



# 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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### 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](#).

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## Abstract

Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, expressed condolences on the passing away of UAE's President, 'Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan'. Indian Vice President, M Venkaiah Naidu, met the new President of UAE, 'Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed' to offer condolences on behalf of the nation and paid rich tributes to Late Sheikh Khalifa's contribution in boosting India-UAE relations. Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, expressed confidence that "under Sheikh Mohamed's dynamic and visionary leadership, India-UAE Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement will continue to deepen". Meanwhile, India and UAE launched 'Start-up Bridge' to provide a platform to entrepreneurs from both sides to further deepen the trade partnership. Further, India is mulling a preferential trade agreement (PTA) with Oman.

Even as India decided to ban the export of wheat, Egypt claimed that "Cairo was in talks with New Delhi for an exemption from this ban". Reportedly, Egypt will buy 500,000 tonnes of wheat from India to meet its food security needs. India is also sending wheat consignments to Oman as West Asia-North Africa continues to face major wheat supply disruptions owing to the conflict in Ukraine.

Amidst the change of government in Pakistan, Imran Khan-led Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) slammed the federal government for its "intentions to resume trade with India without resolving the Kashmir dispute, as also accord recognition to Israel".

With regards to talks on Iran nuclear deal, in the aftermath of Enrique Mora's visit to Tehran, European Union's Foreign Policy Chief, Josep Borrell, asserted that "the discussions between EU and Iran were better than expected" and "the stalled negotiations have now been reopened". However, Iranian National Security Advisor, Ali Shamkhani, continued to maintain that the "US must accept Iranian demands [a possible reference to the removal of IRGC from US Foreign Terrorist Organization list] to break nuclear talks deadlock". Washington still remains uncertain about the prospects of reviving the nuclear deal. Meanwhile, Qatar's Emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani met Iranian Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and President Ebrahim Raisi in Tehran. The two leaders discussed bilateral and regional issues including efforts to revive the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). While commenting on Israel, the Iranian Supreme Leader warned Sheikh Tamim that "relations with Israel do not promise any power or privilege and one should not be scared by their position".

Amidst rising energy prices and inflation, US Senate Committee passed 'No Oil Producing and Exporting Cartels' (NOPEC) bill that, if signed into law by the President – will pave way for lawsuits against OPEC for anti-trust behaviour and market manipulation. Criticizing this, UAE and Saudi Arabia's Energy Minister's warned Washington that "OPEC was being unfairly targeted for the energy crisis and the NOPEC bill would disrupt established system of crude production and could see oil prices shoot up by as much as 300 percent". As the crude prices continue to hover around USD 110/barrel, Saudi Aramco's first-quarter profits surged by 80 percent allowing it to overtake 'Apple' as the world's most valuable company.

Turkey – a NATO member, mediating between Russia and Ukraine, is "not favourable" toward the proposed expansion of NATO to induct Finland and Sweden. There are reports that it could veto the move. The United States and NATO, however, have expressed confidence that they will address Ankara's concerns so that Turkey will not oppose Finland and Sweden's admission. On its part, the Kremlin warned Finland that joining NATO would impact bilateral relations and that "ending the traditional policy of military neutrality would be a mistake as there is no threat to Finland's security".

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

## Bahrain

### [Bahrain 'Not Affected by India's Wheat Exports Ban'](#)

May 15, 2022, Gulf News Daily

Bahrain Chamber's food wealth committee vice-chairman Muslem Asad said the kingdom hasn't been affected by India's decision to ban wheat exports. Bahrain Flour Mills Company has a strategic reserve for about a year and is supported by the government to stabilise the prices of bread for consumers, he noted.

### [Saudi Arabia and Bahrain Join Qatar in UK Visa Waiver Eligibility](#)

May 12, 2022, Doha News

Travellers from Saudi Arabia and Bahrain can now enter the UK without providing biometric information, visiting an application centre, or handing in their passports before the trip.

## Egypt

### [Egypt in Talks with India on Wheat Export Ban Exemption](#)

May 14, 2022, The Times of India

Egypt is in talks with Indian officials about getting an exemption from India's decision to ban wheat exports.

### [Egypt To Buy 500,000 Tonnes of Wheat from India](#)

May 16, 2022, Moneycontrol

Egypt's government has agreed to buy half a million tonnes of wheat from India, Egyptian Supply Minister Aly Moselhy said.

