



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](#).

Your comments and feedback can be addressed to Sanket Joshi at sanket@dpg.org.in.

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Abstract

Continuing the deepening India-UAE Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar met UAE's President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al Nahyan in Abu Dhabi on September 2. Dr. Jaishankar conveyed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's personal greetings and thanked UAE's President for his personal interest in taking the bilateral partnership to greater heights. Dr. Jaishankar and his Emirati counterpart Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan co-chaired the meeting of the 14th India-UAE joint commission. The two leaders assessed "significant progress made in multiple domains of cooperation" including trade, investments, energy, food security, healthcare, and climate action. They reiterated a commitment to achieve a goal of USD 100 billion in bilateral trade as part of the 'Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement' (CEPA).

As the Indian Navy commissioned its first indigenous aircraft carrier 'INS Vikrant', Israel, France, Russia, United Kingdom, and Australia acknowledged New Delhi's defence manufacturing prowess and India's rise as a global power.

Responding to the US's response to EU's "Final Text" on reviving the Iran Nuclear Deal, Tehran stressed that its text contains a "constructive approach aimed at finalising the agreement". To restore the JCPOA, Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi called for ending the IAEA probe into safeguard issues related to nuclear particles found at Iranian nuclear sites. The US described Iran's latest response as "not constructive" while rejecting linking the revival of JCPOA with the closure of investigations by the IAEA.

Amidst the tensions between Iran and Israel, Washington signed an agreement to supply four "Boeing KC-46 refuelling planes" to Tel Aviv worth around USD 1 billion. KC-46's mid-air refuelling for fighter jets is seen as crucial to conduct a potential military strike against targets in Iran. Meanwhile, reports pointed toward the US compelling Iran to return two US Navy Drone Vessels that Iran tried to seize in the Red Sea.

Even as Qatar has drawn closer to the US-led West, Doha refuses to choose sides between China and the US. Qatar considers both, Beijing and Washington, as its allies and does not want polarisation and great power competition in the world. In another development, boosting Chinese Yuan (CNY) internationalisation, Egypt has decided to issue CNY-denominated bonds.

Ahead of the OPEC+ meeting, Russia signalled its opposition to cutting crude production. Reports point toward OPEC+ keeping its oil output steady when it meets on September 5. Crude prices continue to hover around USD 90 per barrel mark.

Amidst prolonged political standoff and failure to form a government, followers of Shiite Iraqi cleric Moqtada al-Sadr clashed with rival Shia factions backed by Iran. The clashes in central Baghdad that took 22 lives are being described as the deadliest violence in the Iraqi capital in recent years. In light of this, President Biden held talks with the Iraqi Prime Minister, asking him to use his leadership to stop escalating tensions and violence.

The conflict around Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant in Ukraine has reportedly stoked fears of an atomic disaster. Considering its earlier mediation efforts facilitating the grain deal between Russia and Ukraine, Turkey has once again offered to mediate between the two sides.

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

Bahrain

[Bahrain's King Hamad Holds Talks with French President Macron in Paris](#)

August 29, 2022, Arab News

During the talks, the two leaders discussed ways to enhance relations between the two countries at all levels, as well as regional and international developments and issues of common concern.

Egypt

[Egypt to Issue Bonds in China's Currency Yuan](#)

August 29, 2022, AL Monitor

Egypt has decided to issue bonds denominated in China's yuan. Egyptian Finance Minister said that Egypt will issue \$1.5 and \$2 billion's worth of yuan-denominated bonds.

[Egypt, India to See Significant Progress in Political, Economic, and Cultural Ties: Ambassador Gupte](#)

August 31, 2022, Daily News Egypt

Indian Ambassador in Cairo Ajit Gupte expects the political, economic, and cultural relations between India and Egypt to see significant progress in the near future.

[Egypt, Greece Sign Protocol to Support Bilateral Military Cooperation](#)

September 2, 2022, Middle East Monitor

Egypt and Greece signed in Cairo a protocol to support bilateral cooperation in the fields of military training and rehabilitation.

Iraq

[Iraqi Cleric Sadr Calls off Protests After Worst Baghdad Violence in Years](#)

August 30, 2022, Reuters

Shia cleric Moqtada al-Sadr ordered his followers to end their protests in central Baghdad on Tuesday (August 30), easing a confrontation which led to the deadliest violence in the Iraqi capital in years.

[Muqtada al-Sadr: How One Man Assumed So Much Power in Iraq](#)

August 30, 2022, Middle East Eye

Sadr's ability to shut down a violent eruption in Baghdad is one more indication of the power he commands in Iraq's political scene.

[President Biden Holds Talk with Iraqi PM After Recent Violence](#)

August 31, 2022, Reuters

"The President commended Prime Minister Kadhim's personal leadership during escalating tensions and violence over a 24-hour period earlier this week," the White House said in a statement after their call, adding the two leaders agreed to stay in touch in the coming weeks.

