



Delhi Policy Group

DPG WEST ASIA REVIEW



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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

[Coronavirus: Bahrain To Hold Formula 1 Gp Without Spectators](#)

March 08, 2020, Gulf News

Bahrain's Formula 1 Grand Prix scheduled for March 20-22 will be held without spectators, the organisers said Sunday in the latest sporting event to be hit by measures to contain the new coronavirus.

Egypt

[Egypt Reports Death Of German National, Its First From Coronavirus](#)

March 08, 2020, Arab News

A 60-year-old German tourist has died in Egypt, becoming its first fatality from the new coronavirus, the health ministry in Cairo announced on Sunday.

[PM Modi Set To Visit Egypt Next Week](#)

March 04, 2020, The Economic Times

Plans are afoot for Prime Minister Narendra Modi to visit Egypt next week, his first visit to the Arab world in 2020, aiming to expand strategic ties with a partner that has stood by India in times of crisis in recent years.

[Egyptian Authorities Announce Execution Of Hesham Ashmawy](#)

March 05, 2020, Middle East Monitor

The Egyptian army executed Hesham Ashmawy, who was convicted of carrying out several terrorist attacks in the country. The army spokesman, Colonel Tamer Al-Rifai, said on his Facebook page: "This morning, the death sentence was carried out against the terrorist Hesham Ashmawy."

Iraq

[Iraq's Angry Protesters Returns To The Streets](#)

March 06, 2020, Middle East Monitor

Iraqi demonstrators started on Thursday morning to close several roads and traffic intersections and burn tires in Basra province, south to denounce the mechanism of choosing a candidate to form the next government, local witnesses said.

[Coronavirus: Iraq Reports First Two Confirmed Deaths As Fears Rise](#)

March 05, 2020, BBC News

Iraq's health ministry has announced its first two confirmed deaths related to the new coronavirus disease. A woman with a compromised immune system and a 65-year-old man who suffered from chronic diseases died on Wednesday in the capital, Baghdad.

[Iraq Temporarily Halts Commercial Exchange With Iran, Kuwait Amid Coronavirus Outbreak](#)

March 5, 2020, Kurdistan 24

Iraq has temporarily suspended trade exchange on its border-crossings with Iran and Kuwait starting from March 8 to 15, Iraq's border commission said on Thursday.

Iran

[Iranian Commander Suggests Coronavirus Might Be US Biological Weapon](#)

March 07, 2020, Voice of America

A top Iranian military official is giving voice to a conspiracy theory regarding the coronavirus amid an outbreak in the Islamic republic that has killed more than 100 people, including an adviser to Iran's supreme leader, and infected more than 3,500, according to official figures.

[Iran Reports Its Largest Coronavirus Death Toll Within 24-hour Period](#)

March 08, 2020, France 24

Iran's health ministry on Sunday reported 49 new deaths from the COVID-19 disease, the highest toll within 24 hours since the start of the novel coronavirus outbreak in the country.

[Iran Warns India Of Isolation In Islamic World](#)

March 05, 2020, Livemint

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Thursday reportedly warned India of isolation in the Islamic world if New Delhi did not stop the "massacre of Muslims". This comes days after Iranian foreign minister Javad Zarif raised a storm in India criticising the recent riots in New Delhi.

[India in Touch With Iran To Evacuate Its Nationals](#)

March 05, 2020, India Today

India is in touch with Iran on possible evacuation of Indian pilgrims and students stuck in the coronavirus-hit nation, Health Minister Harsh Vardhan said on Thursday.

[India To Set Up A Testing Lab In Iran To Screen Indians Before Evacuating](#)

March 4, 2020, Livemint

India will set up testing lab for coronavirus (COVID 19) in Iran keeping in view of novel coronavirus outbreak and Indians stranded there, Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan informed media on Wednesday.

[Iran Presents National Strategy To Fight Coronavirus](#)

March 05, 2020, Al-Monitor

Iran's Health Ministry announced that the country will embark on a national mobilization plan to combat the spread of coronavirus. Health Minister Saeed Namaki said that 300,000 teams will be mobilized in health centers, schools and Basij bases across the country. Some 26,000 health centers will be set up across Iranian cities and villages.

[Iran Says IAEA Case For Inspecting Sites Based On Fake Israeli Intel](#)

March 05, 2020, Reuters

Iran on Thursday stood by its decision to deny U.N. nuclear inspectors access to sites where they have questions about past activities, arguing that the agency's case is based on "fabricated" Israeli intelligence.

