğan heads for Ukraine as rifts with Moscow deepen](#)

February 3, 2020, Ahval

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan is set to visit Kiev on Monday for a meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky that could have a deep impact on Turkey's broader foreign policy as its relations with Russia reach a rocky patch.

[Pakistani PM: Ties with Turkey get stronger in every area](#)

February 2, 2020, Daily Sabah

Turkish-Pakistani ties get stronger every day in all the areas, said Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan, highlighting the two countries' decades-long past.

[Erdogan: Evil will arrive at Kaaba if Arab, Muslim countries remain silent](#)

February 1, 2020, Middle East Monitor

Turkish president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, slammed Arab and Muslim leaders for accepting or remaining silent on the issue of the US "deal of the century", Turkish media reported. Erdogan reiterated his country's strong opposition to the deal announced at the White House by US President Donald Trump on Tuesday, where ambassadors of three Arab countries were in attendance.

UAE

[US is India's Largest Export Destination, Followed By UAE](#)

January 31, 2020, Businessworld

India's largest export destination remains the United States of America (USA), followed by the United Arab Emirates (UAE), China, and Hong Kong, according to the Economic Survey 2019-20, which was tabled in Parliament by Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

[Abu Dhabi-Dubai announce mega gas project](#)

February 3, 2020, Gulf News

Abu Dhabi and Dubai are to jointly develop a gas reservoir, called "Jebel Ali Project" to support the UAE economy and ensure sustainable growth. The project covers a spread of 5,000 square kilometres between Dubai and Abu Dhabi, and could generate 80 trillion cubic feet of gas once the development reaches full speed.

[Death toll rises to four in Sharjah oil tanker fire](#)

February 3, 2020, Gulf News

The death toll has risen to four in Wednesday's fire on an oil tanker off the coast of Sharjah with the UAE authorities retrieving bodies of two more victims.

[We're one with Wuhan, says UAE](#)

February 2, 2020, Gulf News

Amidst stories of pain and horror that emerged from the coronavirus epidemic, humanity has not lost its conscientious side. On Sunday night, the UAE sent out a simple, compassionate message: "We support Wuhan, and the Chinese communities around the world."

Yemen

[Al-Qaida in Yemen claims deadly Florida naval base shooting](#)

February 2, 2020, Associated Press

Al-Qaida's branch in Yemen claimed responsibility Sunday for last year's deadly shooting at the Naval Air Station Pensacola by an aviation student from Saudi Arabia.

[Yemen's Houthis eye oil-rich Marib after making swift gains](#)

January 31, 2020, Middle East Eye

Fresh from rapid gains in Sanaa province, Yemen's Houthi movement is seeking to push into wealthy government-held areas of Marib, which holds some of the country's most important oil and gas resources.

[UN Experts: Yemen's Rebels Getting Weapons Similar to Iran's](#)

January 31, 2020, The New York Times

Yemen's Houthi Shiite rebels are receiving parts for drones and weapons, some with technical characteristics similar to arms manufactured in Iran, in potential violation of a U.N. arms embargo, U.N. experts say.



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