



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

[Middle East Set for Sharp Economic Fall Due To Covid-19 "Great Lockdown" Says IMF](#)

April 14, 2020, Forbes

Middle East economies are set to suffer a huge economic hit this year because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The situation is being exacerbated by domestic political turmoil and the collapse in oil prices.

[Bahrain to Fund Private Sector Salaries with \\$570 Million Relief Initiative Due To Covid-19](#)

April 08, 2020, The National

Bahrain rolled out a \$570 million initiative to pay for the wages of 100,000 citizens working in the private sector for three months, covering April to June, as a measure to help relieve the economic impact of the coronavirus on businesses and workers.

[125 Stranded Bahrain Nationals Evacuated From Pune amid Lockdown](#)

April 19, 2020, Hindustan Times

As many as 125 Bahrain nationals stranded in Pune due to the Covid-19 outbreak were evacuated from Lohegaon airport on Saturday. A special flight of Gulf Air evacuated 125 Bahrain nationals from and flew them to Chennai to take others on board.

[Covid-19 Crisis Pushes Bahrain to Resume Flights from Iran After 4-year Halt](#)

April 15, 2020, Al-Monitor

Bahrain is continuing to repatriate hundreds of Shiite pilgrims stranded in neighbouring Iran, which remains the Middle Eastern country worst affected by the novel coronavirus pandemic.

Egypt

[Egypt's President, India's PM Discuss Joint Coronavirus Efforts](#)

April 17, 2020, Egypt Today

Egypt's President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi and India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday (April 17) spoke by phone to discuss the coronavirus crisis and the joint efforts to curb its spread, the Presidency said in a statement.

[Egypt Foils Possible Terrorist Plot against Coptic Christians](#)

April 15, 2020, Al-Monitor

Egyptian authorities say a suspected terrorist cell was plotting attacks against the country's Coptic Christians to coincide with their Easter celebration on April 19. The religious minority, which makes up about 10% of Egypt's population of 100 million, is a frequent target of armed groups in the volatile Sinai Peninsula.

[Number of Coronavirus Cases in Egypt Passes 3,000](#)

April 19, 2020, Middle East Monitor

Egypt confirmed 188 new cases of the novel coronavirus on Saturday, bringing the total to 3,032, according to a health ministry statement.

Iraq

[US to Hold 'Strategic' Talks with Iraq on Military and Economic Relations](#)

April 08, 2020, The National

The US and Iraq will hold "strategic" talks in June to review their military and economic relations, as tensions escalate between Washington and Tehran. The dialogue will centre on the future of US troops stationed in the country after a series of attacks by Iranian-backed armed groups on US troops in Iraq.

[U.S. Bid for Dialogue with Iraq Won't Work - Former Iranian Ambassador to Iraq](#)

April 18, 2020, Tehran Times

Former Iranian Ambassador to Baghdad Hassan Kazemi Qomi has predicted failure for the U.S. plan for strategic dialogue with the Iraqi government unless Washington shifts its policy of pressure and threats and seeks to establish healthy relations with Iraq.

[ISIS Re-imposes Itself in Iraq with Mobile Groups](#)

April 18, 2020, Middle East Monitor

Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) officials have warned that the killing of ISIS leader, Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi, in a US raid on 26 October did not undermine the group's capabilities and threats. The officials indicated that the group maintained the cohesion and integrity of its organisational structure and the leadership and control system within it.

[Iraq asks IMF for Debt Deferment Due to Coronavirus Crisis](#)

April 16, 2020, Middle East Monitor

The economic and finance adviser to Iraq's Prime Minister has revealed that talks are taking place with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for a deferment of the country's foreign debt payments during the coronavirus crisis.

