



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](#).

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Delhi Policy Group

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Bahrain

[Bahrain Works To Attract More Foreign Investments To Achieve Economic Flexibility](#)

February 13, 2020, Xinhua Net

Investors around the world pay increasing attention to Bahrain as the country works hard to protect the flexibility of its economy against the risks of international oil price fluctuations.

[Bahrain's Gas Plans Remain In Flux](#)

February 13, 2020, Petroleum Economist

A commercial start-up date for Bahrain's new LNG facility remains unfixed despite it achieving a technical commissioning milestone, as lengthy discussions with potential LNG suppliers rumble on. Meanwhile, the cash-strapped kingdom—ill-placed financially to become dependent on costly foreign energy—is stepping up decades-long efforts to find and develop indigenous gas resources, with hopes buoyed by a discovery deep below the country's sole oilfield a few years back.

Egypt

[Coronavirus Outbreak: Africa Reports First Case In Egypt](#)

February 15, 2020, India TV

Egypt has confirmed its first case of the deadly Coronavirus which becomes the first case of the novel virus in Africa.

[Egypt's Booming Population Hits 100 Million](#)

February 12, 2020, Al Jazeera

Egypt's fast-growing population has hit 100 million, its statistics agency said, presenting a pressing problem for an already overburdened country with limited resources.

[BP Invested \\$35bn In Egypt, Despite Widespread Corruption](#)

February 13, 2020, Middle East Monitor

British Petroleum (BP) has invested \$35 billion in Egypt making it one of the largest foreign investors in the country. As analysts have pointed out, this means it more or less controls the energy supply in the country producing 50 per cent of Egypt's natural gas consumption.

[Shell Continues To Sell Its Assets In Egypt's Western Desert](#)

February 13, 2020, Middle East Monitor

Shell is still open to receiving offers from potential buyers of the company's onshore upstream assets in Egypt's Western Desert, Shell Egypt's country chair, Khaled Kacem, announced. The Dutch oil giant said in October it was planning to sell its onshore upstream assets in Egypt's Western Desert, in an attempt "to focus on expanding its Egyptian offshore gas exploration."

[Egypt And Italy In Talks On \\$9.8bn Arms Deal](#)

February 11, 2020, Middle East Monitor

Egypt and Italy are close to signing an arms deal worth \$1.3 billion, noting this deal might be part of larger one that worth \$9.8 billion.

[Morocco reject Egypt's proposal of 'unified African Force'](#)

February 11, 2020, Middle East Monitor

A vision within which African forces operate together is preferable than forming a unified African military Force, Moroccan foreign minister, Nasser Bourita, said yesterday, about a recent proposal by the Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi.

Iraq

[Washington To Strengthen Presence Of Nato To Disengage Militarily From Baghdad](#)

February 15, 2020, Middle East Monitor

The approval of the US' allies to strengthen the role of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) mission in Iraq, indicates Washington's intention to "disengage" militarily from Baghdad. However, those allies have asked the US administration to maintain its military engagement in the region to combat Daesh.

[Rockets Strike Near US Embassy In Iraq, No Casualties Reported](#)

February 16, 2020, Al Jazeera

Several rockets landed near the embassy of the United States in Iraq's capital early on Sunday, US and Iraqi military officials said, in the latest of a series of attacks against US assets in the country.

[Iraq Pins Hope On Rajkot For Investment](#)

February 11, 2020, Times of India

Iraq is looking at Saurashtra's commercial capital - Rajkot to boost investments and create jobs in war ravaged country.

[Rocket Attack Hits North Iraq Base Hosting U.S. Troops](#)

February 13, 2020, Gulf News

A rocket attack on Thursday night slammed into an Iraqi base in the remote province of Kirkuk where American troops are stationed, Iraqi and US security sources told AFP.

[US To Renew Iraq Sanctions Waiver For 45 Days](#)

February 12, 2020, Gulf News

The United States will grant Iraq a brief 45-day extension to a waiver allowing Baghdad to continue importing Iranian gas despite American sanctions, an Iraqi official told AFP.

