



# Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



## DPG WEST ASIA REVIEW



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**Delhi Policy Group**

Core 5A, 1st Floor, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi- 110003

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## DPG WEST ASIA REVIEW Volume III, Issue 37

### ABOUT US

Founded in 1994, the Delhi Policy Group (DPG) is among India's oldest think tanks with its primary focus on strategic and international issues of critical national interest. DPG is a non-partisan institution and is independently funded by a non-profit Trust. Over past decades, DPG has established itself in both domestic and international circles and is widely recognised today among the top security think tanks of India and of Asia's major powers.

Since 2016, in keeping with India's increasing global profile, DPG has expanded its focus areas to include India's regional and global role and its policies in the Indo-Pacific. In a realist environment, DPG remains mindful of the need to align India's ambitions with matching strategies and capabilities, from diplomatic initiatives to security policy and military modernisation.

At a time of disruptive change in the global order, DPG aims to deliver research based, relevant, reliable and realist policy perspectives to an actively engaged public, both at home and abroad. DPG is deeply committed to the growth of India's national power and purpose, the security and prosperity of the people of India and India's contributions to the global public good. We remain firmly anchored within these foundational principles which have defined DPG since its inception.

### 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](#).

Your comments and feedback can be addressed to Sanket Joshi at [sanket@dpg.org.in](mailto:sanket@dpg.org.in).

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## Abstract

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held telephone conversation with Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan on September 03. "The two leaders assessed the progress in bilateral cooperation in various areas under the India-UAE comprehensive strategic partnership". "PM appreciated UAE's support for the Indian community during the COVID-19 pandemic", while "conveying best wishes for Expo-2020 to be held in Dubai in October 2021".

India continued its defence outreach in West Asia-North Africa (WANA) region. An Indian Naval Ship "Tabar" carried out joint drills with Egypt's frigate "Alexandria" in the Mediterranean Sea to ensure stability and maritime security in the region.

In a boost to India's air-defence capabilities, Indian Air Force has received its first Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM) system designed and developed by India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in partnership with Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI). Further, the Indian Army ordered over 100 tactical kamikaze Israeli drones 'SkyStriker' to beef up its operational capability along the borders with China and Pakistan.

The demand for Turkey's 'Bayraktar TB2' armed drones is witnessing unprecedented growth following its deployment in military operations in Syria and Nagorno-Karabakh. Turkish President Erdogan asserted that, the latest drone [Bayraktar Akinci PT-2 TIHA] takes country's defence industry into the "top three combat drone manufacturers in the world".

As regards trade and economy, Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC) is "working with Indian Oil Corporation to provide technical grade urea that would help reduce India's nitrogen dioxide emissions from diesel vehicles by up to 70 per cent". In another development, Oman has signed a "land reservation agreement with Indian company ACME that aims to set up a green hydrogen and ammonia project in Oman's Special Economic Zone at Duqm".

On the energy front, Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is likely to "revise downward its optimistic 2022 oil demand growth forecast as the coronavirus Delta variant outbreak has put the speed of global recovery in doubt".

Islamist militant group Taliban has deferred swearing-in ceremony of its new government in Afghanistan originally planned for September 11, coinciding with

the twentieth anniversary of the 9/11 attack. The Taliban had invited Turkey, China, Russia, Iran, Pakistan and Qatar for the swearing-in ceremony. Moscow has declined to participate. Meanwhile, India reiterated international community's collective concerns on not allowing the use of Afghan soil for terrorism including by UN-designated terror groups such as Lashkar-e-Toiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed.

Meanwhile, Iran strongly condemned Taliban's attack on 'Panjshir valley' while describing death of opposition leaders in Panjshir as "martyrdom", as a sign of Tehran's resentment over non inclusive interim government sidelining ethnic minorities among others. Reports also mention Pakistani air and SSG Commandoes support for Taliban fighters advancing toward Panjshir. Even as Iran reviews foreign intervention in Panjshir, Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) has strengthened its grip over the Taliban and may transfer Afghan and other Islamic fighters to the Indian Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir in future, as part of quid pro quo.

