



Delhi Policy Group

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ABOUT US

Founded in 1994, the Delhi Policy Group is among India's oldest independent think tanks with its primary focus on international and strategic issues of critical national interest. Over the past decades, the Delhi Policy Group has established itself in both domestic and international circles, particularly in the area of national security.

In keeping with India's increasing global profile as a leading power and the accompanying dynamism of India's foreign and security policy, the Delhi Policy Group has expanded its focus areas to include India's broader regional and global role; India's initiatives to strengthen its strategic periphery; India's political, security and connectivity challenges and policies across the Indo-Pacific; and the strategic partnerships that advance India's rise. To support these goals, the DPG undertakes research, publishes policy reports and organises conferences on strategic and geo-political, geo-economic, and defence and security issues.

DPG WEST ASIA REVIEW

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Delhi Policy Group

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Contents

Bahrain.....	1
Egypt.....	2
Iraq.....	3
Iran.....	5
Israel.....	8
Jordan.....	10
Kuwait.....	11
Lebanon.....	12
Oman.....	13
Qatar.....	14
Saudi Arabia.....	15
Syria.....	17
Turkey.....	18
UAE.....	19
Yemen.....	20

Bahrain

[Bahrain Center to sign MOU with US State Department](#)

February 5, 2020, The Jerusalem Post

Seeking to advance projects with the United States that promote respect and cooperation among the various religions, the King Hamad Global Centre for Peaceful Coexistence in Bahrain is signing a memorandum of understanding with the United States in the capital Manama on Wednesday.

Egypt

[Egypt's military is the 9th strongest in the world, jumping three places in 2019](#)

February 4, 2020, Egypt Independent

Leading international ranking website Global Fire has listed Egypt 9th out of 138 countries in terms of its military strength, with the country jumping three places compared to 2019, according to the website's freshly released 2020 report. The US military topped the list, while the Russian military came in second place, followed by China and India.

[German development minister to start visit to Egypt on Friday](#)

February 6, 2020, Egypt Today

German Development Minister Gerd Müller will start a visit to Cairo on Friday to discuss water and energy issues in Egypt.

[African Union Summit: Egypt – Africa facing great challenges, terrorism; Libya crisis](#)

February 10, 2020, Middle East Monitor

At the African Union (AU) summit, in Addis Ababa, Chairman of the (AU) Commission, Moussa Faki, emphasised the "necessity of a political solution in Libya." Faki called on the United States to "remove Sudan from the list of terrorism." Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi stressed that the main challenges that the continent is facing are the continuation of conflicts and the increase of the risks of terrorism and extremism.

Iraq

[Iraqi leader: CIA controls Iraqi gov't branch, Israel fans protesters](#)

February 8, 2020, The Jerusalem Post

Qais Khazali, leader of a pro-Iranian militia in Iraq, accused the US of controlling one of the arms of Iraq's government through the CIA and accused Israel of arming protesters. "The American-Israel project in Iraq aims to cause internal strife," he said.

[Iraq to cut oil output at Nahr Bin Omar oil field](#)

February 9, 2020, Arab News

Iraq's Basra Oil Co. will cut crude oil output at the Nahr Bin Omar field to a minimum because of pollution and gas emissions, state news agency reported on Sunday.

[Iran urges US forces to leave Iraq, Syria](#)

February 9, 2020, Outlook

A top advisor to Iran's supreme leader said the US forces should leave Iraq and Syria, Tehran Times daily reported on Sunday. The era of US presence in Iraq and Syria has come to an end, Ali Akbar Velayati was quoted as saying at the ceremony commemorating the assassinated senior Iranian military commander Qassem Soleimani.

[Iraq turns to China's 'Belt and Road,' challenging U.S. dominance in Middle East](#)

February 9, 2020, Washington Times

China's path to economic dominance in the 21st century runs directly through the Middle East, with Beijing banking on forging multibillion-dollar partnerships with Iraq, Pakistan and even war-torn Syria to provide fuel in its quest to supplant the U.S. as the world's top power. Iraq's unexpected announcement last fall that it intends to join Beijing's massive Belt and Road Initiative, analysts say, is just one example of China's rapidly growing economic footprint in the Middle East.

[Commander of al-Sadr's militia killed in Iraq attack](#)

February 6, 2020, Anadolu Agency

A commander of Shia cleric Muqtada al-Sadr's militia was killed in an attack in Iraq on Thursday. Local security sources said a vehicle carrying Hazim al-Hilfi, a

commander of the Saraya al-Salam militia, was fired on by unidentified gunmen in Basra province. He suffered fatal injuries in the attack and died on the spot.

