

# INDIA WATCH

No. 80

September 2016

## POLITICAL ISSUES

### BAHRAIN

**1. Odisha: Moved by plight of Dana Majhi, Bahraini PM donates money**

**Bhubaneswar, Monday, 29 August 2016**

Bahrain Prime Minister Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al-Khalifa has extended financial help to the Kalahandi tribal Dana Majhi who carried his wife's corpse under carpet, even, though the embarrassed Odisha government attempted to sweep the issue.

*Source: The Indian Express, New Delhi*

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/odisha-moved-by-plight-of-dana-majhi-bahraini-pm-donates-money-3000795/>

### EGYPT

**2. India, Egypt agree to set up bilateral cooperation**

**Cairo, Wednesday, 24 August 2016**

India and Egypt decided to put in place a bilateral framework for enhancing cooperation in key areas of security, counterterrorism, defence and investments.

*Source: The Hindu, Chennai*

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-egypt-agree-to-step-up-bilateral-cooperation/article7575553.ece>

**3. Egypt Looking For Indian Investment, Regional Security Cooperation**

**New Delhi, Monday, 22 August 2016**

During External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj's visit to Egypt early next week, the key issues that is likely to come up for discussion such as increasing bilateral investments, a greater role for India in regional security and stability and fighting terrorism etc.

*Source: The New Indian Express, Chennai*

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/world/Egypt-Looking-For-Indian-Investment-Regional-Security-Cooperation/2015/08/22/article2987963.ece>

### IRAN

**4. Iran foreign minister Javad Zarif meets PM Modi today**

**New Delhi, Sunday, 14 August 2016**

Iran Foreign Minister Javad Zarif met Prime Minister Narendra Modi to discuss opportunities to strengthen ties between the two countries after the end of economic sanctions, and the focus of the conversation would be "strengthening connectivity" and "boosting oil trade."

*Source: The Indian Express, New Delhi*

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-others/iran-foreign-minister-javad-zarif-meets-pm-modi-today/>

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## IRAQ

### 5. M J Akbar holds talks with Iraqi leadership, seeks rescue of 39 Indians

**New Delhi, Monday, 22 August 2016**

Minister of State for External Affairs M J Akbar held talks with President Fuad Masum and other top Iraqi leaders in Baghdad on several issues and requested Iraqi for assistance in rescuing 39 Indians taken hostage in war-ravaged Mosul two years back.

*Source: The Indian Express, New Delhi*

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/m-j-akbar-holds-talks-with-iraqi-leadership-seeks-rescue-of-39-indians/>

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## ISRAEL

### 6. Israeli firms to set up cyber security academies in India

**Mumbai, Friday, 26 August 2016**

Acting on bilateral agreement on homeland security between Israel and India, a cyber-security company from Israel, announced that it would establish cyber security academies in the country.

*Source: The Hindu, Chennai*

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/mumbai/news/israeli-firm-to-set-up-cyber-security-academies-in-india/article9032644.ece>

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### 7. Israel to further solidify cooperation with India: Israeli President Reuven Rivlin

**Jerusalem, Wednesday, 3 August 2016**

Israeli President Reuven Rivlin said that he is looking forward to his visit to India later this year and would focus on for enhancing cooperation in fields like security and innovation.

*Source: The Economic Times, Mumbai*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/israel-to-further-solidify-cooperation-with-india-israeli-president-reuven-rivlin/articleshow/53524210.cms>

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## SAUDI ARABIA

### 8. Indian mission collecting details of stranded workers in Saudi

**New Delhi, Tuesday, 2 August 2016**

Indian embassy in Saudi Arabia is collecting details of thousands of workers from the country laid off by their employers there, ahead of MoS External Affairs V K Singh's visit there to assess the situation and finalize modalities to bring back those wanting to return home.

*Source: The New Indian Express, Chennai*

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/Indian-mission-collecting-details-of-stranded-workers-in-Saudi/2016/08/02/article3559811.ece>

*See Also: The Hindu, Chennai*

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/vk-singh-for-riyadh-to-help-laidoff-indians/article8929421.ece>

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### 9. Indian workers' issue solved: Saudi envoy

**New Delhi, Saturday, 6 August 2016**

Saudi Ambassador to India said that the problems of Indian workers in the kingdom have been "resolved".

*Source: The Hindu, Chennai*

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/indian-workers-issue-solved-saudi-envoy/article8949563.ece>

*See Also: The Indian Express, New Delhi*

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/new-delhi-26-laid-off-indian-workers-return-from-saudi-arabia-2968788/>

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### **10. Saudi Arabia to send stranded Indian workers back at its own expense**

**New Delhi, Thursday, 4 August 2016**

In a diplomatic victory for India, Saudi Arabia has agreed to give exit visas to hundreds of jobless Indian workers there and to send them back home at its own expense.