[U.S. Forces Start To Withdraw From 15 Bases In Iraq](#)

February 10, 2020, Gulf News

American forces have started withdrawing from 15 bases in Iraq, Sky News Arabia reported, citing its reporter. France, Germany and Australia submitted a request to the joint special operations command to set up a timetable for withdrawing their own forces from the country, the TV network reported, citing the parliament's defense committee.

[Hezbollah Leading Armed Shia Groups In Iraq After Soleimani's Death](#)

February 13, 2020, Middle East Monitor

Just a few days after the assassination of the head of Iran's Quds Force, Qassim Soleimani, in a US drone attack in Iraq, Hezbollah met with leaders of Shia armed groups to unite them and fill the vacuum left by Soleimani and Abu Mehdi Al-Muhandis.

Iran

[Rouhani: U.S. Maximum Pressure Has Failed](#)

February 16, 2020, Tehran Times

President Hassan Rouhani said on Sunday that the United States' maximum pressure against Iran has failed and sanctions will be ineffective.

[Iran, India Negotiating More On Preferential Trade Agreement \(PTA\)](#)

February 14, 2020, Tehran Times

Initiated in 2016, the negotiation on this agreement is said to be in the final stages, and the two sides hope that the list of the commodity items entitled to preferential tariffs will be finalized in the next round of the talks.

[Zarif: Not Negotiations, US Wants Regime Change In Iran](#)

February 16, 2020, Middle East Monitor

Iranian foreign minister accused the US on Saturday for seeking a regime change in his country, lowering expectations for direct talks between Washington and Tehran.

[Khamenei Loyalists May Tighten Grip At Iran Elections](#)

February 17, 2020, Financial Post

Hardliners are set to tighten control of Iran this week in a parliamentary election stacked in their favor, as the leadership closes ranks in a deepening confrontation with Washington.

[Iran's Foreign Minister Blames Trump's Advisors For 'very Dangerous Moment' In Relations With The Us](#)

February 16, 2020, CNBC News

Iranian foreign minister Mohammad Javad Zarif called the deadly U.S. strike on Iran's top military leader an "act of terror" and blamed President Donald Trump's advisors.

[Iran Starts Election Campaign With Thousands Barred From Standing](#)

February 13, 2020, Middle East Monitor

Iran's week-long parliamentary election campaign started on Thursday, state TV reported, a vote seen as a popularity test for the clerical establishment at a time

when relations with Washington are at their worst since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

[US Senate Votes To Limit Trump's War Powers Against Iran](#)

February 14, 2020, Al Jazeera

The United States Senate backed legislation on Thursday to limit President Donald Trump's ability to wage war against Iran, rebuking the president after a strike against an Iranian military commander and Tehran's retaliation last month raised fears of broader regional conflict.

[How Months of Miscalculation Led the U.S. and Iran to the Brink of War](#)

February 13, 2020, The New York Times

The Trump administration escalated pressure on Iran to try to negotiate over its nuclear aims. Instead, Iran fought back with violent attacks. At critical points, each country misjudged the other.

[Us Warship In Arabian Sea Seizes Suspected Iranian Weapons](#)

February 14, 2020, Al Jazeera

A United States Navy warship seized weapons believed to be of Iranian "design and manufacture", including 150 anti-tank guided missiles and three Iranian surface-to-air missiles, the US military said.

[U.S. Accuses China's Huawei Of Helping Iran Track Protesters](#)

February 14, 2020, Radio Free Europe

The U.S. Justice Department has accused Huawei Technologies of helping Iran track protesters in its latest indictment against the Chinese tech giant as Washington steps up the pressure on the world's largest telecommunications equipment maker.

Israel

[Palestinian Authority PM: Trump's Peace Plan 'Will Be Buried Very Soon'](#)

February 16, 2020, Times of Israel

Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Mohammed Shtayyeh lashed out Sunday at US President Donald Trump's proposal to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, saying it would be "buried very soon."

