

Top Stories

[Modi government working on five-year plan to deepen Saarc connection](#)

The Economic Times | April 4th, 2015

It will aim to identify specific value chains that run through different countries, besides stepping up infrastructure development along the borders.

[PM Narendra Modi reaches Canada for three-day trip, to focus on energy, investments](#)

Zee News (with Agency inputs) | April 15th, 2015

PM Modi is also likely to interact with Canadian business leaders, who are enthused about the economic developments and unfolding business and investment opportunities back home.

[PM Modi woos German investors, promises stable environment](#)

The Indian Express | April 13th, 2015

Inaugurating the Hannover Messe, a business fair, with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, the Prime Minister said India is working on a “predictable and transparent” environment to open up investments.

Neighbourhood

South Asia

Pakistan

[PM Narendra Modi thanks Pakistan for evacuating Indian nationals from Yemen](#)

Zee News (With PTI Inputs) | April 9th, 2015

Foreign Secretary S Jaishankar said the crisis like in Yemen provides an opportunity for countries to work together as noted that India too had evacuated 409 nationals of 32 countries, including Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

[Lakhvi walks free from Pak jail; India lodges protest](#)

PTI / The Tribune | April 10th, 2015

"Our High Commissioner has registered our strong concerns with the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan at the release of a principal accused in the Mumbai terrorist attack of 2008," a spokesperson of the External Affairs Ministry said.

Bangladesh

[Bangladesh cabinet approves revised trade agreement with India](#)

Live Mint | April 7th, 2015

Under the revised deal, trucks from Nepal and Bhutan would enter Bangladesh through the Indian corridors while previously they were required to park at a specific point along the Indian border where goods from Bangladesh were uploaded. India and Bangladesh had their original trade agreement signed in 1972 soon after emergence of Independent Bangladesh, but under that deal, which expired on 31 March, trade could only be done between the two neighbours.

[Bengal CM, Bangladesh minister discuss border enclaves](#)

IANS | Business Standard | April 13th, 2015

Recently a group of Bangladeshi and Indian enclave dwellers have written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for expediting the passage of the constitution's 119th amendment ratifying the Land Boundary Agreement (LBA).

Nepal

[India for Peace, Progress and Stability of Nepal: Foreign Secretary S Jaishankar](#)

PTI / NDTV | April 2nd, 2015

Upon his arrival at the Tribhuvan International Airport this morning, Mr Jaishankar said the visit is the part of his SAARC Yatra and reflects the importance the government of India accords to its relations with Nepal. "During my stay here I hope to review progress made in our bilateral cooperation following the historic visit by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Nepal last year," he said.

Asia Pacific

China

[China to forge trilateral cooperation with India, Sri Lanka](#)

PTI / The Economic Times | April 2nd, 2015

"The good interactions and mutual reinforcement among the three pairs of relationship deliver benefits to the three countries and contribute to peace, stability and common prosperity of the region," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying told a media briefing here.

[Ready to link Silk Road plans with India's Mausam project: China](#)

PTI / India Today | April 5th, 2015

China has been vocal about linking the 'Belt and Road' projects with India's Spice Route and 'Mausam' that are New Delhi's strategic initiatives to preserve its influence in the Indian Ocean.

[India, China hold talks to boost defence ties](#)

PTI / The Tribune | April 9th, 2015

The talks between the top military officials were held ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to China expected to take place in the middle of May during which he would hold talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping on critical issues like the boundary dispute as well as forging closer trade ties with more Chinese investments.

[Naidu meets Chinese Vice-Premier](#)

The Hindu | April 14th, 2015

Mr. Naidu also met executives of Chinese low-cost smartphone maker Xiaomi and electronics manufacturer Foxconn. Josh Fougler, vice-president of Foxconn, informed the AP delegation that the company was looking at huge investments in India in the next two-three years in smartphones, software, TVs and other electronics.

Singapore

[Friends for the future](#)

The Indian Express | April 9th, 2015

The Singapore government and private sector have confidence in Modi's leadership. This confidence is based on his good track record as the chief minister of Gujarat. The 2015 Union budget contains a roadmap and is focused on the ease of doing business and radically improving India's infrastructure.

North Korea

[India will positively consider N Korea's request for humanitarian aid: Sushma](#)

The Indian Express | April 14th, 2015

India has been extending humanitarian assistance to North Korea, which has suffered food shortages during the last few years as a result of natural disasters. In 2011, New Delhi provided food assistance worth \$1 million through the World Food Programme.

Australia

[Framework this year for uranium supply to India, says Australian minister Bishop](#)

The Times of India | April 13th, 2015

During her 3-day visit to India, Bishop will also meet finance minister Arun Jaitley and defence minister Manohar Parrikar. With Jaitley, she will discuss implementation of a comprehensive economic cooperation agreement (CECA) by the end of the year. Australia is keen to operationalise the agreement at a time when India's bilateral annual trade has fallen to \$ 15 billion from a high of \$ 20 billion. Bishop said CECA was on the priority list of PM Tony Abbott as well as his counterpart Narendra Modi.