[Iraq Condemns Turkish Strikes against PKK in Kurdistan Region](#)

April 16, 2020, Al-Monitor

In what it called a flagrant violation of its sovereignty, Iraq says Turkish airstrikes inside its airspace targeted a refugee camp and killed three civilians Wednesday (April 15). "We deplore the penetration of Iraqi airspace by Turkish aircraft," the Iraqi government-affiliated Security Media Cell wrote on Twitter.

[Iraq is Fudging its Coronavirus Figures to Quell Public Rage](#)

April 16, 2020, TRT World

Numerous reports and local health experts have warned that Iraq's Covid-19 numbers are not genuine.

Iran

[Iran Shows off New Drones that Can Reach Israel](#)

April 19, 2020, The Jerusalem Post

Iran's Defense Ministry unveiled a mass of new drones over the weekend for the Islamic Republic's army and air force. According to Tehran the drones have new capabilities, and can fly more than 1,000 km., which means they could reach Israel from Iran.

[Iranian Foreign Minister Zarif Set to meet Syrian President Assad in Damascus](#)

April 19, 2020, Tehran Times

According to Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi, Zarif is slated to make a one-day trip to Syria to meet President Assad and Foreign Minister Walid Muallem.

[Iran Expects India, World Community to Stand Up against US Sanctions: Iranian Envoy](#)

April 15, 2020, Hindustan Times

Iran expects India and the rest of the world community will stand against the "unjust" US sanctions that are hurting millions of Iranians amid the Covid-19 crisis, Iranian ambassador Ali Chegeni has said.

[US Navy Accuses Iranian Vessels of Harassing Warships in Gulf](#)

April 16, 2020, BBC News

The US Navy has accused Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) of "dangerous and provocative actions" in international waters in the Gulf. Eleven IRGC Navy vessels repeatedly conducted "harassing" approaches of six US Navy and Coast Guard ships on Wednesday (April 15).

[Iran Coronavirus Deaths Rise to 4,869 and Infections To 77,995](#)

April 16, 2020, Gulf News

Iranian Health ministry spokesman Kinaoush Jahanpour told a news conference the latest deaths brought the official total to 4,869 in the Islamic republic.

Israel

[Israel to Play Key Role in Giant Google Fiber Optic Cable Project](#)

April 14, 2020, Haaretz

Israel will soon have a critical place on Google's expanding global fiber optic network. The U.S. technology giant is planning a cable called Blue-Raman that will run between India and Italy through Israel.

[Israeli Security Service Shin Bet Could Monitor Anyone Crossing Paths with Coronavirus Patient](#)

April 17, 2020, Haaretz

Israel's public health services chief has defended the increased use of the Shin Bet security service in monitoring an ever-growing number of people for the Coronavirus.

[Israel's President Asks Parliament to Choose Prime Minister](#)

April 16, 2020, Al Jazeera

Israel's President has asked the Knesset to choose a new prime minister, giving the parliament three weeks to agree upon a leader or plunge the country into an unprecedented fourth consecutive election in just over a year.

[PM Netanyahu Approves Preliminary Plan to Open the Israeli Economy](#)

April 17, 2020, The Jerusalem Post

Israeli leaders have agreed on a plan to begin opening the economy as early as Sunday (April 19), the Prime Minister's Office announced.

[Israeli Indicted For Spying For Iran Named as Ayman Haj Yahya](#)

April 19, 2020, The Jerusalem Post

On April 7, the Shin Bet announced it had arrested an unnamed citizen - now known to be Yahya - on suspicion of having links with Iranian intelligence agencies and providing intelligence on strategic sites in Israel.

Jordan

[Israel to Deliver 5,000 Medical Masks to Jordan to Fight Coronavirus](#)

April 15, 2020, The Jerusalem Post

Israel plans to deliver 5,000 medical masks to Jordan to help its eastern neighbour combat the novel coronavirus.

Kuwait

[COVID-19: Kuwait Launches Major Repatriation Airlift](#)

April 19, 2020, Gulf News

Nine flights, carrying Kuwaitis from different countries, arrived home on Sunday (April 19), marking the start of a major airlift to bring home Kuwaitis stranded abroad due to the coronavirus pandemic.