Israel

[Tel Aviv Stock Exchange Plummets As Coronavirus Fears Deepen](#)

March 08, 2020, The Times of Israel

Stocks on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange went into freefall Sunday with energy and infrastructure conglomerate Delek Group leading the rout, dropping by 35 percent at one point before recovering to -29% as the oil and gas sector took a pounding on weak demand as a result of coronavirus fears.

[Benjamin Netanyahu May Quarantine All Travelers Who Enter Israel](#)

March 09, 2020, The Jerusalem Post

As 39 Israelis were diagnosed with coronavirus Sunday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that the country is considering requiring a mandatory 14-day quarantine for all travelers entering the country.

[Coronavirus Outbreak Already At Pandemic Levels, Israeli Health Official Warns](#)

March 06, 2020, Times of Israel

Health Ministry's Asher Shalmon says the situation around the world points to an emerging 'full-blown international event,' says vaccine a year away despite claims.

[Israel To Quarantine Tens of Thousands Over Coronavirus](#)

March 05, 2020, Anadolu Agency

In a bid to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus, Israel has placed more than 60,000 people in self-quarantine for a period of two weeks, according to Israeli media on Thursday.

[Netanyahu Falls Short of Parliamentary Majority](#)

March 05, 2020, Al Jazeera

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has again fallen short of a parliamentary majority with his hardline allies, final election results confirmed on Thursday, extending the country's year-old political deadlock and weakening the longtime leader as he prepares to go on trial on corruption charges.

Jordan

[New Economic Normalisation Between Assad Regime And Jordan](#)

March 07, 2020, Middle East Monitor

The government of Bashar Al-Assad's regime has agreed with the Jordanian government on a series of steps to enhance economic cooperation and increase the level of trade exchange, in a new development to normalise relations.

Kuwait

[Kuwait's Banks Donate 32 Million Dollars To Combat Coronavirus](#)

March 09, 2020, Middle East Monitor

The Central Bank of Kuwait announced on Sunday the allocation of a financial fund worth 10 million Kuwaiti dinars (more than \$ 32 million) to support efforts to combat the newly emerged Coronavirus.

[Kuwait Reports 1st Recovery From Coronavirus](#)

March 05, 2020, Livemint

Kuwait on Thursday announced the first recovery in a coronavirus case in the country, the state media reported. Health Minister Basel Al-Sabah said that the patient's tests showed that a 36-year-old Kuwaiti citizen is no longer infected with the novel virus, said the official KUNA news agency.

[Kuwait Restricts Entry From 10 Nations, Including India, Philippines](#)

March 03, 2020, Gulf News

In a move aimed at controlling the rapid spread of the disease at home, Kuwait's civil aviation authority said on Tuesday passengers from 10 nations – including India, Turkey, Egypt, Bangladesh, must produce certificates issued by the Kuwaiti embassy in their country saying they are coronavirus free.

Lebanon

[Lebanon To Default On Debt Payments For First Time As Crisis Deepens](#)

March 07, 2020, BBC News

Lebanon is to default on a foreign debt payment for the first time in its history as the country struggles with a major financial crisis. Prime Minister Hassan Diab said Lebanon would not be making a bond payment of \$1.2bn (£900m) due on Monday.

Oman

[Coronavirus Threat: Many Companies In Oman, GCC Countries Plan Work From Home](#)

March 06, 2020, Times of Oman

With the Coronavirus outbreak spreading across the world, one-third of Gulf-based employers are planning to have staff work from home, according to a survey conducted by Middle East employment portal, Gulf Talent.

[UK Foreign Minister to visit Oman, Saudi Arabia To Boost Post-Brexit Ties](#)

March 02, 2020, Middle East Monitor

British Foreign Minister Dominic Raab will on Monday begin his first official visit to the Gulf for talks with leaders in Saudi Arabia and Oman, expected to cover trade, human rights issues and climate change.

Qatar

[India Among 14 Nations On Qatar's Travel Ban List Over Coronavirus Fears](#)

March 09, 2020, NDTV Profit

Qatar has temporarily barred travellers from 14 countries from March 9 as a precaution against the rapidly spreading coronavirus, the government announced on Sunday.

[Israel Approves Further Qatar Funding For Gaza](#)

March 05, 2020, Livemint

Israeli authorities have given their approval for further Qatari funding for the blockaded Gaza Strip, reported Al-Monitor, as efforts continue to avoid, at least for the time being, an escalation.

