

2009

Israel withdraws from the **Gaza Strip**, officially ending a three-week war it had with Hamas. However, intermittent fire by both sides continues in the weeks to follow.

2011

Anti government demonstrations take place in **Tirana, Albania**. Five people lose their lives from gunshots, allegedly fired from armed police protecting the Prime Minister's office.

2017

Over 400 cities across America and 160+ countries worldwide participate in a large-scale women's march, on **Donald Trump's** first full day as President of the United States.

2018



Rocket Lab's Electron becomes the first rocket to reach orbit using an electric pump-fed engine and deploys three CubeSats.



Trump rally at Huntington Center in Toledo, Ohio.

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cent revelations demonstrate, additional facts are liable to put him in an impossible situation, given that he simply does not care what the president may have done and is determined to acquit him no matter what.

Worse, Mr Trump knows exactly what he did and didn't do, but Senate Republicans don't. They really have no idea what remains to be discovered and what is already on the record is bad enough to place them in an awkward position. Despite their best efforts, this problem is only likely to get worse.

Like war, a trial is among those social processes in which the outcome and, in retrospect, the underlying realities appear very different

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damning re-

es have to get on board



Vilifying the entire oil and gas sector and trying to starve it of Western capital will lead to higher energy prices and more burning of coal in the developing world, a self-defeating approach if we truly care about reducing global emissions in an unbiased manner.

equivalent to half of all the world's cars converting to clean, electric energy overnight.

Oil consumption is also often misunderstood. Its growth in demand today is not from cars, but firstly, from petrochemicals, upon which we rely for so much of modern life: from smartphones and electric devices, to household items and medications. Thereafter, demand growth is from trucking, air transport and shipping, for which there is no viable renewable option today. Oil demand is expected to peak sometime mid-century, but under any future demand scenario, oil and gas will still be required to be a significant part of the energy mix.

Vilifying the entire oil and gas sector and trying to starve it of Western capital will lead to higher energy prices and more burning of coal

at the end of the process than they did at the beginning. Mr McConnell knows this, and that explains his insistence on a short and essentially meaningless "trial."

Even though he commands a Republican majority in the Senate, he may not get his way, at least not entirely.

Mr Trump's Senate trial will hinge upon the procedural rulings of a Senate majority, with Chief Justice John Roberts serving as a tiebreaker when necessary. In practice, this means that only three or four Republicans need, at any stage, to side with Democrats on a motion to hear certain witnesses – one example being former national security advisor John Bolton, who has said he would testify and that he has significant new information.

As things stand, few if any Senate Republicans appear willing to convict Mr. Trump and remove him from office. However, a small group might be amenable to siding with Democrats, and possibly the Chief Justice, in insisting on additional testimony and documents. Once that process is unleashed, there is no telling where it might lead.

Under the current circumstances, it's very hard to imagine the Senate voting to convict and remove Mr Trump from office, despite an already strong case that he did, indeed, abuse the powers of his office for personal political gain and, as his defiant attitude suggests, would likely do so again.

But one thing is certain on the eve of this momentous Senate trial: anyone who has complete confidence in its outcome and impact is living in a fool's paradise.

What we are about to witness is a process that isn't wholly predictable or under anyone's firm control.

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The challenge to the global community is to create the necessary incentives and assurances to accelerate the developing world's switch away from coal to more gas and renewables in countries like China and India that have few gas resources and where coal is still cheaper, absent a financial incentive.

Ultimately, the only truly clean energy is using less of it. The developing world needs more support to increase energy efficiency and reduce the carbon intensity of economic growth. Preserving and replanting forests must take a more central role. A recent study found that simply by reforesting land in developing countries the world could create a sink for 750 billion CO₂, amounting to 100 years of current global carbon emissions from transportation.

Climate change is a global challenge that requires a concerted global effort. A Western-centric approach or piecemeal efforts at the national level will not suffice. Concrete international mechanisms with clear financial incentives are urgently needed to enable growing economies to reduce energy consumption through efficiency, reduce emissions by switching to less carbon intensive fuels, and reforest the global carbon sinks that are so central to human life.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Congratulations to Sh @JPNadda ji on being elected the BJP president. I am confident the Party will achieve new glory & success under his leadership. Known for his organisational experience Naddaji has always been an asset to the party. Wishing him a successful tenure ahead.

