



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

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

Ahead of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi's visit to the UAE on June 28, Indian Foreign Secretary, Vinay Kwatra, stressed that India-UAE relations are "dynamic, robust, and widespread" and PM's visit to Abu Dhabi will strengthen cooperation in investments, security, and education. During the visit, PM Modi will pay his personal condolences on the passing away of UAE's former President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, while congratulating Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan on his election as the UAE's President.

Amidst India's pursuit of increasing its defence exports, New Delhi has offered to set up production facilities for Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) and Helicopters in Egypt. Egyptian Airforce Chief is expected to visit New Delhi in a few days, wherein India will showcase its expertise in LCA manufacturing and maintenance of its existing aircraft fleet. In another development, Egypt will buy 180,000 tonnes of wheat from India.

Iranian President, Ebrahim Raisi, addressed the 'BRICS Plus Summit' wherein he underscored the need to "create and strengthen new institutions alongside the United Nations to realise a society with a common future" while railing against "unilateralism, nationalistic partialities, and sanctions". Meanwhile, as the high crude prices continue to roil markets, 'ExxonMobil' Chief warned that owing to under-investment and the COVID-19 pandemic, oil turbulence could last for as long as five years.

With regards to the Iran nuclear deal, European Union's Foreign Policy Chief, Josep Borrell, after his meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister stressed that "Tehran and Washington are ready to restart the talks" that have stalled since March 2022. Although Borrell did not give an exact date, place, or format for a new round of talks, open-source intelligence reports pointed toward Qatar possibly hosting the nuclear talks.

Ahead of President Biden's visit to the Middle East in July 2022, Israel, Egypt, US, UAE, Bahrain, and Morocco are set to meet in Bahrain to discuss "regional security architecture". Further, reports shed light on a secret meeting between top military officials from the US, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Egypt, UAE, Bahrain, and Jordan held at Sharm El Sheikh in March 2022, exploring ways to coordinate against Iran's growing missile and drone capabilities. In line with this, Jordan's King Abdullah called for building a "Middle East NATO".

In a major political development, Israeli Prime Minister, Naftali Bennett, announced that he will dissolve the Knesset (Parliament) as he does not have the majority to govern. In the meantime, 'Yair Lapid' will take over as Israel's caretaker Prime Minister till the country holds new parliamentary elections this fall.

Underscoring the rapprochement between Saudi Arabia and Turkey, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman visited Ankara and met President Erdogan. Meanwhile, Turkey intends to block Sweden and Finland's NATO membership bid at the alliance's upcoming summit, as they have still not addressed Ankara's security concerns over Kurdish militants.

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

Bahrain

[Negev Forum to Meet in Bahrain on Security Alliance as Iran Talks Revived](#)

June 26, 2022, The Jerusalem Post

With an eye to a regional security alliance and in advance of US President Biden's visit to the Middle East, Israel is set to meet with Bahraini, Emirati, Moroccan, Egyptian and US officials in Bahrain.

[Middle East Accounts For 43 Percent of US Arms Transfers, Report Finds](#)

June 20, 2022, Middle East Monitor

"The Middle East accounted for 43 per cent of US arms transfers. Especially important for the growth of US arms exports was an increase in deliveries of major arms to Saudi Arabia, by 106 per cent."

Egypt

[India Offers to Set Up Production Facilities for Light Combat Aircraft in Egypt](#)

June 27, 2022, The Economic Times

India has offered to set up production facilities for the manufacturing of light combat aircraft (LCA) as well as helicopters in Egypt as it pursues defence export opportunities in the Middle East and North Africa region.

[Egypt Contracts to Buy 180,000 Tonnes of Wheat from India: Aly Moselhy](#)

June 26, 2022, Business Standard

Egypt has contracted to buy 180,000 tonnes of wheat from India, Supply Minister Aly Moselhy said, less than previously agreed, a deal that is part of the country's efforts to diversify its wheat supplies.

[Egypt, Qatar Welcome Upcoming Gulf-Arab-US Summit in Saudi Arabia](#)

June 26, 2022, Asharq AL-Awsat

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani welcomed the upcoming Gulf Cooperation Summit that will be hosted by Saudi Arabia and attended by the leaders of Egypt, Jordan, Iraq and the United States. The summit is set for July.

[Egypt, US Chevron Agree on East Mediterranean Gas Exploration, Transfer](#)

June 21, 2022, Middle East Monitor

The state-owned Egyptian Natural Gas Holding Company (EGAS) and the United States Chevron Corporation have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to cooperate in activities of transporting, importing and liquefying the exports of East Mediterranean gas, the country's petroleum ministry announced.

Iraq

[Explainer: How Sadr's Shiite Rivals Became Largest Bloc in Iraq's Parliament](#)

June 23, 2022, AL-Monitor

Following the resignation of all 73 members of the Sadrist group in the Iraqi parliament on June 12, the vacant seats were granted to the second winners, making the Coordination Framework of Shiite parties, the Sadrist's rivals, the largest bloc in the parliament.

