

## Top Stories

### [India to lead Asia's economic growth: Asian Development Bank](#)

PTI / The Financial Express |  
March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015

The ADB has forecast that India's growth will improve from 7.4 per cent in current fiscal to 7.8 per cent in 2015-16 and further to 8.2 per cent in 2016-17.

### [Modi embarks on three-nation tour from April 9](#)

The Times of India | March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Announcing the dates for Modi's visit, foreign ministry spokesperson Syed Akbaruddin said the PM would focus on investments and technology sharing with all three countries. While Modi will have bilateral meetings with the head of all three governments in Paris, Berlin and Ottawa, he is also expected to travel to other cities in these countries. In Canada he is also likely to address a gathering of Indians in Toronto. He is expected to travel to Vancouver too.

### [In boost to East Asia policy, Modi to tour China, Mongolia, S Korea](#)

Hindustan Times | March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015

His visit to South Korea has a definite Make in India angle to it. India is keen on getting investment and going for joint manufacturing in areas where South Korea has a technological edge.

## “The Growth Net Summit 2015” Special

### [Not complacent about growing faster than China: Arun Jaitley](#)

Live Mint | March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015

“Over 30 years, China had a 9% plus growth rate which is huge. Therefore, by just the course of some circumstance if we grow faster for one or two years, that cannot be a cause for any great delight. It has to be on a long-term sustainable basis,” Jaitley said while speaking at an event The Growth Net 2015, jointly organised by the non-profit organisation Ananta Centre and strategic advisory firm Smadja & Smadja.

### [Foreign policy playing key role in economic development: Sushma Swaraj](#)

Live Mint | March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015

We have stepped up commercial divisions in our missions around the globe. The vision of the government is to empower

people and bring about economic development. The foreign policy priorities are aimed at creating the right external environment for the same," she said.

[Chinese base in Indian Ocean threat to peace: Ajit Kumar Doval, National Security Adviser](#)

The Economic Times | March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015

"Global expansion of China is a reality, which is manifesting itself as a powerful economy, having powerful military and rising defence budget. Emergence of China in a dramatic fashion is a reality. It is true that things will be affected globally with whatever China does. The region will be affected. India will also be impacted. We just feel that the change in the order should be internationally approved," noted Doval while addressing a threeday international conference - 'The Growth Net'.

[IFS officers to be key in global outreach of states](#)

Hindustan Times | March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015

"Incorporating local bodies and state governments in our outreach to the world is part of a broader effort in accordance with Prime Minister Modi's vision of cooperative federalism," external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj said at the Growth Net Seminar 2015 on March 26.

## **Neighbourhood**

### **South Asia**

#### ***Pakistan***

[End 'atmosphere of terror' along border, India warns Pakistan](#)

India Today | March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015

The Home Minister Rajnath Singh also said that Indian security forces were powerful enough to give a fitting reply to any terror attack, as it had just done in the Kathua and Samba areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

[India reacts to Pak's invite to Hurriyat, says no place for a third party](#)

Hindustan Times | March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015

The ministry of external affairs (MEA) struck back after envoy Abdul Basit said India had no objections to Hurriyat representatives being invited to Pakistan's National Day celebrations in the Capital.

[India willing to sell LNG to Pakistan: Pradhan](#)

The Hindu Business Line | March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015

"Our public sector units are strong enough to sell LNG to Pakistan's domestic sector at a cheaper rate than what the neighbouring nation is buying at currently," said Minister of State (Independent Charge), Petroleum and Natural Gas, Dharmendra Pradhan. He, however, maintained that it was a diplomatic and geopolitical issue. A proposal to sell gas to Pakistan has been on hold since last year due to strained relations between the two nations.

#### ***Nepal***

[Jaishankar to visit Nepal on second leg of 'SAARC yatra'](#)

PTI / Zee News | March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015

During the visit, Jaishankar is scheduled to meet President Rambaran Yadav, Prime Minister Sushil Koirala, Foreign Minister Mahendra Pandey and top political leaders of Nepal. He will also meet his Nepalese counterpart Shanker Das Bairagi and discuss key issues.

## **Asia Pacific**

## ***China***

### [India, China agree on border peace, boosting ties](#)

IANS / Business Standard | March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015

National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, the special representative on the boundary talks, and his Chinese counterpart, State Councillor Yang Jiechi, held talks on Monday to resolve issues regarding the over 4,000-km boundary. Jiechi, who arrived here on Sunday night, met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday morning. During the meeting, Modi expressed hope that his upcoming visit to China in May will have concrete outcomes and take the bilateral relationship to a new level.

## ***Singapore***

### [PM Narendra Modi, world leaders bid farewell to founding father Lee Kuan Yew in elaborate funeral](#)

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

"I am visiting Singapore at a sad moment," Modi said. "He (Lee) was a global thinker, who saw things ahead of others. He was an advocate of economic progress, but also made tireless efforts to advance peace and stability in our region.

## ***The United States***

### [Resurging India driving energy across South Asia: US](#)

PTI / The Economic Times | March 25<sup>th</sup>

"If there is one overarching positive trend that is driving the energy and optimism across South Asia, it is the resurgence of India as evidenced by their vibrant election last year, which was the largest such democratic exercise in history," Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia, Nisha Desai Biswal told US lawmakers during a Congressional hearing.

### [India-US partnership in a new 'strategic plus' phase: Richard Verma](#)

IANS / Business Standard | March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015

"As India's strategic plus partner, we support India's aspiration to become a leading power," said Verma in a talk on "Strategic Plus: Taking US-Indian Relations to a New Level" at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

## ***Latin America***

### ***Cuba***

### [India, Cuba look to inject new life into relations](#)

The Financial Express | March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015

During a recent Delhi visit, Cuban foreign minister Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla said: "We wish to seek a higher level of economic cooperation with India and other BRICS nations." Parrilla said Cuba and other CELAC members had considerable amount of expertise and resources to offer to Indian companies in the pharmaceutical sector.

## ***Middle East***

### ***Qatar***

### [India, Qatar ink six agreements during Emir's visit](#)

IANS / Zee News | March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015

The six agreements, besides transfer of sentenced prisoners, are: an MoU for Cooperation in the field of Information and Communication Technology; an MoU between the ministry of earth sciences and Qatar Meteorological Department for Scientific and Technical cooperation; an MoU between Diplomatic Institute of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Qatar and

Foreign Service Institute of the ministry of external affairs; an MoU for cooperation in the field of Radio and Television; and an agreement for Mutual Cooperation and Exchange of News.

## **Europe**

## ***Russia***

### [Russia Interested to Strengthen Ties with India in Information & Broadcasting Sector](#)

PTI / NDTV | March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015

The Russian side also proposed to include information and broadcasting in the BRICS summit slated to be held in Russia soon, Minister of State for I&B Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore told reporters.

|  
\*\*\*

*If you do not want to receive this News Digest, please let us know at this e-mail id: [admin@anantacentre.in](mailto:admin@anantacentre.in)*

### **About Ananta Aspen Centre**

*Ananta Aspen Centre is an independent and not-for-profit organisation that seeks to foster positive change in society through dissemination of knowledge. The Centre facilitates discussions on issues of international significance, values-based leadership and cross-sector outreach by engaging the civil society, government, private sector, and other key stakeholders.*

To know more, Please log on to [www.anantaaspencentre.in](http://www.anantaaspencentre.in)