On the security front, Israeli Defence Minister Benny Gantz revealed details about an "Iranian air-base that is being used to train Tehran's regional proxies to operate advanced drones". The UAV base is located north of the city of Isfahan in central Iran. Tehran is also trying to "transfer drone manufacturing knowhow to Hamas and Islamic Jihad in Gaza strip", Gantz added. In another development, Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett called for "rapid international action against Iran's uranium enrichment surge". Earlier, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) had clarified that "Iran has produced about ten kilogrammes of uranium enriched to 60 per cent purity" in clear breach of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) 2015 that had limited Tehran's Uranium enrichment to 3.67 percent. IAEA also stressed that its verification and monitoring activities have been "seriously undermined" by Iran since February. Iran has however agreed to allow IAEA to service monitoring cameras at its nuclear sites.

In a blow to Israeli prison security, six Palestinians escaped Gilboa prison in northern Israel through a tunnel. Four fugitives are now in Israeli custody while search continues for the remaining two.

Even as Saudi Arabia continues to face rocket attacks from Yemen, the United States removed its most advanced air defence system, the Terminal High Altitude Air Defense (THAAD) as well as Patriot missile batteries from Saudi Arabia. Pentagon spokesperson acknowledged the "redeployment of certain air defence

assets”, while asserting that Washington maintains a “broad and deep” commitment to the Middle East allies.

Links to major developments in West Asia of strategic relevance to India, compiled from open source media, can be found below.

## Bahrain

### [Bahrain Relaxes Travel Norms for Indians](#)

September 06, 2021, The Tribune

Bahrain has relaxed travel norms for Indians withdrawing it from the Red List. This means that in addition to the Indian residents of Bahrain, Indian nationals with valid visas are now eligible to enter Bahrain.

### [US Secretary of Defence Lloyd J. Austin III Meets With Bahrain Foreign Minister at Bahrain International Airport, Near Manama, Bahrain](#)

September 08, 2021, US Department of Defence

During the meetings, the two sides discussed developments in Afghanistan, noting potential impacts on wider regional security and that the country should not become a source of instability.

## Egypt

### [Egyptian, Indian Naval Forces Conduct Drills in the Mediterranean Sea](#)

September 11, 2021, Egypt Today

Egyptian and Indian naval forces have carried out joint drills involving India's ship "INS TABAR" and Egypt's frigate "Alexandria", a front-line frigate of the Egyptian Navy, in the Mediterranean Sea to ensure maritime security and stability in the region.

### [The Role of Egyptians in The 9/11 Attacks Still Reverberates Today](#)

September 09, 2021, Council on Foreign Relations

Members of Egypt's jihadi movement played important roles in inspiring and plotting the 9/11 attacks. Egypt still struggles with some of the factors that gave rise to such extremism.

### [Lebanon to Get Egyptian Gas via Syria in Plan to Ease Crisis](#)

September 08, 2021, Reuters

Egyptian natural gas will be piped to Lebanon via Jordan and Syria to help boost its electricity output under a plan agreed by the four governments to ease a crippling power crisis. It is part of a U.S.-backed effort to address Lebanon's power shortages.

### [U.S. Forces Participate in Exercise Bright Star in Egypt](#)

September 05, 2021, US Embassy in Egypt

The U.S., along with forces from partner nations, have joined the Arab Republic of Egypt for Exercise Bright Star 2021 at Mohamed Naguib Military Base, Egypt on Sept. 2 – 16.

### [U.S. Centcom Commander Visits Egypt to Attend Part of 'Bright Star 2021' Exercises](#)

September 12, 2021, Egypt Today

Chief of Staff Egyptian Army Mohamed Farid received Sunday (September 12), Commander of the U.S. Central Command (Centcom) Kenneth Mckenzie, to hold a meeting on the sidelines of joint exercises "Bright Star 2021."



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[Egypt Races Ahead in Bid to Become Manufacturing Hub for Chinese COVID Vaccines](#)

September 09, 2021, China Daily

The factories of Egypt's state-owned vaccine production company have been working nonstop over the past few months to manufacture millions of Sinovac COVID-19 vaccine doses, as the most populous Arab country eyes becoming a regional hub for vaccine production and export.

[Egypt Receives 1st Batch of Electric Train Coaches from China](#)

September 01, 2021, Egypt Independent

Egypt received from China the first patch of the electric train coaches that will operate on the upcoming al-Salam/New Administrative Capital/Tenth of Ramadan City electric train.

## Iraq

### [Drone Attack Hits Near US Forces in Erbil, Northern Iraq, Say Officials](#)

September 12, 2021, India Today

A drone attack hit near US forces stationed at Erbil International Airport in northern Iraq on Saturday, Iraqi Kurdish security officials said.