[Asia's Thirst for Cheap Russian Oil Hits OPEC's No 2 Producer Iraq](#)

June 23, 2022, Business Standard

Iraq may end up as one of the biggest losers from cheap Russian barrels flowing to Asia with lukewarm demand for its key grades.

[India's Crude Oil Imports from Russia Jumps 50 Times; Now Accounts For 10% of All Import](#)

June 23, 2022, Mint

Russia has now emerged among the top 10 suppliers of crude oil to India. From all the crude oil purchases from overseas, India's imports from Russia have climbed more than 50 times since April.

[Saudi Crown Prince, Iraqi PM Discuss 'Regional Stability'](#)

June 26, 2022, Gulf News

Iraq's Prime Minister met with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman, in the kingdom as part of Baghdad's efforts to mediate between Riyadh and Tehran.

[US Condemns Repeated Attacks on Oil, Gas Sites in Iraqi Kurdistan](#)

June 27, 2022, Iran International

State Department Spokesperson Ned Price said such attacks are designed to undermine economic stability just as they seek to challenge Iraqi sovereignty, sow division, and intimidate, stressing the necessity to investigate the attacks and prosecute those responsible for them.

Iran

[Iran and US Ready to Restart Talks on Nuclear Deal](#)

June 25, 2022, The Guardian

Josep Borrell, the EU foreign affairs chief, has said talks will restart on the Iran nuclear deal, averting a complete collapse in the agreement which could spark a nuclear arms race across the Middle East.

[Iranian President Makes Speech at BRICS Summit](#)

June 24, 2022, Tehran Times

At the invitation of his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi virtually addressed the BRICS plus summit, emphasising the importance of the group in global development.

Israel

[U.S. Held Secret Meeting with Israeli, Arab Military Chiefs to Counter Iran Air Threat](#)

June 26, 2022, The Wall Street Journal

The U.S. convened a secret meeting of top military officials from Israel and Arab countries in March 2022 to explore how they could coordinate against Iran's growing missile and drone capabilities, according to officials from the U.S. and the region.

[U.S. Working on Normalisation "Road Map" for Saudi Arabia and Israel](#)

June 22, 2022, Axios

The White House has been working on a "road map for normalisation" between Israel and Saudi Arabia ahead of President Biden's visit to the Middle East in July, according to four U.S. sources briefed on the issue.

[Knesset Set to Disperse on Monday \(June 27\); Yair Lapid to Take over as PM in Midweek](#)

June 26, 2022, The Times of Israel

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and Lapid last week announced their decision to dissolve the 24th Knesset after just one year in power due to their inability to keep their narrow, politically diverse coalition together any longer.

[On The Way Out: Why is Israel's Government About to Fall?](#)

June 21, 2022, AL Jazeera

The main thing that united the Naftali Bennett-led coalition was opposition to Likud Party leader Benjamin Netanyahu, but ultimately that has not been enough to keep them together.

[After President Zelensky's Critique, Israeli Envoy Says Israel Doing Everything It Can to Help](#)

June 24, 2022, The Times of Israel

Israel's Ambassador to Ukraine responded to criticism voiced by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky a day earlier about Israel's lack of support in the face of the ongoing Russian offensive in his country.

[Israel Responds to UN Report Accusing It of Abu Akleh Killing](#)

June 25, 2022, Middle East Monitor

The Israeli Army announced in a statement: "following the biased investigations that have been presented in recent days, the IDF once again reiterates its call to the Palestinians to share access to the bullet with which the Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Akleh was killed.

Jordan

[Jordan's King Abdullah Backs Plans for a 'Middle East NATO'](#)

June 26, 2022, The New Arab

Jordan's King Abdullah said he would be in favour of a Middle Eastern military alliance built on the same model as NATO.

[Jordan Wants Palestinian Issue to Lead GCC-Biden Meeting, Says King Abdullah](#)

June 26, 2022, The National News

Jordan is working to put the Palestinian issue at the top of the agenda for the summit in Saudi Arabia next month between US President Joe Biden and GCC leaders.

Kuwait

[Kuwait Set for First Budget Surplus Since 2014 as Oil Drives Resurgence](#)

June 21, 2022, Zawya (Refinitiv)

The oil sector, which accounts for over half of Kuwait's GDP, is the main driver of its economic growth, with the sector expected to see year-on-year growth of 11.8 percent.

[Oil Turbulence Could Last Five Years, ExxonMobil Boss Warns](#)

June 21, 2022, The Economic Times

Consumers must be prepared to endure up to five years of turbulent oil markets, the head of ExxonMobil said, citing under-investment and the coronavirus pandemic.

Lebanon

[Israel Meets US Mediator Over Lebanon Maritime Border Dispute](#)

June 26, 2022, The National News

Israeli officials have met a US envoy to discuss the disputed maritime border with Lebanon after his visit to the country last week.

