



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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Contents

Abstract	1
Bahrain.....	3
Egypt	4
Iraq	6
Iran.....	7
Israel.....	9
Jordan.....	11
Kuwait.....	12
Lebanon.....	13
Oman	14
Qatar	15
Saudi Arabia.....	16
Syria.....	17
Türkiye	18
UAE	19
Yemen.....	20

Abstract

In continuing deepening of the India-UAE partnership, the two countries joined hands to launch third-country projects in Africa. In line with this, a joint healthcare delegation of India and UAE recently visited 'Tanzania' to explore investment opportunities and identify projects to collaborate with government and private healthcare providers in the African country. In addition, India's Adani Ports and the UAE's AD Ports Group have also signed a preliminary agreement to explore joint investment opportunities in Tanzania.

Meanwhile, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi appreciated "African countries' firm commitment to the one-China principle" and called on the two sides to "stand shoulder to shoulder in safeguarding international fairness and justice".

India's Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal visited Iran to monitor the progress of Shahid Beheshti port in Chabahar, India's first overseas port project. Chabahar port is strategically important for India as it has the potential to boost regional connectivity and trade between Central Asia, and South and South-East Asia. During his visit, he also handed over six Mobile Harbour Cranes to Indian Ports Global Chabahar Free Trade Zone (IPGCFTZ) to improve operations at Shahid Beheshti port.

Regarding Iran nuclear talks, reports point toward a final agreement between P5+1 and Iran as "imminent". The West has reportedly "agreed to release billions of dollars of frozen Iranian funds" and "oil exports in return for Tehran scaling back its nuclear programme". Iran has reported having dropped its demand of removing the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) from the US State Department's list of Foreign Terrorist Organisations to facilitate the agreement. Earlier, Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid urged the United States and the E3 (Britain, France, Germany) to walk away from the nuclear talks. Responding to Israel's concerns, Washington reassured Tel Aviv that a "nuclear deal was not imminent". Iran, on its part, maintained that it has shown "flexibility" in responding to the EU's "final text" and now it is Washington's turn to be flexible.

Highlighting the rapprochement between Israel and Turkey, the two countries announced full renewal of diplomatic relations. Welcoming the development, the United States stressed that it would bring increased security, stability, and prosperity to the region. Meanwhile, the US Treasury Department warned that

Russia was trying to use Turkey to bypass Western sanctions imposed on Moscow for its war in Ukraine.

Amidst reports of Iran nuclear talks advancing toward a final agreement and China's weak economic recovery, crude prices continue to hover around USD 90/barrel. Owing to a fall in oil prices, India's crude imports from Russia fell in July for the first time since March 2022, while imports from Saudi Arabia rebounded for the first time in five months.

Ahead of the FIFA World Cup 2022, the host Qatar has received its first 'Eurofighter Typhoon' from BAE Systems. British Secretary of State for Defence Ben Wallace described this as "another milestone in joint UK-Qatar collaboration" and a "testimony to how much Britain values its Middle East partnerships".

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

Bahrain

[Bahrain, Jordan Foreign Ministers Meet in Amman](#)

August 16, 2022, AL Arabiya

The two foreign ministers discussed several international and regional issues, including the Palestinian issue, the war in Yemen, the Iranian nuclear issue, the war in Ukraine, global food security and the energy crisis.

Egypt

[Egypt Hosting of COP27 Showcases Its Readiness to Play Crucial Role in Global Matters: Indian Ambassador](#)

August 21, 2022, Daily News Egypt

Egypt's hosting of the UN Conference of Parties on Climate Change (COP27) in Sharm El-Sheikh this November showcases its readiness to play a crucial role in matters of global concern, said Ajit Gupte – India's Ambassador in Cairo.

[Egypt Releases Postage Stamp Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of Diplomatic Ties with India](#)

August 20, 2022, The Economic Times

In a unique move, Egypt Post released a commemorative postage stamp to celebrate 75 years of diplomatic relations between Egypt and India that were established with Egypt's recognition of the independence of India on 18 August 1947, just three days after India's independence.