### [Iraqi PM Kadhimi Visits Neighbour Iran for Economic Talks](#)

September 12, 2021, France 24

Iraq's Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi met Iran's recently-elected President Ebrahim Raisi to discuss the neighbours' economic relations, official sources said.

### [Iraq, US Agree to Move Forward to End US Combat Presence](#)

September 10, 2021, Middle East Monitor

Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa Al-Kadhimi met United States Central Command (CENTCOM) chief, General Kenneth McKenzie, in Baghdad and agreed to hold another meeting of the American and Iraqi technical military committees to finalise plans to end the US combat presence by the end of the year.

### [India and US Stress Upon The Need for Keeping 'Crude Prices Affordable'](#)

September 08, 2021, Mint

India's petroleum and natural gas minister Hardeep Singh Puri held a virtual meeting with US Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm wherein the "Need for keeping crude prices affordable was emphasized".

### [Al-Qaida Cheers Afghanistan 'Victory', Says Kashmir Next Target](#)

September 02, 2021, The Times of India

Now that Afghanistan has been "liberated" from American occupation by the Taliban, al-Qaida has called upon the global Muslim community to "free" other Muslim land, putting Kashmir on the list of next targets of global jihad, but leaving out Xinjiang in China and Chechnya in Russia.

## Iran

### [Iran Insists on 'Inclusive' Government in Afghanistan](#)

September 09, 2021, AL Jazeera

Iran has emphasised its calls for the formation of an "inclusive" government in neighbouring Afghanistan, shortly after the Taliban formed what it said was an interim cabinet.

### [Iran Draws Red Lines on Afghanistan](#)

September 06, 2021, Tehran Times

After weeks of strictly sticking to a line of neutrality, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman struck a note of warning about the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan. Tehran strongly condemned the Taliban attack on the Panjshir valley and described the death of opposition leaders there as "martyrdom," a major indication of Iranian resentment at the Taliban's inchoate political deliberations to form a government.

### [Panjshir for Kashmir: A Sinister Plan of Pakistan and The Taliban](#)

September 09, 2021, WION

There are alarming hints that after Pakistan's ISI has solidified its control over Afghanistan via the Taliban, it may transfer Afghans and others to India, specifically Jammu and Kashmir. India's red lines pertain to the use of Afghan soil for anti-India terrorism, which the Taliban may cross.

### [Iran to Allow IAEA to Service Nuclear Monitoring Cameras After Talks](#)

September 12, 2021, Middle East Monitor

Iran is to allow the UN nuclear watchdog to service monitoring cameras at Iranian nuclear sites after talks with IAEA head Rafael Grossi, according to the head of Iran's atomic energy body and a joint statement.

### [IAEA: Iran Has 10kg of 60 Per Cent Enriched Uranium](#)

September 08, 2021, Middle East Monitor

Iran has produced about ten kilogrammes of uranium enriched to 60 per cent purity, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said. JCPOA 2015 prevents Iran from enriching uranium to more than 3.67 per cent purity which is way below the 90 per cent threshold needed to develop a nuclear weapon.

## Israel

### [Air Defence Boost: Indian Air Force Gets First Indo-Israeli Missile](#)

September 10, 2021, Business Standard

In a significant boost to India's air defence capabilities, the Indian Air Force (IAF) was handed over its first Medium Range Surface to Air Missile (MRSAM) system, in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. It has been designed and developed by India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in partnership with Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI).

### [Indian Army Orders Over 100 Indo-Israeli Kamikaze Drones Amid Active LAC and Precarious LoC](#)

September 03, 2021, The Print

In a first, the Army has ordered over 100 tactical kamikaze Israeli drones, used in the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict, to beef up its operational capability along the borders with Pakistan and China.

### [Defence Minister Gantz Reveals Iranian Drone Base, Says It Is Used to Train Terror Groups](#)

September 12, 2021, The Times of Israel

Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz revealed the location of an Iranian air-base that he said is being used to train Tehran's regional proxies to operate advanced drones. The UAV base is located north of the city of Isfahan in central Iran and serves as "a linchpin of the Iranian effort to export aerial terror to the region."