### [Egypt Considers Issuing Bonds in China's Yuan](#)

May 12, 2022, AL-Monitor

Egypt's Minister of Finance Mohamed Maait made the announcement alongside PRC's Ambassador in Cairo Liao Liqiang. The move would help diversify Egypt's financial resources and target China's large bond market.

### [Egypt's Economy Loses USD 7 Billion Due to Russia-Ukraine War](#)

May 15, 2022, Hindustan Times

Egyptian Prime Minister, Mostafa Madbouly, said that the Egyptian economy had suffered 130 billion Egyptian pounds (USD 7 billion) in direct losses due to the ongoing Russian military operation in Ukraine.

### [Israeli Official Says West Should Stop Pressing Egypt on Human Rights](#)

May 12, 2022, Axios

Israeli National Security Adviser, Eyal Hulata, said in a closed lecture to the board of governors of Tel Aviv University that Western countries should stop pressuring Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi on human rights.

## Iraq

### [Crude Steady; OPEC Authorises Iraq To Increase Output To 4.5m Bpd; Kurdish Forces Seize Oil Wells in Iraq](#)

May 15, 2022, Arab News

Iraq's representative at OPEC said the organisation had agreed to the country increasing its output to 4.5 million barrels of oil per day starting from June. Meanwhile, crude prices continue to hover around USD 110/barrel.

### [OPEC+ Misses Production Target by Whopping 2.7 Million Bpd](#)

May 12, 2022, Oilprice.com

OPEC continues to undershoot its oil production target in the OPEC+ deal, failing in April to boost output as much as required by the agreement.

### [U.S. Senate Passes NOPEC Antitrust Bill](#)

May 05, 2022, oilprice.com

The U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee has approved the No Oil Producing and Exporting Cartels Act (NOPEC) bill, paving the way—if signed into law by the President—for a lawsuit against OPEC for antitrust behaviour and market manipulation.

### [Explainer: Why NOPEC, The U.S. Bill To Crush the OPEC Cartel, Matters](#)

May 05, 2022, Reuters

The No Oil Producing and Exporting Cartels (NOPEC) bill is intended to protect U.S. consumers and businesses from engineered spikes in the cost of gasoline and heating oil.



## Iran

### [Iran, India to Boost Fight against Narcotics](#)

May 10, 2022, Tehran Times

In a meeting in Tehran, Narayan Pradhan, Director General of the Indian Narcotics Control Bureau, welcomed the development of cooperation with the Iranian anti-narcotics police and called for a memorandum of cooperation, as well as exchanging information in the field of counter-narcotics.

### [Stalled Iran Nuclear Talks Have Been 'Reopened': EU's Borrell](#)

May 13, 2022, AL Arabiya

Stalled negotiations over Iran's nuclear program have been unblocked after fresh talks in Tehran, EU Foreign Policy Chief Josep Borrell said, adding that he believed a final deal was within reach.

### [Iranian NSA Says US Must Accept Tehran's Demands To Break Nuclear Talks' Deadlock](#)

May 13, 2022, AL Arabiya

Iran's top security official struck an uncompromising tone over stalled nuclear negotiations between Tehran and P5+1, saying the current deadlock can only be broken if the US concedes to Iran's demands.

### [Europe in Critical Need of Reaching an Agreement with Iran](#)

May 14, 2022, Mehr News Agency

Mohammad Marandi, an advisor to the Iranian negotiating team in Vienna, has said the European countries are in critical need of Iranian oil, adding an agreement is within reach if Western powers meet Iran's logical demands.

### [Secretary Blinken Discusses Ukraine, Iran Deal with German, French, UK Counterparts](#)

May 16, 2022, Business Standard

On the sidelines of the NATO Foreign Ministerial meet, Secretary Antony Blinken met with his counterparts from Germany, UK and France in Berlin where they discussed the Ukraine situation and the ongoing negotiation with Iran over the nuclear deal revival.

## Israel

### [Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf \(PTI\) Condemns 'move' To Resume Trade with India, Recognise Israel](#)

May 13, 2022, Dawn

The core committee and spokespersons of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) condemned what they called the Pakistani government's intention to resume trade with India and accord recognition to Israel.

### [President Biden: US Ties with Israel Are 'Unbreakable; I'm Proud to Stand with Israel Today and Always'](#)

May 13, 2022, The Jerusalem Post

"The partnership between Israel and the United States has been indispensable for the United States and I believe for Israel as well," the President said. "Our ties are unbreakable and I'm proud to stand with Israel today and always."

