



Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power



DPG WEST ASIA REVIEW



Volume IV, Issue 24 | June 13, 2022

Delhi Policy Group

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

www.delhipolicygroup.org



Delhi Policy Group

Advancing India's Rise as a Leading Power

DPG WEST ASIA REVIEW Volume IV, Issue 24

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.

© 2022 by the Delhi Policy Group

Delhi Policy Group

Core 5A, 1st Floor,

India Habitat Centre,

Lodhi Road, New Delhi- 110003.

www.delhipolicygroup.org

DPG WEST ASIA REVIEW

Volume IV, Issue 24

Contents

Abstract	1
Bahrain	3
Egypt	4
Iraq	5
Iran	6
Israel	8
Jordan	10
Kuwait	11
Lebanon	12
Oman	13
Qatar	14
Saudi Arabia	15
Syria	16
Türkiye	17
UAE	18
Yemen	19

Abstract

Iranian Foreign Minister, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, met Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, and External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar on June 8. They reviewed bilateral cooperation including trade, connectivity, health, and people-to-people ties while exchanging views on global and regional issues including JCPoA, Afghanistan, and Ukraine.

In an important development, Iran tested the International North-South Transit Corridor, through a two-container shipment from St Petersburg to Mumbai, via the Caspian Sea and Iran. This has the potential of becoming an alternative land cum sea route from Eurasia to India. In another development, India abstained from voting against Iran at IAEA in a resolution condemning Tehran for its failure to provide an explanation about the detection of nuclear traces at three undisclosed locations.

Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, is scheduled to visit the United Arab Emirates in the last week of June 2022. Meanwhile, India and Turkey held 11th session of Foreign Office Consultations in Ankara, wherein the two sides noted an upward trajectory in commercial ties.

On US-Iran relations, as reports emerged about Tehran removing 27 surveillance cameras from its nuclear sites, US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, warned that it will further “deepen the nuclear crisis”. Amidst the rising regional tensions, a bipartisan bill has been introduced in the US Congress that envisages Pentagon working toward integrating air-defences of Israel and the Gulf Arab states against Iran. In line with this, Israeli Prime Minister, Naftali Bennett, met UAE’s President, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed to advance regional security architecture. On the other hand, Iran and Venezuela, two countries reeling under US sanctions, signed a 20-year “cooperation road map” boosting bilateral relations.

In a sign of possible rapprochement in the US – Saudi Arabia ties, reports point toward the US conveying its intent to move forward with a “reset” of bilateral relations with Saudi Arabia. In another development, Israel continued its air strikes in Syria significantly damaging ‘Damascus International Airport’ and disabling operations at airport runways. Tel Aviv has repeatedly charged Iran with smuggling arms to Lebanon’s Hezbollah using civilian flights via Syria. Russia condemned Israeli actions as “provocative and a violation of international law”.

Meanwhile, NATO Secretary-General, Jens Stoltenberg, accepted Turkey's security concerns over NATO membership of Finland and Sweden as "legitimate".

On the energy front, UAE's Minister of Energy, Suhail Mohamed Al Mazrouei, warned that the "current oil prices are far from the peak as the Chinese economy hasn't yet fully recovered from COVID-19 lockdowns". Recurring outbreaks of COVID-19 in China show no signs of abetting quelling hopes for a rapid pick-up in oil demand. However, underscoring the global oil shortage, Goldman Sachs warned that crude prices may hit USD 135/barrel in the next 12 months.

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

Bahrain

[Report: Israel Deploys Radar Systems in UAE, Bahrain to Counter 'threats' From Iran](#)

June 10, 2022, Press TV (Iran)

Israel has deployed radar systems in some West Asian countries as part of joint cooperation with the region's Arab states to counter what the Israeli media claims to be "missile threats" from Iran.

Egypt

[55,000 Tonnes of Indian Wheat Reaches Egypt, Clears Stringent Quality Tests](#)

June 11, 2022, The Economic Times

The first shipment of 55,000 tonnes of Indian wheat has reached Egypt and cleared all quality tests that are the most stringent in the world. This comes as a big validation for quality after the rumours about Turkey rejecting Indian wheat due to quality issues.

[Russia Launches Production for Egypt's Nuclear Power Plant](#)

June 09, 2022, AL-Monitor

Russia's state-owned atomic energy company, Rosatom, announced the start of production of equipment for the Egyptian nuclear power plant in Dabaa, northwest of Cairo.

[EU Proposes Natural Gas Import Deal with Egypt, Israel](#)

June 10, 2022, Middle East Monitor

The European Commission has proposed a deal to EU member states with Egypt and Israel to boost imports of natural gas from the Eastern Mediterranean, according to a draft document.

Iraq

[US Consulate in Iraq's Erbil Targeted in Drone Attack](#)

June 09, 2022, Tasnim News Agency

The US Consulate's military section in the Shorsh neighbourhood, located in the northern city of Erbil, Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan region, was targeted by a drone attack on Wednesday (June 08), security sources said.

