

# INDIA WATCH

No. 59

DECEMBER 2014

## POLITICAL RELATIONS

### BAHRAIN

#### 1. India proposes guidelines for protecting fishermen in Bahrain

Manama, Monday, 3 November 2014

India has proposed a set of guidelines for the protection of its fishermen going to work in Bahrain, after an Indian crew member on a Bahraini vessel died in Qatari waters a month ago.

*Source: The Hindu, Chennai*

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/india-proposes-guidelines-for-protecting-fishermen-in-bahrain/article6559019.ece>

### IRAN

#### 2. Venkaiah Naidu Holds Bilateral Meetings with Ministers of Many Countries at Seoul while Attending Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference of Housing and Urban Development

New Delhi, Tuesday, 4 November 2014

During Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference of Housing and Urban Development, Minister for Urban Development and Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation Venkaiah Naidu met his Iranian Counterpart Abbas Akhound. Iran requested a task force for upgrading slums in both the countries and exchange experience and transfer technology.

*Source: Business Standard, New Delhi*

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/government-press-release/venkaiah-naidu-holds-bilateral-meetings-with-ministers-of-many-countries-at-114110401296\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/government-press-release/venkaiah-naidu-holds-bilateral-meetings-with-ministers-of-many-countries-at-114110401296_1.html)

#### 3. India to develop Iran's Chabahar port

New Delhi, Thursday, 6 November 2014

Union Minister of Road Transport and Shipping Nitin Gadkari said that India plans to develop Iran's Chabahar Port in about 18 months which would be used for import commodities like urea.

*Source: The Economic Times, New Delhi*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/shipping/-/transport/india-to-develop-irans-chabahar-port/articleshow/45047720.cms>

### ISRAEL

#### 4. Home Minister Rajnath Singh to arrive in Israel today

**Jerusalem, Wednesday, 5 November 2014**

India discussed its security ties with Israel including cooperation in counter terrorism during Home Minister Rajnath Singh's visit to the country.

*Source: The Economic Times, New Delhi*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/home-minister-rajnath-singh-to-arrive-in-israel-today/articleshow/45048042.cms>

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**5. India, Israel to collaborate in fighting terror, cyber threats**

**Tel Aviv, Friday, 7 November 2014**

India and Israel resolved to deepen cooperation in fighting and collaborating in the field of cyber security.

*Source: The Economic Times, New Delhi*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/india-israel-to-collaborate-in-fighting-terror-cyber-threats/articleshow/45068723.cms>

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**6. Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu discusses evolving threats to global community from terror Israeli industry delegation to visit India**

**New Delhi, Friday, 7 November 2014**

Home Minister Rajnath Singh met Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Tel Aviv and the leaders discussed regional situation and evolving threats to the global community from terror.

*Source: Business Standard, New Delhi*

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/government-press-release/union-home-minister-rajnath-singh-and-israeli-prime-minister-benjamin-netanyahu-114110700276\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/government-press-release/union-home-minister-rajnath-singh-and-israeli-prime-minister-benjamin-netanyahu-114110700276_1.html)

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**7. Benjamin Netanyahu lauds India's science prowess**

**Tel Aviv, Friday, 7 November 2014**

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu lauded India's science and innovation during his meeting with Home Minister Rajnath Singh.

*Source: The Hindu, Chennai*

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/israeli-prime-minister-benjamin-netanyahu-lauds-indias-science-prowess/article6573355.ece>

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**8. India invites Israel to invest in strategic sectors**

**Tel Aviv, Saturday, 8 November 2014**

India invited Israel to take advantage of the investment-friendly policies of the new government and invest in strategic sectors such as defence.

*Source: Business Standard, New Delhi*

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/india-invites-israel-to-invest-in-strategic-sectors-114110800043\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/india-invites-israel-to-invest-in-strategic-sectors-114110800043_1.html)

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**KUWAIT**

**9. Indian embassy steps in protect rights of Punjabi housemaids in Kuwait**

**Chandigarh, Thursday, 6 November 2014**

As women comprise of most of the Punjabi workforce as housemaids in Kuwait, the Indian embassy has stepped in to ensure prevent women being denied their basic rights.

*Source: The Times of India, New Delhi*

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chandigarh/Indian-embassy-steps-in-protect-rights-of-Punjabi-housemaids-in-Kuwait/articleshow/45053256.cms>

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#### **10. India clarifies bank guarantee for domestic workers in Kuwait**

**Dubai, Tuesday, 18 November 2014**

Indian embassy clarified regarding bank guarantees for employers amid the reports of maltreatment and abuses suffered by the Indian female domestic workers in the country.