[The US 'Determined' to Enforce Price Cap on Russian Oil to Cut Funding Source](#)

September 4, 2022, Times Now

In a bid to cut Moscow's critical funding source, the United States has said it is "determined" to enforce a price cap on Russian oil.

Iran

[External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar Holds Telephonic Talks with Iranian Foreign Minister](#)

September 4, 2022, News 18

External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar held a telephonic conversation with his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, focusing on bilateral cooperation, and the Iran nuclear deal.

[US Says Iran's Latest Response on Nuclear Deal 'Not Constructive'](#)

September 2, 2022, AL Jazeera

The United States has described Iran's latest response in negotiations to revive the 2015 nuclear deal as "not constructive".

[Iran's President Raisi: IAEA Inquiry Must Close for Nuclear Deal to Happen](#)

August 29, 2022, AL Jazeera

Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi has said an investigation by IAEA into "safeguards issues", relating to nuclear particles found at Iranian nuclear sites, needs to end if an agreement on restoring the country's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers is to be clinched.

[US Rejects Linking Iran Nuclear Deal, IAEA Probes](#)

September 2, 2022, Reuters

The White House rejected linking a revival of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal with the closure of investigations by the U.N. nuclear watchdog a day after Iran reopened the issue according to a Western diplomat.

[Iran Forced to Return US Sail Drones Seized at Sea for the Second Time](#)

September 2, 2022, The Guardian

The US has for the second time this week compelled Iran to release US military sail drones that it tried to seize at sea.

[US Pressure Drives Russia, China and Iran Closer Together](#)

September 1, 2022, Axios

America's biggest adversaries — China, Russia, and Iran — are increasingly teaming up in ways that could undermine U.S. objectives.

Israel

[Countries Hail India's Aircraft Carrier INS Vikrant](#)

September 3, 2022, Business Standard

Several foreign envoys who attended the commissioning ceremony of India's first indigenous aircraft carrier 'INS Vikrant' in Kochi acknowledged the country's rise as a global power.

[India "Restricted" from Enhancing Ties with Israel Earlier Due to Political Reasons: EAM Jaishankar](#)

September 5, 2022, The Print

External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar has said the days when vote bank politics would dominate foreign policy are gone and New Delhi's present ties with Tel Aviv is evidence of that.

[US Inks Deal to Sell Israel 4 Refuelling Planes Needed for Potential Iran Strike](#)

September 1, 2022, The Times of Israel

Boeing KC-46 is set to arrive in Israel by 2025 at the earliest; the deal will cost Israel nearly \$1 billion, with funds coming from military aid Washington provides to Tel Aviv.

[Israel Makes Final Push to Shape Restored Iran Nuclear Deal](#)

September 4, 2022, The Wall Street Journal

Israeli officials are scrambling to influence the Biden administration as the U.S. attempts to revive the Iran nuclear deal, pushing for hardened positions and no concessions to Tehran as negotiations enter a critical phase.

[Iran Ups Civil Defence as Mossad Chief Heads to the US to Thwart Nuclear Deal](#)

September 4, 2022, The Jerusalem Post

Iran has equipped 51 of its cities and towns with civil defence systems to thwart any possible foreign attack, as tensions rise with Israel and Mossad Chief David Barnea heads to Washington early this week in an attempt to thwart the nuclear deal with Tehran.

Jordan

[Jordan Calls on Israel to Immediately Stop Violations Against Al-Aqsa Mosque](#)

August 29, 2022, Middle East Monitor

Jordanian Foreign Ministry condemned Israeli settlers' intrusions into the holy site and their violations of its sanctity through provocative practices under Israeli police protection.

Kuwait

[Kuwait Shuts Shop for Selling Accessories Bearing Jewish Symbols](#)

August 29, 2022, Gulf News

Kuwait's Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoCI) has ordered the closure of a shop in Salmiya for selling accessories bearing Jewish symbols, which is considered a violation of public order in the Kingdom.

Lebanon

[Report: Lebanon Maritime Border Deal 'Almost Complete' as Israel Offers Concessions](#)

September 4, 2022, The Times of Israel

A border demarcation agreement that will potentially put an end to more than a decade-long maritime dispute between Israel and Lebanon "is almost complete," according to sources cited by the Saudi news network Al Arabiya.

[Israeli Military to Hold 3-day Drill Near Border with Lebanon](#)

September 4, 2022, The Times of Israel

The Israel Defence Forces said it would conduct a three-day military drill along the Lebanese border, as tensions remained high with the Iran-backed Hezbollah terror group.

Oman

[Oman's Economy Surges with Higher Oil Prices, Fiscal Reform](#)

September 1, 2022, AL Monitor

Oman's economy has enjoyed a strong first half to 2022 and the outlook for the rest of this year and 2023 is positive.

