



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's King Applauds Trump's Efforts in Achieving Stability in Energy Markets](#)

April 19, 2020, The Economic Times

Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa expressed his appreciation for U.S. President Donald Trump's efforts in achieving stability in energy markets to boost global economy growth.

[Bahrain Latest Gulf Country to Announce Drastic Spending Cuts](#)

April 20, 2020, Al Jazeera

Bahrain will slash state spending by nearly a third to help it weather the economic effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

Egypt

[Egypt Requests New Funding From IMF](#)

April 27, 2020, Middle East Monitor

Egyptian Prime Minister Moustafa Madbouly announced that his government has started discussions on a new loan from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), adding that the funding will be accompanied by technical support to tackle the economic repercussions of the coronavirus pandemic.

[Egypt to Cut Fuel Subsidies, Increase Net Debt Issuance in 2020/21 Budget](#)

April 22, 2020, Nasdaq

Egypt plans to cut spending on fuel subsidies by 47% in its 2020/21 budget to 28.193 billion Egyptian pounds (\$1.8 billion), an explanatory note for its draft budget published on Tuesday (April 21) showed.

Iraq

[US and Iraq to Meet in June to Discuss Troop Withdrawal: Report](#)

April 27, 2020, Middle East Eye

The United States and Iraq have agreed to meet in June to discuss the possible withdrawal of US troops from the country, Iraq's military spokesman has said.

[Coronavirus: Iraq Gets 30-day Waiver for Iranian Gas Imports](#)

April 27, 2020, Gulf News

Washington granted Iraq a 30-day extension to a waiver allowing it to import Iranian gas for its dilapidated power grids despite American sanctions, an Iraqi official said.

Iran

[Pompeo Preparing Argument that US Still 'participant' in Iran Nuclear Deal, in Effort to Restore UN Sanctions](#)

April 27, 2020, Fox News

A U.S. official confirmed to Fox News on Sunday (April 26) that Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is preparing a legal argument claiming the country is still a participant in the 2015 nuclear agreement with Iran. This will help restore UN sanctions on Iran.

[Trump Says US Will 'destroy' Iranian Gunboats that Harass American Ships](#)

April 22, 2020, CNBC

President Donald Trump warned on Wednesday (April 22) that the United States would destroy Iranian gunboats that harass American ships at sea.

[Iran Promises 'to Crush' US Forces if Ships Attacked in Persian Gulf](#)

April 23, 2020, Al Jazeera

The leader of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has promised a "crushing response" to any American military attacks in the Gulf after United States President Donald Trump threatened to "shoot down and destroy" Iranian vessels.

[Iran Reportedly Launches First Military Satellite](#)

April 22, 2020, The Guardian

Iran has claimed it has put its first military satellite into orbit, further raising tensions with the US at a time when the two countries are already facing off in the Persian Gulf.

[Mike Pompeo Says Iran's Military Satellite Launch Might Defy UN Resolution](#)

April 23, 2020, India Today

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Wednesday (April 23) called for Iran to be held accountable for the launch of a military satellite, adding that he thinks the action defied a U.N. Security Council resolution.

[Iran Says It Will Fare Better Than Others after Oil Crash amid Battered Economy](#)

April 22, 2020, Reuters

Iran will not suffer as much as other countries from the oil price plunge as it is less reliant on crude exports, said President Rouhani on Wednesday (April 23), with the state budget depending far less than before on oil revenue due to U.S. sanctions.

Israel

[US Says 'Prepared to Recognize' Israeli Annexation of Parts of West Bank](#)

April 28, 2020, Times of Israel

The United States said Monday (April 27) it was ready to recognize Israel's annexation of parts of the West Bank but asked Israel's government to also negotiate with the Palestinians.

[Hamas Quietly Allows Gaza Doctors to Get Covid-19 Training in Israel](#)

April 26, 2020, AL-Monitor

Palestinian medical personnel from Gaza reportedly received training in Israel to deal with the novel coronavirus, raising questions among Palestinians about whether the training came through coordination between Israel and the Hamas government in Gaza, the Palestinian Authority in Ramallah or perhaps a humanitarian group.

