

INDIA WATCH

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POLITICAL ISSUES

IRAQ

1) 38 Indians missing in Iraq are alive: Mahmoud Abbas

New Delhi, Monday, 12 October 2015

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas told President Pranab Mukherjee that the missing 38 Indians are safe, according to an Indian spokesperson, who also said that no evidence was provided in support of that.

Source: *Business Standard, New Delhi*

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/38-indians-missing-in-iraq-are-alive-mahmoud-abbas-115101201207_1.html

ISRAEL

2) Israel, India to ink three MoUs during President Mukherjee's visit

New Delhi, Sunday, 4 October 2015

India and Israel would aim to step up bilateral engagement and are likely to sign three MoUs in water, energy and education sectors during President Pranab Mukherjee's visit to Israel, which would be first ever by an Indian head of state.

Source: *The Indian Express, Mumbai*

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/israel-india-aim-to-step-up-bilateral-ties-during-president-pranab-mukherjees-visit/>

3) First visit by an Indian President to Israel, Palestine: Between trade and tradition

New Delhi, Thursday, 8 October 2015

President Pranab Mukherjee would be travelling to Israel and Palestine between 12-15 October.

Source: *The Indian Express, Mumbai*

<http://indianexpress.com/article/explained/first-visit-by-an-indian-president-to-israel-palestine-between-trade-and-tradition/>

See also: *The Economic Times, New Delhi*

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2015-07-25/news/64850315_1_israel-president-pranab-mukherjee-indian-president

4) India to sign education pacts with Palestine, Israel

New Delhi, Friday, 9 October 2015

An agreement would be signed for the first time between the two countries when President Pranab Mukherjee visits Palestine, for strengthening cooperation in the field of education.

Source: *The Hindu, Chennai*

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/india-to-sign-education-pacts-with-palestine-israel/article7740403.ece>

5) Ties with Israel on upswing: Pranab

New Delhi, Wednesday, 14 October 2015

After visiting Jordan and Palestine, President Pranab Mukherjee went to Israel and called for enhanced bilateral cooperation in sectors such as agriculture, defence and technology.

Source: *The Hindu, Chennai*

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/president-pranab-mukherjee-sixday-trination-tour-ties-with-israel-on-upswing-pranab/article7762301.ece>

6) At Knesset, President Mukherjee skips violence, focuses on India-Israel relations

New Delhi, Thursday, 15 October 2015

Addressing a special session of Knesset, President Pranab Mukherjee stayed away from the issue of terrorism, while talking about the old ties binding India and Israel.

Source: *The Indian Express, Mumbai*

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/at-knesset-president-mukherjee-skips-violence-focuses-on-india-israel-relations/>

7) Israel 'upset' with India's ties with Palestine

New Delhi, Friday, 16 October 2015

Prime Minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu told President Pranab Mukherjee that Israel expected India to change its stand towards Palestine.

Source: *The Hindu, Chennai*

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/israel-upset-with-indias-ties-with-palestine/article7770354.ece>

8) Pranab stresses India's balancing act

New Delhi, Saturday, 17 October 2015

President Pranab Mukherjee reiterated India's approach towards Israel and Palestine and added that India continues to support the Palestinian cause while pursuing improved relation with Israel.

Source: *The Hindu, Chennai*

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/pranab-mukherjees-stresses-indias-balancing-act/article7771009.ece>

JORDAN

9) Jordan backs India's U.N. Council bid

New Delhi, Saturday, 10 October 2015

President Pranab Mukherjee held talks with Jordanian King Abdullah II in Amman and discussed several bilateral issues such as trade and investment, counter-terrorism and United Nations Security Council reforms.

Source: *The Hindu, Chennai*

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/president-pranab-mukherjees-trination-tour-to-west-asia/article7747554.ece>

10) Pranab hails ties with Jordan; urges increased bilateral investment

New Delhi, Sunday, 11 October 2015

President Pranab Mukherjee hailed India's relationship with Jordan, and thanked King Abdullah II for his "great humanitarian" policies as well as the help the Kingdom offered to India for evacuating its citizens from the conflict-hit countries in Middle East.

Source: *The Hindu, Chennai*

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/pranab-hails-ties-withjordan/article7749976.ece>

11) Jordan signs six cooperation deals with India

Amman, Sunday, 11 October 2015

Jordan and India signed six agreements and MoUs in various fields of cooperation.

