

# INDIA WATCH

No. 36

January 2013

## POLITICAL ISSUES

### IRAN

**1. US seen extending Iran sanction waivers to India, others**

**Washington, Friday, 7 December 2012**

The US will give another six-month reprieve from financial sanctions to India because it has reduced its purchases of crude oil from Iran. It is expected to eventually receive the waivers to sanctions, known as "exceptions", in exchange for cutting purchases of oil from Iran.

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

<http://www.business-standard.com/india/news/us-seen-extending-iran-sanction-waivers-to-india-others/198709/on>

**2. Iranian market always opens to good friend India: Iran**

**New Delhi, Friday, 14 December 2012**

Sanctions-hit Iran said its lucrative market was always open for "good friend" India but made it clear that there will be "some limitations" on its part if India keeps looking towards the US. Iran also said it understands India's constraints in engaging with it due to influence from the US but left it to New Delhi to decide on what kind of relationship it wants with Tehran.

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

<http://www.business-standard.com/generalnews/news/iranian-market-always-open-to-good-friend-india-iran/93956/>

### IRAQ

**3. India, Iraq should fight the menace of terrorism: Meira Kumar**

**New Delhi, Monday, 17 December 2012**

India and Iraq should fight against the menace of terrorism as both the countries are its victims, Lok Sabha Speaker Meira Kumar stressed when a Parliamentary delegation from Iraq called on her. The delegation was led by the President (Speaker) of the Council of Representatives, Parliament of Iraq, and Osama Abdul-Aziz-Mohamd AI-Nujaefi.

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

<http://www.business-standard.com/generalnews/news/india-iraq-should-fightmenaceterrorism-meira-kumar/95643/>

### ISRAEL

**4. BEL, Israel's IAI ink MoU on naval missiles**

**Bangalore, Tuesday, 11 December 2012**

A MoU signed between Bharat Electronics Ltd. (BEL) and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) has set the stage for joint development and indigenous production of a set of Long Range Surface-to-Air Missiles (LR-SAMs) to defend Indian warships from enemy attack. BEL will be the lead integrator of this set of missiles and produce some of the major sub-systems.

*Source: The Hindu, Chennai*

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/bel-israels-iai-ink-mou-on-naval-missiles/article4186244.ece>

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#### **5. India-Israel FTA: Next round of talks in Jan**

**New Delhi, Wednesday, 19 December 2012**

India and Israel will hold in January another round of negotiations for the proposed free trade agreement, a move which would increase bilateral commerce and investment between the countries. "So far five rounds of negotiations have been held. The next round of negotiations is scheduled to be held from 20th to 23rd January, 2013," Commerce and Industry Minister Anand Sharma said in a written reply in Rajya Sabha.

*Source: Business Standard, New Delhi*

<http://www.business-standard.com/india/news/india-israel-fta-next-roundtalks-in-jan/200021/on>

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### **OMAN**

#### **6. India plans treaty with Oman, Azerbaijan on criminal matters**

**New Delhi, Sunday, 9 December 2012**

India plans to sign a mutual cooperation treaty with Oman to pursue criminal investigation and confiscation of money or property involved therein.

*Source: The Economics Times, New Delhi*

[http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2012-12-09/news/35705560\\_1\\_criminal-matters-mutual-legal-assistance-treaty-india-plans](http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2012-12-09/news/35705560_1_criminal-matters-mutual-legal-assistance-treaty-india-plans)

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### **QATAR**

#### **7. India greets Qatar on National Day**

**Dubai, Monday, 17 December 2012**

India values its close and mutually beneficial relationship with Qatar, President Pranab Mukherjee said as he greeted Qatari leadership on the occasion of their country's National Day.

*Source: Business Standard, New Delhi*

<http://www.business-standard.com/generalnews/news/india-greets-qatarnational-day/95235/>

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### **SAUDI ARABIA**

#### **8. India seeks to boost maritime ties with Saudi Arabia**

**Dubai, Monday, 17 December 2012**

India is seeking to enhance maritime relations with Saudi Arabia and is making efforts to maintain security in the high seas, Indian envoy to Saudi Arabia Hamid Ali Rao said.

*Source: Business Standard, New Delhi*

<http://www.business-standard.com/generalnews/news/india-seeks-to-boost-maritime-tiessaudi-arabia/95241/>

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#### **9. Bid to free Keralites in Saudi jails futile: Minister**

**Thiruvananthapuram, Saturday, 22 December 2012**

Minister for Non-Resident's Keralites Affairs K.C. Joseph told the State Assembly that government's efforts to free Keralites languishing in jails in Saudi Arabia for minor offences by paying the legally permissible fines in that country had not succeeded yet.