[3,336 Indians Infected with Coronavirus Abroad: 785 in Kuwait](#)

April 16, 2020, Times of India

As many as 3,336 Indian nationals abroad have tested positive for Covid-19. According to the break-up of those infected abroad, 785 are in Kuwait, followed by 634 in Singapore and 420 in Qatar.

[Kuwait Urges Egypt, India to Repatriate Illegal Residents to Limit Coronavirus Outbreak](#)

April 14, 2020, Middle East Monitor

The Kuwaiti Ministry of Foreign Affairs called on the embassies of Egypt and India to repatriate their citizens who were in the country illegally to limit the spread of the coronavirus.

Lebanon

[Collapse of the Banking System Could Mean The End of Lebanon](#)

April 19, 2020, Arab Weekly

Everybody is now busy with the COVID-19 pandemic, but the Lebanese are also worried about the future of their country, not knowing if it can survive if it's banking system collapses.

['Worse Than the War': Hunger Grows in Lebanon Along with Anger](#)

April 19, 2020, Al Jazeera

The past six months have brought hardships unseen in Lebanon even during the bitter days of its 15-year civil conflict that ended in 1990. Decades of corruption and financial mismanagement by warlords-turned-politicians and a cabal of business elites combined with the war next door in Syria to plunge Lebanon's economy into its worst crisis in living memory.

Oman

[Cargo Ship Arrives in Oman with Goods from India](#)

April 20, 2020, Times of Oman

The Sohar Port on Sunday (April 19) confirmed that it had received the 'Cape Moreton' ship, carrying foodstuff and various goods from India to the Sultanate.

[Oman Says Companies Can Let Go Of Foreign Workers, But Omanis Cannot Be Fired](#)

April 15, 2020, The Week

A directive by Oman's Supreme Committee on Wednesday said private companies that are struggling due to COVID-19 can ask non-Omani employees to leave permanently.

Qatar

[Qatar Starts Expansion Drilling at World's Largest Gas Field](#)

April 16, 2020, Oilprice.com

Qatar Petroleum has started the development drilling campaign of the North Field East Project to expand the production capacity of the world's biggest natural gas deposit that the tiny nation shares with Iran in the Persian Gulf.

[Qatar: Migrant Workers Illegally Expelled During Covid-19 Pandemic](#)

April 15, 2020, Amnesty International

Qatari authorities rounded up and expelled dozens of migrant workers after telling them they were being taken to be tested for COVID-19, Amnesty International has learned.

Saudi Arabia

[G20 Health Ministers Begin Virtual Meeting Hosted By Saudi Arabia](#)

April 19, 2020, CGTN

Health ministers from the Group of 20 (G20) began a virtual meeting on Sunday (April 19) to work on a joint response to the coronavirus pandemic, the official account of G20 Saudi Arabia said on Twitter.

[Indian Refiner Seeks to Halve Saudi Oil Imports as Tanks Fill](#)

April 17, 2020, Bloomberg

Bharat Petroleum Corp. is seeking to cut its crude oil imports from Saudi Arabia by as much as half in May, frustrating the Middle Eastern supplier's attempts to keep its prized Asian market intact.

[Saudi Scholar Sheikh Abidi Zahrani Calls for Expulsion of Hindu Supremacists from the Gulf](#)

April 17, 2020, Middle East Monitor

Militant Hindus spreading hatred and committing crimes against Muslims should be expelled from the Gulf, a Saudi Arabian scholar has said, amid a growing number of hate crimes by Hindu supremacists against India's Muslim minority.

Syria

[Iran May Have Replicated Israeli Missile Shot Down in Syria](#)

April 19, 2020, AMN Al-Masdar

The Iranian military has tested a new anti-tank missile that seems to resemble one of the Israeli projectiles that was shot down in Syria, the Russian publication Avia.Pro reported, citing new video footage of the Islamic Republic's test.