### [UN Security Council Condemns Killing of Al Jazeera Journalist Shireen Abu Akleh in West Bank's Jenin](#)

May 14, 2022, The Times of India

The United Nations Security Council unanimously condemned the killing of Palestinian-American Al-Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh while covering an Israeli army raid in the West Bank city of Jenin.

### [EU 'Appalled' by Israel's Aggression at Shireen Abu Akleh's Funeral](#)

May 14, 2022, Middle East Monitor

The European Union (EU) condemned the "disproportionate use of force" by Israeli occupation forces during the funeral procession of slain Al-Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh.

## Jordan

### [JPMC Signs Agreements worth \\$1.5b with Indian Fertiliser Companies](#)

May 15, 2022, The Jordan Times

The Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) signed several agreements and memoranda of understanding with Indian companies specialising in investments in phosphate and phosphate fertilisers.

### [President Biden Assures King Abdullah US Recognizes Jordan As Custodian of Muslim Holy Places in Jerusalem](#)

May 14, 2022, The Jerusalem Post

"The President recognized the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan's crucial role as the custodian of Muslim holy places in Jerusalem," the White House says.

## Kuwait

### [Thousands of Indian Nurses Expected in Kuwait](#)

May 15, 2022, Gulf News

Thousands of newly recruited Indian nurses are expected to arrive in Kuwait soon amid growing cooperation between the two countries.

### [Kuwait Follows Saudis in Slashing Oil Prices for Asia](#)

May 11, 2022, Oilprice.com

Kuwait has become the second-largest OPEC member to cut its prices for Asia this month after Saudi Arabia cut its export prices for the first time in four months.

## Lebanon

### [Lebanon Vote Brings Blow for Hezbollah Allies in Preliminary Results](#)

May 16, 2022, Reuters

Iran-backed Hezbollah has been dealt a blow in Lebanon's parliamentary election with preliminary results showing losses for some of its oldest allies and the Saudi-aligned Lebanese Forces party saying it had gained seats.

## Oman

### [Wheat Consignments Being Sent to Oman, Says Indian Envoy to Muscat Amit Narang](#)

May 13, 2022, WION

Indian Ambassador to Oman, Amit Narang, has confirmed that India is sending wheat consignments to the country and "more shipments of wheat will be on their way to Oman soon". Indian supplies to Oman come as the Russia-Ukraine conflict has impacted the global supply chain and wheat supply.

### [India May Mull Preferential Trade Pact with Oman: Piyush Goyal](#)

May 13, 2022, The Financial Express

Commerce and Industry Minister, Piyush Goyal, said India will likely consider a preferential trade agreement (PTA) with Oman to further boost economic co-operation.

### [94.8 Percent Jump in Number of Indian Businesses Registering with Invest Easy portal](#)

May 14, 2022, The Times of Oman

Trade and investment flows between India and Oman have remained on a positive trajectory despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

### [Russian FM Visits Oman to Discuss Ukraine, Trade](#)

May 11, 2022, AL Arabiya

Russia's foreign minister Sergey Lavrov visited Oman to discuss a range of issues including the Ukraine conflict, trade, and migration.

## Qatar

### [India's Petronet Seeks Lower Price For Renewing Qatar Gas Deal](#)

May 12, 2022, The Financial Express

India's top gas importer Petronet LNG wants Qatar Gas to lower prices for it to renew a long-term liquefied natural gas (LNG) import deal beyond 2028, its CEO Akshay Kumar Singh said.

### [Qatar's Sheikh Tamim Meets Top Iranian Officials in Tehran](#)

May 12, 2022, AL Jazeera

Qatar's Emir, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, has met the Iranian Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and President Ebrahim Raisi in Tehran for talks that focused on bilateral and regional issues in addition to efforts to restore Iran's 2015 nuclear deal.

### [Iran's Supreme Leader Warns Qatari Emir About Israel](#)

May 12, 2022, AL Monitor

In what appeared as a word of caution to Sheikh Tamim, the Iranian leader suggested that relations with Israel do not promise any "power and privilege" and that Israel "is in no position that one should be scared by."

### [Qatar's Embassy in Washington Marks 50 Years of Qatar-US Diplomatic Relations](#)

May 15, 2022, Gulf Times

Qatar's Embassy in the US celebrated the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. The ceremony was attended by a number of ministers, senior officials and members of the diplomatic corps in Washington.