Source: *The Jordan Times, Amman*

<http://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/jordan-signs-six-cooperation-deals-india>

PALESTINE

12) Our support for Palestine remains steadfast, says Pranab

New Delhi, Sunday, 11 October 2015

During his visit to Palestine, President Pranab Mukherjee said that India's traditional support for the Palestinian cause remains "steadfast and unwavering," and is ready to "work with all like-minded nations" for amicably solving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Source: *The Hindu, Chennai*

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/president-pranab-mukherjees-sixday-trination-tour-day-2/article7750285.ece>

See also: *The New Indian Express, Chennai*

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/world/India-Will-Support-Palestine-Cause-Engage-With-Israel-President-Mukherjee/2015/10/12/article3076045.ece>

13) Pranab cancels event amid protests by Palestinian students

New Delhi, Tuesday, 13 October 2015

In Palestine, student protests cancelled a school inauguration event during President Pranab Mukherjee's visit to Al Quds University.

Source: *The Hindu, Chennai*

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/boycott-zionism-protesting-palestinian-students-tell-india/article7757737.ece>

14) It would be a blunder if Modi visits only Israel: Palestine diplomat

New Delhi, Sunday, 18 October 2015

Speaking to press in Ramallah, Palestinian diplomat Dr. Zomlot expressed the hope that Prime Minister Narendra Modi would visit Palestine along with Israel.

Source: *The Hindu, Chennai*

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/it-will-be-a-blunder-if-modi-visits-only-israel-palestine-diplomat/article7775410.ece>

TUNISIA

15) Tunisia to help rescue Indians

New Delhi, Tuesday, 27 October 2015

Elaborating on the joint approach to counter-terrorism, Tunisian Foreign Minister Taieb Baccouche said that India and Tunisia had set an example by working against terrorism and insecurity together, especially when Tunisia helped India evacuate citizens from Libya in 2011 at the peak of the civil war, which overthrew Libyan ruler Muammar Gaddafi.

Source: *The Hindu, Chennai*

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tunisia-to-help-rescue-indians/article7807155.ece>

16) Sushma Swaraj Meets Tunisia Foreign Minister

New Delhi, Tuesday, 27 October 2015

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj held bilateral meeting Tunisian foreign minister on the sidelines of the Third India-Africa Forum Summit (IFAS).

Source: *The New Indian Express, Chennai*

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/Sushma-Swaraj-Meets-Cameroon-Tunisia-Foreign-Ministers/2015/10/27/article3100196.ece>

ECONOMIC ISSUES

PALESTINE

17) India offers US\$ 5 million budgetary support to Palestine

New Delhi, Monday, 12 October 2015

President Pranab Mukherjee held talks with his Palestinian counterpart Mahmoud Abbas in Ramallah and handed a cheque worth US\$5 million to the Palestinian government as budgetary support.

Source: *The Hindu, Chennai*

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/president-pranab-mukherjee-sixday-trination-tour-pranab-mukherjee-at-palestine/article7753987.ece>

See also: *The Hindu, Chennai*

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/india-firmly-behind-palestine-pranab/article7755112.ece>

UAE

18) India invites UAE businessmen to invest in India

Dubai, Wednesday, 14 October 2015

Terming India as a “shining star”, Commerce Minister Nirmala Sitharaman invited businessmen in the UAE to invest in India and take advantage of investments opportunities being provided by the growing economy.

Source: *The Economic Times, Mumbai*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-invites-uae-businessmen-to-invest-in-india/articleshow/49350384.cms>

MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES

IRAN

19) Iran frees nine jailed Indians

New Delhi, Wednesday, 14 October 2015

Nine Indian sailors who were in a jail in Iran on charges of smuggling have been released.

Source: *The Hindu, Chennai*

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/iran-frees-9-jailed-indians/article7759194.ece>

IRAQ

20) Iraqi nationals held at IGI

New Delhi, Tuesday, 27 October 2015

Four Iraqi nationals travelling to France on forged passports were arrested at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport. Police said that they were trying to escape from the turmoil in Iraq and seek asylum in France.

Source: *The Hindu, Chennai*

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/iraqi-nationals-held-at-igi/article7807906.ece>

ISRAEL

21) Security agencies eye Israel spy balloons

New Delhi, Wednesday, 14 October 2015

Indian security agencies such as the National Security Guard and the Border Security Force have shown interest in acquiring balloon-based aerial surveillance systems from an Israeli company.

Source: *The Hindu, Chennai*

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/security-agencies-eye-israel-spy-balloons/article7820121.ece>

SAUDI ARABIA

22) Saudi police try to shift blame onto Indian maid

New Delhi, Saturday, 17 October 2015

Riyadh Police spokesperson Fawaz al-Maimaan said that the 55-year-old domestic employee from Vellore whose hand was severed in Saudi Arabia, had her hand injured due to a fall and thus had to be amputated.

Source: *The Hindu, Chennai*

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/saudi-police-try-to-shift-blame-on-indian-maid/article7771306.ece>

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