

INDIA WATCH

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JANUARY 2014

POLITICAL ISSUES

BAHRAIN

1. Construction begins for new Indian embassy building in Bahrain

Dubai, Monday, 9 December 2013

Construction of a new Indian embassy building in Bahrain began with External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid laying the foundation stone for the US\$7.43 million facility. It will cover approximately 7,800 square meters and will contain a residence for the staff, a library, a consular hall and an auditorium that can accommodate up to 500 people.

Source: The Economic Times, New Delhi

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2013-12-09/news/44989394_1_indian-embassy-gulf-daily-news-bahraini-capital-manama

EGYPT

2. India and Egypt seek to expand bilateral ties after meet of foreign ministers

Cairo, Tuesday, 24 December 2013

Taking forward issues of cooperation between Indian and Egypt, the Secretary East in the Ministry of External Affairs had broad ranging discussions with Egyptian representatives during his two-day visit during 21-22 December. This visit came as a continuation of the momentum in relations initiated by the visit of the Egyptian Foreign Minister, and was an opportunity to review the gamut of bilateral relations, particularly the economic dimension.

Source: The Economic Times, New Delhi

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2013-12-24/news/45540269_1_bilateral-relations-cooperation-india-and-egypt

See Also: The Hindu, Chennai

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/egyptian-minister-seeks-to-expand-ties-with-india/article5423591.ece>

IRAN

3. After N-deal, Iran reaffirms defence ties with India

New Delhi, Friday, 6 December 2013

The Iranian Navy's 28th flotilla, which comprises a frigate, submarine and a supply ship, was berthed in Mumbai for two days and the visiting personnel met top Indian Navy officials.

Source: The Indian Express, New Delhi

<http://archive.indianexpress.com/news/after-ndeal-iran-reaffirms-defence-ties-with-india/1204057/>

4. New Delhi miffed as Iran asks India Inc visitors for HIV, Hepatitis, TB tests

New Delhi, Tuesday, 10 December 2013

Iran wants a high-level business delegation from India to test for HIV before issuing visas, angering New Delhi as such a demand is seen as discriminatory and politically incorrect.

Source: The Indian Express, New Delhi

<http://archive.indianexpress.com/news/new-delhi-miffed-as-iran-asks-india-inc-visitors-for-hiv-hepatitis-tb-tests/1205746/>

5. India to pick Iran over Israel for petro meet

New Delhi, Monday, 30 December 2013

India has reportedly decided to invite Iran but keep Israel out of its most prestigious international petroleum conference, Petrotech-2014, to be held next month. The decision was made after consultations within the government over the last few weeks.

Source: The Indian Express, New Delhi

<http://archive.indianexpress.com/news/india-to-pick-iran-over-israel-for-petro-meet/1213241/>

SAUDI ARABIA

6. Indian embassy in Riyadh launches online visa services

Riyadh, Monday, 16 December 2013

In an effort to ensure hassle-free travel of Saudi nationals, India has launched online visa services for those intending to visit for tourism, business and other purposes. Visas will be normally issued on the third working day except in cases which require detailed procedural formalities and clearances, the Indian embassy said.

Source: Business Standard, New Delhi

http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/indian-embassy-launches-online-visa-service-in-saudi-arabia-113121600587_1.html

See Also: The Economic Times, New Delhi

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2013-12-16/news/45256051_1_indian-embassy-visa-services-indian-ambassador

ECONOMIC ISSUES

IRAN

7. India imports 5.82 MT oil from Iran

New Delhi, Tuesday, 17 December 2013

India imported 5.82 million tons of crude oil from Iran during the first eight months of current fiscal. The imports during April-November are just over half of the 11 million tons target set for current fiscal.

Source: Business Standard, New Delhi

http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-imports-5-82-mt-oil-from-iran-113121700702_1.html

See Also: The Hindu Business Line

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/industry-and-economy/india-imports-582-mt-oil-from-iran/article5470123.ece>

8. Panel meets today to review India-Iran trade

New Delhi, Tuesday, 17 December 2013

The government is mulling a new strategy to boost trade with Iran, with a special focus on increasing the number of shipping lines, including the cost of insurance coverage.

Source: Business Standard, New Delhi

http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/panel-meets-today-to-review-india-iran-trade-113121600876_1.html

9. India cuts Iran oil imports by 0.6 per cent in Nov compared to last year

New Delhi, Wednesday, 18 December 2013

India's oil imports from Iran declined by 0.6 per cent in November from a year ago to about 219,700 barrels per day.