[UAE President Arrives in Al Alamein City, Discusses Arab Unity with Egyptian Counterpart](#)

August 22, 2022, Arab News

During their meeting, both leaders emphasized the importance of Arab unity in overcoming challenges that the region is witnessing. They also reiterated their support for all efforts aimed at reaching lasting solutions to regional crises to achieve peace, stability and security.

[Belt and Road Initiative a "pushing force" for China-Africa Cooperation -- Egyptian Expert](#)

August 20, 2022, Xinhua

The Belt and Road Initiative constitutes a "pushing force" for cooperation between China and African countries as it contributes to the development of Africa, an Egyptian political analyst has said.

[FM Wang Yi: China and Africa Stand Shoulder to Shoulder to Safeguard International Fairness and Justice](#)

August 18, 2022, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, People's Republic of China

FM Wang Yi said in the face of the various kinds of bullying and hegemonic acts, China and Africa have stood shoulder to shoulder in safeguarding international fairness and justice. China appreciates the firm commitment of African countries to the one-China principle and their support for China's efforts to safeguard sovereignty, security, and territorial integrity.

[Pope Francis Sends Condolences for Coptic Church Fire in Egypt](#)

August 19, 2022, Vatican News

Pope Francis offers his condolences to the Coptic Orthodox Church in the wake of a fire at a church in Giza, Egypt, which killed at least 41 people, including a bishop and several children.

Iraq

[As Iraq's Political Crisis Deepens, US Influence Dwindles](#)

August 17, 2022, Middle East Eye

Iranian militia claims the US is behind the chaos, analysts and former US officials say that, far from demonstrating Washington's ability to drive events in Iraq, the unfolding crisis marks the US' dwindling power, and interest, in the country.

[India's Oil Demand to Increase By 7.7 Percent in 2022: OPEC](#)

August 17, 2022, Outlook India

India's demand for petroleum products like petrol and diesel will grow by 7.73 per cent in 2022, the fastest pace in the world, an OPEC report said.

Iran

[India Hands Over 6 Cranes to Boost Chabahar Port in Iran](#)

August 21, 2022, Times Now

India handed over six mobile harbour cranes to Indian Ports Global Chabahar Free Trade Zone (IPGCFTZ), a subsidiary of India Ports Global Limited Mumbai under the ambit of the Ministry of Shipping. The handover was made during the visit of Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush to Shahid Beheshti port at Chabahar in Iran.

[Iran Renews Demands for U.S. Guarantees in Nuclear Deal Talks](#)

August 17, 2022, The Wall Street Journal

Iranian demands for guarantees from the U.S. have once again stalled efforts to revive a 2015 nuclear pact, leaving Washington and European capitals unsure if a deal is possible.

[Iran Nuclear Deal 'imminent' with Crippling Sanctions Removed](#)

August 19, 2022, AL Jazeera

A European proposal to revive the nuclear agreement between Western countries and Iran is imminent and includes the release of billions of dollars in frozen Iranian funds and oil exports in return for the scaling back of its nuclear programme.

[Iran Drops Key 'red line' Demand as Progress on a Revived Nuclear Deal Edges Forward](#)

August 19, 2022, CNN

Iran has officially dropped a key "red line" demand that had been a major sticking point in efforts to revive the Iran nuclear deal, a senior Biden administration official said.

[The US Tries To Reassure Israel Over Possible Iran Deal](#)

August 21, 2022, Axios

The Biden administration in recent days has been seeking to reassure Israel that it hasn't agreed to new concessions with Iran and a nuclear deal isn't imminent, the US and Israeli officials said.

[Iran Stands Firm on Its Rights in Vienna Talks](#)

August 21, 2022, Tehran Times

Almost a week has passed since Iran submitted its response to a European Union proposal that was touted as a final text. The EU immediately relayed the Iranian response to Washington but the White House has kept silent since.

[Oil Settles Below \\$90 as China Outlook Sours, Iran Talks Advance](#)

August 16, 2022, Yahoo Finance

Oil settled below \$90 a barrel as softer economic data from China and a potential breakthrough in negotiations with Iran eased pressure on crude markets.

Israel

[PM Modi Thanks Several World Leaders for Independence Day Wishes](#)

August 16, 2022, The Economic Times

Prime Minister Narendra Modi thanked several world leaders, including Israeli President Isaac Herzog, for their wishes on India's Independence Day and lauded its bilateral partnerships with their countries.

