

# INDIA WATCH

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**No. 34**

**November 2012**

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## POLITICAL ISSUES

### IRAN

#### **1. Govt to keep Iran oil shipments at current levels**

**New Delhi, Monday, 15 October 2012**

Speaking at the Petrotech 2012 Conference Petroleum Minister S Jaipal Reddy said that despite sanctions, India plans to keep shipments from Iran at around current levels.

*Source: Business Standard, New Delhi*

<http://www.business-standard.com/india/news/govt-to-keep-iran-oil-shipments-at-current-levels/191328/on>

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#### **2. Iran says “tangible” progress in India-Afghanistan port link**

**New Delhi, Wednesday, 17 October 2012**

Following his meeting with Foreign Minister S M Krishna, Iran’s Deputy Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian said that there had been “tangible” progress in the development of the Chahbahar port, which would serve as the shortest route for ingress into Afghanistan for India.

*Source: The Hindu, Chennai*

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/iran-says-tangible-progress-in-indiaafghanistan-port-link/article4004075.ece>

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#### **3. US wants India to sway Iran to join nuclear talks**

**New Delhi, Friday, 19 October 2012**

Following his talks with Indian officials US deputy secretary in the US State Department William Burns, said that the US wants India to persuade Iran to return to the negotiating table on its nuclear programme. This was the first time the US has openly asked New Delhi to intercede with Tehran.

*Source: The Economic Times, New Delhi*

[http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2012-10-19/news/34584661\\_1\\_nuclear-programme-nuclear-talks-iranian-leadership](http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2012-10-19/news/34584661_1_nuclear-programme-nuclear-talks-iranian-leadership)

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#### **4. Iran to complete gas pipeline work by year-end**

**Hyderabad, Friday, 19 October 2012**

Vice-President of Iran Mohammad Javad Mohammadzadeh has said it was up to India to sort out its differences with Pakistan to complete the gas pipeline project as Tehran is very much committed to the project and would be completing construction of pipeline within its territory by the year-end.

*Source: The Hindu, Chennai*

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/iran-to-complete-gas-pipeline-work-by-year-end/article4011335.ece>

*See Also: Business Standard, New Delhi*

<http://www.business-standard.com/india/news/india-pakistan-must-sort-out-gas-pipeline-issue-says-iran/191918/on>

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#### **ISRAEL**

#### **5. Supreme Court orders release of journalist held for blast on Israeli diplomat's vehicle**

**New Delhi, Saturday, 20 October 2012**

The Supreme Court granted bail to journalist Mohammad Ahmed Kazmi, arrested on 7 March in connection with the explosion in the vehicle carrying the wife of an Israel Embassy diplomat in the capital on 13 February.

*Source: The Hindu, Chennai*

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/supreme-court-orders-release-of-journalist-held-for-blast-on-israeli-diplomats-vehicle/article4015020.ece>

*See Also: The Times of India, New Delhi*

[http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-10-19/delhi/34583012\\_1\\_sc-grants-kazmi-nijjar-and-j-chelameswar](http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-10-19/delhi/34583012_1_sc-grants-kazmi-nijjar-and-j-chelameswar)

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#### **SAUDI ARABIA**

#### **6. Mecca over Marx: CPM leader Rezzak Mollah goes on Hajj**

**Kolkata, Friday, 19 October 2012**

A West Bengal CPM leader Abdur Rezzak Mollah went on a pilgrimage to Mecca. Days ahead of embarking on Hajj, he insisted his faith in Karl Marx figured way below his absolute devotion to Allah and Prophet Mohammed.

*Source: The Times of India, New Delhi*

[http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-10-19/india/34583459\\_1\\_rezzak-mollah-party-leader-west-bengal-cpm](http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-10-19/india/34583459_1_rezzak-mollah-party-leader-west-bengal-cpm)

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#### **7. Alleged Indian Mujahideen leader Mohammad Fasih extradited from Saudi Arabia**

**New Delhi, Tuesday, 23 October 2012**

Saudi Arabia has deported alleged Indian Mujahideen terrorist leader, 28-year-old computer engineer, Fasih Mohammad, to India. It had quietly handed over another Lashkar-e-Tayeba (LeT) terror suspect, A Rayees to the Kerala Police a fortnight ago.

*Source: The Economics Times, New Delhi*

[http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2012-10-23/news/34680493\\_1\\_saudi-arabia-im-men-terror-module](http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2012-10-23/news/34680493_1_saudi-arabia-im-men-terror-module)

See also: **Source:** *The Economics Times, New Delhi*

[http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2012-10-22/news/34653504\\_1\\_delhi-and-karnataka-police-custody-of-central-security-fasih](http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2012-10-22/news/34653504_1_delhi-and-karnataka-police-custody-of-central-security-fasih)

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## ECONOMIC ISSUES

### IRAN

#### **8. Karnal Inc generates Rs 6,000 crore from rice business**

**Karnal, Thursday, 11 October 2012**

Karnal region is benefitting from the growing basmati rice market in the Gulf and "Exporters are able to tap new markets for India like Iran, Iraq and other gulf countries," said Suhil Jain, president of the Haryana Rice Exporters Association.

