## Occasional News Wrap - #4/ May 2019



## The US, Iran and India Conundrum-I

13-16 May 2019

News/Op-ed	Key Takeaway
India tells Iran that decision on oil imports will be taken after elections  The Print	A decision (on oil purchases) will be taken after the elections keeping in mind our commercial considerations, energy security and economic interests. India, under pressure from the US, had completely stopped its oil imports from Tehran since 2 May. Meanwhile, India is engaged in convincing the US to allow it to import the remaining shipments for which contracts have been signed.
Lawmakers warn White House against war with Iran, call for more 'clarity' CNN	Democratic lawmakers called on administration officials to reopen diplomatic channels with Iran, tone down their rhetoric and reconsider their strategy or at least explain it. Above all, they stressed that the White House cannot launch a war without consulting Congress first.
Saudi oil facilities attacked, U.S. sees threat in Iraq from Iranbacked forces Reuters	Saudi Arabia said <u>armed drones struck</u> two of its oil pumping stations on Tuesday, two days after the sabotage of oil tankers near the United Arab Emirates, and the U.S. military said it was braced for "possibly imminent threats to U.S. forces in Iraq" from Iran-backed forces.
Oil supply drops as Iran sanctions bite: IEA Economic Times	The world's oil supply fell last month, the International Energy Agency said Wednesday, amid rising global tensions as US sanctions on Iran tightened and OPEC+ members produced less crude in line with their pact.
Iran Showing Restraint, US Sanctions 'Unacceptable' Voice of America	Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif was referring to the <u>Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action</u> signed in 2015 by the United States, Iran and other countries, under which Tehran curbed its uranium enrichment capacity and won sanctions relief in return.
Ease oil sales or see end of nuclear deal, Iran says  The Guardian	The Iranian ambassador to the UK has warned Europe it has 60 days to ease Iranian oil sales or else see the end of the nuclear deal as tensions rise with the US.
Iran, please give Trump a call CNN	By making his willingness for a phone call clear, President Trump is laying the groundwork for an attempt, through his bipolar style of negotiations, at an agreement bearing his signature, instead of those of the previous US administration and the other world powers.

What sanctions did Trump slap on Iran? Al Jazeera	Soon after the US's pull out and threat of sanctions against countries and companies doing business with Tehran, more than 100 foreign companies ceased doing business with Iran. And major buyers of Iranian crude, including India and Japan, have said they will stop oil imports. The US squeeze on Iran's economy has caused a financial crisis, resulting in mass protests across the country.
Tehran Comes Calling: India's Iran Dilemma Grows Acute The Diplomat	India has to make hard choices about its relationship with Iran—again. Iran is an important part of India's energy security matrix, supplying around 10 per cent of its total oil requirements. In addition, India's investment in the Chabahar port in Iran bears testimony to India's strategic requirements in Afghanistan.