*Source: The Indian Express, New Delhi*

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/saudi-arabia-to-send-stranded-indian-workers-back-at-its-own-expense-2953108/>

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## **SYRIA**

### **11. Kashmir is India's internal issue, says Syria**

**New Delhi, Monday, 22 August 2016**

A day after the visit of Minister of State for External Affairs, MJ Akbar to Damascus Syria's Ambassador to India Dr. Riad Abbas said that both countries are on the "same page" on international issues.

*Source: The Hindu, Chennai*

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/syrian-ambassador-to-india-riad-abbas-on-indiasyria-relations/article9018185.ece>

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## **TURKEY**

### **12. India, Turkey to hold extensive bilateral talks today**

**New Delhi, Friday, 19 August 2016**

Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Vikas Swarup has offered help to Indian citizens in Turkey as the situation there continues to grow tense.

*Source: The Indian Express, New Delhi*

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/turkey-coup-attempt-mea-india-provide-helpline-numbers-to-indian-citizens-in-turkey-2916999/>

*See Also: The Indian Express, New Delhi*

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/india-turkey-discuss-ways-to-boost-cooperation-in-key-areas-of-security-2985693/>

*See Also: The Indian Express, New Delhi*

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/turkey-keen-to-initiate-talks-with-india-on-comprehensive-economic-partnership-agreement-2990626/>

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### **13. Turkey confirms support for India's membership in NSG**

**New Delhi, Friday, 19 August 2016**

Turkey has given its support for India's membership in Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) ahead of a key meeting of the group in Vienna in November that would discuss the Indian case.

*Source: The Economics Times, Mumbai*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/turkey-confirms-support-for-indias-membership-in-nsg/articleshow/53776270.cms>

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### **14. FETO has "infiltrated" India; need action to remove it: Turkey**

**New Delhi, Sunday, 21 August 2016**

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu, Fethullah Gulen Terrorist Organization (FETO), blamed for last month's failed coup, has "infiltrated" India.

*Source: The Economics Times, Mumbai*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/feto-has-infiltrated-india-need-action-to-remove-it-turkey/articleshow/53794541.cms>

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## UAE

### 15. India, Dubai to expand air traffic due to higher demand

New Delhi, Sunday, 14 August 2016

Top civil aviation ministry officials said that India's civil aviation authorities would hold talks with their counterparts in Dubai to increase bilateral airline seat entitlements due to increased demands.

*Source: The Hindu, Chennai*

<http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/india-dubai-to-expand-air-traffic-due-to-higher-demand/article8988875.ece>

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## ECONOMIC ISSUES

## EGYPT

### 16. India, Egypt vow to step up trade ties

New Delhi, Friday, 2 August 2016

During a bilateral meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, India and Egypt vowed to take their economic and trade ties to the next level. Both countries have set a bilateral trade target of US\$8 billion in the near future from the current US\$3 billion.

*Source: The Business Line, Chennai*  
<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/policy/india-egypt-aim-to-strengthen-trade-ties/article9065989.ece>

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## IRAN

### 17. India's Iran oil imports rise to five-year high in July -tanker data

New Delhi, Monday, 15 August 2016

In July India's oil imports from Iran rose to their highest in at least five year. It is climbing to over 500,000 barrels per day (bpd) for the second time, in five months.

*Source: The Economic Times, Mumbai*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/indias-iran-oil-imports-rise-to-five-year-high-in-july-tanker-data/articleshow/53709518.cms>

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## ISRAEL

### 18. With Israel trade talks, start-ups to make a debut in India's free trade agreements

New Delhi, Tuesday, 30 August 2016

In trade pact talks with Israel, India has expressed interest in the transfer of knowhow from that country's defence and security start-ups.

*Source: The Economic Times, New Delhi*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/with-israel-trade-talks-startups-to-make-a-debut-in-indias-free-trade-agreements/articleshow/53920039.cms>

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### 19. Israel scouts for the next big start-up in India

New Delhi, Friday, 12 August 2016

Israel is looking for exceptional women entrepreneurs in India to fly them to “Start Tel Aviv” competition. Embassy of Israel in cooperation with TiE Delhi-NCR would hold the India finals for the competition on 12 August.

*Source: The Economic Times, Mumbai*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/small-biz/startups/israel-scouts-for-the-next-big-startup-in-india/articleshow/53555399.cms>

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## **QATAR**

### **20. Qatar National Bank gets go-ahead to open branch in India**

**Doha, Sunday, 28 August 2016**

Gulf region’s largest lender said that Qatar National Bank (QNB) received approval to open a branch in India offering banking services.

*Source: The Economic Times, Mumbai*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/qatar-national-bank-gets-go-ahead-to-open-branch-in-india/articleshow/53898556.cms>

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