### [Israeli PM Bennett Calls for 'Rapid International Action' Against Iran's Enrichment Surge](#)

September 10, 2021, The Times of Israel

Prime Minister Naftali Bennett called on the international community to act immediately against Iran after the IAEA reported that the Islamic Republic has dramatically increased its production of highly enriched uranium in recent months and is not allowing full inspection of its activities.

### [Taliban Says It Wants to Build Relations With All Countries, Except Israel](#)

September 09, 2021, Middle East Monitor

The Taliban has announced that its government aims to establish ties and diplomatic relations with all countries of the world, except for Israel. According to

Taliban spokesman, Suhail Shaheen, his group will even allow relations to develop with the United States which occupied Afghanistan for two decades.

### [7m Israelis Have Personal Data Stolen as Hacker Strikes](#)

September 07, 2021, Middle East Monitor

A hacker has claimed to have stolen the personal information of around seven million Israelis by intercepting the website used by municipalities. The cybercriminal who goes by the name Sangkanicil claims to have hacked City4U the website used by the Israeli municipalities and began publishing the personal information of some citizens including drivers' licenses and tax returns.

### [In Moscow, Israel's Foreign Minister Lapid Warns Against Iran Nukes, Presence in Syria](#)

September 10, 2021, AL-Monitor

On an official visit to Moscow, Foreign Minister Yair Lapid warned against Iran exporting terror across the region and maintaining a military presence in Syria. "We all aspire to bring security and stability in our region and to the world. Unfortunately, there won't be stability in Syria, or in the wider Middle East, while there is an Iranian presence.

### [Six Palestinians Escaped from an Israeli Prison Through a Tunnel, Sparking a Manhunt](#)

September 06, 2021, The Washington Post

Israeli security forces launched a manhunt for six Palestinian prisoners who escaped overnight from one of the country's highest-security prisons through a hole in their bathroom.

## Jordan

### [Jordan's Water Crisis Deepens as Climate Changes, Population Grows](#)

September 02, 2021, Reuters

At a private underground well in Amman, Imad Suleiman waits for hours to pump water into the container on his truck that he then sells on to private customers in the sprawling city of four million.

### [Gaza Reconstruction, Halting Israel Measures Against Palestinians Key to Peace: Jordan FM](#)

September 10, 2021, Middle East Monitor

The reconstruction of the occupied Gaza Strip and cessation of "all provocative and illegal Israeli measures are inevitable to achieve the two-state solution," Jordanian Foreign Minister, Ayman Safadi, said. "The Palestinian cause was, and remains our first priority," Safadi told representatives at the 156th session of the Arab League Council.

## Kuwait

### [Pentagon Chief: al-Qaeda May Seek Comeback in Afghanistan](#)

September 09, 2021, The Associated Press

U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin during his visit to Kuwait said that the al-Qaida extremist group that used Afghanistan as a staging base to attack the United States 20 years ago may attempt to regenerate there following an American withdrawal that has left the Taliban in power.

### [Kuwait Takes Over Arab League Presidency from Qatar](#)

September 07, 2021, Middle East Monitor

Qatar handed over the presidency of the Arab League to Kuwait.

## Lebanon

### [Lebanon Agrees New Government to Tackle Economic Collapse](#)

September 11, 2021, Reuters

Lebanese leaders agreed on a new government led by Sunni Muslim tycoon Najib Mikati after a year of feuding over cabinet seats that has exacerbated a devastating economic collapse, opening the way to a resumption of talks with the IMF.



## Oman

### [Oman Signs Land Deal for Green Hydrogen Project with India's ACME, Report Says](#)

August 23, 2021, Reuters

Oman has signed a land reservation agreement for a green hydrogen and ammonia project that Indian company ACME aims to set up in the Special Economic Zone at Duqm.

### [Oman Deficit and Debt Set to Plunge After COVID-19 Shock - IMF](#)

September 12, 2021, Reuters

Oman's fiscal deficit and debt are expected to decline sharply after spiking last year, the International Monetary Fund said, as the Gulf state implements a medium-term plan to fix finances hit by the COVID-19 pandemic and low oil prices.

### [China and Iran Zero-In On Oman's Massive New Oil Storage Project](#)

August 25, 2021, Yahoo Finance

China has been busy positioning itself to control the Ras Markaz site, with Oman a key cog in its multi-generational power-grab program, 'One Belt, One Road'.