[If Democrat Wins US Presidential Election, Netanyahu-led Israel In 'Deep Trouble'](#)

February 16, 2020, The Jerusalem Post

Israel will be in "deep trouble" this November if Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is still in office and a Democratic candidate wins the US presidential election, Blue and White leader MK Yair Lapid said.

[Netanyahu Lauds 'first Israeli Flight' Over Sudanese Airspace](#)

February 16, 2020, The Jerusalem Post

The vast majority of Israel's relations with Muslim and Arab countries are not known to the public, said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu Sunday night, adding that the Jewish state was deepening its relationships with numerous such states. The prime minister said that one result of these increasing ties was the first flight of an Israeli airplane in Sudanese airspace.

[Israel Says Hamas Targeted Its Soldiers in 'Honey Trap' Cyberattack](#)

February 16, 2020, Wall Street Journal

The Israeli military said operatives of the Palestinian militant group Hamas targeted its soldiers in a operation that duped them into downloading spyware with the false promise of exchanging illicit photos with young women.

[Gantz's Party Maintains Lead Over Netanyahu's Likud, Israeli Election Poll Shows](#)

February 13, 2020, Haaretz

Benny Gantz's Kahol Lavan party is projected to receive 35 Knesset seats, while Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud is lagging slightly behind with 33 seats in the run-up to Israel's March 2 general election, a poll released on Thursday by Channel 12 News showed.

[First-ever 'Jerusalem-Mumbai Festival' To Be Held Soon](#)

February 13, 2020, Dainik Jagran

The first-ever 'Jerusalem-Mumbai Festival' will be held in Mumbai on February 16, 2020 to promote artistic and cultural ties between India and Israel.

[Palestinians Hail UN List Of Firms Linked To Israeli Settlements](#)

February 13, 2020, Al Jazeera

Palestinian leaders have hailed the United Nations Human Rights Office report, which lists firms linked to illegal Israeli settlements, saying it is a critical step towards boycotting Israeli businesses operating in the occupied West Bank.

[Israel Names Judges For Netanyahu's Corruption Trials](#)

February 13, 2020, Middle East Monitor

Israel's Ministry of Justice yesterday named three judges who will form the court panel of the Jerusalem District Court that will hear the corruption trial of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

[In Jerusalem, Settlement Leaders Protest Netanyahu Annexation Delay](#)

February 14, 2020, Times of Israel

Several hundred protesters gathered at Jerusalem's Paris Square on Thursday night to demand the annexation of parts of the West Bank before elections are held on March 2.

[Hamas to Unilaterally Halt Attacks on Israel, Defense Official Says](#)

February 13, 2020, Haaretz

Hamas has informed Israel that it intends to unilaterally halt the launching of explosive-laden balloons and rockets at Israel, an Israeli defense official said.

Jordan

[Eu's Borrell Warns Of Violence If Israel Annexes Jordan Valley](#)

February 11, 2020, Middle East Monitor

The EU's top diplomat, Josep Borrell, urged Israel on Tuesday not to annex the Jordan Valley, a large swathe of the occupied West Bank, warning of Palestinian protests if it went ahead.

Kuwait

[Philippines Lifts Ban On Sending Labour To Kuwait](#)

February 14, 2020, Middle East Monitor

The Philippines announced a "total lift" to a ban on sending local household workers to Kuwait. Philippine labour minister, Silvestre Bello III, told Kuwait's Al-Qabas that the ban was "lifted permanently," adding that the decision was made in coordination with the country's "foreign ministry and the Department of Labour and Employment."

[Saudi Arabia And Kuwait Are Finally Ready To Restart Their 500,000 Bpd Oilfields](#)

February 13, 2020, Oilprice.com

Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have given the go-ahead to the resumption of oil production from the Wafra oilfield, which has been out of operation since May 2015, due to a dispute between the two neighboring countries.

Lebanon

[Crisis Puts Lebanon's Survival At Stake, Hezbollah Warns](#)

February 16, 2020, Reuters

Lebanon may not survive if its new government fails, the powerful Hezbollah warned on Sunday, urging the country's divided politicians not to obstruct the cabinet as it seeks to address an unprecedented economic and financial crisis.

