



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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Delhi Policy Group

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Bahrain

[Bahrain Unveils \\$11.3bn Economic Stimulus Package](#)

March 18, 2020, Saudi Gazette

Bahrain unveiled a \$11.3bn (BHD 4.3bn) economic stimulus package to support its citizens and the private sector hit by coronavirus pandemic, state news agency Bahrain News Agency reported late on Tuesday.

[7 Indian IT Firms Invest \\$3 Million In Bahrain](#)

March 18, 2020, Express Computer

Seven Indian IT firms invested a total of \$3.1 million (Rs 210 crore) in Bahrain's information, communications and technology (ICT) space, an official said. The seven Indian firms are IT consultants, software and hardware developers, whose combined investment of \$3.1 million was approved by the kingdom's Bahrain Economic Development Board (BEDB) during the 2019 calendar year.

[Bahrain Reports First Coronavirus Death](#)

March 16, 2020, Anadolu Agency

A 65-year-old woman, who was put under quarantine in Bahrain after she contracted the coronavirus, died on Monday. The deceased female had returned from Iran last month and was put under quarantine upon her arrival to Bahrain.

Egypt

[Egypt to Halt Air Traffic from Thursday until End of March](#)

March 16, 2020, Middle East Eye

Egypt will suspend its air traffic starting from Thursday until 31 March in an effort to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus, while experts warn the rate of infection in the country is likely to be much higher than official figures suggest.

[Egypt to Allocate 20 Billion Egyptian Pounds to Support Bourse](#)

March 22, 2020, Reuters

Egypt will allocate 20 billion Egyptian pounds (\$1.27 billion) to support the stock exchange, President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi said on Sunday, after share prices were battered by the economic impact of the spreading coronavirus.

[Egypt Arrests Activists Demanding Prisoners Are Freed Amid Covid-19](#)

March 19, 2020, Al Jazeera

Egypt has arrested and charged four prominent activists and authors who called for the government to release prisoners amid the coronavirus outbreak.

Iraq

[Iraq on Total Lockdown until March 28 over Coronavirus Fears](#)

March 22, 2020, News 18

Iraq on Sunday imposed a total nationwide lockdown until March 28 to fight the novel coronavirus, as the number of cases grew and the death toll climbed to 20.

[Pilgrimage Continues In Iraq Despite Coronavirus Pandemic](#)

March 23, 2020, Al Jazeera

To prevent further spread of the virus, the government imposed a weeklong curfew in Baghdad and other cities and cancelled all domestic flights. But security forces are still struggling to enforce the lockdown.

[Iraq Taps New Candidate Adnan al-Zurfi as Prime Minister, Testing Relations With Iran](#)

March 17, 2020, The Wall Street Journal

Iraq's president designated a former provincial governor with American citizenship as prime minister, drawing criticism from Iran's allies in the country amid new tensions between Washington and Tehran.

[Iraq Lodges Formal Complaints with UN Over Recent US Airstrikes](#)

March 18, 2020, Middle East Monitor

Iraq said yesterday that it has filed a formal complaint with the United Nations and the United Nations Security Council over the US' bombings of security, military and civilian sites that left six people dead

[Iraq Major Shia Bloc: Talks To Choose New PM Have Failed](#)

March 17, 2020, Middle East Monitor

The Iraqi Sairoon coalition, backed by prominent Shia cleric Muqtada Al-Sadr, announced yesterday that Shia forces have failed to choose a candidate to head the new Iraqi government, Anadolu reported.

Iran

[Rouhani: 70 percent of Iran May Contract Coronavirus](#)

March 21, 2020, Middle East Monitor

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has announced that he expects around 70 per cent of Iranians to contract coronavirus, Arabi21.com reported on Friday.

[U.S. Harshly Criticizes France Over Prisoner Swap With Iran](#)

March 22, 2020, Time

The Trump administration on Sunday harshly criticized France for releasing an Iranian man wanted for prosecution by the United States in an apparent prisoner swap with Iran.