Saudi Arabia

[Saudi Arabia Detains King's Brother, Nephew in Crackdown: Reports](#)

March 08, 2020, Al Jazeera

Saudi Arabia has detained two senior members of the royal family - Prince Ahmed bin Abdulaziz, the younger brother of King Salman, and Mohammed bin Nayef, the king's nephew - according to reports citing sources with knowledge of the matter.

[Saudi Arabia Suspends Schools, Universities](#)

March 08, 2020, Gulf News

Saudi Arabia announced the suspension of schools and higher education institutions as of Monday, March 9, until further notice, the Saudi Press Agency said on Sunday.

[Saudi Arabia Seals Off Shia Qatif Region Over Coronavirus Fears](#)

March 09, 2020, The Guardian

Saudi Arabia has cordoned off an oil-rich Shia region, suspended air and sea travel to nine countries and closed schools and universities, in a series of measures to contain the fast-spreading coronavirus.

[Oil Price Plunges Almost 30% As Saudis Vow To Step Up Production](#)

March 09, 2020, The Guardian

The price of crude oil has plunged by almost 27% after Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil exporter, said it would step up production from next month, flooding global markets and most likely depressing petrol and diesel prices.

[Indian Retail Tycoon Becomes First Indian To Get Saudi Arabia's Green Card](#)

March 03, 2020, Livemint

Abu Dhabi-based Indian retail tycoon M A Yusuff Ali has become the first Indian to receive Saudi Arabia's premium residency, his office said in a statement on Monday.

[Saudi Arabia Announces Extraordinary Measures To Protect Mecca And Medina From Coronavirus](#)

March 05, 2020, Middle East Eye

Saudi Arabia has introduced a series of measures to protect the two holy mosques of Mecca and Medina from the coronavirus. According to Saudi officials, the new

rules include the closure of both mosques between the evening Isha prayers and morning Fajr prayers, and a ban on food entering the two complexes.

[Coronavirus May Cost Saudi Arabia Gdp \\$12 Bn: Reports](#)

March 04, 2020, The News International

If the deadly Coronavirus, which has already spread to 73 more countries apart from China, prolongs to the sheer dismay of Saudi Arabia, the oil-rich kingdom may lose about \$12 billion of its annual GDP, which is equivalent to country's 20 per cent non-oil GDP and seven percent of its total GDP, an eminent Turkish media house "TRT World" and a renowned American website have reported.

Syria

[Russian Electronic Warfare Caused Major Problems For Turkish Aircraft In Syria: Report](#)

March 08, 2020, AMN

Turkish unmanned aerial vehicles demonstrated their complete utter futility in military operations on the territory of Syria due to the powerful electronic suppression by Russian electronic warfare systems."

[Erdogan, Putin Announce Idlib Ceasefire After Moscow Meeting](#)

March 06, 2020, Al Jazeera

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin have announced a military ceasefire in Idlib, after a meeting in Moscow that lasted six hours.

Turkey

[Turkey's Erdogan To Discuss Migrant Issues With EU in Brussels](#)

March 08, 2020, Al Jazeera

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said he will hold talks in Brussels as he called on Greece to "open the gates" for refugees at Turkey's border trying to get into Europe.

[Turkey Claims Killing 21 Syrian Troops In Retaliation For Death Of Two Soldiers](#)

March 06, 2020, The Guardian

The Turkish military has killed 21 Syrian troops after two Turkish soldiers were killed in Idlib earlier, the state news agency reported on Friday, citing the Turkish defence ministry.

UAE

[Saudi Arabia Suspends Flights From UAE, Other GCC Countries](#)

March 09, 2020, Khaleej Times

The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has temporarily restricted the entry for arrivals from and travel to 9 countries into its territories.

Yemen

[War-torn Yemen At A 'Critical Juncture', Warns UN](#)

March 07, 2020, Al Jazeera

Yemen is at a crossroads, the United Nations' envoy to the war-torn country has said, as tens of thousands of people flee the northern province of Al-Jawf after fierce clashes.

[Hadi Government Calls On US To Designate Houthis As Terrorists](#)

March 04, 2020, Middle East Monitor

A minister of the UN-recognised government of Yemen has called on US Congress to designate the Ansar Allah movement, known as the Houthis, as a "terrorist organisation".

[Saudi Coalition 'foils Attack' On Oil Tanker Off Yemen's Coast](#)

March 05, 2020, Al Jazeera

The Saudi-led coalition fighting in Yemen said on Wednesday that it foiled an "imminent terrorist attack" on an oil tanker off Yemen's coast on the Arabian Sea.



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