[Israel and Turkey to Restore Ambassadors in Full Renewal of Diplomatic Ties](#)

August 17, 2022, The Times of Israel

Israel and Turkey announced full renewal of diplomatic ties, following a recent phone conversation between Prime Minister Yair Lapid and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

[World Must 'walk away' from Iran Nuclear Talks, Israeli PM Lapid Tells Western Leaders](#)

August 18, 2022, The Times of Israel

The time has come for Western powers to walk away from JCPOA talks with Iran, top Israeli officials are telling their counterparts in Washington and in European capitals.

[Russia Moves to Close Key Jewish Group as Ties with Israel Sour](#)

August 18, 2022, The Wall Street Journal

Russia is moving to close an important non-profit organization that helps Russian Jews emigrate to Israel, in a sign of deteriorating relations between the Kremlin and the Israeli government amid tensions over Israel's stance on Russia's war in Ukraine.

[Germany: Police Open Investigation into '50 Holocausts' by Israel Remarks by Palestinian President Abbas](#)

August 20, 2022, Middle East Monitor

Berlin police have opened an investigation into Palestinian Authority (PA) President Mahmoud Abbas for stating that the Israeli occupation has committed "50 Holocausts" against Palestinians.

[Germany's Scholz Rejects Word 'apartheid' To Describe Middle East Conflict](#)

August 16, 2022, Middle East Monitor

German Chancellor, Olaf Scholz, rejected the word apartheid to describe relations between Israel and the Palestinian Territories after a meeting with Palestinian President, Mahmoud Abbas.

Jordan

[Israel Elections: Jordan Seeks to Sway Palestinian Voters to Block Benjamin Netanyahu's Return](#)

August 18, 2022, Middle East Eye

The Jordanian government is hoping to lobby Palestinian citizens of Israel to vote in the upcoming general elections in a bid to keep Likud Party's leader Benjamin Netanyahu from returning to power.

Kuwait

[US Air Force Targeted in 'Propaganda Attack' in Kuwait](#)

August 21, 2022, The New Indian Express

The U.S. Air Force said it was the subject of a “propaganda attack” by a previously unheard-of Iraqi militant group that falsely claimed it had launched a drone attack targeting American troops at an air base in Kuwait.

Lebanon

[IDF on Alert for Hezbollah Provocation as Israel, Lebanon Said Nearing a Maritime Deal](#)

August 22, 2022, The Times of Israel

Israel's security forces are on high alert near the northern border amid fears the Hezbollah terror group may attempt to carry out an attack in order to sabotage talks between Israel and Lebanon on a maritime border dispute, with the sides said to be nearing an agreement.

Oman

[Oman, US Discuss Ways to Reach Political Solution in Yemen](#)

August 15, 2022, Middle East Monitor

The US Special Envoy for Yemen, Tim Lenderking discussed ways to support the Yemeni parties in order to reach a political solution.

[Oman Refuses to Open Airspace to Israel Due to Pressure from Iran, Report Says](#)

August 21, 2022, Middle East Monitor

Oman has reportedly refused to open its airspace to Israeli commercial flights due to pressure from Iran, despite other Gulf states having opened theirs amid warming relations with Tel Aviv.

Qatar

[Qatar Receives its First Eurofighter Typhoon at Official Ceremony in the UK](#)

August 15, 2022, BAE Systems

UK's BAE System has delivered Eurofighter Typhoon on schedule and will ferry it from the UK to Qatar later this month. Typhoon will provide critical support for the FIFA World Cup which will be held in Qatar from November 20.

Saudi Arabia

[India Eases Russian Oil Buying in July, Boosts Saudi Imports](#)

August 17, 2022, Reuters

India's crude oil imports from Russia in July fell for the first time since March along with its overall purchase while supplies from Saudi Arabia rebounded for the first in five months, data obtained from trade and industry sources showed.

[China: Saudi Arabia is a 'Strategic Partner'](#)

August 16, 2022, Middle East Monitor

Saudi Arabia is China's "strategic partner", the spokesperson of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, Wang Wenbin said. "In recent years, with the commitment and guidance from the leaders of both countries, China-Saudi Arabia relations have grown robustly with fruitful cooperation in various areas", Wenbin added.

