



The US, Iran and India Conundrum-II

17-20 May 2019

| News/Op-ed | Key Takeaway |
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| <p>US president says war would be 'end' of Iran as tensions rise BBC</p> | <p>"If Iran wants to fight, that will be the official end of Iran," Trump said in a tweet on Sunday. "Never threaten the United States again!" The US has deployed additional warships and planes to the Gulf in recent days.</p> |
| <p>By destabilising regions that supply oil and gas, US is keeping Rising Asia off-balance The Indian Express</p> | <p>Over the past decade, with the US becoming self-reliant on the energy front, the focus of US policy has shifted to retaining control over the sources of supply, and not just ensuring its supply. Asian economies, including China, Japan, South Korea and India, depend critically on Gulf oil. Renewed tension in the Persian Gulf is not about over-powering Iran-sponsored terrorism. It is about securing control over Iran-produced oil.</p> |
| <p>US must handle Iran crisis better India Today</p> | <p>The US should not be taking unilateral decisions on Iran because they adversely affect the interests of numerous countries who do not share the US view on its differences with Iran. This does not mean they endorse Iranian policies or its clerical regime, or are unaware of reasons for opposition to Iranian policies in the region.</p> |
| <p>Iran-US tensions: 'There will be no war', says Zarif BBC</p> | <p>Iran's foreign minister has said he does not believe a war will break out in the region amid concerns over rising tensions with the US. Mr Trump "does not want war, but the people around him are pushing him towards war under the pretext of making America stronger against Iran" Mr Zarif said.</p> |
| <p>White House 2020 hopefuls turn to foreign policy, slam Trump on Iran Reuters</p> | <p>Representative Tulsi Gabbard, one of 24 Democrats vying for the White House nomination, said on ABC's "This Week with George Stephanopoulos" that Trump was "leading us down this dangerous path towards a war with Iran."</p> |
| <p>War With Iran? Count Us Out, Europe Says The New York Times</p> | <p>The public position of European officials has been to urge "maximum restraint," as the European foreign policy chief, Federica Mogherini, put it.</p> |
| <p>Exports to Iran may go down to zero if oil imports are not resumed: Exporters Business Line</p> | <p>Indian exports to Iran are likely to take a big hit over the next few months and may even come down to zero if the new government decides not to resume oil imports from the country in adherence with the US economic sanctions, say exporters.</p> |

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| <p>Iran: 'We Will Beat U.S. In Intelligence War' And 'Punish Mistakes With Crushing Strikes'</p> <p>Forbes</p> | <p>The commander of Iran's Army Major General Moussavi warned that the country's Armed Forces will respond to any strategic mistake by enemies with a crushing strike.</p> |
| <p>US-Iran conflict would hit energy supplies, says Iranian general</p> <p>The Guardian</p> | <p>Iranian missiles could easily hit US ships in the Gulf, and any conflict would threaten global energy supplies, a senior Iranian military official has said.</p> |
| <p>In Iran, economic struggles trump fears of US confrontation</p> <p>Fox News</p> | <p>Battered by U.S. sanctions and its depreciating rial currency, Iran's 80 million people struggle to buy meat, medicine and other staples of daily life.</p> |
| <p>Oil Jumps as OPEC Signals Continued Cuts and U.S. Threatens Iran</p> <p>Bloomberg</p> | <p>Crude prices are rising because investors view OPEC wants to tighten supply and demand to maintain current prices. While the outcome of the OPEC+ meeting was in line with expectations, it's still uncertain what the producers will ultimately decide on production cuts in June, said Takayuki Nogami, the chief economist at Japan Oil, Gas and Metals National Corp. in Tokyo</p> |
| <p>Iran tells Middle East militias: prepare for proxy war</p> <p>The Guardian</p> | <p>Iran's most prominent military leader has recently met Iraqi militias in Baghdad and told them to "prepare for proxy war".</p> |
| <p>China Vows Support for Iran Amid Sanctions Dispute With U.S.</p> <p>Bloomberg</p> | <p>China's foreign minister voiced opposition to the U.S.'s unilateral sanctions against Iran and pledged to support Tehran's efforts to safeguard its interests, as the U.S. ratchets up pressure on the Islamic Republic's economy. China, one of the world's biggest buyers of Iranian oil, hasn't committed to halt imports from Iran.</p> |
| <p>Top Iranian legislator calls for Iran-US talks 'to end tensions'</p> <p>Al Jazeera</p> | <p>"There must be a table in Iraq or Qatar where the two sides can meet in order to end this tension" said Hashmatullah Falahat Pische, head of the Iranian parliament's national security and foreign policy committee.</p> |