Oman

[Oman Sees The Biggest Gulf Clash Risk In Strait Of Hormuz](#)

February 16, 2020, The Jerusalem Post

The risk of a military confrontation is higher in the Strait of Hormuz than anywhere else in the Gulf region, Oman's foreign minister said, due in part to the growing number of military vessels from different countries that are guarding it.

[Oman Stamp Declares Jerusalem The Capital Of Palestine](#)

February 10, 2020, Middle East Monitor

Oman is honouring Palestine and its capital Jerusalem by issuing commemorative stamps that read "Al Quds – the Capital of Palestine" as part of collaboration with the Arab Permanent Postal Commission.

Qatar

[Qatar, Uae Show Sign Of Thawing Feud By Resuming Postal Service](#)

February 14, 2020, Middle East Monitor

It looks as though the Gulf monarchies are seeking to bring their three-year long feud to an end. Signs of thawing acrimony have been in the offing for some time with several overtures from both sides, but there has been little to no concrete success. This may be about to change.

[Air India Express to fly new India services to Qatar](#)

February 11, 2020, The Peninsula Qatar

Indian budget airline Air India Express will add a new destination from India to Qatar in March 2020. The airline will start a direct flight from Tiruchirappalli airport in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu to Doha, effective from March 31, 2020.

Saudi Arabia

[Saudi Arabia Plans To Export Gas And Petrochemicals Soon](#)

February 16, 2020, Zawya

Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest crude exporter, plans to add gas and petrochemicals to its slate of exports and will soon make a major announcement on the topic, the Kingdom's energy minister said on Sunday.

[Saudi Arabia Says Yes To More Skilled Workers From Bangladesh](#)

February 16, 2020, Arab News

Dhaka said on Sunday that Saudi Arabia was keen on hiring more skilled workers from Bangladesh, following a Joint Economic Council meeting which concluded in the capital recently.

[Saudi-qatar Talks To End Gulf Dispute Collapse](#)

February 12, 2020, Middle East Monitor

Talks between Saudi Arabia and Qatar to resolve a dispute between the two Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states collapsed shortly after kicking off in October last year; Reuters reported.

[Russia And Saudi Arabia Fight For Market Share In India's Huge Oil Market](#)

February 13, 2020, Oilprice.com

One of the last bulwarks of global crude demand, India has been in the thick of national NOCs' attention – Saudi Arabia will from now on participate in India's Strategic Reserves and has signed up to build a greenfield 1.2mbpd refinery in the state of Maharashtra, the UAE-based ADNOC has joined Saudi Aramco in its refinery project and is seeking further investment opportunities.

[Saudi Arabia Launches New Campaign Of Arrests Against Palestinian Expats](#)

February 14, 2020, Middle East Monitor

Saudi Arabia has launched a new campaign of arbitrary arrests against several Palestinian expatriates living in the kingdom for supporting the Islamic resistance movement, Hamas.

[Saudi Arabia Accuses Turkey Of Supporting Extremist Militias In Three Arab Countries](#)

February 14, 2020, Middle East Monitor

Saudi Minister of Foreign Affairs, Adel Al-Jubeir, confirmed that the kingdom opposes what he described as "Turkey's incursion into Syria, and its support for extremist militias in Libya and Somalia."

Syria

[Iran Expects Major Economic Cooperation With Syria: Speaker](#)

February 17, 2020, China.org.cn

Visiting Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani said on Sunday that his country is expecting major economic cooperation with Syria in the future.

[Turkey-syria Clashes Escalate As 800,000 Displaced People Battle Bitter Temperatures](#)

February 14, 2020, CNBC News

Turkish and Russian-backed Syrian forces have clashed in recent days in Syria's last rebel stronghold, threatening to escalate hostilities in a region where as many as 800,000 civilians have been displaced.

[Russians Pressure U.S. Forces in Northeast Syria](#)

February 14, 2020, New York Times

Russian troops are engaging in standoffs with U.S. troops guarding oil fields and fighting remnants of the Islamic State.

