

## Top Stories

[S Jaishankar takes charge as Foreign Secretary, says 'honour and a big responsibility'](#)

PTI / The Indian Express | January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015

"Government's priorities are my priorities," said Jaishankar, a 1977-batch IFS officer, describing his new position as an "honour and a big responsibility".

[15 things that India achieved due to Obama's visit](#)

The Times of India | January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015

In what Obama called a "breakthrough", the two sides resolved key hurdles pertaining to the liability of suppliers of nuclear reactors in the event of an accident and the tracking of fuel supplied by the US.

[Sushma Swaraj arrives in Beijing on four-day visit](#)

PTI / Zee News | January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015

During her stay here, Swaraj will speak at the India- China Media Forum, interact with the Indian Community of Beijing (ICB) and inaugurate the 'Visit India Year' aimed at attracting more Chinese tourists to India.

## India and the World – an Update

*A Bi-weekly News Digest on India's Foreign Policy*

January 17<sup>th</sup> - January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015

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## Neighbourhood

### *Pakistan*

[Pakistan Not Mending its Ways: Rajnath Singh](#)

PTI / NDTV | January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015

"Pakistan is not mending its ways. Despite getting a befitting reply many times, it is not mending its ways. But India is not scared of Pakistan's threat," he told PTI in Delhi.

### [US and UK ask Pakistan to hand over Lakhvi to India](#)

PTI / The Asian Age | January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015

During 54-year-old Lakhvi's bail case the Islamabad High Court today, the prosecution informed that the "two countries had demanded handing over of Lakhvi to India". However, the prosecution lawyer did not name the countries in the court.

### ***Bangladesh***

### [New Delhi, Bangladesh are 'constructive partners': Obaidul Kadir](#)

ANI / Business Standard | January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015

The Bangladesh minister, who was accompanied by the Indian High Commissioner in Bangladesh Pankaj Saran, held a meeting with Tripura Transport Minister Manik De and other officials at the Agartala Integrated Check Post (ICP) on better connectivity through construction of a four lane road from the Ashugang river port. The Indian government is likely to fund for the construction of the road.

### ***Afghanistan***

### [India's Afghan dilemma](#)

The Hindu | January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015

A decade of democracy has opened up Afghan society and India's cooperation programmes have helped develop sustainable linkages cutting across ethnic lines around the shared vision. Dialogues with Afghanistan's neighbours will become important as these countries start feeling nervous about the return of instability.

### ***Sri Lanka***

### [India, Sri Lanka pledge to build better ties](#)

IANS / Zee News | January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj conveyed India's views to her new Sri Lankan counterpart Mangala Samaraweera, who arrived here overnight on his first foreign trip after Sirisena came to power Jan 9. Samaraweera indicated that his choice of New Delhi as his first destination "reflects the priority the new Sri Lankan government gives to relations between our two countries".

### [India, Sri Lanka set to start talks on repatriation of Lankan Tamil refugees](#)

The Indian Express | January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015

This was decided at a meeting lasting over three hours between visiting Lankan Foreign Minister Mangala Samaraweera and External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj here Sunday. "The talks for repatriation will begin by end of January," MEA spokesperson Syed Akbaruddin said.

### **Asia Pacific**

#### ***China***

### [Want to resolve all issues with China honestly: Rajnath Singh](#)

PTI / The Financial Express | January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015

"We are not expansionist. India's history says that we have never been expansionist. We have never attacked any country. We are worshippers of peace. China should understand this. We want to resolve all issues with honesty (imaandari ke saath)," he said.

#### ***Japan***

### [India, Japan agree to strengthen political and security ties](#)

Live Mint | January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015

External affairs minister Sushma Swaraj welcomed the increase by 15% of Japanese companies coming to India for business and investment during the past year in talks with her Japanese counterpart Fumio Kishida.

### [Japan commits Rs 2,620-cr development loan prop](#)

Deccan Herald | January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015

India has been ranked as the top destination for future investments from Japan, according to a survey by Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC). The survey was conducted among 1,000 companies of Japan in July 2014 and its outcome was made public recently.

## ***The United States***

### [Modi, Obama walk the talk on nuke deal](#)

The Hindu | January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Announcing an end to the nuclear logjam, President Obama said they had reached a “breakthrough understanding” that would allow nuclear contracts to be signed between U.S. firms and India.

### [Obama's India visit: From 'natural partner' to 'best partner' \(Roundup\)](#)

IANS / Business Standard | January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015

US Deputy National Security Advisor Ben Rhodes said the signal being sent from Obama and Modi to their own respective governments "is going to catalyse a lot of activity". "It also sends a message to the world, I think, that the US and India are going to be closer partners going forward," he said. "And that's entirely consistent with the president's focus on the Asia-Pacific region and building closer relations with emerging powers, particularly the world's largest democracy here in India."

### [Narendra Modi, Barack Obama at CEO meet: PM vows stable tax regime in India; Prez announces \\$4 bn US investment, hints at H-1B visa row solution](#)

Agencies / The Financial Express | January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Pledging \$4 billion in lending by US banks, Obama said the US is ready to help India grow by working with it in development of infrastructure like railways, ports, roads and clean energy power plants.

### [Obama offers India support to tackle climate change](#)

Live Mint | January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015

India and the US have lined up several initiatives to deal with climate change under a five-year agreement that will be signed between the two nations soon. The initiatives include cooperation on improving air quality in some of the severely polluted Indian cities.

## **Middle East**

### [King Salman is friend of India, says Indian diplomat](#)

IANS / Business Standard | January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015

"Our Prime Minister Narendra Modi held talks with King Salman on the sidelines of the G-20 summit in Brisbane, Australia. During that meeting, the Saudi ruler expressed his desire to expand cooperation with India in all sectors," Arab News quoted Indian Consul General B.S. Mubarak, as saying.

## **Europe**

### ***Russia***

### [India Fast Tracks 5th Generation Fighter Jet Project With Russia](#)

NDTV | January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015

Mr Parrikar has also told Russia that India wants the stealth fighter jet to be inducted into the Indian Air Force much before 2024-25 - the date that was fixed for delivery. India plans to build as many as 127 fighters at the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited facility in Nashik. The Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft (FGFA) project is estimated to cost \$25 billion.

## **Germany**

['India, Germany to raise investments in infrastructure, technologies'](#)

PTI / The Economic Times | January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015

On his meeting with Modi on Monday, he said he had sought to assuage any concerns that the Eurozone was in for tough times ahead. "The crux of our talks was whether Europe is going to remain on a stable trajectory," Schauble said.

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