[Iraq protesters rally in Najaf after deadly clashes with Sadrists](#)

February 7, 2020, Al Jazeera

Hundreds of anti-government protesters have taken to the streets of Iraq's holy city of Najaf, returning to the site of deadly clashes with supporters of influential Shia leader Muqtada al-Sadr the night before.

Iran

[Iran plans to develop 2 oilfields near Iraq border](#)

February 9, 2020, Xinhua Net

Iranian Petroleum Ministry on Saturday awarded a deal worth 1.4 billion U.S. dollars to an Iranian energy enterprise to develop two oil-fields located at southeast of the country.

[Iran shows missile, launches satellite that fails to reach orbit](#)

February 10, 2020, Al Jazeera

In the space of a few hours on Sunday, Iran unveiled a new ballistic missile and launched a domestically built satellite – which however failed to reach orbit.

[Iraqi officials: US will grant vital Iran sanctions waiver](#)

February 10, 2020, Associated Press

The United States has signalled to Iraq its willingness to extend sanctions waivers enabling the country to continue importing vital Iranian gas and electricity imports, three Iraqi officials said this week, a move that would be a key test of Baghdad-Washington ties.

[Purge of reformists in Iran election could doom nuclear deal, say diplomats](#)

February 9, 2020, The Guardian

Iran's clerical establishment is so determined to fix this month's parliamentary elections that hardliners are likely to sweep to power, bringing closer the final collapse of the Iran nuclear deal, according to western diplomats.

[Powerful Cyber Attack Takes Down 25% Of Iranian Internet](#)

February 9, 2020, Forbes

Hot on the heels of a "serious" cyber-attack that compromised United Nations servers, and in the same week that the head of the European Central Bank, Christine Lagarde, warned of the global financial implications of cyber-attacks, Iran has seemingly come under cyber-attack. Indeed, so powerful was the impact of this alleged attack that the Internet was disrupted across the country.

[Uneasy quiet in Mideast, month after Iran strike against US](#)

February 3, 2020, Associated Press

Nearly a month after Iran launched a rare direct military attack against United States forces in Iraq, an uneasy quiet has settled across the Mideast.

[Europe worries as Trump seems to lose interest in new Iran deal](#)

February 6, 2020, Al-Monitor

European diplomats working to try to leverage the Donald Trump administration's Iran "maximum pressure" campaign into a negotiation for a new deal are increasingly worried as they say US officials seem in recent months to have convinced themselves that the Iranian regime is nearing the brink of collapse and show little interest in getting back to the negotiating table, even as Tehran's nuclear program expands.

[Political change in Iran may begin with its labor movement](#)

February 7, 2020, The Washington Post

The Iranian labor movement may seem like a remote topic when the news is dominated by the hangover of impeachment and the dawn of America's presidential primaries, not to mention the danger of global pandemic from coronavirus. But Iran remains the cockpit for destabilizing events in the world — and worker protest may be the X factor there.

[Iran exploits vacuum of power in southern Syria to threaten Israel](#)

February 6, 2020, The Jerusalem Post

Syrian regime media reported airstrikes across a wide area around Damascus on Thursday morning. Incidents took place near Marj al-Sultan Airport, about 8 km. north of Damascus International Airport, at a key interchange of the M5 northeast of Damascus and south of the city near Kiswa and Izra.

[EU's top diplomat in Iran to discuss fragile nuclear deal](#)

February 4, 2020, Al-Monitor

In his first visit to Tehran as the European Union's foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell met with top Iranian officials to discuss the trajectory of the tenuous Iran nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

[Europe To Avoid Taking Iran Nuclear Dispute To U.N., EU's Top Diplomat Says](#)

February 4, 2020, Radio Farda

The European Union will extend indefinitely the time limit to resolve disputes in the Iran 2015 nuclear accord to avoid having to go to the U.N. Security Council or triggering new sanctions, the EU's top diplomat said during a visit to Tehran.

Israel

[Netanyahu: Israel, US began drawing map for 'implementation of Israeli sovereignty' over parts of West Bank](#)

February 9, 2020, i24 News

Israel, together with officials from the administration of US President Donald Trump began drawing a map for the "implementation of Israeli sovereignty" over parts of the West Bank, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told supporters on Saturday.

[Ex-IRGC chief: 'No doubt' we would have flattened Tel Aviv if US bombed Iran](#)

February 9, 2020, The Jerusalem Post

Iran would "no doubt" have flattened Tel Aviv after the assassination of former IRGC Quds Force commander Qasem Soleimani, if the US had attacked Iran, Mohsen Rezaei former chief of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps who currently serves as Expediency Council Secretary said.

