

Top Stories

[India ignores China's frown, offers defence boost to Vietnam](#) | Times of India | October 29th, 2014
[Hasina urges India to flush out Bangladeshi militants](#) | The Hindu | November 1st, 2014
[India conveys concern to Sri Lanka over death sentence to Indian fishermen](#) | Live Mint | November 1st, 2014

India and the World – an Update

*A bi-weekly News Digest on India's Foreign Policy
October 16th - October 31st, 2014*

Neighbourhood

South Asia

Pakistan

[Ceasefire violations likely to affect cross border trade between India, Pakistan](#)

ANI / DNA | October 17th, 2014

"There is insecurity in the minds of the traders. The ceasefire violation between both the nations develops insecurity in traders, employees and all the other people involved - the labours and drivers. But till now, by the grace of Almighty, the cross-LoC trade is good. However, if problem still continues, then it will be affected," said the custodian of cross-LoC trade at Chakan Da Bagh zero point, Mohammad Bashir Lone.

[India offers to help Pakistan eradicate polio](#)

The Hindu | October 25th, 2014

"In the past too we have offered Pakistan our cooperation. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has issued some reasonable statements about rooting it out and we want to assure him of our support," said Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan

[Why Modi's changed approach to Pakistan is more likely to yield détente](#)

Times of India | October 29th, 2014

Afghanistan

[Ajit Doval visits Kabul, reaffirms India's commitment to assistance](#)

PTI / The Economic Times | October 22nd, 2014

"NSA conveyed Prime Minister of India's felicitations to both Afghan leaders and to the people of Afghanistan for the country's historic democratic political transition in Afghanistan and the formation of a Government of National Unity at this critical juncture of the country," the Indian Embassy here said in a statement.

Bangladesh

[Burdwan blast probe: India to hand over dossier to Bangladesh government to counter JMB](#)

PTI / The Indian Express | October 28th, 2014

Taking the issue seriously, the Centre had deputed National Security Advisor Ajit Doval to visit Burdwan for having a first-hand knowledge of the conspiracy being hatched by alleged cadres of JMB to target Bangladesh government from Indian soil, official sources said

[India uncovers plot to assassinate Bangladesh PM](#)

Reuters / Hindustan Times | October 28th, 2014

The Indian government will hand over a dossier to Bangladesh with details of the plan by members of the Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen, which has carried out scores of attacks in Bangladesh, the government and police officials said.

Nepal

[India and Nepal sign electricity trading pact](#)

Reuters / Business Standard | October 21st, 2014

"It will create a very good atmosphere for investment in Nepal as it will give confidence among investors that they will be able to sell electricity in the Indian market," Nepal's Energy Minister Radha Gyawali said. "Investors who were earlier reluctant to put money in Nepal are now saying that they were encouraged by the prospects of selling electricity to India," she said.

Sri Lanka

[India to pursue diplomatic channels on fishermen's release](#)

The Hindu | October 30th, 2014

Sources told The Hindu that if the issue isn't resolved by November 14, the deadline for the fishermen to appeal the decision, then, "Prime Minister Modi will certainly take up the matter directly with President Rajapaksa" when they meet next, which is likely on the sidelines of the SAARC summit in Kathmandu on November 25-27.

Asia Pacific

China

[We're too powerful a nation to be warned, says Rajnath](#)

The Hindu | October 17th, 2014

"No country can give a warning to India. India has become a powerful nation of the world and China wants India's friendship," Mr. Singh said on the sidelines of the NSG Raising Day celebrations in Manesar.

[Unfazed by China's objections, India announces new infrastructure projects along border](#)

PTI / Times of India | October 24th, 2014

The announcement was made by Union home minister Rajnath Singh even as he made it clear that India wanted to solve the border dispute with China through dialogue, asserting "peace with honour" was most important requirement for building good friendly relations with that country and other neighbours.

Japan

[India seeks Japan's cooperation in developing Varanasi](#)

PTI / DNA | October 29th, 2014

Vice Mayor of Japan's Kyoto city, Kenichi Ogasawara and JICA officials said the proposals made by Urban Development Secretary Shankar Aggarwal will be examined and would revert to the Ministry. During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent Japan visit, a Sister City Partnership Agreement between Kyoto and Varanasi was signed between the two countries.

Vietnam

[As China flexes its muscles, Vietnam seeks India's 'active support' on South China Sea row](#)

PTI / The Times of India | October 27th, 2014

"Vietnam hopes that India, with its increasingly important role, will make positive and responsible contributions to the maintenance of peace and stability and the region and the world," said Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung.