[With Iran Ravaged by Coronavirus, U.S. is Pressured to Ease Sanctions](#)

March 23, 2020, Bloomberg News

The devastation of the coronavirus outbreak in Iran is raising pressure on the U.S. to ease sanctions on the Islamic Republic. So far, the Trump administration isn't budging.

[Iran's Rouhani Says Covid-19 Measures May Be Eased Within Weeks](#)

March 21, 2020, Al Jazeera

Iran's President Hassan Rouhani has said he expects measures taken to combat the spread of the highly infectious coronavirus, including social distancing, to be eased within the next two to three weeks.

[Iran's Khamenei Refuses US Help; Cites Coronavirus Conspiracy Theory](#)

March 22, 2020, Al Jazeera

Iran's supreme leader refused American assistance to fight the new coronavirus citing a conspiracy theory claiming it could be man-made by the United States government.

[Strategic Partnership with China Lies at Root of Iran's Coronavirus Outbreak](#)

March 11, 2020, The Wall Street Journal

Iranian officials trace the origins of the country's coronavirus epidemic to the holy city of Qom, home to dozens of seminaries and religious shrines—but also a number of Chinese-backed infrastructure projects built by scores of workers and technicians from China.

[250 Indians in Iran Test Coronavirus Positive](#)

March 17, 2020, Gulf News

Over 250 Indians have tested positive in Iran, government officials in New Delhi said on Tuesday.

[Indian Infected By Coronavirus Dies in Iran: MEA](#)

March 19, 2020, India Today

The government on Thursday said one Indian who tested positive for coronavirus has died in Iran while the other citizens infected with the disease are being provided treatment and taken care of by the Iranian government.

[US Slaps Sanctions On UAE-based Firms Over Iran Oil Purchases](#)

March 19, 2020, Al Jazeera

The United States on Thursday slapped sanctions on five United Arab Emirates-based companies, accusing them of having collectively purchased hundreds of thousands of metric tons of petroleum products from Iran last year.

[Khamenei Says U.S. Sanctions Forced Iran to Become 'Self-Sufficient'](#)

March 20, 2020, US News and World Report

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, in a live speech on state TV at the start of Iranian new year, said the United States' sanctions has forced the country to become self-sufficient, calling on Iranians to preserve unity.

[Iran's Khamenei to Pardon 10,000 Prisoners Ahead Of Nowruz](#)

March 19, 2020, Al Jazeera

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei will pardon 10,000 prisoners including political detainees to mark the Iranian new year on Friday.

Israel

[More Than 5,600 Israeli Soldiers Quarantined Over Coronavirus Fears](#)

March 19, 2020, Middle East Monitor

Israeli newspaper Maariv reported that 5,639 Israeli soldiers are currently in quarantine for fears they might have the coronavirus.

[Netanyahu Urges Gantz To Help Him 'save Israel' As Nations Sink Like 'Titanic'](#)

March 21, 2020, Times of Israel

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Saturday warned that the health care systems of countries around the world are facing imminent collapse if the spread of the coronavirus cannot be contained, and claimed that the virus may turn out to prove the biggest threat to humanity since the Middle Ages.

[Netanyahu Seeks 'Mass Blood Tests' To Weed Out Covid-19, Restart Economy: Report](#)

March 22, 2020, Fox News

Israel's state broadcaster reported on Saturday that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is seeking "mass blood tests" as a way to screen Israelis for COVID-19. It's unclear whether the blood tests would be mandatory for everyone in the country, but they would be intended to root out the disease and restore economic activity.

[Israeli Spies Source Up to 100,000 Coronavirus Tests In Covert Mission](#)

March 19, 2020, The Guardian

Israel's secretive Mossad intelligence agency launched a covert international operation this week to fly in up to 100,000 coronavirus testing kits, although the effort may have been in vain as critical parts were reportedly missing.

Jordan

[Jordan Authorises Use Of Hydroxychloroquine to Treat Covid-19](#)

March 23, 2020, Al Jazeera

Jordan's Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorised physicians to use hydroxychloroquine along with an antiviral medicine as a treatment for COVID-19 in patients in an advanced stage of the disease.