[Lawmakers From Iraq's Biggest Bloc Resign Amid Impasse](#)

June 12, 2022, Arab News

Dozens of lawmakers who make up the biggest bloc in Iraq's parliament resigned amid a prolonged political impasse, plunging the divided nation into political uncertainty.

Iran

[Iranian Foreign Minister Meets PM Modi, EAM Jaishankar on Maiden Tour](#)

June 09, 2022, The Indian Express

External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar and Iranian FM Amir-Abdollahian discussed multiple issues including trade, connectivity, the ongoing war in Ukraine, the situation in Afghanistan and the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

[Iran Tests New Trade Corridor to Ship Russian Goods to India](#)

June 12, 2022, The Economic Times

From Russia, a cargo will cross the length of the Caspian to the northern Iranian port of Anzali and will be transferred by road to the southern port of Bandar Abbas on the Persian Gulf. From there it'll be loaded onto a ship and sent to the Indian port of Nhava Sheva, IRNA said.

[India Abstains from Vote on Iran at IAEA](#)

June 10, 2022, Tribune India

India was among the three countries that withstood Western pressure and abstained from voting against Iran at the board of governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

[Secretary Blinken Warns Iran Shutting IAEA Cameras Will Deepen Nuclear Crisis](#)

June 09, 2022, The Times of Israel

Iran started removing 27 surveillance cameras from nuclear sites across the country, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency said, a day after the UN atomic watchdog formally censured Iran over its lack of cooperation with nuclear inspectors.

[Iran Expands Advanced Centrifuge Work Underground, IAEA Report Shows](#)

June 08, 2022, Reuters

Iran has begun installing advanced IR-6 centrifuges in a cluster at an underground enrichment plant in line with a longstanding plan and now intends to add two more such clusters, or cascades, the IAEA reported.

[Iran, Venezuela Sign 20-Year Cooperation Plan During Maduro Visit](#)

June 11, 2022, AL Jazeera

Iran and Venezuela signed a 20-year "cooperation road map" during a state visit by President Nicolas Maduro to Tehran as the two oil-rich countries reeling under US sanctions pledged to boost bilateral ties.

[Iran Wants New Currency for SCO With 30 Percent of Global GDP](#)

June 07, 2022, Asia Financial

Iran has proposed that the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) introduce a new single currency for its nine member states that together account for almost a third of global output.

Israel

[Iran 'Dangerously Close' To Nuclear Weapons: Israeli PM](#)

June 12, 2022, Arab News

Iran is “dangerously close” to completing its nuclear weapons program, and will be able to produce an atomic bomb unless the West gets tough on Tehran, Israel’s Prime Minister has warned.

[Israeli PM Bennett Advances Regional Security Architecture in Abu Dhabi](#)

June 10, 2022, AL-Monitor

The joint official statement issued by PM Bennett and President Mohamed bin Zayed included mentions of economic and other cooperation, noting the two leaders also discussed “advancing the regional architecture”.

[U.S. Proposes Helping Israel, Arab States Harden Air Defences Against Iran](#)

June 09, 2022, The Wall Street Journal

The Pentagon would work with Israel and several Arab states to integrate air defences to thwart threats from Iran, under proposed bipartisan legislation introduced in the US Congress.

[President Biden Planning July Trip to Saudi Arabia and Israel](#)

June 13, 2022, Axios

Three Israeli officials said that President Biden is expected to visit Israel and the Palestinian Authority on July 14 and 15 before traveling on to Saudi Arabia. The White House has not confirmed those dates, and the Israeli officials all warned that the timing had shifted several times and could change again.

[Israeli Firms Xaver 1000 is a Next-gen Radar That Can Actually 'see' Through Walls](#)

June 10, 2022, Interesting Engineering

Camero-Tech, a firm based in Israel, has created a next-generation portable, high-performance imaging device that can actually "see" through walls. Called the Xaver 1000, according to a press release from Camero-Tech, the company has now officially added this next-generation of the company's product line.

[US Reopens Line of Communication for Palestinians Severed by Trump](#)

June 09, 2022, The Times of Israel

The Biden administration restored a line of communication to the Palestinian Authority that had been cut by former US President Donald Trump.

[70 Indian Government, Private Websites Face International Cyber Attacks Over Prophet Row](#)

June 13, 2022, The Times of India

Cyber-attacks orchestrated by the Hactivist Group 'DragonForce Malaysia' defaced websites of several institutions including the Indian Embassy in Israel.

Jordan

[Why Jordan Sees Trouble in Russia's Retreat from Syria](#)

June 10, 2022, Middle East Eye

Jordan has recently escalated its rhetoric against "Iranian militias" along its northern border, fearing a Russian withdrawal from Syria could spell trouble for its security.

[Jordan Condemns Israeli Settler Aggression on Christian Property in Jerusalem](#)

June 11, 2022, Middle East Monitor

The Jordanian Foreign Ministry condemned the "continuous aggression" of Israeli settler groups on the Greek Orthodox Church in Jerusalem.

Kuwait

[Kuwait to Deport Expats Who Protested Over Remarks Against Prophet](#)

June 13, 2022, The Economic Times

A week after summoning the Indian Ambassador to convey concerns over remarks against Prophet Mohammad by erstwhile BJP spokespersons, Kuwait in a significant move has decided to arrest and deport protestors including Asians who had hit streets on the issue.

