

INDIA WATCH

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POLITICAL ISSUES

BAHRAIN

1. India, Bahrain sign three MoUs

New Delhi, Thursday, 20 February 2014

India and Bahrain signed three agreements on 19 February to expand cooperation in key areas, including trade and business. The agreements were signed in the presence of the Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa.

Source: The Hindu, Chennai

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-bahrain-sign-three-mous/article5707273.ece>

2. Vast potential of cooperation between India-Bahrain: President Pranab Mukherjee

New Delhi, Thursday, 20 February 2014

Highlighting that Bahrain is India's extended neighbourhood, President Pranab Mukherjee said that there was vast potential for bilateral cooperation based on inherent strengths and complementarities of the two countries.

Source: The Hindu, Chennai

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2014-02-20/news/47527593_1_india-and-bahrain-india-bahrain-bilateral-cooperation

IRAN

3. Ahmed Patel meets Salman Khurshid over issue of two Indians stranded in Iran

New Delhi, Monday, 10 February 2014

Ahmed Patel, Political Secretary to the Congress President Sonia Gandhi, said that he met External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid in Delhi to discuss the issue of two Indians stranded in Iran. According to Patel, Khurshid said that the Centre was serious in resolving the issue and the matter has been taken at an appropriate level in Iran.

Source: DNA, Mumbai

<http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-ahmed-patel-meets-salman-khurshid-over-issue-of-two-indians-stranded-in-iran-1960778>

4. India, Iran should work for global peace: Iranian Minister

New Delhi, Friday, 28 February 2014

Visiting Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, who arrived in Delhi on 27 February, said that the time of "zero sum game" played by the West was over and India and Iran should work together to usher in a new perspective of cooperation between all the countries.

Source: The Economic Times, New Delhi

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2014-02-28/news/47774259_1_india-and-iran-india-iran-zarif

SAUDI ARABIA

5. India and Saudi Arabia sign defence cooperation pact

New Delhi, Wednesday, 26 February 2014

Reflecting growing congruence in bilateral ties, India and Saudi Arabia signed a defence cooperation agreement to take their strategic partnership further in areas of security.

Source: DNA, Mumbai

<http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-india-and-saudi-arabia-sign-defence-cooperation-pact-1965330>

UAE

6. Indian embassy in UAE warns of visa scam

Dubai, Friday, 7 February 2014

The Indian embassy in the UAE has warned foreigners against falling prey to online visa scamsters operating a website that claims to facilitate Indian visas.

Source: Business Standard, New Delhi

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/indian-embassy-in-uae-warns-of-visa-scam-114020700785_1.html

See Also: The Hindu, Chennai

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/indian-embassy-in-uae-warns-of-online-visa-scam/article5664993.ece>

ECONOMIC ISSUES

IRAN

7. India doubles Iran oil imports in January from December: Reports

New Delhi, Friday, 21 February 2014

India's oil imports from Iran more than doubled in January from a month earlier, with one state refiner returning from a three-month break as a buyer after sanctions on Tehran were eased due to the interim Geneva deal on its nuclear programme.

Source: The Economic Times, New Delhi

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/news-by-industry/energy/oil-gas/India-doubles-Iran-oil-imports-in-January-from-December-Reports/articleshow/30787613.cms>

KUWAIT

8. Kuwait's Hayat ties up with Chennai firm, to invest US\$100 million in realty sector

Chennai, Wednesday, 26 February 2014

Kuwait's Islamic investment firm Hayat Invest will invest US\$100 million in the Indian real estate sector in partnership with Chennai-based residential real estate developer XS Real Group.

Source: The Economic Times, New Delhi

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2014-02-26/news/47705648_1_investment-firm-estate-sector-chennai-real-estate

SAUDI ARABIA

9. Reduced supply from India pushes rice price up in Saudi Arabia

New Delhi, Tuesday, 18 February 2014

Price of imported rice including the Indian Basmati has shot up 20 per cent in Saudi Arabia due to shortage of supply from India. Popular varieties of Basmati rice remain hard to find at retail outlets in the country despite the price hike.

Source: The Economic Times, New Delhi

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2014-02-18/news/47451429_1_rice-price-indian-rice-basmati-rice

10. Saudi asks India to ease tax norms to speed up investment flow

New Delhi, Thursday, 27 February 2014

Capital gains tax is a major hurdle in promoting Saudi investments in India, Saudi Arabia's Minister of Commerce and Industry Tawfiq Al Rabiah said. He further added that "the issue of taxation of capital gains continues to be a major impediment in promoting Saudi investment in India, and I call on the Indian authorities to explore relaxation of this issue".

Source: The Economic Times, New Delhi

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2014-02-27/news/47739762_1_trade-basket-bilateral-trade-indian-exports

11. Indian, Saudi firms sign deals for business, investments

New Delhi, Thursday, 27 February 2013

Indian and Saudi companies signed four agreements to jointly promote and facilitate investments and trade.

Source: DNA, Mumbai

<http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-india-and-saudi-arabia-sign-defence-cooperation-pact-1965330>

12. Saudi Arabia-India to jointly build rice distribution hub in Dubai

Dubai, Friday, 28 February 2014

A new Saudi Arabia and India joint venture has been formed to build a rice distribution hub in Dubai to link Indian producers to consumers in the Middle East

Source: The Economic Times, New Delhi

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2014-02-28/news/47774341_1_basmati-rice-food-security-uae

UAE

13. India, Dubai reach air traffic rights pact

Mumbai/Delhi, Thursday, 27 February 2014

The civil aviation ministry revised the bilateral air traffic entitlements with Dubai, allowing them a 20 per cent increase in seats to India. Dubai had asked for 50,000 additional seats a week, has been granted 11,000 seats for allocation in three phases.

Source: Business Standard, New Delhi

http://www.business-standard.com/article/specials/india-dubai-reach-air-traffic-rights-pact-114022401041_1.html

14. India-UAE task force on investment to meet next month

Dubai, Monday, 17 February 2014

The meeting of India-UAE High-level Task Force on Investment will be held in Mumbai early next month. The Task Force is expected to hold wide-ranging discussions on priority sectors of engagement for channelling investments in the two countries.

Source: Business Standard, New Delhi

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/india-uae-task-force-on-investment-to-meet-next-month-114021700328_1.html

MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES

BAHRAIN

15. Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait lays out India plans

Mumbai, Wednesday, 26 February 2014

Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait (BBK) is planning to scale up its presence in India by opening one new branch, pump more capital and scout potential partner for credit card and call centre unit.

Source: The Hindu, Chennai

http://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/bank-of-bahrain-and-kuwait-lays-out-india-plans-114022601031_1.html

QATAR

16. 1,000 Indian workers die in World Cup host Qatar in 4 years

New Delhi, Friday, 21 February 2014

Almost 1,000 Indians have died in Qatar in the last four years, with over 500 workers dying in the past two- and-a-half years alone. Qatar is the host of the 2022 football World Cup.

Source: The Economic Times, New Delhi

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/1000-Indian-workers-die-in-World-Cup-host-Qatar-in-4-years/articleshow/30746906.cms>

17. 'Middle Eastern airlines sucking talent out of India'

New Delhi, Monday, 17 February 2014

Airlines in the Middle East are sucking up the talent out of India leading to a dearth of qualified and competent people back home, a leading industry executive has said. According to Ravi Menon, the executive director of Air Works, a Mumbai-based aircraft maintenance company, the biggest risk to the maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) space or aviation space is a lack of qualified and competent people

Source: The Economic Times, New Delhi

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2014-02-17/news/47412133_1_maintenance-work-high-duty-indian-airlines

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