

INDIA WATCH

No. 33

October 2012

POLITICAL ISSUES

IRAN

1. India hits Iran dead-end in Israeli terror case

New Delhi, Monday, 24 September 2012

Indian efforts to secure the arrest of Iranian suspects alleged to have been involved in a terrorist attack on an Israeli diplomat's wife in February have drawn a blank with little cooperation from Iran.

Source: The Hindu, Chennai

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-hits-iran-deadend-in-israeli-terror-case/article3932710.ece>

KUWAIT

2. Hundreds of Indians held in Kuwait

Dubai, Saturday, 22 September 2012

Indians are among the 2,136 people apprehended in Kuwait during raids on visa violators and those involved in crimes like theft.

Source: The Hindu, Chennai

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/hundreds-of-indians-held-in-kuwait/article3927113.ece>

3. Embassy officials in Kuwait establish contact with 650 detained Indians

Dubai, Sunday, 23 September 2012

Officials in the Indian Embassy in Kuwait established contact with 650 Indians, mostly blue collar workers, who were picked up on Wednesday (19 September) during a police raid on visa violators.

Source: The Hindu, Chennai

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/embassy-officials-in-kuwait-establish-contact-with-650-detained-indians/article3929647.ece>

4. Gehlot writes to Krishna on arrest of emigrants in Kuwait

Jaipur, Sunday, 23 September 2012

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has written to External Affairs minister S M Krishna seeking his intervention regarding the arrest of emigrants from the state in Kuwait for alleged visa violation.

Source: Business Standard, New Delhi

<http://www.business-standard.com/generalnews/news/gehlot-writes-to-krishnaarrestemigrants-in-kuwait/60067/>

5. Vayalar Ravi kept in the dark about Kuwait detentions

Thiruvananthapuram, Tuesday, 25 September 2012

Poor coordination between the Ministries of External Affairs and Overseas Indian Affairs has added to the woes faced by the Indians apprehended in Kuwait for visa violation.

Source: The Hindu, Chennai

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/vayalar-ravi-kept-in-the-dark-about-kuwait-detentions/article3932196.ece>

6. Indian embassy in Kuwait takes all measures for safe release of arrested Indians

Dubai, Tuesday, 25 September 2012

Vidhu P Nair, Deputy Chief of Mission, Indian embassy at Kuwait, said "We do not have the exact number of arrested Indians as of now. However we have met around 650 of the arrested Indians in the deportation and detention centre." He further added that the Embassy is taking all possible measures for the safety of the Indians who were arrested last week during a wide scale raid across Kuwait.

Source: The Hindu, Chennai

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/nri/other-news/Indian-embassy-in-Kuwait-takes-all-measures-for-safe-release-of-arrested-Indians/articleshow/16541271.cms?>

7. Indians in Kuwait to be freed soon

New Delhi, Wednesday, 26 September 2012

Overseas Indian Affairs Minister Vayalar Ravi said that India is in constant touch with its mission in Kuwait to ensure the release of all Indians detained there for the alleged misuse of visa.

Source: The Hindu, Chennai

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/indians-in-kuwait-to-be-freed-soon/article3937103.ece>

8. Most detained Indians released

New Delhi, Wednesday, 26 September 2012

Over half of the approximately 1,300 Indians detained in Kuwait for possible visa violations have been released by Tuesday (25 September) afternoon. Indian Ambassador Satish Mehta and other officials visited the detention centre during the day and discussed the matter with senior Kuwaiti officials.

Source: The Hindu, Chennai

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/most-detained-indians-released/article3937241.ece>

LIBYA

9. Western air strikes on Libya violate UNSC resolution, says India

New Delhi, Friday, 7 September 2012

India has told a UN meeting on the "responsibility to protect" (R2P) concept that Western air strikes on Libya were a complete violation of the UNSC resolution 1973.

Source: The Hindu, Chennai

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/western-air-strikes-on-libya-violate-uns-c-resolution-says-india/article3867135.ece>

10. India condemns Benghazi attack

New Delhi, Thursday, 13 September 2012

India strongly condemned the "violent acts," which resulted in the death of the US Ambassador to Libya and other officials. Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai spoke to the U.S. Ambassador in New Delhi and conveyed India's condolences.

Source: The Hindu, Chennai

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/india-condemns-benghazi-attack/article3890880.ece>

PALESTINE

11. Palestine President to visit India

New Delhi, Friday, 7 September 2012

President of Palestine Mahmoud Abbas will be on a State Visit to India on 11 September. On his fourth visit to India, he will meet the President Pranab Mukherjee and hold delegation level talks with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. Vice President Hamid Ansari and External Affairs Minister S. M. Krishna will call on him.

Source: The Hindu, Chennai

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/palestine-president-to-visit-india/article3868442.ece>

12. India pledges support to Palestine, announces \$10 million in aid

New Delhi, Wednesday, 12 September 2012

India announced another tranche of aid to Palestine and promised to back the Palestine National Authority's quest for non-member status at the United Nations, an upgrade from the observer status, a move the US has threatened to veto.