**Source:** *The Economic Times, New Delhi*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/articleshow/16767047.cms>

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#### **9. India in talks with Iran over wheat exports: FCI**

**New Delhi, Tuesday, 16 October 2012**

India is negotiating with Iran for exporting 200,000 tons of wheat in December and one million tons annually for the next three years, Food Corporation of India said.

**Source:** *The Economics Times, New Delhi*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/articleshow/16837457.cms>

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#### **10. Iran lowers rust alarm, to buy 200,000 tons wheat**

**New Delhi, Wednesday, 23 October 2012**

The long-standing row between India and Iran over the presence of rust in Indian wheat seems to have settled down for the time. Iran has agreed to purchase wheat from India with 0.25 per cent tolerance to 'Karnal Bunt' rust as an interim measure.

**Source:** *Business Standard, New Delhi*

<http://www.business-standard.com/india/news/iran-lowers-rust-alarm-to-buy-200000-tonnes-wheat-/192525/on>

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### EGYPT

#### **11. India-Egypt bilateral trade rises 33%**

**Cairo, Saturday, 13 October 2012**

According to official figures, India-Egypt trade increased 33 percent from US\$3.2 billion to US\$4.2 billion during the last fiscal year.

**Source:** *Business Standard, New Delhi*

<http://www.business-standard.com/india/news/india-egypt-bilateral-trade-rises-33/191103/on>

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### ISRAEL

#### **12. Israel's Technion, iCreate to jointly incubate start-ups**

**Mumbai/Ahmadabad, Monday, 15 October 2012**

Having signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU), Israeli university Technion and the International Centre for Entrepreneurship and Technology (iCreate) of India are now set to jointly incubate a few start-ups projects in both the countries.

*Source: Business Standard, New Delhi*

<http://www.business-standard.com/india/news/israels-technion-icreate-to-jointly-incubate-start-ups/489553/>

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## MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES

### IRAN

#### **13. Plea for direct flights to Iran, Sri Lanka**

**Hyderabad, Saturday, 20 October 2012**

A delegation from Iran met Chief Minister N Kiran Kumar Reddy and called for the introduction of direct flights from Hyderabad to Iran.

*Source: The Hindu, Chennai*

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/plea-for-direct-flights-to-iran-sri-lanka/article4015084.ece>

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#### **14. Iranian caught for peddling narcotics**

**Bangalore, Friday, 19 October 2012**

An Iranian student, studying in a prestigious college in Bangalore was caught peddling narcotics.

*Source: The Times of India, New Delhi*

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bangalore/Iranian-caught-for-peddling-narcotics/articleshow/16875632.cms>

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### SAUDI ARABIA

#### **15. Over 28,000 Indians arrive in Saudi Arabia for Hajj**

**Dubai, Monday, 1 October 2012**

More than 28,000 Indians pilgrims from different parts of India have arrived so far in Saudi Arabia for the annual Hajj pilgrimage.

*Source: The Hindu, Chennai*

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/over-28000-indians-arrive-in-saudi-arabia-for-haj/article3953057.ece>

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#### **16. Family clueless about doctor detained in Saudi Arabia**

**Bangalore, Friday, 26 October 2012**

Over a fortnight after he was picked up by the Saudi Arabian police, the family of Usmane Ghani, a doctor who hails from Dharwad, has no clue about his whereabouts.

*Source: The Hindu, Chennai*

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/family-clueless-about-doctor-detained-in-saudi-arabia/article4033203.ece>

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### UAE

#### **17. Man dies in Dubai, brother seeks body**

**Chennai, Saturday, 20 October 2012**

A 22-year-old man from Trichy has sought the help of Chennai police commissioner to bring back the body of his brother, who died in a fall from a building in Dubai.

*Source: The Times of India, New Delhi*

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/Man-dies-in-Dubai-brother-seeks-body/articleshow/16886350.cms>

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### **18. Five Indians stranded in Dubai to be repatriated soon**

**Dubai, Wednesday, 24 October 2012**

Five Indian workers, who have been stranded for months due to non-payment of salaries by their firm they were working for since September last year, would be repatriated soon, official sources said.

*Source: The Hindu, Chennai*

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/five-indians-stranded-in-dubai-to-be-repatriated-soon/article4027082.ece>

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### **19. Stop harassment of Gulf passengers: VS**

**Thiruvananthapuram, Sunday, 21 October 2012**

Leader of the Opposition V.S. Achuthanandan protested against the alleged harassment of Gulf passengers by Air India. He said the incident at the international airport when passengers were stranded for hours on board a flight without food was the latest instance of alleged harassment.

*Source: The Hindu, Chennai*

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/stop-harassment-of-gulf-passengers-vs/article4018489.ece>

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**Note:** One crore= Ten Million

Compiled by Manjari Singh

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