

INDIA WATCH

No. 32

September 2012

POLITICAL ISSUES

IRAN

1. India attends Iran meet on Syria war

New Delhi, Friday, 10 August 2012

India was represented by a mid-level official at an international meeting on Syria hosted in Tehran. The hurriedly-convened meeting was ostensibly aimed to help stop the continuing violence in Syria and start a political dialogue.

Source: Times of India, New Delhi

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/India-attends-Iran-meet-on-Syria-war/articleshow/15427783.cms?>

2. Manmohan set for high-wire diplomacy in Iran: Oil, trade, Syria on agenda

New Delhi, Sunday, 12 August 2012

In a visit of immense symbolic significance, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh headed for Iran to attend the 16th Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit. The trip is expected to not only reinforce India's enduring commitment to the movement but also underline New Delhi's strategic intent to deepen ties with sanctions-hit Tehran.

Source: Yahoo.com

<http://in.news.yahoo.com/manmohan-set-high-wire-diplomacy-iran-oil-trade-110655796.html>

3. At NAM in Tehran, Singh to balance energy interests with US ties

New Delhi, Monday, 20 August 2012

As Prime Minister Manmohan Singh headed towards Tehran to represent India at the 16th NAM Summit, all eyes would be focussed on the fine line he would walk between protecting India's energy interests with Iran and Delhi's all-important political-strategic relationship with the US.

Source: Business Standard, New Delhi

<http://www.business-standard.com/india/news/at-nam-in-tehran-singh-to-balance-energy-interestsus-ties/483792/>

4. Manmohan to meet Khamenei, Ahmadinejad

New Delhi, Saturday, 25 August 2012

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh would leave for Iran on 28 August 2012 to attend the 16th NAM summit, which will be preceded by crucial bilateral talks with Iran's supreme leader and Iranian President.

Source: The Hindu, Chennai

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/article3821079.ece>

5. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to head to Iran for crucial NAM summit today

Tehran, Tuesday, 28 August 2012

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh would arrive in the Iranian capital of Tehran on a four-day visit to attend the NAM Summit, prior to which he will hold crucial bilateral talks with Iran's top leadership, including supreme leader, ignoring US reservations.

Source: NDTV, New Delhi

<http://www.ndtv.com/article/india/prime-minister-manmohan-singh-to-head-to-iran-for-crucial-nam-summit-today-259942>

6. Manmohan meets Iran's supremo Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and Iranian president Ahmadinejad

Tehran, Wednesday, 29 August 2012

In a rare meeting with a non-Muslim dignitary, Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei held discussions with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on a variety of subjects, including bilateral matters and the tense situation in the region.

Source: Times of India, New Delhi

http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-08-29/india/33475089_1_supreme-leader-controversial-nuclear-programme-iranian-president

7. Iran showcases “nuclear martyrs” at NAM summit

Tehran, Friday, 31 August 2012

Iran which is under pressure from Israel for allegedly attempting to kill one of its diplomats in New Delhi by attaching a magnet bomb to her car attempted to turn the tables at the ongoing NAM summit by showcasing three shattered cars in which its nuclear scientists were killed by the same modus operandi.

Source: The Hindu, Chennai

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/article3842535.ece>

ISRAEL

8. Special Cell charge sheets Kazmi for attack on Israeli diplomat

New Delhi, Wednesday, 01 August 2012

The Delhi Police Special Cell filed its charge sheet, accusing journalist Syed Mohammed Ahmad Kazmi of involvement in the criminal conspiracy leading to the terror attack on Israeli diplomat, Tal Yehoshua Koren, on 13 February 2012, which left her seriously injured.

Source: The Hindu, Chennai

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/article3709881.ece>

9. India-Israel sign MoU on research programme

New Delhi, Friday, 03 August 2012

India and Israel entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for launching a programme that would promote collaborative research across a wide range of disciplines from medical and information technology to social sciences, humanities and arts.

Source: The Hindu, Chennai

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/article3720236.ece>

10. India protests Israel's refusal for NAM meet at Ramallah

New Delhi, Tuesday, 07 August 2012

India protested against Israel's decision to deny permission to envoys of five nations from crossing over to Ramallah for a NAM meeting. "We have taken strong objection to the fact that

we were unable to express solidarity with the Palestinian people by holding this meeting in Ramallah," said Ministry of External Affairs spokesman Syed Akbaruddin.

Source: Times of India, New Delhi

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/India-protests-Israelis-refusal-for-NAM-meet-at-Ramallah/articleshow/15382061.cms?>

11. Protest against MoU for joint research with Israel

New Delhi, Saturday, 11 August 2012

A group of concerned citizens has come down heavily on the memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed by India for a joint research programme with Israel on 2 August 2012.

Source: The Hindu, Chennai

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/article3752611.ece>

12. India asks Israel to stop all settlement activities in occupied Palestinian land

Tehran, Tuesday, 28 August 2012

During the 16th NAM summit India asked Israel to stop all settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territories and emphasised that it supports a negotiated solution resulting in a "sovereign, independent, viable and united state of Palestine".

Source: The Economic Times, New Delhi

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2012-08-28/news/33450607_1_settlement-activities-arab-peace-initiative-illegal-israeli-settlements

PALESTINE

13. NAM's Palestine meet cancelled

Ramallah, Monday, 06 August 2012

A Ramallah meeting of a NAM committee that includes India to support a Palestinian bid for upgraded U.N. membership was cancelled at the last minute after Israel refused to allow representatives of five countries, which do not have diplomatic relations with it, to enter West Bank.