Oman

[Higher Oil Prices, Fiscal Efforts to Generate Substantial Surplus for Oman: IMF](#)

June 19, 2022, Zawya (Refinitiv)

Favourable oil prices and continued fiscal consolidation efforts are expected to generate substantial fiscal and external surpluses for Oman, and support higher growth over the medium term, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

[U.S. CENTCOM Commander Meets with Omani Leadership to Discuss Security Cooperation](#)

June 19, 2022, US Central Command

The leaders met to establish relationships and to discuss critical security issues, to include the UN-led Yemen truce. On behalf of the United States, General Kurilla thanked the Omani leadership for serving a central role in this effort: hosting and facilitating a dialogue that led to this truce.

Qatar

[Qatar Likely to Host Iran-US Nuclear Deal Talks](#)

June 26, 2022, Anadolu Agency

Qatar is most likely to host the upcoming talks between Iran and the US, mediated by the European Union, to close the remaining gaps in efforts to salvage the 2015 nuclear deal.

[Qatar Economic Forum: Musk, Roubini, Goldman Warn of US Recession Risk](#)

June 22, 2022, Business Standard

Elon Musk, Nouriel Roubini and Goldman Sachs Group have warned of a growing likelihood that the US economy will fall into recession.

[Qatar Reiterates One-China Principle; Timely Correction of Taiwan Island Reference on World Cup App Appreciated](#)

June 24, 2022, Global Times

Zhou Jian, the Chinese ambassador to Qatar, met with Assistant Foreign Minister for Regional Affairs of Qatar, Mohammed bin Abdulaziz Al-Khulaifi, and the latter reiterated that Qatar firmly supports the one-China principle.

Saudi Arabia

[Saudi Arabia, Egypt Sign \\$7.7bn Investment Deals: Minister](#)

June 22, 2022, Arab News

Saudi Arabia and Egypt have signed 14 investment deals worth \$7.7 billion, the Saudi Minister of Trade, Majid Al-Qasabi announced.

[Saudi Crown Prince's Visit to Turkey Signals an 'Utterly Remarkable' Posture Change for President Erdogan](#)

June 24, 2022, CNBC

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has visited Turkey for the first time in years, marking a rapprochement between two of the wider region's most important political, military and economic players after a period of strained relations.

Syria

[US: 'We Will Not Support Assad Rehabilitation in Any Form'](#)

June 25, 2022, Middle East Monitor

US Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Ambassador Barbara Leaf conveyed that Washington will not support efforts to normalise or rehabilitate Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad.

[Syrian, Russian Paratroopers Carry Out Drill in Second Joint Exercise This Month](#)

June 27, 2022, The Times of Israel

Hundreds of Syrian paratroopers took part in a joint drill with their Russian counterparts in the war-torn country in the second joint manoeuvre this month, state media reported.

[Russian Veto on Syria Border Aid Could Spell Disaster for Idlib](#)

June 23, 2022, AL Jazeera

Despite pleas from the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, Russia could use its veto at the UN Security Council and prevent the extension of a mechanism that allows for aid to pass through Bab al-Hawa, the only border crossing that allows aid to enter opposition-held territory without first entering Syrian government-controlled territory.

Türkiye

[Sweden Hasn't Alleviated NATO Concerns, Says Turkish President Erdogan](#)

June 26, 2022, Business Standard

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has told Sweden's Prime Minister that he has not seen any tangible moves to address Turkey's concerns about her country joining NATO, Erdogan's office said.

[Turkey Intent on Blocking Nordic Bids at NATO Summit If Security Concerns Persist](#)

June 24, 2022, Xinhua

Turkey seems determined to block Sweden and Finland's NATO memberships in the alliance's upcoming summit as long as they do not address Turkey's security concerns, although the NATO chief has vowed "a common way forward" on the issue at stake.

[US Welcomes Turkey's Efforts to Broker Ukraine Grain Transit Deal](#)

June 24, 2022, Daily Sabah

The United States welcomes Turkey's involvement in brokering an agreement to get grain that has been trapped at Ukrainian ports amid the Russian invasion out of the country, a senior official said.

UAE

[India-UAE Relations Are Dynamic, Robust, Widespread: FS Kwatra](#)

June 25, 2022, Times of Oman

Addressing a briefing ahead of PM Modi's visit to Germany and UAE, Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra said security, education and investment are among areas of discussion between India and UAE and bilateral relations are "dynamic, robust, and widespread".

[UAE's Reputation as Hub for Illicit Money Raises Concern in US over Russia Sanctions](#)

June 23, 2022, Middle East Monitor

The United Arab Emirates' (UAE) reputation as a hub for illicit flows of money has raised alarms in the US, as officials in Washington express concerns over the Gulf state becoming a haven for corrupt Russian money which they say will undermine sanctions on Russia.

Yemen

[Iran Backs Truce in Yemen and Regional Dialogue After Visit by Iraqi Prime Minister](#)

June 26, 2022, The National News

Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi expressed his country's support for the UN-brokered truce in Yemen and called for talks to resolve problems among countries in the region after a meeting with Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa Al Kadhimi in Tehran.



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