

Top Stories

[Ashraf Ghani invites Indian companies to invest in Afghanistan](#)

Live Mint | April 30th, 2015

Currently, Afghanistan's imports are 30 times its exports, which he described "as a recipe for collapse" of the country's economy. "We see the Indian private sector as a key partner in transforming Afghanistan from an area shadowed by conflict to a hub... where goods, ideas, people flow in all directions," Ghani said.

[India will do everything possible to help Nepal, says Rajnath Singh](#)

PTI / The Economic Times | April 27th, 2015

A slew of steps have been taken for speedy evacuation of stranded tourists including goodwill visas to foreigners and mobilising of buses and ambulances to bring them by road. India has so far deployed 13 military aircraft, three civilian aircraft of Air India and Jet Airways, six Mi-17 helicopters, two Advanced Light Helicopter while two more Mi-17 choppers are kept in standby.

[Canada to supply uranium to energy-starved India from this year](#)

PTI / The Indian Express | April 15th, 2015

Asserting that the pessimism of the past about India has turned into optimism about the future, PM Modi said both countries will benefit immensely by an early conclusion of a Bilateral Investment Protection and Promotion Agreement and Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.

Neighbourhood

South Asia

Nepal

[India ramps up rescue and relief operations in quake-hit Nepal](#)

Hindustan Times | April 26th, 2015

Foreign secretary S Jaishankar appealed to Indian nationals in Nepal to be patient and announced the plan to bus them out from Kathmandu. Sources said 35 buses have been hired for the purpose.

He said the government has sent 10 tonnes of blankets, 50 tonnes of water and 22 tonnes of food donated by several states and voluntary agencies.

[India a very good friend, China too has helped: Nepal](#)

The Indian Express | April 28th, 2015

Nepal Foreign Minister Mahendra Bahadur Pandey, overseeing rescue work with the international community, says 'we are very grateful to the Indian government for the help'.

Pakistan

[India not worried over Pakistan-China economic corridor: Envoy](#)

PTI / IBN Live | April 22nd, 2015

The 3,000-km corridor linking China's far-western region to Pakistan's south-western Gwadar port on the Arabian Sea through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) is massive project of road, rail, energy schemes, pipelines and investment parks.

Afghanistan

[New Delhi, Kabul to tackle differences on terror](#)

The Hindu | April 28th, 2015

India and Afghanistan have a difference of perception over the groups responsible for violence, including the latest suicide bombing in Jalalabad that killed 33 people. While Mr. Ghani had said the attack had been carried out by Islamic State militants, Indian officials believe Pakistan-backed groups were responsible.

[Narendra Modi backs Ghani's plans for Afghanistan peace process](#)

Live Mint | April 28th, 2015

In comments to journalists after talks with Ghani in New Delhi, Modi said India backed Afghan efforts to build a "united, stable, democratic and prosperous nation", which "stems from our commitment to regional peace and progress".

[Trade, defence focus of Modi-Ghani talks](#)

The Times of India | April 29th, 2015

Making a statement to the media afterwards, Modi said, "We believe that Afghanistan's direct surface link to India and the rest of South Asia, and increased connectivity to sea, could turn Afghanistan into a hub that connects Asia's diverse regions and beyond. We are ready to welcome Afghan trucks at Attari. We are also prepared to join the successor agreement to Afghan-Pakistan Trade and Transit Agreement. This will re-establish one of the oldest trading routes of South Asia.

Sri Lanka

[Sri Lanka to get \\$400 million from RBI under currency swap deal](#)

PTI / The Economic Times | April 29th, 2015

During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Sri Lanka last month, RBI agreed for a USD 1.5 billion currency swap agreement with the Sri Lankan central bank to help the island nation keep its currency stable.