The United States

[Indian economic reforms on right track: US](#)

PTI / The Times of India | April 14th, 2015

In his key-note address, the Charge'd Affaires, Embassy of India, Taranjit Singh Sandhu, said the Modi government has shown a strong resolve to carry forward the reform agenda. "Prime Minister Modi has sent a clear message, that India is open for business. A number of steps have been taken to create a business friendly environment," he said.

Europe

[India-EU FTA would require compromises by all sides: Merkel](#)

PTI / The Hindu Business Line | April 14th, 2015

Launched in June 2007, negotiations for the proposed Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) between India and the 28-member European bloc have witnessed many hurdles as both the sides have major differences on crucial issues. The two sides are yet to iron out issues related to tariffs and movement of professionals but the EU has shown an inclination to restart talks.

France

[Modi in France: India to buy 36 Rafale jets in 'fly-away condition'](#)

Hindustan Times | April 11th, 2015

While long-blocked exclusive negotiations between the two sides had initially focused on 126 French Rafales, the 36-jet order is manufacturer Dassault's biggest yet abroad -- estimated to be worth nearly four billion euros (\$4.2 billion).

[India, France sign 17 agreements during PM Narendra Modi's visit](#)

PTI / The Financial Express | April 11th, 2015

An MoU on cooperation in the field of renewable energy between the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) and France's Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy was signed that will help establish the basis for cooperation and relationship to encourage and promote technical bilateral cooperation on new and renewable energy issues on the basis of mutual benefits and reciprocity.

Germany

[India keen to develop sectors where Germany is strong: Modi](#)

ANI / Business Standard | April 13th, 2015

"We have planned to build 50 million houses by 2022. In addition, we are going to develop smart cities and mega industrial corridors. For this purpose, we have refined our FDI Policy on construction. We have also come up with a regulatory framework for this sector. We have targeted 175 Giga Watt of renewable energy in next few years. In addition to generation, the issues of transmission and distribution of electricity are equally important for us," said Prime Minister Modi.

[PM Narendra Modi lures German business honchos; hard-sells 'Make in India' programme](#)

The Economic Times | April 14th, 2015

Germany ranks eighth among foreign investor countries in India. Its direct investment in India during January-November 2014 was \$995 million (Rs 6,200 crore). It is India's largest trading partner in the EU - with bilateral trade of around 16 billion (Rs 1.06 lakh crore) - and one of the top ten global trading partners. The Prime Minister said there was more potential.

Central Asia

Turkmenistan

[Sushma Swaraj discusses TAPI pipeline with Turkmenistan president](#)

PTI / Zee News | April 8th, 2015

"The President also apprised us about the progress in the TAPI project and I told his excellency that this has been possible only because of his personal intervention," she said.

Middle East

Iran

[India to get oil benefit from breakthrough in Iranian nuclear talks](#)

PTI / DNA | April 3rd, 2015

China, India, South Korea, Japan and Turkey are the largest buyers of crude from Iran, which has the world's fourth-largest oil reserves. The sanctions currently restrict its overall exports to 1 million-1.1 million bpd.

[Iran proposes free trade agreement with India: Kher](#)

PTI / Business Standard | April 10th, 2015

Iran is in the process of reaching an understanding with the six world powers on its contentious nuclear programme, which may ultimately lead to lifting of trade sanctions on the Islamic nation. The move would help Iran to enhance its trade ties with its trading partners including India.

Saudi Arabia

[Saudi keen to participate in Make in India, says envoy](#)

IANAS / Deccan Herald | April 8th, 2015

The Kingdom's envoy Ambassador Saud bin Mohammed Al-Sati said that Saudi Arabia is inviting its business people to explore the opportunities and "take part in the major projects announced by the Indian government," and added that the Saudi private sector is participating in various sectors of the Indian economy.

Miscellaneous

[Narendra Modi govt unveils its first trade policy, targets doubling of exports at \\$900 bn](#)

PTI / The Financial Express | April 1st, 2015

Unveiling the first trade policy of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government, Commerce Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the FTP (2015-20) will introduce Merchandise Exports from India Scheme (MEIS) and Services Exports from India Scheme (SEIS) to boost outward shipments.

[PM Modi makes strong pitch for permanent UNSC seat](#)

PTI / The Asian Age | April 13th, 2015

"There is hardly any other country which has such moral authority as the land of Mahatma Gandhi and Buddha. I hope that when the United Nations celebrates its 70th anniversary (this year), it will especially think about this," the PM said.

India has been pitching for a permanent seat in the expanded membership of the UNSC, arguing that the existing body does not truly reflect the contemporary world realities.

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