



TOP STORY • SAUDI ARABIA

Houthis Say They Struck the Pipeline That Lets Saudi Oil Avoid Hormuz

Reuters reports the group's claims on Monday; Saudi Arabia has not confirmed them.

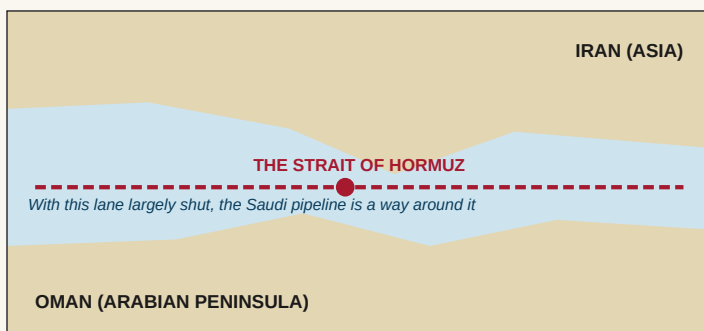
Written and fact-checked by AI • News Pebbles

Saudi Arabia sends much of its oil out through one sea lane, the Strait of Hormuz at the mouth of the Gulf. That lane has been largely shut by the war, so a Saudi pipeline now matters more. The East-West pipeline is about 1,200 kilometres long and gives Saudi crude a route to the Red Sea coast instead.

On Monday the Houthis, an armed group from Yemen, said they hit the pipeline's crude pumping stations and Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport. They made similar claims on Saturday, naming an Aramco site in Yanbu and the Rabigh refinery. There was no immediate Saudi confirmation. The airport had reopened two terminals on Sunday, after an attack earlier this month that Reuters says killed 13 people.

The Saudi-led coalition says it destroyed two ballistic missile launchers in Sanaa, Yemen's capital, and five tunnels used to store missiles. Houthi media say Saudi strikes killed 16 people, a figure that could not be checked. Strikes have intensified since the Houthis captured strategic areas on Yemen's Red Sea coast last month, moving towards the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, a key route for Gulf oil. The fighting has effectively ended a UN-brokered truce that had largely held since 2022.

For families, the link is the pump. The American Automobile Association (AAA) says the average US price was \$4.28 a gallon on Sunday. India buys much of its oil from abroad, and its Sensex share index rose 482.92 points on Monday as oil prices eased, after four days of falls.



The East-West pipeline carries Saudi crude to the Red Sea coast.

WHY THIS MATTERS

When a pipeline or a sea lane that carries oil is threatened, the worry spreads to petrol pumps in the US and to India's import bill.

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WORLD • ISRAEL

Israel Votes With Neither Side Near a Majority

The final polls point to deadlock, and Arab parties could decide who governs.

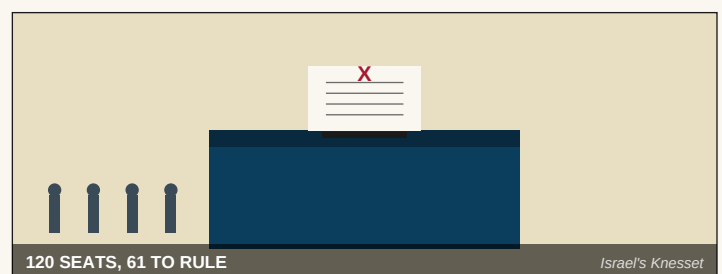
Israel holds a parliamentary election on Tuesday 27 October. Unlike in the United States, voters do not pick a prime minister directly. They choose parties for the 120-seat parliament, the Knesset, and the leader who can build a governing coalition becomes prime minister. A coalition is a group of parties that agree to govern together, and it needs 61 seats.

The final polls from three TV channels give Benjamin Netanyahu's right-wing and religious bloc 50 seats. They give the opposition 'change bloc', led by former defence chief Gadi Eisenkot, between 52 and 56. Eisenkot's party, Yashar, is projected as the largest with 22 seats, ahead of Netanyahu's Likud with 20. One poll by Direct Polls, quoted by i24NEWS, put Netanyahu's bloc at 59.

Security shapes the vote. NBC News describes it as a battle for survival for Netanyahu after the attacks of 7 October 2023. Israel will close West Bank crossings on election day, and Netanyahu has been pressing US President Donald Trump for more support before a tight race. Ynet reports that the final polls put Eisenkot's party ahead of Likud.

Small parties could matter too. The Kan poll puts Amcha Israel at 2.9%, below the electoral threshold, the minimum share of votes a party needs to win any seats. Votes for a party that falls short win no seats at all, which can change the arithmetic of both blocs.

Neither camp reaches 61, and that is why the Arab parties matter. They are projected to win 14 to 16 seats and are counted in neither bloc. Coalition talks could be hard, and another election is possible if no government forms.



Final polls: neither side reaches 61 seats.

CONNECT THE DOTS

In the US, voters pick a president directly. In Israel, voters pick a parliament, so deals between parties decide who becomes prime minister.