Bhutan

[India and Bhutan: Strengthening a unique relationship](#)

ANI / Business Standard | April 24th, 2015

"Our region and economies are going through a major transformation and there are new issues that are emerging, like ecological degradation and impact of climate change. Still, there are very few issues that divide India and Bhutan." said Amb. Shyam Saran at a special discussion organized by the conveners of the India-Bhutan Strategic Dialogue (Track II) – Ananta Aspen Centre, The Thimphu Seminars and Royal Institute of Governance and Strategic Studies (RIGSS)

Asia Pacific

China

[China agrees to host Indian Northern Army Commander ahead of PM Modi's visit](#)

The Economic Times | April 22nd, 2015

This understanding was reached at the recently concluded defence dialogue between both the countries, which took place just ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to China next month. At this meeting, the Indian side made a strong push on Beijing to demonstrate that the J&K stapled visa issue was now a matter of the past.

[PM Narendra Modi to pitch for narrowing of trade deficit with China](#)

The Economic Times | April 24th, 2015

Commerce Secretary Rajeev Kher said the PM will make a strong pitch to reduce the deficit because "if there is a future for India-China bilateral trade relationship, then this issue needs to be sorted out."

South Korea

[India, South Korea hold high level defence talks in Seoul](#)

ANI / Business Standard | April 18th, 2015

Parrikar emphasized that in recognition of the importance India attaches to Korea as a partner, he had chosen to make Republic of Korea the destination for his first visit under the "Make in India" campaign. Both sides agreed to enhance their efforts to develop mutually-beneficial partnerships in defence production.

[Manohar Parrikar woos South Korean defence firms](#)

PTI / Zee News | April 18th, 2015

Parrikar also met the top management of Hyundai Heavy Industries and invited them to become strategic partners for India's defence and commercial shipping sectors.

The Unites States

[India, US bilateral treaty is doable: US envoy](#)

Business Standard | April 29th, 2015

The US ambassador to India, Richard Verma said now, both sides were planning to expand the India-US strategic dialogue to include specific “commercial focus”, with the establishment of a newly reconstituted “strategic and commercial dialogue”, which would include the minister of commerce and industry from India and the US commerce secretary.

[We share concern on Zakiur Rehman Lakhvi release: US](#)

Live Mint | April 30th, 2015

Nisha Desai Biswal, assistant secretary, south and central Asian affairs, told a gathering in New Delhi that the US was “greatly concerned” by Lakhvi’s release and “this was something we had been hoping to avoid”. The US has “consistently impressed upon our counterparts in Islamabad the need for those responsible for the Mumbai attacks be brought to justice”, she said.

Europe

Russia

[Food exports to Russia: MEA asks Ind firms to focus on quality](#)

PTI / Business Standard | April 22nd, 2015

"Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures are not waived even when sanctions are imposed on any of the economies of the world. "Therefore, Indian exporters are well advised to focus on quality rather than looking for excuses to take advantage of sanctions against Russia in its exports so that they are not denied market access for their health and food products in a market such as Russia," said Shambhu S Kumaran, Joint Secretary (ERS), MEA, according to a PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry statement.

Miscellaneous

[India likely to become Vice President of China floated Infrastructure Bank](#)

PTI / DNA | April 22nd, 2015

The MOU of the bank to be headquartered in Beijing specifies that the authorised capital of AIIB will be USD 100 billion with an initial subscribed capital of USD 50 billion.

[India considers Asian, African region as part of its extended neighbourhood: Sushma Swaraj](#)

ANI / Zee News | April 22nd, 2015

"We are interested in Africa’s economic growth and its integration with global economy. Our bilateral trade and investments are both growing rapidly and we have also extended Duty Free Tariff Preference (DFTP) scheme to Least Developed Countries," she said.

[‘No more romanticised foreign policy’](#)

The Times of India | April 26th, 2015

BJP national general secretary Mr. Ram Madhav elaborated on five new pillars of foreign policy: samman (respect), samvaad (talks), samruddhi (prosperity of neighbours), suraksha (security) and sanskriti or sabhyata (traditions).

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