Source: The Hindu, Chennai

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-pledges-support-to-palestine-announces-10-million-in-aid/article3886223.ece>

SAUDI ARABIA

13. Indian agencies alarmed over Saudi-Arabia-based terror modules

New Delhi, Sunday, 2 September 2012

Indian security agencies, who are questioning 16 men held in Karnataka, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh, have said that these men received instructions from Saudi Arabia-based handlers to identify possible targets for terror attack, including important political leaders, journalists, and strategic defence establishments.

Source: The Hindu, Chennai

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/indian-agencies-alarmed-over-saudi-arabiabased-terror-modules/article3849482.ece>

14. Saudi Arabia, India hold talks on defence ties

New Delhi, Wednesday, 12 September 2012

The first meeting of the India-Saudi Arabia joint committee on defence cooperation was held in New Delhi and both sides discussed proposals for exchange of high-level visits, training and functional exchanges in various areas, a spokesperson of the Defence Ministry said.

Source: The Hindu, Chennai

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/saudi-arabia-india-hold-talks-on-defence-ties/article3887030.ece>

15. Saudi halts Fasih Mohammed deportation

New Delhi, Sunday, 16 September 2012

India will have to wait for Fasih Mohammed, accused of being involved in conspiracy of bomb blasts in Bangalore and Delhi, as Saudi Arabia has red-flagged his deportation from there saying they want to investigate his role in that country carefully before taking a call on New Delhi's request for handing him over.

Source: The Hindu, Chennai

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/saudi-halts-fasih-mohammed-deportation/article3904096.ece>

16. Saudi Arabia non-committal on Fasih deportation

New Delhi, Monday, 17 September 2012

With Saudi Arabia remaining non-committal on the deportation of Fasih Mohammad, Indian investigating agencies are in a fix as they expect the alleged terrorist to give them crucial leads in several cases.

Source: The Hindu, Chennai

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/saudi-arabia-noncommittal-on-fasih-deportation/article3905715.ece>

17. Saudi Princess Bint Abdullah meets Speaker

New Delhi, Thursday, 20 September 2012

Lok Sabha Speaker Meira Kumar welcomed visiting Saudi Arabian Princess Adeleh Bint Abdullah Bin Abdul-Aziz, daughter of the King of Saudi Arabia and expressed the need for cooperation between the two countries.

Source: Business Standard, New Delhi

<http://www.business-standard.com/generalnews/news/saudi-princess-bint-abdullah-meets-speaker/59014/>

ECONOMIC ISSUES

IRAN

18. Iran hopes to increase sale of crude oil to India, suggests ways to bypass Western curbs

New Delhi, Friday, 28 September 2012

Iran wants to increase the sale of crude oil to India and is expected to suggest ways to work around western sanctions when officials from two countries meet in New Delhi.

Source: The Economic Times, New Delhi

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2012-09-28/news/34148304_1_iranian-crude-oil-imports-biggest-indian-importer

19. Indian delegation to negotiate wheat export deal with Iran

New Delhi, Sunday, 28 September 2012

Refiners in India, Iran's second-biggest oil client after China, have been settling 45 percent of oil purchases from Tehran in rupees under a new payment mechanism, while continuing to pay the remainder in Euros through Turkey's Halkbank.

Source: Reuters

<http://in.reuters.com/article/2012/09/28/india-iran-wheat-idINL4E8KS5CL20120928>

MISCELLANEOUS

OMAN

20. Kerala workers in Oman in limbo over invalid medical papers

Dubai, Monday, 3 September 2012

Some expatriates from Kerala are in for uncertain times in Oman as the medical certificates provided by a centre in the state have been termed invalid by the Gulf Sultanate's foreign affairs department.

Source: Times of India, New Delhi

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/nri/middle-east-news/Kerala-workers-in-Oman-in-limbo-over-invalid-medical-papers/articleshow/16233631.cms?>

SAUDI ARABIA

21. Replace AI with Saudi Arabian Airlines, Hajj panel tells Centre

Malappuram, Tuesday, 11 September 2012

Kerala State Hajj Committee has asked the Centre to enlist the services of Saudi Arabian Airlines (Saudia) instead of Air India to take Hajj pilgrims from Kerala.

Source: The Hindu, Chennai

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/replace-ai-with-saudia-haj-panel-tells-centre/article3883666.ece>

22. Saudi airlines to ferry Kerala Hajjis

Malappuram, Wednesday, 12 September 2012

Saudi Arabian Airlines will ferry Hajj pilgrims from Kerala instead of Air India. The Central government decided to replace Air India, which was to carry the Kerala pilgrims, with Saudi Arabian Airlines following a demand by the State Hajj Committee of Kerala.

Source: The Hindu, Chennai

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/saudi-airlines-to-ferry-kerala-hajjis/article3887452.ece>

23. Saudi group proposes edu-city project in healthcare sector

Kozhikode, Wednesday, 12 September 2012

The Saudi Arabia-based Al Abeer Medical Group has submitted to the government a multi-crore edu-city project in the healthcare sector.

Source: The Hindu, Chennai

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/saudi-group-proposes-educity-project-in-healthcare-sector/article3887451.ece>

Note: One Crore=10 million

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