[Concerns Over Water Shortages Jump In Jordan Amid Coronavirus Lockdown](#)

March 22, 2020, The Jerusalem Post

Complaints and concerns over water shortages rose by 58% in Jordan in the first day after a country-wide curfew was instated, water authorities said Sunday.

Kuwait

[Kuwait Imposes Partial Curfew as Part Of Coronavirus Measures](#)

March 22, 2020, Arab News

The government of Kuwait imposed a partial curfew on March 22 starting 14:00 and running until 01:00 (GMT) time due to non-compliance with instructions to stay home, state news agency KUNA reported.

Lebanon

[Lebanon Calls in Army to Enforce Coronavirus Lockdown](#)

March 22, 2020, CNA

Lebanon Saturday (Mar 21) called in the army and security forces to ensure people stay at home to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus that has killed four people nationwide.

Oman

[Oman Unveils \\$20bn Economic Stimulus as Virus Burden Looms](#)

March 18, 2020, Arabian Business

Oman's central bank on Wednesday unveiled a \$20 billion incentive package for financial institutions to combat the impact of the new coronavirus on the local economy.

[Oman Becomes Latest GCC Nation to Charge Coronavirus Rumourmongers](#)

March 21, 2020, The National

Oman has charged a number of people for spreading false rumours relating to coronavirus, a spokesman for the country's public prosecutor said on Saturday.

[Coronavirus Cases: 33 Percent Cure Rate in Oman](#)

March 19, 2020, Times of Oman

A statement issued online by Oman's Government Communication Centre (GCC) said: "The total infected cases of coronavirus in Oman touched 39 of which 13 have recovered. Thus the cure rate from coronavirus reached 33% in Oman," the statement added.

Qatar

[Qatar Announces US\\$23b Stimulus Over Coronavirus](#)

March 16, 2020, The Business Times

The Qatari government has announced a US\$23 billion economic stimulus in response to the new coronavirus.

[Qatar Airways Announces to Transport All Medical Aids Free Of Charge to Iran](#)

March 22, 2020, The Peninsula Qatar

H E Akbar Al Baker, Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive and Secretary-General of QNTC, has announced to offer free of charge services to all the people and government who are willing to supply medical aid and medical equipment to the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is one of the worst affected coronavirus (COVID-19) countries in the world after China and Italy.

[Coronavirus: Qatar Reports 8 New Cases, Total 460](#)

March 19, 2020, Gulf News

Qatar's Health Ministry on Thursday announced that eight new coronavirus cases have been recorded in the country, bringing the total number to 460.

Saudi Arabia

[Saudi Arabia Announces \\$32 Billion In Emergency Funds To Mitigate Oil, Coronavirus Impact](#)

March 20, 2020, CNBC

Saudi Arabia's government unveiled stimulus measures amounting to 120 Saudi billion riyals (\$32 billion) on Friday to support an economy hit by the double blow of the coronavirus crisis and dramatically lower oil prices.

[Sharp Increase in Corona Cases in Saudi Arabia; Total Now 511](#)

March 22, 2020, Saudi Gazette

Saudi Arabia on Sunday reported a sharp increase in the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) cases, bringing the total number of infections in the Kingdom to 511.

[Drastic Decline In New Coronavirus Cases In Saudi Arabia's Qatif](#)

March 23, 2020, Arab News

Following strict precautionary measures, the number of new coronavirus cases in the eastern Saudi city of Qatif has drastically fallen. The city was locked down two weeks ago to contain the spread of the virus, and so far only four new cases have been reported, said Saudi health authorities on Sunday.

[King Salman Imposes Curfew Across Saudi Arabia To Contain Covid-19](#)

March 23, 2020, Arab News

King Salman on Sunday issued an order imposing a curfew across Saudi Arabia from Monday evening to control the spread of the COVID-19 disease.