[Netanyahu, Gantz Ink Coalition Pact](#)

April 21, 2020, The Jerusalem Post

Israel will soon have a new coalition government after an agreement was signed on Monday evening between Likud (Netanyahu) and Blue and White (Gantz), putting an end to a 17-month political stalemate that resulted in three elections.

[Pompeo: Annexation of Occupied West Bank Ultimately Up to Israel](#)

April 22, 2020, Al Jazeera

United States Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Wednesday (April 23) that it was Israel's decision whether to annex parts of the occupied West Bank, and the US will offer its views on this to the new Israeli government in private.

Jordan

[Jordan Urges Foreign Governments to Discourage Israel from Annexing West Bank](#)

April 25, 2020, Axios

Jordan is lobbying foreign leaders to put pressure on the new Israeli government not to move forward with annexation of the Jordan Valley – the settlements and other parts of the West Bank.

Kuwait

[Kuwait Joins Saudi-Qatar-Oman to Reject Anti-India Propaganda](#)

April 28, 2020, The Economic Times

Kuwait, after Oman, Saudi Arabia and Qatar have, rejected attempts to spoil ties with India through 'foreign sponsored' social media handles and posts.

Lebanon

[Riots Break Out in Impoverished North Lebanon City as Currency Crashes](#)

April 28, 2020, Times of Israel

Clashes broke out between protesters and security forces in northern Lebanon Monday amid a crash in the local currency and a surge in food prices. Dozens of young men smashed the fronts of local banks and set fire to an army vehicle, as the protests turned into riots.

Oman

[Oman Reveals Oil Production Cut Plans under OPEC+ Deal](#)

April 27, 2020, S&P Global

Oman will cut oil production from its six largest producing blocks by 23% from their October 2018 baseline levels of 883,000 b/d to adhere with the OPEC+ production cuts coming into effect for May and June 2020.

[Pak Account Poses as 'Omani Princess' Tweets Anti-India Material; Princess Clarifies](#)

April 22, 2020, WION

An increase in the number of Pakistani accounts changing the name to Arabic names or after names of Arabic royalty has been seen. A Pakistani ID @pak_fauj changed its name to Omani Royalty Mona bint Fahd al Said @SayyidaMona to spread propaganda and tweeted anti-India rant.

[India Clears Air on Fake News, Says Oman a Friend](#)

April 24, 2020, Daily Pioneer

Against the backdrop of the controversy over a fake Pakistani Twitter handler posing as that of the Oman Princess and maintaining that Indian workers would be expelled from her country if India did not stop religious persecution of Muslims, Indian Ambassador to Oman, Munu Mahawar tweeted and said, "I thank Mona Al Said for clarification on fake social media posts attributed to her. India values its friendly relations with Oman and will continue working closely with the Government

[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.

Qatar

[Airlines in the Middle East Predicted to Lose \\$24 Billion Due to Pandemic](#)

April 24, 2020, Middle East Monitor

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has predicted that airlines in the Middle East could lose up to \$24 billion in revenues due to the suspension of flights as part of preventative measures to combat the coronavirus pandemic

[Iran, Qatar Leaders Discuss Persian Gulf Escalation](#)

April 26, 2020, Middle East Monitor

"Iran carefully monitors all the activities and movements of Americans, but it will never be the side that starts any conflict or tension in the region," Rouhani said to Qatari Emir, referring to rising tensions between Iran and the US in recent weeks in the Persian Gulf.

[Covid-19 Impact: KPMG Highlights Top 5 Challenges for Qatar's Banking Sector](#)

April 28, 2020, The Peninsula Qatar

The KPMG in Qatar has identified five top critical challenges that could be so serious to Qatar's banking sector in the light of COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID-19 impact on the country's financial services sector includes liquidity pressures, revenue compression and credit quality deterioration.

Saudi Arabia

[Saudi Arabia Ends Death Penalty for Minors and Floggings](#)

April 27, 2020, NBC News

Saudi Arabia's King Salman has ordered an end to the death penalty for crimes committed by minors, according to a statement by a top official.

