

INDIA WATCH

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POLITICAL ISSUES

EGYPT

1. India, Egypt aim to boost ties in New Year after eventful 2016

Cairo, Friday, 30 December 2016

India and Egypt agreed to step up forward their defence and security cooperation to fight the twin challenges of terrorism and radicalization besides enhancing economic and people-to-people engagements.

Source: The Indian Express, New Delhi

<http://indianexpress.com/article/world/india-egypt-aim-to-boost-ties-in-new-year-after-eventful-2016-4451656/>

See also: The Economic Times, Mumbai

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-egypt-aim-to-boost-ties-in-new-year-after-eventful-2016/articleshow/56251640.cms>

2. Indian Ambassador visits Grand Egyptian Museum

Cairo, Friday, 30 December 2016

Looking to boost bilateral cooperation in the field of antiquities, Indian ambassador Sanjay Bhattacharyya visited the Grand Egyptian Museum and discussed ways of expanding cooperation in conservation work between the two "ancient civilizations."

See also: Business Standard, New Delhi

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/indian-ambassador-visits-grand-egyptian-museum-116123001149_1.html

IRAN

3. India presses Iran to award Farzad-B field to OVL

New Delhi, Sunday, 4 December 2016

India has nudged Iran to quickly award rights to develop the coveted Farzad-B gas field in the Persian Gulf to ONGC Videsh by wrapping up negotiations that have been dragging on for months.

Source: The New Indian Express, Chennai

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/business/2016/dec/04/india-presses-iran-to-award-farzad-b-field-to-ovl-1545550.html>

See also: The Economic Times, Mumbai

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/india-presses-iran-to-award-farzad-b-field-to-ovl/articleshow/55788876.cms>

ISRAEL

4. Hostile neighbours push India, Israel to forge space ties

New Delhi, Thursday, 15 November 2016

The heads of the Israel Space Agency (ISA) and the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) met this week in Bengaluru to draw up a roadmap of cooperation in this high technology sector.

Source: The Economics Times, Mumbai

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/science/hostile-neighbours-push-india-israel-forge-space-ties/articleshow/55921011.cms>

5. Israel travel advisory cites terror threat in India

New Delhi, Saturday, 31 December 2016

Israel's Counter-Terrorism Bureau has warned Israelis travelling to India to be on alert, citing an immediate threat of attack against Western and tourist targets, particularly in the south-west of the country.

Source: The Economics Times, Mumbai

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/israel-travel-advisory-cites-terror-threat-in-india/articleshow/56269905.cms>

KUWAIT

6. Breather for over 24,000 illegal Indian workers in Kuwait

New Delhi, Thursday, 8 December 2016

The Kuwaiti government said that it would not imprison or penalize over 24,000 illegal Indian workers.

Source: The Hindu, Chennai

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/Breather-for-over-24000-illegal-Indian-workers-in-Kuwait/article16777191.ece>

See also: The Economic Times, Mumbai

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/nri/working-abroad/breather-for-over-24000-illegal-indian-workers-in-kuwait/articleshow/55872582.cms>

OMAN

7. Indo-Oman ties can be a model for bilateral partnership: MJ Akbar

Muscat, Sunday, 13 December 2016

Bilateral trade and investment are key pillars of Indo-Oman ties, Minister of State for External Affairs M J Akbar said as he sought to strengthen economic and strategic ties with Oman.

Source: The Indian Express, New Delhi

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/indo-oman-ties-can-be-a-model-for-bilateral-partnership-mj-akbar/>

PALESTINE

8. MEA raps Jamia for Palestine pact delay

New Delhi, Saturday, 31 December 2016

Ministry of External Affairs has pulled up the country's premier University Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) for failing to activate MoU between the institution and three Palestinian Universities signed during President Pranab Mukherjee's visit to Palestine in October 2015 and sought an explanation for the inordinate delay.

Source: The Economics Times, Mumbai

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/mea-raps-jamia-for-palestine-pact-delay/articleshow/56263992.cms>

QATAR

9. India, Qatar sign agreements on visas, cyberspace, investments

New Delhi, Saturday, 3 December 2016

India and Qatar on Saturday signed four agreements on visas, cyberspace and investments following delegation-level talks led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Qatari counterpart Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani.

Source: The Economics Times, Mumbai

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/india-qatar-sign-agreements-on-visas-cyberspace-investments/articleshow/55769359.cms>

See also: The New Indian Express, Chennai

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2016/dec/03/india-qatar-sign-four-agreements-including-visa-cyberspace-1545262.html>

SAUDI ARABIA

10. Indian in Saudi Arabia arrested on charges of blasphemy

Jeddah, Thursday, 15 December 2016

Authorities in Saudi Arabia arrested Shanka Ponnamm an Indian agricultural engineer, for allegedly offending Islamic sentiments.

Source: The Times of India, Mumbai

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/nri/citizen-journalists/citizen-journalists-reports/akbar-ponnamm/indian-arrested-in-saudi-arabia-for-blasphemy/articleshow/56007478.cms>

11. Report of 150 Indian dead bodies lying in Saudi Arabia ‘factually misleading’: MEA

New Delhi, Friday, 23 December 2016

It is factually misleading and completely false that report refers to 150 bodies from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh lying in the mortuaries in Saudi Arabia.

Source: The Indian Express, New Delhi

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/report-of-150-indian-dead-bodies-lying-in-saudi-arabia-factually-misleading-mea-4442257/>

TURKEY

12. India strongly condemns murder of Russian Ambassador to Turkey

New Delhi, Tuesday, 20 December 2016

India condemned the assassination of Russian ambassador to Turkey Andrei Karlov and said it was shocked by the dastardly act and that there can never be any justification for terrorism.

Source: The Economic Times, Mumbai

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/india-strongly-condemns-murder-of-russian-ambassador-to-turkey/articleshow/56082092.cms>

ECONOMIC ISSUES

IRAN

13. Allow Iranian banks to open branches in India: FIEO to RBI

New Delhi, Monday, 19 December 2016

Exporters' body FIEO has requested the RBI to grant permission to Iranian banks for opening branches in India as it could help in facilitating bilateral trade.

Source: Business Standard, New Delhi

http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/allow-iranian-banks-to-open-branches-in-india-fieo-to-rbi-116121901043_1.html

UAE

14. Expats in UAE seek solution to Indian currency woes

Abu Dhabi, Thursday, 22 December 2016

As the deadline to exchange demonetized Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 Indian currency notes looms, the expatriates in the UAE have expressed concerns that they might not be able to exchange the notes before the deadline.

Source: The New Indian Express, Chennai

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/business/demonetisation/2016/dec/22/expats-in-uae-seek-solution-to-indian-currency-woes-1552012.html>

See also: Business Standard, New Delhi

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/expats-in-uae-seek-solution-to-indian-currency-woes-116122200563_1.html

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