[A Doctor In Idlib: 'it Cannot Get More Evil Than This'](#)

February 13, 2020, Al Jazeera

A Syrian doctor working on the front lines details the personal and human toll of the country's nine-year war.

[Syrian Government Forces Consolidate Grip Around Aleppo](#)

February 16, 2020, Middle East Eye

Syrian government forces made new gains on Sunday in their offensive against the last major rebel bastion in the northwest, seizing villages and towns around the second city Aleppo, state media and a monitor said.

[Syrian Parliament Recognises Armenian Genocide](#)

February 13, 2020, France 24

Syria's parliament on Thursday recognised the 1915-1917 killings of up to 1.5 million Armenians as genocide, as tensions run high with Turkey after deadly clashes in northwest Syria.

Turkey

[India Warns Turkey Not To Meddle With Its Affairs After Erdogan's Remarks On Kashmir In Pakistan Parliament](#)

February 15, 2020, Times Now

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Saturday expressed strong reservations against the references made by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Jammu & Kashmir which were reiterated in Turkey-Pakistan joint declaration.

[Turkey To Stand With Pakistan On Kashmir Issue, Erdoğan Says](#)

February 14, 2020, Daily Sabah

The issue of Kashmir is as important to Turkey as it is to Pakistan, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said on Friday, noting that Turkey has not forgotten the Pakistani people's help during the Turkish War of Independence.

[Jerusalem Is Turkey's Red Line, Says Erdoğan](#)

February 14, 2020, Ahval

Protecting Jerusalem is a red line for Turkey, and Ankara will never leave the holy city to the mercy of the occupant Israeli government, state-run Anadolu Agency quoted Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan as saying in a speech to the Pakistani parliament on Friday.

[Turkey Grows Erratic As Clashes In Idlib Escalate](#)

February 13, 2020, Al-Monitor

A sort of lunacy prevails in Ankara regarding Turkish foreign policy on Syria. The Turkish military casualties in Syria's Idlib and the advances of the Russian-backed Syrian government forces have led the Turkish administration into a frenzy that betrays a lack of rationality and sobriety — two essentials in foreign policy-making.

[Erdogan: Turkey Will Hit Syrian Government Forces 'anywhere'](#)

February 12, 2020, Al Jazeera

Turkey will strike Syrian government forces "anywhere" if one more Turkish soldier is hurt and could use airpower if need be, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said.

[Turkey, Pakistan Relations Peak With Defense Industry Cooperation](#)

February 13, 2020, Daily Sabah

Turkey-Pakistan relations are expected to gain more momentum through a recently strengthened defense industry collaboration in which both countries pledge to contribute to regional safety.

[Us Takes Turkey's Concerns In Idlib Seriously: Official](#)

February 12, 2020, Anadolu Agency

The U.S. is taking Turkey's security concerns seriously in Syrian province of Idlib as confrontation between Ankara and Bashar al-Assad regime's grows, a senior State Department official said Wednesday.

UAE

[UAE Reportedly Held Talks With Iran Behind Washington's Back In September](#)

February 14, 2020, Times of Israel

Emirati and Iranian officials held secret talks in the UAE capital of Abu Dhabi in September in an effort to cool Middle East tensions amid escalating violence between Tehran and Washington.

[Us, Uk, Turkey Urged To Arrest Uae 'war Crimes' Suspects](#)

February 12, 2020, Al Jazeera

Yemeni complainants file charges through UK law firm saying UAE officials hired mercenaries to attack, kill civilians.

Yemen

[Yemen's Air Strikes 'kill 31 Civilians' After Saudi Jet Crash](#)

February 15, 2020, Reuters

Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthi movement accused the Saudi-led coalition of carrying out retaliatory air strikes on Saturday that killed at least 30 people including civilians, in the latest flare-up of a five-year war.

[Pompeo Calls For Action Against Iran After Us Navy Seizes Weapons Sent To Yemen](#)

February 14, 2020, Times of Israel

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Friday called for action against Iran after the US Navy said it had seized an Iranian weapons shipment bound for Houthi rebels in Yemen the day before.



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