[Bennett urges 'cold war' with Iran, directly threatens Hamas leaders](#)

February 10, 2020, The Times of Israel

Bennett, the leader of the hardline right-wing religious Yamina party, who was appointed defense minister some three months ago, set out his doctrine regarding the threat posed by Iran, saying his aim was to expel Tehran's forces from Syria within a year and to turn Syria into the Islamic Republic's "Vietnam."

[U.S. ambassador to Israel warns against West Bank annexation](#)

February 9, 2020, The Politico

The U.S. ambassador to Israel has cautioned Israel against "unilateral action" in annexing West Bank settlements, warning that such a move could endanger the Trump administration's recently unveiled Mideast plan.

[India signs deal with Israel to produce devastating unmanned military drones](#)

February 5, 2020, Daily Express

India's military is seeking to expand its use of drones for intelligence gathering, surveillance and reconnaissance. The state-funded Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) signed a memorandum of understanding with Israel's Elbit System to jointly develop rotary military drones.

[Israel Completes Spike Missiles Supply To India Within Three Months Of Order](#)

February 7, 2020, Swarajya Magazine

Israel's Rafael Advanced Defence Systems' India Head, Eli Hefets, said on Wednesday (5 February), "We have completed the supply of the Spike-LR anti-tank guided missiles under the fast track procedure where the systems had to be delivered within three months of the order."

[Indian oil giant, Israeli start-up to develop metal-air batteries](#)

February 4, 2020, The Jerusalem Post

India's largest commercial oil company, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., will partner with Lod-based energy start-up Phinergy to develop and produce innovative metal-air batteries, often regarded as the solution for long-distance electric-vehicle travel.

[Israeli forces kill 4 Palestinians in a day as tensions heighten](#)

February 7, 2020, Al Jazeera

The number of Palestinians killed by Israeli fire over the past 24 hours has risen to at least four, with dozens of others wounded amid heightened tensions in separate areas of the occupied West Bank.

[23 Said Killed in Israeli Strike in Syria](#)

February 7, 2020, Haaretz

Syrian state media says aerial defenses shot down most Israeli missiles but reports only eight wounded; monitoring group: Strikes targeted army positions, Iran-backed fighters.

[Saudi Arabia seeks to buy missiles from Israeli company](#)

February 4, 2020, Middle East Monitor

Saudi Arabia intends to buy weapons from Israel's Rafael company which is known for its precision missiles, Hebrew news sites have reported. Israel Defence Magazine said yesterday that Saudi Arabia has expressed a desire to purchase equipment from Rafael and if permission is obtained from Israeli authorities, arms can be supplied to the kingdom through its European representative, Euro Spike.

Jordan

[Israel blocks Palestinian agricultural exports via Jordan](#)

February 10, 2020, Al Jazeera

The Israeli military has blocked Palestinian agricultural exports through Jordan in the latest escalation of a months-long trade war that comes amid fears of renewed violence in the region over a controversial Middle East plan backed by the United States.

[Jordan urges international efforts to preserve Syria's territorial integrity](#)

February 10, 2020, Xinhua Net

Jordan on Sunday urged intensified international efforts to preserve territorial integrity, protect civilians and enhance de-escalation efforts in Syria.

Kuwait

[Kuwait zeroes in on military supply firms – ‘Indian’ managers under surveillance](#)

February 9, 2020, Arab Times

After the US Department of Justice announced last December that one of its former officers was involved in obtaining a bribe from an Indian official in a Logistics Services Company to facilitate the passage of contracts to the US Army in Kuwait, as well as granting subcontracts to companies exclusively, Al-Qabas learned the government agencies had narrowed the screws on the current transactions of US military companies and dealing with them according to a new mechanism and conditions.

[Kuwait Asks Citizens Not to Travel to Singapore over Coronavirus](#)

February 8, 2020, Asharq Al-Awsat

Kuwait has asked its citizens to delay their travel plans to Singapore because of the coronavirus concern.

[Speaker of Kuwaiti Parliament throws ‘Deal of the Century’ in the bin](#)

February 10, 2020, Middle East Monitor

Kuwaiti Parliament Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim threw, on Saturday, a copy of the alleged Deal of the Century in the trash, stressing that this deal “was born already dead” and “should be thrown in the dustbin of history.”

Lebanon

[New cabinet approves financial rescue plan](#)

February 7, 2020, Al Jazeera

Lebanon's government on Thursday approved a rescue plan designed to pull the country out of its worst economic and financial crisis in decades. Now it must win a vote of confidence in parliament.

