

# MEIWeekly.



Hours after Syria condemned Tel Aviv’s incursion into its southern region and demanded a withdrawal, the IDF launched airstrikes on military bases and command centres in the area and near Damascus. Analysts say that these strikes are complicating the current Syrian administration’s efforts to reunify the nation. Photo: AFP

## WHAT’S HOT: MEI PUBLICATIONS, PODCASTS, & MORE

**READ:** This article examines the shifting dynamics in the Middle East, particularly the transition from security-driven alliances to economic cooperation. Read the article [here](#).

**LISTEN:** MEI has concluded its ME Outlook series, analysing key developments shaping the Middle East and what to expect in the region in 2025. Listen to them [here](#).

## WHAT’S NEWS: THE BIG HEADLINES THIS WEEK

### Israel Strikes Syria After Nation’s Leader Demands Withdrawal

“The presence of military assets and forces in the southern part of Syria constitutes a threat to Israeli citizens”, the IDF said in a statement. Tel Aviv added that “any attempt” by Syrian forces or militant groups to establish a presence in the “security zone” will be “met with fire”.

### Iran Has Enough Highly Enriched Uranium for Six Nukes

Tehran is now producing enough fissile material in a month for one nuclear weapon, according to the report. Being at its most vulnerable position in years, Iran’s strides come as the country indicated an openness to negotiating with the US on limits to its nuclear ambitions.



Iran has said it won’t negotiate directly with Washington while under maximum pressure sanctions. Photo: AFP

### Gulf States Leverage ‘Convening Power’ in Global Mediation

The Gulf nations’ expanding role in mediating conflicts ranging from Gaza to Ukraine reflects a growing belief in the international community and among analysts that Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the UAE have the connections and leverage needed to “get things done”.

## CALENDAR: MEI EVENTS

### MEI Salon - The Living Colours of Jewish Art

Jewish artists have left their creative imprint on cities around the world, including Singapore. Embracing Singapore’s rich multicultural identity, MEI’s annual salon event invites you to discover the vibrant world of Jewish art—where colour, movement, and innovation come together in a dynamic celebration of creativity. To sign up, click [here](#).



Jewish sculptures such as the Momentum (pictured) symbolises the energy and vibrancy of the financial district, Singapore and its people. Photo: David Gerstein

## LOOK AHEAD: WHAT TO KEEP A WATCH ON

### White House Envoy Witkoff May Travel to Middle East

US Special Envoy to the Middle East Steve Witkoff could travel to the Middle East on Sunday if negotiations on the next stage of the Gaza ceasefire deal between Israel and Hamas go well, reports stated. He also told an American Jewish Congress event that an Israeli delegation will travel to Doha or Cairo in the coming days to negotiate the next stage of the deal.



Mr Witkoff said Hamas cannot be part of any new government and “it is a red line for the Israelis”. Photo: AFP

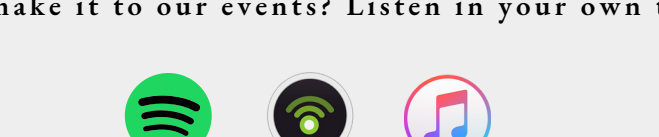
### Egypt to Host Arab Summit

Cairo said that it will host an emergency Arab summit on 4 March to discuss plans to rebuild the Gaza Strip without displacing its Palestinian inhabitants. The summit was originally scheduled to be held on 27 February but was postponed “to complete logistical preparations”, the Egyptian Foreign Ministry said in a statement.



Egypt said that the new date was set in coordination with Bahrain, the current chair of the Arab League, and in consultation with other Arab countries. Photo: AFP

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