[Coronavirus: Saudi Arabia Suspends Prayers In Courtyards At Makkah, Madinah Mosques](#)

March 20, 2020, Khaleej Times

Saudi Arabia said on Thursday it suspended Muslims from conducting their five daily prayers and the weekly Friday prayer in the overflow area just outside the walls of the of two holy mosques in Makkah and Madinah, to limit the spread of coronavirus.

Syria

[Coronavirus: Syria Announces First Confirmed Case](#)

March 22, 2020, Gulf News

Syria said on Sunday it had confirmed its first case of coronavirus, in a person who had come from abroad. Health Minister Nizar Al Yaziji told state media the "necessary measures" had been taken.

[Idlib Crisis Festers As Coronavirus Threat Looms](#)

March 20, 2020, Ahval

As Turkey and the international community struggle to deal with a fast-growing global pandemic, some 3 million displaced Syrians along the Turkish border remain in dire need of aid in Idlib province. With violence set to flare up again there are fears that coronavirus will soon appear in Syria's last rebel-held province.

[Rocket Attack In Northwest Syria Kills Two Turkish Soldiers](#)

March 20, 2020, Al Jazeera

Two Turkish soldiers were killed in a rocket attack in Syria's North Western Idlib province, according to Turkey's defence ministry sources.

Turkey

['No Withdrawal of Troops from Syria's Idlib': Turkey](#)

March 20, 2020, Anadolu Agency

Planned deployment of troops in Idlib de-escalation zone of North Western Syria is continuing, and there are no withdrawals of troops from the region, Turkish National Defence Ministry announced on Friday.

[Turkey Imposing Curfew for People Over Age 65](#)

March 21, 2020, Bloomberg News

Turkey's coronavirus deaths rose to 21 on Saturday as expanded testing, including kits from China, accelerated the infection count. Confirmed cases increased by almost 300 from Friday to 947, Health Minister Fahrettin Koca said. The government is expanding testing across Turkey with the arrival of 15-minute diagnosis kits from China on Friday and a gradual increase in the number of labs to 36 from 16.

[Coronavirus Death Toll In Turkey Rises To Four, 359 Confirmed Cases - Health Minister](#)

March 20, 2020, Reuters

The death toll in Turkey due to the coronavirus rose to four, Health Minister Fahrettin Koca said late on Thursday, adding there was a total of 359 confirmed cases in the country.

[NATO Plans On Supporting Turkey's Efforts In Syria](#)

March 19, 2020, Anadolu Agency

NATO allies are looking into what can be done to support Turkey's efforts in the Syrian crisis, the bloc's secretary-general said on Thursday. Jens Stoltenberg was speaking at a virtual news conference in which he presented the 2019 Annual Report on the military alliance. "No other NATO ally is more affected by the crisis in Syria than Turkey," Stoltenberg pointed out, mentioning the military losses and the fact that Turkey hosts 4 million Syrian refugees.

UAE

[Sheikh Mohammed Announces Additional Dh16 Billion Stimulus Package](#)

March 22, 2020, Khaleej Times

The UAE Cabinet has approved an Dh16 billion economic stimulus package as part of the Federal Government's additional measures to support the national economy, ensure businesses continuity, and mitigate the coronavirus impact.

[UAE Suspending All Passenger Flights to Curb Spread of Coronavirus](#)

March 23, 2020, Arab News

The United Arab Emirates announced on Monday it will temporarily suspend all passenger and transit flights amid the novel coronavirus outbreak.

[Covid-19 in UAE: Employer Should Pay Salary If An Employee Is Put in Quarantine](#)

March 19, 2020, Khaleej Times

The UAE-based companies that are asking their employees to be in quarantine after returning from leave are obliged to pay salaries for the days they are quarantined due to Covid-19, a legal expert has said.

Yemen

[Heavy Fighting in Central Yemen Leaves At Least 38 Dead](#)

March 17, 2020, Abc News

Heavy fighting in Yemen between pro-government forces and Shiite rebels killed more than three dozen people in the previous 24 hours, Yemeni officials and tribal leaders said Tuesday.



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