

INDIA WATCH

No. 86

March 2017

POLITICAL ISSUES

BAHRAIN

1. Bahrain to widen cooperation with Kerala

Kerala, Thursday, 9 February 2017

Bahrain is keen to widen cooperation with Kerala in all spheres such as culture, education, Ayurveda, technology, and health and official communication.

Source: The Hindu, Chennai

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/Bahrain-to-widen-cooperation-with-Kerala/article17278691.ece>

See also: The New Indian Express, Chennai

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/states/kerala/2017/feb/10/bahrain-kerala-to-enhance-cooperation-in-core-sectors-1568993.html>

2. Bahrain may enhance direct air connectivity to India

Mumbai, Saturday, 25 February 2017

Historically, Bahrain is playing a very important role to make a gateway between East and West and is planning to enhance air connectivity with India and other Asian countries.

Source: The Hindu, Chennai

<http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/bahrain-may-enhance-direct-air-connectivity-to-india/article17367913.ece>

ISRAEL

3. PM Modi likely to make first visit to Israel in June-July

Jerusalem, Wednesday, 1 February 2017

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's much-anticipated visit to Israel could take place in mid-2017 in what would be the first such tour by an Indian Premier to the Jewish state, as the two countries mark 25 years of their diplomatic ties.

Source: The New Indian Express, Chennai

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2017/feb/01/pm-modi-likely-to-make-first-visit-to-israel-in-june-july-1565844.html>

4. Narendra Modi's visit could seal the free trade pact: Israel envoy to HT New Delhi, Friday, 3 February 2017

Israeli envoy Daniel Carmon said that Narendra Modi's upcoming visit to Israel would reflect the tremendous growth in diplomatic relations and could serve as a catalyst for finalizing a long-pending Free Trade Agreement.

Source: Hindustan Times, Mumbai

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/narendra-modi-s-visit-could-seal-the-free-trade-pact-israel-envoy/story-pXebQO94QzQXx2pzx9sczH.html>

5. India, Israel to celebrate 25 years of diplomatic ties

New Delhi, Monday, 27 February 2017

India and Israel would hold a series of events in both countries on a variety of subjects to celebrate the silver jubilee of their diplomatic relations, an official release said on Monday.

Source: Business Standard, New Delhi

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/india-israel-to-celebrate-25-years-of-diplomatic-ties-117022701230_1.html

QATAR

6. Qatar Airways looking at potential Indian carriers for collaboration

New Delhi, Tuesday, 21 February 2017

Qatar Airways, which is interested in expanding its air operations to India, is looking at potential carriers for collaboration.

Source: The New Indian Express, Chennai

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/business/2017/feb/20/qatar-airways-looking-at-potential-indian-carriers-for-collaboration-1572742.html>

SAUDI ARABIA

7. Sushma Swaraj responds to Sikh man's cry for help from Saudi Arabia on Twitter

New Delhi, Wednesday, 8 February 2017

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj has promised to help a Saudi Arabia-based Sikh man who asked for urgent call of action. The man had posted a video on Twitter asking for help from the Indian Embassy as the company he works for refused to pay his salary.

Source: The Indian Express, New Delhi

<http://indianexpress.com/article/trending/trending-in-india/sushma-swaraj-sikh-man-help-saudi-arabia-twitter-4514421/>

UAE

8. Navy chief Admiral Sunil Lanba to visit UAE to consolidate ties

New Delhi, Saturday, 25 February 2017

With an aim to consolidate naval ties with Arab nations and to explore new avenues for defence cooperation, navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba is leaving on a five-day visit to the UAE and Oman.

Source: The New Indian Express, Chennai

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2017/feb/25/navy-chief-admiral-sunil-lanba-to-visit-uae-to-consolidate-ties-1574699.html>

ECONOMIC ISSUES

EGYPT

9. Indian business delegation in Egypt; enhancement in trade ties expected

Cairo, Thursday, 9 February 2017

Seeking to enhance India's trade ties with Egypt, a 17-member business Indian delegation has arrived here to participate in a seminar to scout investment opportunities in the country.

Source: The Financial Express, Noida

<http://www.financialexpress.com/industry/indian-business-delegation-in-egypt-enhancement-in-trade-ties-expected/544393/>

IRAN

10. Currency crisis in Iran hits India's basmati rice exports

Mumbai, Saturday, 11 February 2017

Uncertainty over use of currency for bilateral trade has impacted India's Basmati rice exports to Iran following hesitation over the use of the dollar after fresh sanctions levied by the US.

Source: Business Standard, New Delhi

http://www.business-standard.com/article/markets/currency-crisis-in-iran-hits-india-s-basmati-rice-exports-117021100298_1.html

UAE

11. India, UAE to push for investment bond

New Delhi, Sunday, 26 February 2017

Indicating a sense of political urgency to give wings to a nascent partnership, India and the UAE are trying to get the investment cycle working between the two countries.

Source: The Economic Times, Mumbai

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/india-uae-to-push-for-investment-bond/articleshow/57353191.cms>

12. Anil Ambani, UAE PM discuss trade, investment

Abu Dhabi, Tuesday, 21 February 2017

Trade and investment issues figured prominently at a meeting here between Anil Ambani, Reliance Group, and the UAE Prime Minister.

Source: The Economic Times, Mumbai

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/anil-ambani-uae-pm-discuss-trade-investment/articleshow/57270290.cms>

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