

# INDIA WATCH

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## POLITICAL ISSUES

### IRAN

#### 1. Iran seeks leeway to spend oil dues

New Delhi, Thursday, 8 January 2015

Iran seeks more flexibility in using an estimated US\$6 billion in accumulated oil payments from India to buy "non-sanctioned" items beyond "humanitarian goods" from third world countries as oil prices soar high.

*Source: The Times of India, New Delhi*

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/Iran-seeks-leeway-to-spend-oil-dues/articleshow/45802679.cms>

#### 2. India Revives Plans to Set Up Fertilizer Plant in Iran

Bengaluru, Monday, 19 January 2015

The government has revived its plan to set up a fertilizer plant in Iran as reliance on imports of urea has increased.

*Source: The New Indian Express, Chennai*

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/business/news/India-Revives-Plans-to-Set-Up-Fertiliser-Plant-in-Iran/2015/01/19/article2625939.ece>

### OMAN

#### 3. India, Oman mark diamond jubilee of diplomatic ties

Muscat, Monday, 5 January 2015

Marking the 60th anniversary of India-Oman diplomatic relations, Indian Coast Guard Ship Vijit visited Oman to cement their deep-rooted ties.

*Source: Zee News, New Delhi*

[http://zeenews.india.com/news/india/india-oman-mark-diamond-jubilee-of-diplomatic-ties\\_1525169.html](http://zeenews.india.com/news/india/india-oman-mark-diamond-jubilee-of-diplomatic-ties_1525169.html)

#### 4. India-Oman ties flourishing, says Indian ambassador

Muscat, Tuesday, 27 January 2015

As the Indian Embassy in Oman marked India's 66th Republic Day, Ambassador JS Mukul spoke about India's flourishing relations with Oman.

*Source: Times of Oman, Muscat*

<http://www.timesofoman.com/News/46388/Article-India-Oman-ties-flourishing-says-Indian-ambassador#>

## PALESTINE

### 5. Delay in financial aid affecting India-Palestine relations

New Delhi, Wednesday, 7 January 2015

Domestic financial constraints have caused the delay in releasing the US\$10 million aid that was announced earlier by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. According to External Affairs Ministry, this delay is “adversely affecting India’s bilateral ties with the Palestine government.”

*Source: The Hindustan Times, New Delhi*

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/delay-in-financial-aid-affecting-india-palestine-relations/article1-1304387.aspx>

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## SAUDI ARABIA

### 6. ‘National mourning’ for dead Saudi King

New Delhi, Saturday, 24 January 2015

Few hours after Prime Minister Modi said that he was “saddened” by the demise of Saudi King Abdullah, the government announced a ‘day of national mourning’ as a mark of respect.

*Source: The Indian Express, Mumbai*

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-others/national-mourning-for-dead-saudi-king/>

*See also: Yahoo news, New Delhi*

<https://in.news.yahoo.com/jan-24-declared-national-day-mourning-account-saudi-154301915.html>

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## ECONOMIC ISSUES

## QATAR

### 7. Qatar Airways keen to buy stake in IndiGo

Doha, Thursday, 8 January 2015

Qatar Airways is keen to buy equity in IndiGo if the Indian carrier offers 49 per cent of stakes.

*Source: The Financial Express, New Delhi*

<http://www.financialexpress.com/article/industry/companies/qatar-airways-keen-to-buy-stake-in-indigo/27541/>

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## UAE

### 8. Abu Dhabi plans to boost Indian tourists

Abu Dhabi, Friday, 30 January 2015

Abu Dhabi’s tourism sector is heading to India’s most prominent B2B travel industry expo as India has regained its position as the Emirate’s largest overseas source market for hotel guests.

*Source: Khaleej Times, Dubai*

[http://www.khaleejtimes.com/kt-article-display-1.asp?xfile=data/uaebusiness/2015/January/uaebusiness\\_January282.xml&section=uaebusiness](http://www.khaleejtimes.com/kt-article-display-1.asp?xfile=data/uaebusiness/2015/January/uaebusiness_January282.xml&section=uaebusiness)

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## MISCELLANEOUS ISSUES

## UAE

### 9. Two Indian expats in UAE receive Pravasi Bharatiya Award

Dubai, Saturday, 10 January 2015

An Indian social worker in the UAE who has helped repatriate nearly 2,000 dead bodies and another who boosted Indo-UAE relations in business, were among 15 prominent Non-Resident Indians who received their home country’s highest honour.

*Source: Khaleej Times, Dubai*

[http://www.khaleejtimes.com/kt-article-display-1.asp?xfile=data/community/2015/January/community\\_January5.xml&section=community](http://www.khaleejtimes.com/kt-article-display-1.asp?xfile=data/community/2015/January/community_January5.xml&section=community)

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