## Qatar

### [Qatar Mediates as Russia Sends Arms to Tajikistan](#)

September 12, 2021, The Tribune

Qatar was trying to reduce differences between the Kremlin and the Taliban as Moscow sent more military equipment to Tajikistan, bordering the restive Baghlan province and Panjshir Valley, while its former PM Dmitry Medvedev expressed concern over the presence of thousands of ISIS fighters.

### [Qatar's Emir Discusses Developments in Afghanistan with US Secretaries of State and Defence](#)

September 07, 2021, India Today

Qatar's ruling emir and the visiting US Secretaries of State and Defence discussed developments in Afghanistan and efforts to enhance security in the war-torn country, the emir's court said.

### [India Terms Afghanistan Situation Fragile; Taliban Defer Swearing-in, Russia Not to Attend](#)

September 10, 2021, The Tribune

The Taliban have deferred the swearing-in ceremony of its Cabinet while Russia, one of the select invitees, has said it will not participate in any capacity.

### [Pakistan, Qatar Press for Release of Frozen Afghan Assets](#)

September 10, 2021, Middle East Monitor

Pakistan and Qatar urged the US today to unfreeze Afghanistan's assets to save the country from total economic collapse.

## Saudi Arabia

### [Saudi Arabia, UAE Hold Talks as Regional Rivalry Threatens Split](#)

September 07, 2021, Middle East Monitor

Saudi Crown Prince Mohamed Bin Salman held talks with his Emirati counterpart Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, in what looks to be an attempt to pull the handbrakes on the two neighbour's deteriorating relations. Reportedly, they discussed "the prospects of further consolidating the strategic cooperation" between the countries.

### [No Evidence That Saudi Govt Funded 9/11 Attackers: FBI Releases Declassified Record](#)

September 12, 2021, India Today

The FBI released a newly declassified 16-page document related to logistical support provided to two of the Saudi hijackers in the run-up to the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The document describes contacts the hijackers had with Saudi associates in the US but offers no evidence the Saudi government was complicit in the plot.

### [OPEC Set to Revise Down 'Optimistic' Oil Demand Outlook for 2022](#)

September 11, 2021, The Economic Times

OPEC will likely revise down its 2022 oil demand growth forecast, two OPEC+ sources said, as the spread of the Delta coronavirus variant puts the speed of recovery in fuel use in doubt.

### [SABIC in Indian Deal to Help Cut Diesel Emissions](#)

September 12, 2021, Arab News

SABIC is working with Indian Oil Corp. to provide technical grade urea that will ultimately help in reducing India's nitrogen dioxide emissions from diesel vehicles by up to 70 per cent, the Saudi chemical giant said in a statement.

### [China's Baosteel, Aramco Ink Pact on Saudi Steel Plate Factory](#)

September 08, 2021, Reuters

Baoshan Iron & Steel Co Ltd (Baosteel), China's biggest listed steelmaker, said it had signed an initial pact with the world's top crude oil producer Saudi Aramco to study building a steel plate factory in Saudi Arabia.

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[US Pulls Missile Defences in Saudi Arabia Amid Yemen Attacks](#)

September 11, 2021, AL Jazeera

The United States has removed its most advanced missile defence system and Patriot batteries from Saudi Arabia in recent weeks, even as the kingdom faced continued air attacks from Yemen's Houthi rebels.

[Saudi Prince Says The U.S. Should Not Withdraw Patriot Missiles from Saudi Arabia](#)

September 09, 2021, CNBC

Saudi Arabia wants the U.S. to show that Washington is committed to the kingdom, and that means leaving American defence equipment in Saudi Arabia, Prince Turki Al-Faisal said.

## Syria

### [Russian, Israeli Militaries to Continue Exchanging Information on Syria – Russian FM Lavrov](#)

September 09, 2021, TASS (Russian News Agency)

According to the Russian foreign minister, the situation in Syria remains challenging in many respects due to the fact that many countries' interests are intertwined in that process. The practice of exchanging information on the situation in Syria between Russia and Israel has proven its usefulness and will be continued.

### [Syria Regime and Russian Flags Fly in Destroyed Daraa After Truce Deal](#)

September 12, 2021, Euro News

The old part of the southern Syrian city of Daraa, occupied by rebel forces until just days ago, appeared slowly to be returning to normal. Daraa province, which straddles the borders with Jordan and Israel, became known as the cradle of the uprising against Syrian President Bashar al-Assad that erupted in 2011 as part of the Arab Spring revolts and eventually led to war.