@rajnathsingh

02



Donald Trump's poisonous rhetoric and divisive politics have brought America to an inflection point. In this moment, we have an enormous opportunity to take the next great step forward as a nation. Let's get to work. We can do this, together.

@JoeBiden

03



The Trump administration drafted plans to renew and expand its travel ban list to include immigration restrictions on seven additional countries, according to sources familiar with the process.

@cnni

04



NEW: In three years in the White House, Donald Trump has accomplished something no president before him has done: fusing his private business interests with America's highest public office

@anitakumar01

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stances)

Why Mideast start-ups are choosing the cloud?

VINOD KRISHNAN

Cloud has revolutionised the way businesses operate, especially when it comes to start-ups. It's uncommon now to find a start-up that isn't cloud native; most chose to adopt a cloud infrastructure from the beginning. Businesses across the Middle East, such as Careem, Anghami, Boutiqaat, Mrsool and so many more, have been able to grow and innovate quickly, seamlessly underpinned by their highly secure, agile, and flexible cloud infrastructure. Start-ups approach cloud, and more importantly security, with a different viewpoint when compared to larger established organisations who are still struggling to marry together new capabilities with legacy systems.

With the recent launch of the AWS Middle East Region, start-ups the region now have even greater access to advanced and secure technology infrastructure to bring their ideas to life and scale rapidly, safe in the knowledge that security is not an after-thought, but rather the cornerstone of the entire platform of services and infrastructure.

When starting a business, managing costs is critical, therefore investments that deliver the highest possible value and return on investment (ROI) are a must, so start-ups only pay for the services they use. This approach enables them to avoid the large upfront expense of owned infrastructure, and manage their IT at a lower cost than an on-premises environment.

However, low cost does not mean low functionality. To the contrary, a start-up operating on cloud infrastructure has access to the same services and capabilities as the largest enterprise or government customers. This investment includes entire teams dedicated to security that satisfy the security and compliance needs of the most risk-sensitive organisations. This allows them to compete on an even playing field, innovating quickly and bringing products to market, all with the knowledge that they have world-class security in place to protect against the most prevalent threats.

Start-ups are ambitious, tenacious and hungry to expand, so choosing to build and scale their business on the cloud is a natural choice. Simply by embracing cloud, start-ups can scale rapidly, giving them the ability to add or remove resources to meet evolving business demands as required. Instead of investing in data centers, servers and service level agreements, cloud technology allows start-ups to react faster and more flexibly, to experiment, innovate and better serve customers.

The cloud provides an opportunity for start-ups to optimise existing IT systems and to increase operational efficiencies, while driving business agility and growth. This is achieved by

allowing companies to significantly decrease the time it takes to provision and de-provision IT infrastructure. While a physical server could take months or weeks to procure and provision, a cloud server takes minutes. Furthermore, cloud technology supports the increasingly rapid pace of product development and the need to swiftly bring products to market.

Start-ups must make security a top priority, regardless of size. A security breach can impact start-ups by hurting their reputation and customer base, and can have repercussions on the larger organisations these businesses do business with. Start-ups need to bake-in security from the ground up to make sure they are not the weak link in a supply chain. An advantage of AWS is that it allows customers to scale and innovate, while maintaining a secure environment.

Time is precious for start-ups and, at AWS, automating security tasks enables start-ups to be more secure by reducing human configuration errors and giving teams more time to work on other tasks critical to the business. Automation can also offer a smarter approach to detecting potential threats through its ability to monitor patterns of behaviour. Being able to identify changes in behaviour means potential attacks can be identified and dealt with immediately. Applying machine learning and mathematical logic to security also allows the cloud to proactively manage tasks including security assessments, threat detection, and policy management. Using automated reasoning technology, the application of mathematical logic to help answer critical questions about infrastructure, AWS is able to detect entire classes of misconfigurations that could potentially expose vulnerable data.

From an early stage, start-ups must choose a cloud provider whose network architecture is designed to meet the requirements of the most security-sensitive organisations in the world. At AWS, we believe start-ups are a huge driving force for innovation. However, this wouldn't be possible without a cloud provider that can support and evolve with them as they grow and that enables them to keep their data safe and protect against malicious attacks. By having a cloud-native approach and putting security at the centre, start-ups can focus on innovating and disrupting their industry, knowing that their cloud infrastructure is as agile, highly secure, and dynamic as they are.

(Vinod Krishnan is the Head of MENA, Amazon Web Services (AWS))