

INDIA WATCH

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POLITICAL ISSUES

BAHRAIN

1. India, Bahrain agree on action to curb human trafficking, help victims

Mumbai, Thursday, 10 March 2016

An official statement said that India and Bahrain have agreed to take steps to curb human trafficking and cooperate on the rescue and repatriation of victims.

Source: Reuters, UK

<http://in.reuters.com/article/india-bahrain-trafficking-idINKCN0WC220#>

See also: The Economic Times, Mumbai

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2016-03-10/news/71382415_1_human-trafficking-india-and-bahrain-destination-country

EGYPT

2. India keen to boost economic cooperation with Egypt: Envoy

Cairo, Sunday, 6 March 2016

Ambassador to Egypt Sanjay Bhattacharyya said that India is keen on ramping up economic cooperation with Egypt by focusing on trade and investment and he also underlined the need for transparency and predictability to woo more Indian businesses to Egypt.

Source: The Economic Times, Mumbai

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2016-03-06/news/71246488_1_global-trade-indian-investments-trade-and-investment

ISRAEL

3. Indian firm to partner Israel for anti-tank missiles

New Delhi, Friday, 4 March 2016

Rafael of Israel and India's Kalyani group are setting up a joint venture (JV), Kalyani Rafael Advanced Systems, to build weapon systems in India. It would start with the production of Spike Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) which the Indian Army is in the process of procuring.

Source: The Hindu, Chennai

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/indian-firm-to-partner-israel-for-antitank-missiles/article8310952.ece>

QATAR

4. India, Qatar ink MoU on transfer of prisoners, five other pacts

New Delhi, Friday, 25 March 2016

India and Qatar signed six agreements, including one on transfer of sentenced prisoners, as the two countries sought to inject a fresh momentum in their bilateral ties.

Source: The Tribune, Chandigarh

<http://www.tribuneindia.com/news/nation/india-qatar-ink-mou-on-transfer-or-prisoners-five-other-pacts/58391.html>

SAUDI ARABIA

5. Saudi Arabia wants to elevate ties with India during PM Narendra Modi's visit

New Delhi, Tuesday, 8 March 2016

Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Adel bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir said that the kingdom wishes to elevate its ties with India during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Riyadh in April.

Source: The Economic Times, Mumbai

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2016-03-08/news/71309536_1_riyadh-declaration-prime-minister-narendra-modi-saudi-arabia

6. India, Saudi Arabia to hold bilateral talks today

New Delhi, Tuesday, 8 March 2016

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj held talks with her Saudi Arabian counterpart Adel bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir in New Delhi during which they discussed bilateral issues besides regional and global issues of mutual interests.

Source: Business Standard, New Delhi

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/india-saudi-arabia-to-hold-bilateral-talks-today-116030800116_1.html

7. India warns women workers in Saudi against going on strike

Riyadh, Wednesday, 23 March 2016

The Indian Embassy in Saudi Arabia issued a statement warning its nationals against attempts by 'self-styled' social workers to instigate Indian women workers to go on a strike.

Source: The Economic Times, Mumbai

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2014-03-23/news/48491614_1_indian-embassy-indian-workers-saudi-arabia

ECONOMIC ISSUES

IRAN

8. Indian tea workers urge Iran to rework valuation rates of tea entering their country

Kolkata, Friday, 18 March 2016

Indian tea producers have urged Iran to rework the valuation rates of tea entering the country, as the current system is hurting them as it does not differentiate between premium and other teas. Iran has a flat rate of US\$5 per kg for valuing all types of teas from India, on which Iranian buyers have to pay custom duty.

Source: The Economics Times, Mumbai

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2016-03-18/news/71630888_1_sri-lankan-tea-indian-orthodox-teas-iranian-buyers

9. India hopes to sign Farzad B gas field deal with Iran next month

New Delhi, Tuesday, 22 March 2016

Indian oil minister Dharmendra Pradhan would push for state-run firms to win development rights for the vast Farzad B gas field in Iran during a visit.

Source: The Economic Times, Mumbai

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2016-03-22/news/71732686_1_farzad-b-second-biggest-oil-client-chabahar

KUWAIT

10. Kuwait imposes ban on import of Indian poultry products

New Delhi, Tuesday, 22 March 2016

Kuwait has banned imports of poultry products from India in the wake of incidents of bird flu virus in some states.

Source: The Economic Times, Mumbai

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2016-03-10/news/71382354_1_poultry-products-bird-flu-virus-kuwait

OMAN

11. Oman records 17% rise in Indian tourist arrivals in 2015

Mumbai, Monday, 14 March 2016

Oman received 17 per cent more Indian tourists in 2015 than in 2014 and is expanding its basket of holiday-related activities to attract more travellers from India.

Source: The Economic Times, Mumbai

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2016-03-14/news/71509646_1_indian-travellers-arrivals-muscat

12. Jindal Steel and Power Limited commissions 1.4 MTPA Rebar Mill in Sohar, Oman

Kolkata, Tuesday, 22 March 2016

Jindal Steel and Power Limited (JSPL) have commissioned a 1.4 million ton per annum (mtpa) rebar mill at Sohar, Oman which came up with an investment of US\$190million and is the largest in the Gulf and African region.

Source: The Economic Times, Mumbai

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2016-03-22/news/71732424_1_rebar-sohar-jindal-steel

QATAR

13. Treated 'unfairly' in India; interested in IndiGo stake: Qatar Airways

Hyderabad, Wednesday, 16 March 2016

Alleging that Indian authorities treated it unfairly vis-à-vis other Gulf carriers, Qatar Airways said it continues to be interested in buying stake in IndiGo despite losing out on an opportunity to participate in the budget carrier's IPO last year.

Source: The Economic Times, Mumbai

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2016-03-16/news/71573598_1_qatar-airways-al-baker-other-gulf-carriers

COMPILED BY SUNIL KUMAR

Sunil Kumar is a doctoral candidate in School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Email: sk938606@gmail.com

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