[Will look into Vietnam offer of oil blocks in South China Sea: India](#)

The Indian Express | October 27th, 2014

ONGC Videsh Ltd has operations in number of oil blocks in South China Sea which were offered to it by Vietnam. China and Vietnam have an acrimonious relationship due to their stand-off over the South China Sea, a huge source of hydrocarbons. China has been objecting to India's oil exploration projects in the disputed waters.

[Vietnamese PM Prays at Bodh Gaya, Says Buddhism Binds Both Countries](#)

IANS / NDTV | October 28th, 2014

He also announced a decision to sign a MoU with India on the Nalanda University as part of reverence for the ancient university where Buddhism studies flourished more than 1,000 years ago, and also to revive Buddhist links, official sources said.

[India to supply Vietnam with naval vessels amid China disputes](#)

The Economic Times | October 28th, 2014

The scope of India-Vietnam defence ties will be enhanced and this includes expansion of training programme, which is already very substantial, joint exercises and cooperation in defence equipment, official sources said.

The United States

[US ambassador calls for revival of India-US trade relations](#)

The Times of India | October 20th, 2014

Admitting Indo-US relations had been under strain, the US Ambassador to India Kathleen Stephens said, "Our relations have gone through ups and downs. The people of India have given a strong mandate to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. We support Modi's emphasis on economic reforms for greater trade and investments. We want to partner with India in achieving its need of creating one million jobs every month."

[India, US discuss military ties and global security issues](#)

PTI / India TV News | October 29th, 2014

The 13th annual Defence Policy Group (DPG) meeting held at the Pentagon was the first high level meeting between the two countries after the September visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the US. The Indian delegation was led by the Defence Secretary Radha Krishna Mathur and the US side was led by its Under Secretary of Defence for Policy Christine Wormuth.

Australia

[Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeks ideas on Indo-Oz ties](#)

The Asian Age | October 27th, 2014

The Prime Minister said that ideas could be shared on the webpage especially created for his Australia tour. "Participate in this MyGov Open Forum and share your ideas on what you feel are important issues for my Australia visit: <http://mygov.in/groupissue/prime-minister-in-australia/> show," he said

Middle East

Iran

[Cabinet clears strategic investment plan to set up Chabahar port in Iran](#)

The Economic Times | October 19th, 2014

Finance minister Arun Jaitley said the port has an 'extreme strategic importance' for India and JNPT and Kandla port would partner the government in developing the port for which nearly \$86 million is being invested.

[Iran and India's Road to Afghanistan](#)

The Indian Express | October 20th, 2014

Delhi and Tehran must now sit down with the new government in Kabul to negotiate trilateral

trade and transit agreements that will ensure an early realisation of all economic and strategic benefits that the Chabahar project promises.

Europe

['Best friend' test for Modi](#)

ABP News | October 30th, 2014

Multi-phase sanctions by the US, European Union, Canada and Australia in response to Putin's annexation of Crimea and the continuing battles in eastern Ukraine have isolated Moscow's economy from the West to levels unknown to a post Cold War-era generation.

Latin America

[India-Mexico trade can touch \\$10 bn by 2015: Minister](#)

IANS / Business Standard | October 20th, 2014

Mexican Foreign Minister Jose A. Meade Kuribrena said the bilateral trade volume was \$4.15 billion in 2011 "and this can be increased to \$10 billion by 2015. Our relationship with partners is extremely intense. This is why today, India and Mexico share a close relationship among the G20 nations. Mexico is now part of India's value-chain in the manufacturing sector," he said during a talk at the Ananta Aspen Centre here.

[India, Mexico sign space Memorandum of Understanding](#)

The Asian Age (*with agency inputs*) | October 23rd, 2014

The Latin American nation has initiated reforms in the energy sector and both private and public sector Indian companies are looking for opportunities in the sector.

Miscellaneous

[India, 20 others set up Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank](#)

PTI / Business Today | October 24th, 2014

The MoU specifies that the authorised capital of AIIB is \$100 billion and the initial subscribed capital is expected to be around \$50 billion.

[After Myanmar and Australia, Modi to visit Fiji](#)

The Hindu | October 25th, 2014

Mr. Modi would be the first Indian PM to visit the pacific islands in three decades, since PM Indira Gandhi travelled there in 1981. He has been in contact with the Fijian PM Voreqe Bainimarama since he called to congratulate PM Mr. Modi in May.

[India's multiple multilateral opportunities](#)

Live Mint | October 26th, 2014

Starting with the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit outside Beijing on 10-11 November, followed by the East Asia Summit (EAS) in Naypyidaw on 11-12 November, the Group of Twenty (G-20) summit in Brisbane on 15-16 November, and finally the much anticipated South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (Saarc) summit in Kathmandu on 26-27 November these meetings offer India a chance to advance its ambitious development agenda and reinforce its credentials as one of the key actors in an emerging multipolar world.

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