Source: Reuters, UK

<http://in.reuters.com/article/2013/12/18/india-iran-imports-idINL3N0JX21620131218>

UAE

10. India, UAE ink investment pact

New Delhi, Friday, 13 December 2013

India and UAE signed a bilateral investment promotion and protection agreement (Bippa) that seeks to accelerate fresh capital inflows from the Emirates and provide a thrust to stalled projects. The deal was signed between Obaid Humaid Al Tayer, UAE's Minister of State for Financial Affairs and India's Minister of State for Finance Namo Narain Meena.

Source: Business Standard, New Delhi

http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-uae-ink-investment-pact-113121200641_1.html

See Also: The Times of India, New Delhi

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/India/India-UAE-ink-key-investment-protection-pact/articleshow/27268375.cms>

See Also: The Economic Times, New Delhi

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2013-12-12/news/45123258_1_big-investments-protection-agreement-wealth-fund

11. UAE-based Borouge to expand operation in India

Mumbai, Monday, 16 December 2013

To meet the growing demand in India, Borouge, the UAE-based provider of innovative, value creating plastics solutions, is gearing up to expand its sales & marketing capabilities in India.

Source: Business Standard, New Delhi

http://www.business-standard.com/content/b2b-chemicals/uae-based-borouge-to-expand-operation-in-india-113121600583_1.html

QATAR

12. Airline seats for LNG with Qatar may not pass muster

New Delhi, Friday, 27 December 2013

The government's plans to negotiate cheaper gas price with Qatar in exchange for increased airline seats between India and the Gulf nation is unlikely to find favour among all ministries.

Source: The Indian Express, New Delhi

<http://archive.indianexpress.com/news/airline-seats-for-lng-with-qatar-may-not-pass-muster/1212245/>

13. Qatar fund in talks to invest \$200 million in Indian property

Mumbai, Monday, 23 December 2013

Qatar Investment Authority (QIA), the sovereign wealth fund of the gas-rich Gulf emirate, is in talks to invest US\$200 million in residential property in India.

Source: Business Standard, New Delhi

http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/qatar-fund-in-talks-to-invest-200-million-in-indian-property-113122300443_1.html

See Also: Reuters, UK

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/12/23/us-india-qatar-kotak-idUSBRE9BM08B20131223>

MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES

BAHRAIN

14. Bahrain Consul General booked for assault, molestation of society manager

Mumbai, Wednesday, 25 December 2013

A First Information Report (FIR) was registered against Consul General of Bahrain Mohammed Abdulaziz Al-Khaja at the Malabar Hill police station in south Mumbai on 13 December, for allegedly assaulting and verbally abusing the manager of his housing society.

Source: The Indian Express, Mumbai

<http://archive.indianexpress.com/news/mumbai-bahrain-consul-general-booked-for-assault-molestation-of-society-manager/1211421/>

See Also: The Times of India, New Delhi

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/Molester-Bahrain-envoy-flies-back-home/articleshow/28073581.cms>

QATAR

15. Veteran Indian social worker dies in Qatar

Dubai, Sunday, 22 December 2013

A veteran Indian social worker in Qatar, known for his efforts to help expatriates, passed away. MV Abdul Khader Haji, 67, hailing from Kerala's Thrissur district, died at a hospital in Qatar's capital Doha yesterday after several weeks of ailment.

Source: The Times of India, New Delhi

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/nri/middle-east-news/Veteran-Indian-social-worker-dies-in-Qatar/articleshow/27753108.cms>

See Also: The Indian Express, Mumbai

<http://archive.indianexpress.com/news/indian-social-worker-dies-in-qatar/1210620/>

SAUDI ARABIA

16. Seven Indians deported from Saudi Arabia for visa violation

Dubai, Sunday, 29 December 2013

Seven Indian workers have been deported from Saudi Arabia for visa violation. Some of the workers violated visa regulations intentionally, while the rest were cheated by their sponsors.

Source: The Economic Times, New Delhi

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2013-12-29/news/45674906_1 Visa-violation-saudi-arabia-deportation-centre

See Also: The Times of India, New Delhi

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/nri/middle-east-news/7-Indian-workers-deported-from-Saudi-Arabia-for-visa-violation/articleshow/28113328.cms>

17. European-style single Gulf visa likely by mid-2014

Dubai, Tuesday, 24 December 2013

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries are planning to launch a European-style single visa to allow Gulf-based expats and foreign businessmen to move easily across the borders of the six-member bloc.

Source: The Economic Times, New Delhi

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2013-12-24/news/45540113_1_schengen-visa-individual-visas-gulf-countries

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