*Source: The Economic Times, New Delhi*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/nri/working-abroad/india-clarifies-bank-guarantee-for-domestic-workers-in-kuwait/articleshow/45191870.cms>

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### **SAUDI ARABIA**

#### **11. Modi meets Merkel, Saudi Crown Prince**

**Brisbane, Sunday, 16 November 2014**

On the sidelines of the G20 summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Saudi Crown Prince Salman and an MEA tweet quoted the Prince as saying "Congrats PM of a friendly country, we are ready to cooperate in all sectors."

*Source: Business Standard, New Delhi*

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/modi-meets-merkel-saudi-crown-prince-114111600138\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/modi-meets-merkel-saudi-crown-prince-114111600138_1.html)

*See Also: The Hindu, Chennai*

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/world/saudi-ready-to-cooperate-with-india-in-all-sectors/article6604753.ece>

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

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/rest-of-world/Ready-to-cooperate-in-all-sectors-Saudi-leader-tells-Modi/articleshow/45164623.cms>

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#### **12. Forty-five Indians stranded without pay for months in Saudi Arabia**

**Jeddah, Tuesday, 25 November 2014**

Forty-five Indian workers languished in a labour camp near Jeddah without being paid for months, prompting the Indian mission to raise the issue with authorities for resolution.

*Source: The Economic Times, New Delhi*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/nri/working-abroad/45-Indians-stranded-without-pay-for-months-in-Saudi-Arabia/articleshow/45271358.cms>

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### **UAE**

#### **13. External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj to visit UAE**

**New Delhi, Friday, 7 November 2014**

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj was on a three-day visit to the UAE during which she held talks on a range of bilateral, regional and global issues with top leaders of the Gulf nation.

*Source: The Economic Times, New Delhi*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/external-affairs-minister-sushma-swaraj-to-visit-uae/articleshow/45072562.cms>

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#### **14. Indian Embassy in UAE says no revision was made in wages**

**Abu Dhabi, Tuesday, 18 November 2014**

The Indian mission denied reports about the government revising the minimum wage requirements for its workers in the UAE.

*Source: The Economic Times, New Delhi*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/indian-embassy-in-uae-says-no-revision-was-made-in-wages/articleshow/45192738.cms>

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## **ECONOMIC RELATIONS**

### **BAHRAIN**

#### **15. Confederation of Indian Industry business delegation to visit Bahrain**

**Dubai, Monday, 24 November 2014**

A high-powered business delegation from India visited Bahrain to attend the first-ever Arab-Asia Business Partnership Summit.

*Source: The Economic Times, New Delhi*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/confederation-of-indian-industry-business-delegation-to-visit-bahrain/articleshow/45258025.cms>

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### **EGYPT**

#### **16. Indian envoy seeks enhanced economic cooperation with Egypt**

**Cairo, Wednesday, 19 November 2014**

Indian ambassador seeks enhanced economic cooperation with Egypt and the two countries discussed potential investment propositions and opportunities for expanding economic cooperation, particularly in the fields of IT, recycling of waste material, green house projects, and shipbuilding.

*Source: The Economic Times, New Delhi*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/indian-envoy-seeks-enhanced-economic-cooperation-with-egypt/articleshow/45202833.cms>

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### **IRAN**

#### **17. India completes US\$900 million payment to Iran under interim deal-sources**

**New Delhi, Wednesday, 5 November 2014**

Indian refiners completed payment of US\$900 million in frozen oil revenues to Iran under an interim deal that eased some sanctions against Tehran over its disputed nuclear work.

*Source: Reuters, UK*

<http://in.reuters.com/article/2014/11/05/india-iran-oil-idINL4N0SV46V20141105>

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#### **18. Refiners pay US\$400 million to Iran under interim deal**

**New Delhi, Thursday, 20 November 2014**

Indian refiners paid US\$400 million to Iran ahead of a 24 November deadline of the interim Geneva deal that allows Tehran to recover part of its overseas frozen oil revenues.

*Source: Business Standard, New Delhi*

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/reuters/refiners-pay-400-million-to-iran-under-interim-deal-sources-114112000420\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/reuters/refiners-pay-400-million-to-iran-under-interim-deal-sources-114112000420_1.html)

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### **OMAN**

#### **19. JSPL plans to list Oman unit in Muscat to raise US\$500 million**

**New Delhi, Monday, 10 November 2014**

Jindal Steel and Power Ltd. (JSPL) is likely to list its Oman-based wholly-owned subsidiary Shadeed Iron and Steel (LLC) in Muscat Securities Market for raising around US\$500 million.