### [Presumed Dead, Al-Qaeda Leader Ayman al-Zawahiri Appears in New Video](#)

September 12, 2021, The Week

Osama Bin Laden's successor as Al-Qaeda leader, Ayman al-Zawahiri, has resurfaced in a new video released by the terror group on the 20th anniversary of the September 11 attacks, months after reports that he was dead.

## Turkey

### [Positions of Turkey, China on Afghan Issue Mainly Parallel, Including Terrorism Concerns: Turkish Ambassador](#)

September 11, 2021, Global Times

The positions and expectations of Turkey and China regarding Afghanistan are mainly parallel, including concerns over terrorism, the Turkish Ambassador to China Abdulkadir Emin Onen said.

### [Unprecedented Demand Pours in For Turkey's Combat Drone](#)

September 10, 2021, Daily Sabah

The Bayraktar TB2 armed unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) has been seeing unprecedented demand from around the world following its deployment in military operations.

### [Cutting-edge Akinci Combat Drone Joins Turkey's Defence Offerings](#)

August 29, 2021, TRT World

Turkey's Bayraktar Akinci PT-2 TIHA (unmanned aerial vehicle) has completed stringent testing and has been delivered to the Turkish Armed Forces (TAF) in a ceremony attended by Turkey's president.

### [Turkey, Azerbaijan, Pakistan Launch Joint Military Drills in Baku](#)

September 12, 2021, Daily Sabah

Turkish, Azerbaijani and Pakistani militaries launched their first-ever joint exercises in Baku named "Three Brothers – 2021".

### [Taliban Invite Turkey, China, Russia, Iran, Pakistan and Qatar for Govt Formation Event](#)

September 06, 2021, The Week

The Taliban gave an early glimpse of its foreign policy and geopolitical alignment as it invited Russia, China, Turkey, Iran, Pakistan and Qatar to attend an event on its looming government formation.

## UAE

### [Telephone Conversation Between PM Narendra Modi and Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan](#)

September 03, 2021, Ministry of External Affairs Government of India

The two leaders positively assessed the continued progress in bilateral cooperation in various areas under the India-UAE comprehensive strategic partnership. PM appreciated UAE's support for the Indian community during the Covid-19 pandemic. He also conveyed best wishes for Expo-2020 to be held in Dubai from October 1, 2021.

### [UAE Mandates Job Quota for Emiratis in Private Sector](#)

September 13, 2021, Mint

Private sector companies in the UAE will have to fill 10 per cent of their positions with Emirati nationals within five years, the UAE said, announcing its latest tranche of economic reforms.

### [Second Reactor Launched at UAE Nuclear Power Plant](#)

September 10, 2021, Middle East Monitor

The UAE's Barakah nuclear power station began operating its second reactor, the Abu Dhabi government media office said after the first reactor started commercial operations in April.

## Yemen

### [Yemen: As Conflict Drags on, 'No Quick Wins' – UN Envoy](#)

September 10, 2021, UN News

"Enabling a resumption of a peaceful, inclusive, orderly and Yemeni-led political transition process that meets the legitimate demands and aspirations of the Yemeni people, as mandated by this Council, will not be easy. There are no quick wins", UN Special Envoy for Yemen Hans Grundberg said in his inaugural briefing.

### [Houthi Envoy to Iran Confirms Israeli Presence in Yemen Islands](#)

September 06, 2021, Middle East Monitor

The Houthi-led Yemeni government's Ambassador to Tehran, Ibrahim Mohamed Al-Dailami, has confirmed previously made claims about Israel's alleged presence on Yemeni territory, specifically on its strategically located islands including Hanish, Mayun, and Socotra Island in the Arabian Sea.

### [Yemen Govt Says Houthis Hit Red Sea Aid Port](#)

September 11, 2021, AL Jazeera

Yemeni officials have said the country's Houthi rebels have fired a ballistic missile and five explosive-laden drones at a Red Sea port, destroying humanitarian aid warehouses.

### [UN: 18,000 Yemen Civilians Killed, Wounded in Air-strikes Since 2015](#)

September 09, 2021, Middle East Monitor

A United Nations panel found that 18,000 Yemeni civilians had been killed or wounded in air-strikes since 2015 during the ongoing conflict in the country.





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