[In U.N. Session, Syria Denounced Over Chemical Weapons Use in 2017](#)

April 16, 2020, The Japan Times

U.N. Security Council members Britain, Estonia and Germany denounced Syria Wednesday (April 15) for a lack of accountability after being accused of conducting chemical weapons attacks in 2017.

[Israeli Army Publishes Video of Syria and Hezbollah Leaders in Golan Heights](#)

April 11, 2020, Middle East Monitor

Spokesman for the Israeli army, Avichai Adraee, accused the Syrian regime of allowing Hezbollah to deploy its forces in the Golan Heights.

Turkey

[Coronavirus: Turkey Pandemic Case Numbers Overtake Iran, Highest in Middle East](#)

April 18, 2020, Middle East Eye

Turkey's confirmed coronavirus cases have risen to 82,329, Health Minister Fahrettin Koca said on Saturday (April 18), overtaking neighbouring Iran for the first time to register the highest total in the Middle East.

[Turkey Blocks Saudi and Emirati State News Websites](#)

April 19, 2020, Al Jazeera

Turkish authorities blocked Saudi and United Arab Emirates state news websites on Sunday (April 19), days after the sites of Turkey's state broadcaster and news agency were blocked in Saudi Arabia.

[Turkey's Economy is in Trouble as Experts Worry It Could Become a New Coronavirus Hotspot](#)

April 15, 2020, CNBC

Turkey is on shaky ground and its currency depreciating as controversial monetary moves and fast-rising coronavirus cases threaten to plunge an already fragile economy into much more danger.

[Russia, Turkey Hold Fourth Joint Military Patrol in Syria](#)

April 16, 2020, Ahval

Russian and Turkish troops held a fourth joint patrol in Syria's Idlib province on Wednesday, Reuters said, citing a Russian news agency RIA Novosti.

UAE

[Expat Repatriation Tests UAE Ties with India and Pakistan](#)

April 15, 2020, TRT World

The United Arab Emirates wants foreigners to fly out as soon as possible but their home countries might have trouble accepting them. The issue of the repatriation of thousands of expatriate workers has threatened to taint the UAE's relations with India and Pakistan.

[Kerala CM Says UAE Quarantine Facilities 'inadequate'](#)

April 14, 2020, Al Jazeera

The Chief Minister of India's Kerala state has urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to repatriate Indian workers in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) amid the coronavirus pandemic, expressing alarm over the Gulf country's response to the health emergency.

[Combating Coronavirus: 'Specially Approved' Repatriation Flights to India Likely](#)

April 16, 2020, Khaleej Times

There is a glimmer of hope for stranded Indians in the UAE to be repatriated to their home country during the coronavirus crisis as the Indian civil aviation regulator is considering 'Specially Approved flights'.

Yemen

[Houthis Slammed for Abducting Former Yemeni Culture Minister](#)

April 19, 2020, Arab News

Armed men associated with the Iran-backed Houthi militia on Sunday (April 19) abducted a former Yemeni culture minister from his home in Sanaa.

[Arab Coalition: Houthis Have Violated Ceasefire in Yemen 114 Times in 24 Hours](#)

April 17, 2020, Arab News

The Houthis have violated the ceasefire in Yemen 114 times during the last 24 hours, the Arab coalition said on Friday (April 17). The coalition said it is committed to the ceasefire and supports the efforts of the UN special envoy for Yemen Martin Griffiths.

[Yemen Can't Survive War on Two Fronts, UN Envoy Tells Security Council, as Coronavirus Outbreak Looms](#)

April 16, 2020, UN News

With the COVID-19 pandemic threatening to deepen suffering in Yemen, now is the time for rival parties to commit to ending their conflict, UN Special Envoy Martin Griffiths told the Security Council on Thursday (April 16), during an informal meeting via videoconference.



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