*Source: The Hindu, Chennai*

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/bel-israels-iai-ink-mou-on-naval-missiles/article4186244.ece>

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UAE

**10. 45,000 Indians to leave UAE for illegal stay under amnesty scheme**

**Hyderabad, Wednesday, 5 December 2012**

About 45,000 Indians staying illegally in the UAE have been permitted to leave the country by the UAE Government under the amnesty scheme without payment of any penalty. The amnesty period has been declared from 4 December to 3 February 2013.

*Source: The Hindu, Chennai*

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/45000-indians-to-leave-uae-for-illegal-stay-under-amnesty-scheme/article4165417.ece>

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**11. UAE Cabinet nod can benefit 1,200 Indian prisoners**

**Dubai, Tuesday, 11 December 2012**

India and the UAE have moved a step forward in enforcing an extradition agreement that would allow around 1,200 convicted Indians jailed in the country to return home to complete their prison terms.

*Source: The Hindu, Chennai*

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/uae-cabinet-nod-can-benefit-1200-indian-prisoners/article4186129.ece>

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**12. Centre intervenes to help Indians in UAE facing deportation**

**New Delhi, Wednesday, 12 December 2012**

The Centre has decided to urge the UAE to reconsider its decision ordering about 18,000 Indians working there without proper papers to return to India within three months or face imprisonment. Instead it would ask the government to grant them visa and allow them to continue in their jobs.

*Source: The Hindu, Chennai*

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/centre-intervenes-to-help-indians-in-uae-facing-deportation/article4190024.ece>

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**13. UAE Exchange plans multi-currency travel card for India**

**New Delhi, Sunday, 16 December 2012**

Dubai-based UAE Exchange has launched a new offering 'go cash' the Middle East's first multi-currency prepaid travel card and expects to launch similar prepaid products in other markets such as India. The new product was launched in partnership with MasterCard in Dubai and allows the customers to load up to six currencies out of a bouquet of 15.

*Source: The Economics Times, New Delhi*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/articleshow/17639162.cms?intenttarget=no&frmnl=OIFC>

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**14. Indian amnesty seekers in UAE to get financial assistance**

**Dubai, Monday, 24 December 2012**

Concerned over high costs being borne by Indian over stayers to avail a current two-month amnesty to leave the country, the Indian government has said it will bear a part of the fee for those seeking emergency travel certificates. Indian workers who are seeking to avail an ongoing amnesty scheme would be extended financial assistance for the issue of emergency certificates.

*Source: The Economics Times, New Delhi*

[http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2012-12-24/news/35991866\\_1\\_amnesty-scheme-emergency-certificates-indian-workers](http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2012-12-24/news/35991866_1_amnesty-scheme-emergency-certificates-indian-workers)

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## ECONOMIC ISSUES

### ISRAEL

#### **15. Growing Israeli passion for business with India**

**Tel Aviv, Sunday, 9 December 2012**

Bilateral trade between India and Israel has gone up from a mere US\$120 million to US\$5 billion since the two nations formally established relations in 1992, but the president of the Israel-India Friendship Association (IIFA) see a much higher potential.

*Source: Business Standard, New Delhi*

<http://www.business-standard.com/generalnews/news/growing-israeli-passion-for-businessindia/90862/>

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### JORDAN

#### **16. Arab Potash launches marketing campaign in India**

**Dubai, Thursday, 20 December 2012**

Jordan-based Arab Potash Company (APC) has launched a marketing campaign focused on key representatives of the Indian fertilizer market. India is the world's largest importer of fertilizers and the largest market for Jordanian potash. During the past five years, APC exports to India reached 3.1 million tons, valued at US\$ 1.37 billion and over the past 20 years, the Indian market has represented 30 per cent of total APC exports.

*Source: Business Standard, New Delhi*

<http://www.business-standard.com/generalnews/news/arab-potash-launches-marketing-campaign-in-india/96925/>

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### QATAR

#### **17. ADB's 5.2 per cent stake in Petronet offered to Qatar**

**New Delhi, Monday, 17 December 2012**

India has offered Qatar a 5.2 per cent stake that Asian Development Bank (ADB) held in Petronet LNG Ltd, the nation's largest liquefied natural gas importer.

*Source: Business Standard, New Delhi*

<http://www.business-standard.com/india/news/adbs-52-stake-in-petronet-offered-to-qatar-/199786/on>

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#### **18. Qatar Petroleum keen to buy stake in Petronet LNG**

**New Delhi, Tuesday, 25 December 2012**

Qatar Petroleum has expressed interest in buying a 5.2 per cent stake in Petronet Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Ltd, a potentially conflict of interest proposition as it will give the gas supplier a vantage position in India's largest fuel importer.