Qatar

[Qatar: 'Both China, US are Allies, We Do Not Prioritise One'](#)

September 3, 2022, Middle East Monitor

Qatari Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sheikh Mohammed Bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani, has stated that his country has strong relations with the US and China. Al-Thani affirmed that both nations: "have an important role to play in the global peace and stability."

[European Council President to Discuss Energy on Qatar Trip This Week](#)

September 4, 2022, Khaleej Times

European Council President Charles Michel will hold talks with major gas producer Qatar on Europe's energy crisis during a visit to Doha this week, a Qatari government official said.

Saudi Arabia

[Saudi Leaders Offer Condolences to Putin on the Death of Mikhail Gorbachev](#)

September 2, 2022, Arab News

Saudi Arabia's King Salman sent a cable of condolences to Russian President Vladimir Putin on the death of former Soviet Union leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

[Russia Signals Opposition to OPEC+ Oil Production Cut](#)

September 4, 2022, The Wall Street Journal

Russia doesn't support an oil-production cut at this time, and it is likely OPEC+ will keep its output steady when it meets on Monday (September 5).

Syria

[Syria Accuses Israel of Consecutive Airstrikes on Aleppo Airport, Damascus](#)

August 31, 2022, The Times of Israel

Syria accused Israel of carrying out two consecutive airstrikes on Wednesday night (August 31), the first against the Aleppo International Airport and the second near the capital Damascus.

[Russia Demands Iran Remove its Militias from Western Syria, Amid Increasing Israeli Airstrikes](#)

September 3, 2022, Middle East Monitor

Russia has demanded that Iran remove its forces and militias from areas in western Syria in order to avoid further airstrikes from neighbouring Israel.

[Saudi Media Report on Iran-Russia Cooperation in Syria Aims to Falsely Dignify Israel: Iran's Nour News](#)

September 3, 2022, Press TV (Iran)

Iran's Nour News rejects a false claim by Saudi-owned newspaper Asharq al-Awsat that Russia has asked Iran to remove its forces from areas in western and central Syria after the Israeli regime conducted "several" air strikes against the Arab country.

Türkiye

[India Accuses Turkey of Disregarding UN Resolutions in Libya](#)

September 1, 2022, Middle East Monitor

India has accused Türkiye of "blatant disregard" of United Nations security resolutions in Libya, amid renewed fighting in the country between forces backing rival prime ministers.

[Uyghurs in Turkey Disappointed by UN Report on China's Xinjiang](#)

September 1, 2022, Reuters

Uyghurs in Turkey expressed disappointment after a UN report found China's detention of Uyghurs and other Muslims in its Xinjiang region may constitute crimes against humanity. They say the report came late and should have challenged Beijing over its treatment of Uyghurs.

[Turkey Offers to Mediate in Ukraine Nuclear Plant Standoff](#)

September 3, 2022, AL Jazeera

Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has offered to mediate in the standoff over a Russian-occupied nuclear power station in Ukraine stoking fears of an atomic disaster.

[Turkish Warship Docks in Israel as Bilateral Ties Warm](#)

September 4, 2022, Reuters

A Turkish warship has docked in Israel for the first such visit in more than a decade as relations between the two U.S. allies improve following fierce feuding over the Palestinian cause.

UAE

[14th India-UAE Joint Commission Meeting](#)

September 2, 2022, Ministry of External Affairs - Government of India

The 14th India-UAE Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) was co-chaired by External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and Foreign Minister of UAE Sheikh Abdulla bin Zayed Al Nahyan in Abu Dhabi on 1 September 2022. Both Ministers expressed their deep satisfaction at the continued high growth trajectory of bilateral relations between India and UAE.

[External Affairs Minister Dr. Jaishankar Thanks UAE's President for Taking Bilateral Ties to Greater Heights](#)

September 2, 2022, Business Standard

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar called on President of the United Arab Emirates Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and appreciated his role in taking the strategic ties between India and the UAE to greater heights.

[UAE, Iran Hold Talks to Enhance Bilateral Ties](#)

September 2, 2022, Middle East Monitor

"During the conversation, the two sides discussed bilateral relations and ways to push them forward and enhance them in the common interest of the two neighbouring countries and the region,".

[UAE Participates in 2022 CIFTS \(China International Fair for Trade in Services\) as a Country of Honour](#)

September 9, 2022, China Daily

The United Arab Emirates is attending the 2022 China International Fair for Trade in Services as the Country of honour, the first country from the Middle East and North Africa region, to receive this distinction.

Yemen

[Houthi Military Parade in Hodeidah Has UN 'Deeply Concerned'](#)

September 2, 2022, The National News

A military parade by Yemen's Houthi rebels in the key port city of Hodeidah drew local and international condemnation from the UN, which regards the show of force as a breach of the 2018 agreement to demilitarise the city.



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