[Saudi Arabia Wants to Raise 220 Billion Riyals \(\\$58 billion\) Through Debt Issues](#)

April 23, 2020, Gulf News

Saudi Arabia will rely on the biggest debt programme since its debut in international bond markets in 2016 to absorb the shock to the budget from collapsing energy prices and cuts in oil output. The kingdom could borrow 220 billion riyals (\$58 billion) this year.

[Saudi Arabia May Re-route Tankers if U.S. Imposes Crude Import Ban](#)

April 22, 2020, Reuters

Saudi Arabia is exploring re-routing millions of barrels of oil onboard tankers sailing to the United States if President Donald Trump decides to block imports of crude from the kingdom, shipping and trade sources say.

[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.

Syria

[Syria Civil War: Germany Holds Unprecedented State Torture Trial](#)

April 23, 2020, BBC News

Two men accused of committing crimes against humanity for the Syrian state have gone on trial in Germany. It is thought to be the first case worldwide examining the use of torture under President Bashar al-Assad's rule.

[Syria Civilians Killed in Israeli Missile Attack: State Media](#)

April 27, 2020, Al Jazeera

Israeli warplanes flying over Lebanon have fired missiles towards Damascus, the Syrian military said, claiming the country's air defences shot most of them down.

Turkey

[Turkey Warns Syria of 'very Heavy Losses' if Truce Violated](#)

April 21, 2020, Al Jazeera

Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has accused Syrian government forces of "accelerating its aggression" in the Idlib de-escalation zone by taking advantage of the coronavirus pandemic.

[Turkish Military Attacks Syrian Army Troops in Northeast Syria](#)

April 26, 2020, AMN

The Turkish military and their allied militants carried out a new attack against the Syrian Arab Army (SAA) in the northeastern region of Syria.

[Turkey to Send Medical Gear to US](#)

April 27, 2020, TRT World

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said that Turkey will send medical gear including protective suits and masks to the United States on Tuesday to help its efforts to contain the coronavirus outbreak.

UAE

[Covid-19 India Repatriation Flights: More Than 45,000 Keralites in UAE Register to Return](#)

April 27, 2020, Gulf News

Registrations have opened for expatriates from Kerala wanting to be repatriated, and already more than 45,000 have signed up from the UAE.

[Indian Missions in GCC Warn Against Hate Speech](#)

April 23, 2020, Khaleej Times

Indian embassies in the region have urged expats not to be misled by messages of religious intolerance and hatred by fringe elements. In the past few days some social media users in the UAE have targeted Muslim community over a congregation of Tablighi Jamaat in New Delhi and linked it to increase in Covid-19 cases in the country.

[A Few Individual Tweets Won't Affect India-UAE Ties, Says Envoy Pavan Kapoor](#)

April 25, 2020, Livemint

Indian envoy to UAE Pavan Kapoor speaks about why he had issued the warning, whether India's image in the UAE, and the larger Arab world, had suffered from the social media posts of some individuals, and on recent critical remarks against India by the OIC.

[Dubai Could Reopen For Tourists from Early July](#)

April 28, 2020, Khaleej Times

Helal Al Marri, the director general of Dubai's Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing, on Tuesday said the emirate could reopen for tourists from early July. While speaking to Bloomberg TV, Al Marri said the reopening is likely to be gradual and could be delayed until September, depending on the situation and global trends surrounding Covid-19.

Yemen

[Separatist Group announces Self-rule in Southern Yemen](#)

April 26, 2020, Al Jazeera

Yemen's southern separatists have announced plans to establish a self-ruled administration in regions under their control, a move the country's internationally-backed government said would have "catastrophic consequences".

[Dividing Yemen a Key Saudi-UAE Objective, Analyst Says](#)

April 27, 2020, Al Jazeera

Both Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates would benefit from two weak states kept in perpetual conflict, expert says. The announcement by Yemen's secessionists that they will establish southern self-rule in regions under their control may have placed the war-ravaged country on an irreversible path towards perpetual conflict.

[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.



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