*Source: Business Standard, New Delhi*

<http://www.business-standard.com/india/news/qatar-petroleum-keen-to-buy-stake-in-petronet-lng/200557/on>

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### UAE

#### **19. Indian investors can benefit from Gulf oil industry**

**Dubai, Sunday, 2 December 2012**

Indian investors can benefit from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) oil industry, businessmen participating at a seminar in Bahrain have said. They said Indian investors can also gain from several untapped sectors such as mining and minerals, tourism and infrastructure, in order to diversify trade relations between India and the GCC.

*Source: The Economics Times, New Delhi*

[http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2012-12-02/news/35546882\\_1\\_indian-investors-gcc-and-india-bahrain-india-society](http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2012-12-02/news/35546882_1_indian-investors-gcc-and-india-bahrain-india-society)

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## YEMEN

### **20. RIL gains on completion of divestment in Yemen-9 Block**

**Mumbai, Wednesday, 5 December 2012**

Reliance Industries (RIL) said that it's wholly owned subsidiary, Reliance Exploration and Production DMCC, has signed the completion documents for divestment of its 25 per cent working interest in the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) for Yemen Block-9 with Medco Yemen Malik, a wholly owned subsidiary of PT Medco Energi Internasional Tbk of Indonesia. The effective economic date of the transaction is 1 January 2012 and the transaction has been approved by the Ministry of Oil and Minerals of Yemen.

*Source: Business Standard, New Delhi*

<http://www.business-standard.com/generalnews/news/ril-gainscompletiondivestment-in-yemen-9-block/88627/>

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### **21. RIL divests oil block in Yemen**

**Mumbai, Thursday, 6 December 2012**

Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) said it has completed sale of its 25 per cent stake in an oil block in Yemen to Indonesia's Medco Energi for around US\$90 million.

*Source: Business Standard, New Delhi*

<http://www.business-standard.com/india/news/ril-divests-oil-block-in-yemen/494709/>

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## ENTERTAINMENT

## MORROCO

### **22. Shah Rukh Khan conferred with Morocco's Medal of Honour**

**Mumbai, Monday, 3 December 2012**

Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan was given the prestigious Medal of Honour by the Prince of Morocco while attending the twelfth Marrakech International Film Festival.

*Source: Business Standard, New Delhi*

<http://www.business-standard.com/generalnews/news/shah-rukh-khan-conferredmoroccos-medalhonour/87447/>

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## SPORTS

## OMAN

### **23. India humiliate Oman 11-0, register 3rd win in ACT**

**Doha, Sunday, 23 December 2012**

A dominant India humiliated minnows Oman 11-0 to register their third consecutive win in the second Asian Champions Trophy (ACT) hockey tournament.

*Source: Business Standard, New Delhi*

<http://www.business-standard.com/generalnews/news/india-humiliate-oman-11-0-register-3rd-win-in-act/99003/>

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## PALESTINE

### **24. AIFF confirms international friendly against Palestine**

**New Delhi, Friday, 28 December 2012**

The Indian football team will play in an international friendly against Palestine in Guwahati on 6 February 2013, the AIFF confirmed. India's last international friendly, against Yemen in November, was cancelled after the visiting side failed to procure visas for its players.

*Source: Business Standard, New Delhi*

<http://www.business-standard.com/generalnews/news/aiff-confirms-international-friendly-against-palestine/101183/>

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## MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES

### ISRAEL

#### **25. Indian Jews from 'lost tribe' move to Israel**

**Jerusalem, Wednesday, 26 December 2012**

The Bnei Menashe, Indian Jews, say they are descended from Jews banished from ancient Israel to India in the eighth century B.C. An Israeli chief rabbi recognized them as a lost tribe in 2005 and about 1,700 moved to Israel before the government stopped giving them visas. Now about dozens of them emigrated to Israel from their village in north eastern India.

*Source: The Hindu, Chennai*

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/indian-jews-from-lost-tribe-move-to-israel/article4239843.ece>

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### UAE

#### **26. Indian artist's photograph picked up as UAE event logo**

**Dubai, Tuesday, 4 December 2012**

Forty one years after he captured the historic event, a 75-year-old Indian has been propelled to stardom with his photo becoming the logo for UAE National Day celebrations. Ramesh Shukla captured the UAE rulers jointly hoisting the flag after signing the union agreement in 1971 which brought the seven Emirates into a union.

*Source: Business Standard, New Delhi*

<http://www.business-standard.com/generalnews/news/indian-artists-photograph-picked-as-uae-event-logo/88072/>

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