Oman

[Omani Minister Responsible for Defence Affairs visits India](#)

February 5, 2020, Times of Oman

His Excellency Sayyid Badr bin Saud Al Busaidi, Minister Responsible for Oman's Defence Affairs visited India, to attend the eleventh International Defence Exhibition.

[No move by Indian government to levy income tax on NRIs](#)

February 2, 2020, Times of Oman

Indians in Oman and other overseas countries do not have to pay income taxes to the Indian government, unless they work for the overseas office of an Indian company.

[Iran to cooperate with India, Pakistan and Oman to study tsunami off Makran coast](#)

February 8, 2020, Tehran Times

Makran is a semi-desert coastal strip in Baluchistan, Pakistan and Iran, along the coast of the Gulf of Oman. The narrow coastal plain rises rapidly into several mountain ranges. Of the 1,000 kilometers coastline, around 750 kilometers is in Pakistan. Makran is very sparsely inhabited, with much of the population concentrated in a string of small ports including Chabahar, Gwatar, Jiwani, Jask, Sirik, Gwadar, Pasni, Ormara and many smaller fishing villages.

Qatar

[Qatar To Acquire Submarines In New Twist In Gulf States' Big Naval Expansion](#)

February 4, 2020, Forbes

Qatar may become the first Arab Gulf state to operate submarines. A new memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Italian defense giant Fincantieri covers the "supply of cutting-edge naval vessels and submarines."

[Qatar Deputy Prime Minister meets Indian Minister of Defense](#)

February 4, 2020, The Peninsula Qatar

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defense Affairs HE Dr Khalid bin Mohammed Al Attiyah, who is visiting India, met with HE Minister of Defense of the Republic of India Rajnath Singh. An official reception ceremony was held for the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defense Affairs at the headquarters of the Indian Ministry of Defense in New Delhi.

[Jaishankar holds talks with Qatar's deputy PM, discusses regional situation](#)

February 4, 2020, The Economic Times

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday held talks with Qatar's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defence Affairs Khalid bin Mohamed Al Attiyah and discussed ways to deepen bilateral ties as well as the evolving regional situation.

[Qatar Airways in talks to buy 49% stake in Rwanda's state carrier](#)

February 5, 2020, Al Jazeera

Qatar Airways is in talks to buy a 49 percent stake in Rwanda's state carrier, RwandAir, the Gulf airline's chief executive officer has said. A stake in an African airline would widen the company's reach in one of the world's fastest-growing aviation regions, and potentially help it bypass restrictions imposed on it by some Arab states.

Saudi Arabia

[US arranging meeting between Netanyahu and Saudi crown prince - report](#)

February 10, 2020, The Jerusalem Post

Talks are being held between teams from Israel, the United States, Egypt and Saudi Arabia on a potential summit in Cairo, whereby Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman could meet, according to a report in the Jewish News Syndicate (JNS).

[Saudi-Russian Alliance Is Strained as Coronavirus Saps Demand for Oil](#)

February 7, 2020, The New York Times

An alliance between Saudi Arabia and Russia has helped prop up oil prices for the last three years. But the two big oil producers were not in perfect harmony this week, as they have tried to recalibrate production targets to cope with reduced demand from China, whose economy has been crippled by the coronavirus epidemic.

[Saudi Arabia rejects Pakistan's plea for discussion on Kashmir at OIC](#)

February 7, 2020, The Hindu

In yet another setback to Islamabad, Saudi Arabia has once again declined Pakistan's request for an urgent meeting of the council of Foreign Ministers on Kashmir at the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

[Saudi Aramco cuts its prices for Asia](#)

February 6, 2020, Gulf News

Saudi Arabia's state oil company has made deep cuts to the price of crude it sells to Asia.

[Two in Kerala under observation for Coronavirus 'flee to Saudi Arabia'](#)

February 5, 2020, Gulf News

Kerala, which has reported three positive cases of Coronavirus and has over 2,500 people under watch, faced a fresh problem as authorities discovered that two people, who came here from China and were placed under observation, have slipped out of the country and have reportedly gone to Saudi Arabia.

[Indian ship 'Samudra Paheredar' on goodwill visit to Saudi Arabia](#)

February 7, 2020, Saudi Gazette

Strengthening strategic bilateral relationship between India and Saudi Arabia, Indian Coast Guard ship 'Samudra Paheredar' (Guard of Seas) recently arrived at King Abdul Aziz Port at Dammam, Saudi Arabia on a three-day visit.

[India may impose anti-dumping on chemical imported from Saudi, EU](#)

February 9, 2020, The New Indian Express

The Government of India may impose anti-dumping duty on the imports of a chemical, used in foam making, from four regions, including the EU and Saudi Arabia, to guard domestic players from cheap shipments.