## Saudi Arabia

### [UAE, Saudi Energy Ministers Hit Back At 'NOPEC' Bill, Say It Could Send Oil Prices Surging](#)

May 10, 2022, CNBC

Top OPEC ministers have hit back at new U.S. legislation intended to regulate its output, saying such efforts would bring greater chaos to energy markets. The proposals could see oil prices shoot up by as much as 300 percent, UAE Energy Minister Suhail Al Mazrouei warned.

### [Oil Giant Saudi Aramco's First-Quarter Profits Surge 80 Percent](#)

May 15, 2022, Market Watch

Saudi Aramco said its profits soared more than 80 percent in the first three months of the year, as the state-backed company cashed in on the volatility in global energy markets and surging oil prices following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

### [Inside The Secret Meeting between the CIA Director and Saudi Crown Prince](#)

May 13, 2022, The Intercept

CIA Director, William Burns, pressed Mohammed bin Salman on oil production, prominent detainees, and the kingdom's relationship with China.



## Syria

### [Satellite Images Show Complete Destruction of Syrian Site Hit by Israel](#)

May 15, 2022, The Jerusalem Post

Images published by Israeli intelligence firm ImageSat International (ISI) of a site in Syria allegedly struck by Israel show its complete destruction.

## Turkey

### [Turkey Has Offered Sea Evacuation for Wounded Ukrainian Fighters, President Erdogan's Adviser Says](#)

May 14, 2022, Reuters

NATO member Turkey has proposed carrying out a sea evacuation of wounded fighters holed up in a steel works in the southern Ukrainian city of Mariupol, President Tayyip Erdogan's spokesman said.

### [Turkey Sets Demands, Not Opposed to Finland, Sweden NATO Bid](#)

May 15, 2022, AL Jazeera

NATO and the United States say they are confident Turkey will not impede the membership of Finland and Sweden in the Western military alliance, despite Ankara expressing reservations.

### [Turkey's Leader Opposes Letting Finland, Sweden Join NATO](#)

May 14, 2022, Associated Press

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said that his country is "not favourable" toward Finland and Sweden joining NATO, indicating Turkey could use its membership in the Western military alliance to veto moves to admit the two countries.

### [Putin Tells Finnish President: Joining NATO Would Be 'Mistake'](#)

May 14, 2022, AL Jazeera

Russia's President Vladimir Putin has told his Finnish counterpart that joining NATO would be "a mistake", as Moscow cut off its electricity supply to the Nordic country earlier – in what is seen as retaliation for Helsinki's moves.

### [Uyghurs in Turkey Urge UN Human Rights Chief to Investigate China Rights Abuses](#)

May 10, 2022, Daily Sabah

Uyghur Muslims in Turkey strongly urged United Nations human rights chief Michelle Bachelet to investigate allegations of rights abuses, torture, genocide and so-called "re-education camps" during her upcoming visit to China's Xinjiang province this month.

## UAE

### [UAE Mourns Sheikh Khalifa: Indian Vice President Naidu in Abu Dhabi to Offer Condolences](#)

May 15, 2022, Khaleej Times

Indian Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu arrived in Abu Dhabi to offer condolences over the demise of late UAE President Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

### [PM Modi Condoles Demise of UAE President Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan](#)

May 13, 2022, Republic World

Prime Minister Narendra Modi reminisced that the late UAE president was a "great statesman and visionary leader under whom India-UAE relations prospered."

### [World Leaders, Including from China and India, Congratulate UAE President Sheikh Mohamed](#)

May 15, 2022, The National News

China's President and India's Prime Minister are among leaders from around the world who have sent messages of congratulations to the UAE's newly elected President, Sheikh Mohamed.

### ['Friend of India' Rises in UAE, Indians Welcome Appointment of Sheikh Mohammed as New President](#)

May 15, 2022, India Today

The appointment of Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan as the President of the UAE will give a big fillip to the India-UAE strategic ties and take them to the next level as the new leader is a "true friend" of India and has great regard for Indians.

### [UAE Economy Minister Launches Start-Up Bridge with India](#)

May 14, 2022, The National News

Abdulla bin Touq, UAE's Minister of Economy, and India's Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal launched India-UAE Start-up Bridge to provide a platform to investors and entrepreneurs from countries following the signing of an economic partnership agreement.

## Yemen

### [Yemen: \\$33 Million Pledged to Address Decaying Oil Tanker Threat](#)

May 11, 2022, UN News

Donors pledged \$33 million towards a UN-coordinated plan to prevent an ageing oil tanker moored off the west Coast of Yemen from sparking a potential ecological and humanitarian disaster.



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