*Source: Business Standard, New Delhi*

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/jspl-plans-to-list-oman-unit-in-muscat-to-raise-500-mn-114111000655\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/jspl-plans-to-list-oman-unit-in-muscat-to-raise-500-mn-114111000655_1.html)

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## **20. Oman-India JV to raise US\$250 million for 'Make in India' campaign**

**Dubai, Friday, 14 November 2014**

A joint investment fund set up by SBI and Oman's sovereign fund will raise its corpus by US\$250 million for a special purpose vehicle (SPV) for the new 'Make in India' initiative.

*Source: The Economic Times, New Delhi*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/oman-india-jv-to-raise-250-million-for-make-in-india-campaign/articleshow/45147084.cms>

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## **SAUDI ARABIA**

### **21. Indian businessperson to set up pharma plant in Saudi Arabia**

**Dubai, Friday, 14 November 2014**

A UAE-based Indian businessperson will invest over US\$266 million to establish a pharmaceutical plant in Saudi Arabia that would manufacture medicine for cancer and dengue.

*Source: The Economic Times, New Delhi*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/nri/nris-in-news/indian-businessman-to-set-up-pharma-plant-in-saudi-arabia/articleshow/45147233.cms>

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## **UAE**

### **22. UAE Exchange India revamping business model**

**Mumbai, Tuesday, 4 November 2014**

Non-banking financial company (NBFC) UAE Exchange India is planning to revamp its business model and to focus on small-size loans, to target financial inclusion.

*Source: Business Standard, New Delhi*

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/uae-exchange-india-revamping-business-model-114110400055\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/uae-exchange-india-revamping-business-model-114110400055_1.html)

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## **CULTURE**

## **JORDAN**

### **23. Indian women go down to Jordan**

**Pune, Saturday, 8 November 2014**

India went down 1-3 to Jordan in the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Under-19 Women's Qualifiers 2015 football match in Amman.

*Source: The Times of India, New Delhi*

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/football/top-stories/Indian-women-go-down-to-Jordan/articleshow/45081207.cms>

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## **LEBANON**

### **24. India women thrash Lebanon 3-1**

**Pune, Monday, 10 November 2014**

India beat Lebanon by 3-1 to finish their campaign in the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Under-19 Women's Championship 2015 Qualifiers in Amman.

*Source: The Times of India, New Delhi*

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/football/top-stories/India-women-thrash-Lebanon-3-1/articleshow/45094573.cms>

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## **MOROCCO**

### **25. Shah Rukh Khan's 'Happy New Year' to be screened at Marrakech Film Festival**

**Mumbai, Friday, 21 November 2014**

Indian superstar Shah Rukh Khan-starrer *Happy New Year* was invited to be screened at the 14th Marrakech International Film Festival.

*Source: The Economic Times, New Delhi*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/magazines/panache/shah-rukh-khans-happy-new-year-to-be-screened-at-marrakech-film-festival/articleshow/45229497.cms>

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## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **26. Government unveils website for kin of deceased abroad**

**Mangalore, Tuesday, 4 November 2014**

Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) has launched a new website to help kin of the deceased to apply online for transportation of mortal remains in any of the ECR (Emigration Check Required) countries. The ECR countries are Malaysia, Jordan, UAE, Yemen, Lebanon, Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, Iraq, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, Indonesia, Libya, Sudan, Syria, and Thailand.

*Source: The Times of India, New Delhi*

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mangaluru/Govt-unveils-website-for-kin-of-deceased-abroad/articleshow/45039157.cms>

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## **IRAN**

### **27. Wife of engineer stranded in Iran seeks help from Goa CM Laxmikant Parsekar**

**Vadodara, Wednesday, 12 November 2014**

The wife of one of the two engineers stranded in Iran since December 2013 has requested Goa Chief Minister Laxmikant Parsekar to intervene and to secure their release.

*Source: DNA, Mumbai*

<http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-wife-of-engineer-stranded-in-iran-seeks-help-from-go-cm-laxminkant-parsekar-2034493>

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## **IRAQ**

### **28. Abducted Indians case: Two MEA officials sent to Iraq's Erbil**

**New Delhi, Tuesday, 11 November 2014**

Following the meeting between the families of the 40 abducted Indians in Iraq and External Affairs minister Sushma Swaraj, the government sent two senior officials to Erbil in Iraq.

*Source: The Times of India, New Delhi*

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/nri/middle-east-news/Abducted-Indians-case-Two-MEA-officials-sent-to-Iraqs-Erbil/articleshow/45113627.cms>

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## **SAUDI ARABIA**

### **29. Apollo Hospitals establishes Information Centre in Saudi Arabia**

**Dubai, Wednesday, 19 November 2014**

India-based Apollo Hospitals plans to establish an information centre in Saudi Arabia for providing assistance to patients in the Gulf country.

*Source: The Economic Times, New Delhi*

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/healthcare/biotech/healthcare/apollo-hospitals-establishes-information-centre-in-saudi-arabia/articleshow/45203250.cms>

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