INDIA • WEATHER

Cyclone Arnab Gathers Strength Before Its Landfall

Odisha shuts schools and Andhra Pradesh waits for winds of up to 125 km an hour.

Cyclone Arnab is still over the sea. At 5:30pm on Monday, India's weather office said it was a severe cyclonic storm about 490 kilometres east-south-east of Visakhapatnam, and expected it to become a very severe one within 12 hours.

The office forecasts that it will cross the coast between Bapatla and Visakhapatnam, near Yanam, by the forenoon of 28 October. Winds at the coast could average 115 to 125 km an hour, with gusts to 140. A red-message warning covers the Andhra Pradesh and south Odisha coasts. The rain is expected to continue into 29 October and ease from 30 October.

For families on the coast, the preparations are practical. Schools, colleges and Anganwadi centres close in five Odisha districts on 28 and 29 October. Odisha has 302 rescue teams on standby, and 225 fire service teams and NDRF personnel have been deployed. Fishing is suspended, and more than 4,800 boats have returned to the Kakinada coast.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Fishing families lose a day's earnings when boats stay in, but warnings given early are how coastal India keeps people safe.

Also in India

- Name: Bangladesh proposed 'Arnab', which means 'sea' or 'ocean' in Bengali.
- Markets: The Sensex rose 482.92 points to 73,606.75, ending a four-day losing streak.

ONE-LINE BRIEFS

- Brazil: Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva won the presidential runoff with just over 51% of the vote; Flavio Bolsonaro, with 48%, says he will seek to annul it.
- Serbia: The Student List won Sunday's snap election, and Aleksandar Vucic said it had won; official results are still to come.

VOCABULARY BUILDER**Words that unlock today's news****Pipeline**

A long pipe that carries oil or gas over land. Today: The East-West pipeline carries Saudi crude about 1,200 kilometres.

Coalition

A group of parties that agree to govern together. Today: Israel's next government will be a coalition needing 61 seats.

Runoff

A second round of voting between the two leading candidates. Today: Brazil's presidential runoff was won by Lula.

Annul

To declare a result invalid, as if it had never happened. Today: Flavio Bolsonaro says he will seek to annul Brazil's result.

DID YOU KNOW?

Bangladesh proposed the name 'Arnab' for Cyclone Arnab, and in Bengali it means 'sea' or 'ocean'.

UNITED STATES • MIDTERMS

One Week Before the Midterms, Early Voting Spreads

Obama and Trump both campaigned in Michigan, and Fox News lists six Senate toss-ups.

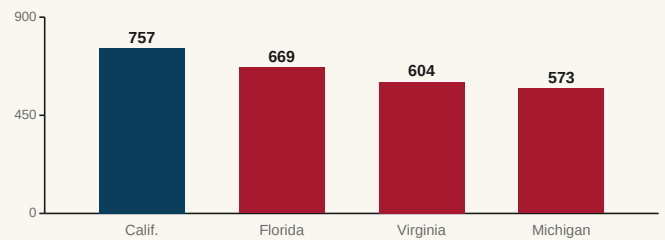
Election Day for the midterms, the vote halfway through a president's term, is 3 November. It decides whether Republicans keep control of the House and the Senate. Millions have already voted: AP data published on 17 October showed 6 million early votes across 39 states.

This week more states open early voting. It starts in Washington DC on Monday, in Oklahoma on Wednesday and in Kentucky on Thursday. Barack Obama rallied in Cleveland and Detroit on Saturday, and Donald Trump campaigned with Republican Mike Rogers in Port Huron, Michigan, on Sunday.

Fox News lists Alaska, Iowa, Maine, Michigan, Ohio and Texas as toss-up Senate states. Its Power Rankings predict Republicans would still lose the House even with a good showing.

EARLY VOTES SO FAR

Thousands of votes, AP count as of 15 Oct



Includes in-person and returned mail ballots. Source: AP via FOX 13.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Midterms decide who writes the laws and budgets that affect families, from fuel costs to schools.

THINK LIKE AN ANALYST

Why might early voting numbers be hard to read as a sign of who will win? What does it tell you that both parties are campaigning in Michigan? Why do the toss-up states matter more than the others?

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SPORTS CORNER**BASEBALL: BREWERS NEED TWO MORE WINS**

Milwaukee leads Tampa Bay 2-0 in the World Series after a 5-4 Game 2 win. The Rays scored four first-inning runs, but **Sal Frelick** tied it with a sixth-inning home run and **Cooper Pratt**'s single in the seventh won it. Game 3 is on Monday night in Florida, with **Freddy Peralta** pitching for Tampa Bay against his old team.

WHAT TO WATCH NEXT

- Who wins Israel's election, and whether any side can reach 61 seats.
- Whether Cyclone Arnab crosses the coast by the forenoon of 28 October.

"News is a map: the more places you can find on it, the better you read it." — The Editor

You are not just reading the news — you are learning to think about it. See you in two days.