

INDIA WATCH

No. 71

DECEMBER 2015

POLITICAL ISSUES

ISRAEL

1. Would visit India soon, Israel PM Netanyahu

New Delhi, Wednesday, 11 November 2015

Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's reference to visiting India came while answering a question about his vision for Israel at the Centre for American Progress. He would be the second Prime Minister of Israel to visit India.

Source: *The Hindu, Chennai*

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/would-visit-india-soon-says-israel-prime-minister-benjamin-netanyahu/article7865919.ece>

See also: *The Telegraph, Kolkata*

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1151202/jsp/frontpage/story_56221.jsp

2. PM Modi hopes talks between Israel, Palestinians would resume soon

New Delhi, Wednesday, 25 November 2015

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in his message that "We remain hopeful that talks and Israeli-Palestinian negotiations would resume soon, leading to a comprehensive peace process and an amicable resolution of the conflict".

Source: *The Economic Times, Mumbai*

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2015-11-25/news/68560882_1_pm-modi-peace-process-palestine

3. Israel tests Barak-8 missile co-developed with India

Mumbai, Friday, 27 November 2015

Israeli military has successfully tested an advance surface- to air missile co-developed with India.

Source: *The Economic Times, Mumbai*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/israel-tests-barak-8-missile-co-developed-with-india/articleshow/49947363.cms>

TURKEY

4. PM Modi arrives in Turkey to attend G20 Summit

New Delhi, Sunday, 15 November 2015

Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Antalya from the UK to attend the G20 Summit chaired by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Source: *The Indian Express, New Delhi*

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/pm-modi-arrives-in-turkey-to-attend-g20-summit/>

5. PM holds bilateral talks with Turkey, Saudi Arabia

New Delhi, Monday, 16 November 2015

On the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Antalya, Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a bilateral meeting with Turkey and also met with the King Salman of Saudi Arabia.

Source: *The Hindu, Chennai*

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/g20-summit-modi-holds-bilaterals-with-australia-turkey-and-spain/article7884304.ece>

See also: *NDTV, New Delhi*

<http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/pm-narendra-modi-to-visit-uk-turkey-from-november-12-1240924>

UAE

6. Jaitley heads to UAE on Sunday

New Delhi, Friday, 13 November 2015

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley would be on a two-day visit to the UAE from 15 November as part of the government's efforts to drum up investor interest in India.

Source: *The Hindu, Chennai*

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/jaitley-going-to-uae-on-nov-15/article7872811.ece>

ECONOMIC ISSUES

IRAN

7. Iran, India serious in expansion of trade ties: Indian official

Tehran, Saturday, 21 November 2015

After signing an agreement with Trade Promotion Organization of Iran on the promotion of Iran-India trade cooperation, Indian Commerce Secretary Rita Teotia said that Iran and India are serious regarding the expansion of bilateral trade ties.

Source: *Tehran Times, Tehran*

http://www.tehrantimes.com/Index_view.asp?code=251009

QATAR

8. Qatar to waive US\$ 1-bn penalty on India for lower gas off take

New Delhi, Tuesday, 24 November 2015

In a significant development, Qatar has agreed to waive US\$ 1-bn penalty on India for breaking a long term liquefied natural gas contract, and also consented to change the pricing formula to reflect the slump in global energy rates.

Source: *Business Standard, New Delhi*

http://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/qatar-to-waive-1-bn-penalty-on-india-for-lower-gas-offtake-115112300528_1.html

UAE

9. UAE firms sue Indian company for Rs 5 lakh crore over Mumbai plots

Mumbai, Thursday, 5 November 2015

A tussle over two large property redevelopment projects in Mumbai may head to an international arbitration court, with two UAE firms claiming ₹. 5 lakh crores (US\$ 85billion) as compensation, perhaps the highest arbitration demand in India's history.

Source: *The Times of India, Mumbai*

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/UAE-firms-sue-India-desi-co-for-Rs-5-lakh-cr-over-Mumbai-plots/articleshow/49667138.cms>

MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES

OMAN

10. India enhances air services agreement with Oman

New Delhi, Friday, 13 November 2015

India has increased the bilateral seat entitlement with Oman, allowing additional flights between the two countries, which would enable Oman Air to launch extra flights to India and offer better onward connections.

Source: *Business Standard, New Delhi*

http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-enhances-air-services-agreement-with-oman-115111201221_1.html

See also: *Indian Express, New Delhi*

<http://indianexpress.com/article/business/business-others/india-revises-air-pact-with-oman-others/>

SAUDI ARABIA

11. Saudi diplomats says Indian expats held in high esteem

Jeddah, Tuesday, 17 November 2015

Saudi Arabia has lambasted an English-language Indian newspaper for claiming that the Kingdom has executed more people than the Dash terrorist group, and rejected reports that there is widespread abuse of Indian workers in this country.

Source: *Arab News, Jeddah*

<http://www.arabnews.com/saudi-arabia/news/836711>

Note: Crores=10,000,000; Lakh=100,000

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