Source: The Hindu, Chennai

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/article3732419.ece>

SYRIA

14. No mention of opposition violence in Syria resolution

New Delhi, Sunday, 05 August 2012

India abstained from voting on a resolution, denouncing the Syrian government, at the UN General Assembly. It found that the text did not make adequate reference to role of armed opposition, which was setting a "dangerous trend" by using weapons of "very high sophistication," in the violence.

Source: The Hindu, Chennai

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/article3729829.ece>

16. India abstains from voting against Syria at UNGA

New Delhi, Sunday, 05 August 2012

India worked hard behind the scenes to dilute a Saudi Arabia-drafted UNGA resolution, which severely criticised Syria for the situation prevailing in the country, but finally abstained from voting after the draft could not be rid of reference to 22 July 2012 League of Arab States resolution that called upon Syrian President Bashar al-Assad to step down.

Source: Times of India, New Delhi

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/middle-east/India-abstains-from-voting-against-Syria-at-UNGA/articleshow/15357542.cms?>

17. Unrest in Syria checks pilgrims' progress

Hyderabad, Wednesday, 08 August 2012

The unrelenting violence in Syria has brought despair to the city's Shia Muslims who make their annual holy pilgrimage or Ziarat to shrines in the Middle Eastern countries.

Source: Times of India, New Delhi

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hyderabad/Unrest-in-Syria-checks-pilgrims-progress/articleshow/15396490.cms?>

ECONOMIC ISSUES

IRAN

18. India eyeing Iran's Chabahar port for direct access to Central Asia

New Delhi, Sunday, 26 August 2012

India is weighing three investment options in Iran's Chabahar port with a total investment of Rs 300-400 crore.

Source: Times of India, New Delhi

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/India-eyeing-Irans-Chabahar-port-for-direct-access-to-Central-Asia/articleshow/15725553.cms>

19. Persian puzzle for Manmohan Singh at NAM

Tehran, Tuesday, 28 August 2012

Despite the oil sanctions on Iran by the European Union and the United States, India and Iran continue to do business, though it is anything but usual. burgeoning needs.

Source: Reuters, India

<http://in.reuters.com/article/2012/08/28/nam-manmohan-singh-iran-idINDEE87R04D20120828>

20. Punjab wants to trade with Iran through Attari border in Amritsar

Chandigarh, Wednesday, 29 August 2012

Punjab deputy chief minister Sukhbir Badal has sought permission from the central government to initiate trade with Iran and other Middle East countries through Attari border in Amritsar, four months after a Rs 150-crore modern Integrated Check Post (ICP) there has become one of the flashpoints of country's new commerce with Pakistan.

Source: Times of India, New Delhi

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Punjab-wants-to-trade-with-Iran-through-Attari-border-in-Amritsar/articleshow/15917566.cms>

21. Trade, security, Syria on agenda of Indo-Iran talks

Tehran, Wednesday, 29 August 2012

Highly-tilted trade relations in favour of Iran, supply of oil and gas and other key strategic bilateral and international issues, including Syria, are expected to dominate the meetings of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh with Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Source: Business Standard, New Delhi

<http://www.business-standard.com/india/news/trade-security-syriaagendaindo-iran-talks/184572/on>

22. India, Iran to step up economic ties

Tehran, Thursday, 30 August 2012

India and Iran, at two high-level meetings on the eve of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Summit, resolved to step up economic ties, especially in stabilising Afghanistan and shoring up

Indian exports, which have suffered an imbalance with respect to Iranian exports of oil by a factor of five.

Source: The Hindu, Chennai

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/article3838048.ece>

MISCELLANEOUS

23. India walking tightrope in intra-Islam cold war in Middle East

New Delhi, Friday, 24 August 2012

India is trying hard not to take sides in what seems to be heading towards an intra-Islam cold war in West Asia. As Manmohan Singh heads to Iran later this month to participate in the NAM summit he is likely to be pressed to take the Tehran line on Syria, certainly in his meetings with both Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmedinejad and the Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei.

Source: Times of India, New Delhi

http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-08-24/india/33365212_1_mahmoud-ahmedinejad-gcc-countries-west-asia

IRAN

24. Delhi Police to question Iranians on car blast

New Delhi, Wednesday, 01 August 2012

A Delhi Police team will soon visit Tehran to question some Iranian nationals on the Israeli embassy vehicle bomb blast, Home Minister P. Chidambaram said.

Source: The Hindu, Chennai

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/article3709879.ece>

25. Death toll in Iran's twin earthquakes is over 250

Dubai, Monday, 13 August 2012

Two strong earthquakes that struck north-west Iran killed more than 250 people and left grieving survivors — buffeted by repeated aftershocks — in a state of trauma.

Source: The Hindu, Chennai

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/article3760583.ece>

ISRAEL

26. From Israel with love: Kapap to your rescue

Gurgaon, Thursday, 02 August 2012

Kapap, an Israeli hand to hand combat and self defence system, has gradually gained popularity among the corporate houses, schools and residents in India.

Source: Times of India, New Delhi

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/gurgaon/From-Israel-with-love-Kapap-to-your-rescue/articleshow/15320123.cms?>

SAUDI ARABIA

27. “Take steps for deportation of Bihar engineer from Saudi Arabia”

New Delhi, Tuesday, 28 August 2012

The Supreme Court asked the Centre to pursue the case of Fasih Mahmood, an engineer from Bihar, with the Government of Saudi Arabia and, depending upon its decision, take necessary steps for his deportation to India.

Source: The Hindu, Chennai

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/article3829533.ece>

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