Syria

[Syria war: Assad Government troops seize part of key Idlib town Saraqeb](#)

February 7, 2020, BBC News

Syrian government troops have retaken parts of the strategic town of Saraqeb in the last rebel-held province, Idlib. Syrian army units besieged the town for two days, exchanging artillery fire with Turkish forces who were supporting Syrian rebels.

[Syria Nearly Hit Passenger Plane In Trying To Shoot Israeli Jets: Russia](#)

February 7, 2020, NDTV India

An Airbus A320 with 172 passengers on board made an emergency landing in Russia-controlled Khmeimim air base after Syrian air defence nearly hit it, Russian state news agency RIA said on Friday citing Russian defence ministry spokesman.

[Big blow for rebels as Syrian troops gain territory in push to control key highway](#)

February 9, 2020, The New Indian Express

Syrian government forces captured new areas from insurgents in their efforts to control a key highway in the northwest Saturday, as Turkey sent more reinforcements into the war-torn country, state media and opposition activists said.

Turkey

[Turkey ready to act after reinforcing Syria's Idlib: official](#)

February 9, 2020, Reuters

Turkey has sent major reinforcements to Syria's northwestern Idlib region and "all options are on the table", a senior official said on Sunday, as Ankara tries to stem rapid advances by Syrian government forces.

[Turkey hosts events to mark Kashmir Solidarity Day](#)

February 6, 2020, Anadolu Agency

The disputed region of Jammu and Kashmir, huddled between South Asian nuclear powers India and Pakistan, is a pressing issue that the international community should take up, said speakers at several events on Wednesday held to commemorate the Kashmir Solidarity Day in Turkey.

[US halts secretive drone program with Turkey over operation against YPG terrorists](#)

February 7, 2020, Daily Sabah

The United States has halted a secretive military intelligence cooperation program with Turkey that for years helped Ankara target PKK terrorists, four U.S. officials told Reuters.

[Turkey deploys tanks to Syrian border amid fresh Idlib violence](#)

February 3, 2020, Al Jazeera

Turkey has deployed additional armed vehicles and soldiers to its border with Syria as an intensifying military push by Syrian government forces in the country's last major rebel-held stronghold has prompted fears of a new refugee crisis.

[Turkey's Erdoğan heads for Ukraine as rifts with Moscow deepen](#)

February 3, 2020, Ahval

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan is set to visit Kiev on Monday for a meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky that could have a deep impact on Turkey's broader foreign policy as its relations with Russia reach a rocky patch.

UAE

[UAE banks gearing up to chase Indian defaulters](#)

February 8, 2020, Gulf News

Leading UAE banks are understood to be initiating legal action against Indian borrowers who skipped their loan repayment and moved to India.

[UAE leaders welcome soldiers returning from Yemen](#)

February 9, 2020, Khaleej Times

The UAE celebrated the participation of its brave sons in the Arab Coalition Forces in Yemen war.

[Coronavirus in UAE: First recovery reported](#)

February 9, 2020, Gulf News

UAE reported its first recovery of a coronavirus case. The 73-year old Chinese citizen, Liu Yujia, is fully recovered and healthy.

[Tax exemptions for UAE sovereign investments in India's infrastructure sector](#)

February 6, 2020, Khaleej Times

In line with its on-going efforts to create an ideal investment environment internationally, the UAE, in coordination with the relevant authorities in India, has managed to reach tax exemptions for the UAE's sovereign investments in India applicable to the infrastructure sector for all sovereign investment institutions in the UAE, both federally and locally.

[India-UAE maritime agencies to have joint exercises](#)

February 3, 2020, Gulf News

Indian and UAE maritime agencies will undertake various joint exercises as part of a goodwill visit of Indian Coast Guard Ship ICGS Samudra Paheredar which is specialised in marine pollution control.

Yemen

[Yemen Al-Qaeda leader al-Raymi killed by US strike](#)

February 7, 2020, BBC News

The United States has killed the leader of Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), President Donald Trump said. Qasim al-Raymi, who has led the jihadist group since 2015, was killed in a US operation in Yemen, the White House said.

[Yemen: mercy flight takes eight children to Jordan for treatment](#)

February 7, 2020, The Guardian

Humanitarian breakthrough in five-year conflict in Yemen, with two more flights to leave soon. At least seven critically ill people in need of medical care and their relatives have been flown out of Yemen's rebel-held capital, Sanaa.

[Much to Saudi's dismay, the Houthis are standing their ground in Yemen](#)

February 8, 2020, TRT World

Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman has become a victim of his own assumption that the Houthis were just a ragtag force and the Saudi intervention would be a walk in the park.



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