[Egypt Hosts War Games with UAE, Saudi Arabia, Greece and Cyprus](#)

August 22, 2022, The National News

Commando units from Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Greece and Cyprus have gathered at an Egyptian military base near the Mediterranean coast for war games, an Egyptian military spokesman said.

[Saudi Arabia Jails Women's Rights Activist for 34 Years](#)

August 16, 2022, Middle East Monitor

Saudi Arabia has sentenced a women's rights activist to 34 years in prison. Salma Al-Shehab is a PhD candidate at Britain's University of Leeds and a mother of two. She was handed what is said to be the longest prison sentence ever given to a Saudi women's rights defender by the Specialised Criminal Court (SCC).

Syria

['Türkiye's Aim in Syria Not Assad's Defeat but Finding Political Solution'](#)

August 19, 2022, Daily Sabah

Türkiye's aim in Syria is not to defeat Bashar al-Assad but to find a political solution to the decade-long crisis in the country, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan said.

[Drones Hit US Base in Syria, in Possible Iran Revenge Over Israel-Attributed Strikes](#)

August 15, 2022, The Times of Israel

A drone attack hit a compound run by American troops and US-backed Syrian opposition fighters in eastern Syria, the US military said, adding that there were no casualties and no damage.

Türkiye

[Ukrainian Grain Deal 'Lays Groundwork for Permanent Peace Environment,' says Turkey](#)

August 20, 2022, CNN

Some 27 ships loaded with grain have left Ukraine's Black Sea ports since August 1 under an export deal brokered by the United Nations and Turkey, which has laid "the groundwork for a permanent peace environment," Turkey's Defense Minister said in a speech.

[U.S. Treasury Official Warns Russia Trying to Bypass Western Sanctions via Turkey](#)

August 20, 2022, Reuters

U.S. Deputy Treasury Secretary Wally Adeyemo told Turkish Deputy Finance Minister Yunus Elitas that Russian entities and individuals were attempting to use Turkey to bypass Western sanctions imposed over Moscow's war in Ukraine.

[PM: Sweden to Live up to Terms of NATO Deal with Türkiye](#)

August 16, 2022, Middle East Monitor

Sweden will follow the conditions of a Memorandum of Understanding agreed with Ankara to overcome Türkiye's objections to Swedish membership in NATO.

UAE

[India, UAE Join Hands to Launch Projects in Africa](#)

August 22, 2022, The Economic Times

India and the United Arab Emirates, have joined hands to launch third country projects in Africa, where India has a decades-old presence and the UAE is expanding its footprint rapidly.

[AD Ports Group and India's Adani Ports to Explore Investment Opportunities in Tanzania](#)

August 4, 2022, The National News

AD Ports Group, the operator of industrial cities and free zones in Abu Dhabi, and India's Adani Ports have signed a preliminary agreement to explore joint investment opportunities in Tanzania.

[Potential of UAE-India Relations is Limitless, Says UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade](#)

August 18, 2022, Khaleej Times

The potential of UAE- India relations are limitless and have entered a new era following the signing of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between both nations, a top UAE Minister said.

[Abu Dhabi Conglomerate IHC Seeks Takeovers in 'buyers' Market](#)

August 10, 2022, Zawya (Refinitiv)

Abu Dhabi conglomerate International Holding Co (IHC) expects to increase its takeover activity, including in India and Turkey, as global market turbulence has created "a buyers' market," its chief executive said.

[UAE Ambassador to Return to Iran, Boosting Ties After Years](#)

August 21, 2022, Voice of America

The United Arab Emirates plans to reinstate its ambassador to Iran for the first time in six years, the Emirati Foreign Ministry announced, as the Gulf Arab federation accelerates efforts to improve ties with the nation it has long viewed as a regional threat.

Yemen

[Aid Workers Face 'alarming' Levels of Incitement, Violence in Yemen: UN Humanitarian Envoy](#)

August 19, 2022, Arab News

Attacks on aid workers in Yemen have increased at an “alarming” rate, the country’s UN humanitarian coordinator said.



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