[India Will Be Forced to Ask Qatar, Kuwait to Rein in Elements Seeking Public Apology, Boycott of Products: Officials](#)

June 09, 2022, Moneycontrol

If the diplomatic fallout over controversial comments made by Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) spokesperson Nupur Sharma drags on, the government will be forced to ask Qatar and Kuwait to rein in civil and political elements using the issue to target India, officials said.

Lebanon

[US Envoy to Visit Lebanon, Discuss Israel Maritime Talks](#)

June 11, 2022, Arab News

Amos Hochstein, the US State Department's senior advisor for energy security, will visit Lebanon June 13-14 to discuss the country's energy crisis and underscore Washington's hope that Lebanon and Israel can reach a decision delimiting their maritime boundary.

Oman

[India Considers Wheat Exports To 5 Nations, Diplomatic Efforts Pick Up](#)

June 13, 2022, Mint

Following the export ban, India has received requests from Indonesia, Oman, UAE, Bangladesh and Yemen for Wheat.

Qatar

[Brookings Institution Puts Its President on Leave as FBI Probes Alleged Qatar Lobbying](#)

June 08, 2022, The Wall Street Journal

Retired Marine Gen. John Allen is under FBI investigation for allegedly trying to help Qatar navigate a diplomatic crisis in 2017 and then covering up that he did so, according to a new FBI affidavit.

[Israelis To Be Allowed Into Qatar For FIFA World Cup, Officials Say](#)

June 09, 2022, Middle East Monitor

Israelis will be able to attend 2022 FIFA World Cup games in Qatar, Israeli ministers said, in a move they said would open "a new door" to a country with which Israel does not currently have formal diplomatic relations.

Saudi Arabia

[US Seeks Full Reset with Saudi Arabia, Effectively Moving on From the Murder of Jamal Khashoggi](#)

June 10, 2022, CNN

Senior US officials have conveyed to Saudi Arabia that the US is prepared to move forward with a "reset" of the relationship, and effectively move on from the 2018 murder of Washington Post columnist 'Jamal Khashoggi' in order to repair ties with the key Middle East ally.

[Crude Oil Prices May Hit \\$135 Per Barrel in Next 12 Months, Goldman Sachs Says Oil Shortage Unresolved](#)

June 09, 2022, The Financial Express

Goldman Sachs said in a report that Brent Crude may average \$135 per barrel in the next 12 months.

[Oil Prices Slide on Beijing Covid Warning, Inflation Concerns](#)

June 13, 2022, Moneycontrol

Oil prices slipped more than \$2 as a flare-up in COVID-19 cases in Beijing quelled hopes for a rapid pick-up in China's fuel demand, while worries about global inflation and economic growth further depressed the market.

[Saudi Arabia Cuts Oil Flows to China While Meeting Other Requests](#)

June 11, 2022, Business Standard

Saudi Arabia will provide some Chinese buyers with less crude than they asked for next month, while fulfilling requests from many other customers in Asia after OPEC+ pledged to speed up production hikes.

Syria

[Russia Lashes Israel as Satellite Images Show 'Disabled' Damascus Airport After Raid](#)

June 10, 2022, The Times of Israel

In an unusually bitter condemnation, Russia lashed out at Israel following a pre-dawn strike blamed on Israel at Damascus Airport.

Türkiye

[India, Turkey Commercial Ties Rising, Bilateral Trade Exceeds \\$10 Billion](#)

June 11, 2022, Times Now

The Eleventh Session of India-Turkey Foreign Office Consultations (FOCs) was held in Ankara where both the countries noted a steady rise in trade ties.

[Turkey's Security Concerns Are Legitimate, NATO Chief Stoltenberg Says](#)

June 12, 2022, Reuters

Security concerns raised by Turkey in its opposition to Finland and Sweden's NATO membership applications are legitimate, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said during a visit to Finland.

[President Erdogan Warns Greece to Cease Arming of Aegean Islands or Face Results "It Will Regret"](#)

June 12, 2022, Middle East Monitor

Türkiye's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has warned Greece not to continue its militarisation of the Aegean islands, or else they will regret it, he warned.

UAE

[PM Modi To Travel to UAE This Month](#)

June 11, 2022, WION

Indian Prime minister, Narendra Modi, will be travelling to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in the last week of this month. The visit will be part of his visit to Germany, where he will attend the G7 summit.

[Oil Prices Are Nowhere Near Their Peak as Chinese Demand Hasn't Fully Returned Yet, Says Top OPEC Member](#)

June 08, 2022, Market Insider

Oil prices still have more room to climb as China's economy hasn't yet fully reopened from lingering COVID policies, according to the OPEC member United Arab Emirates.

Yemen

[Egypt's El-Sisi, Yemeni President Discuss Maritime Security in Red Sea](#)

June 12, 2022, Arab News

The two leaders discussed the issue of freedom of navigation in the Red Sea, in light of Iran's recent escalation of hostile activities there.



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

www.delhipolicygroup.org