

Top Stories

[Chinese troops training Pakistan Army along border with India: Report](#)

PTI / Hindustan Times | November 14th, 2014

The Chinese troops, according to a report submitted by the BSF intelligence wing, have been seen training Pak armymen in "weapon handling" techniques bang opposite Rajouri sector of the International Border.

[India China Bangladesh Myanmar economic corridor planned](#)

IANS / The Hindu | November 30th, 2014

“Under the leadership of Narendra Modi and Sheikh Hasina, both India and Bangladesh would further come closer through mutual cooperation in connectivity, energy, trade and business sectors,” said Bangladesh Prime Minister’s energy affairs advisor Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury.

[Modi-Sharif handshake salvages Saarc summit](#)

Reuters / Times of India | November 27th, 2014

Modi and Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif shook hands at the retreat, Nepal's foreign minister Mahendra Bahadur Pandey said, but gave no details. Until that point in the summit, the leaders of the two rivals had cold-shouldered each other.

India and the World – an Update

A bi-weekly News Digest on India's Foreign Policy
November 14th - November 30th, 2014
Volume: 1-22

Neighbourhood

[India must engage with its neighbours in a way that war doesn't remain a 'necessary option'- Ajit Doval](#)

PTI / DNA | November 22nd, 2014

"We have got two neighbours. Both of them are nuclear powers. Both of them do not have very representative democratic government. Both of them have got a strategic relationship which is very very deep and both have got an adversarial view of ours," said the National Security Advisor.

SAARC

[There's never been a better time for Saarc: Bangladeshi official](#)

Live Mint | November 19th, 2014

“There is noticeable change in public opinion (in South Asia), public wants greater cooperation, public wants greater mobility, they do not understand why all these obstacles are created (in the way of good relations) between the neighbours,” Rizvi said. “Whether grudgingly or opportunistically, governments are also recognizing that Saarc has much to offer and therefore one begins to notice there is more governmental will now than ever before,” Rizvi said.

[Modi must open Indian market and improve visa regimes to transform South Asia](#)

Hindustan Times | November 20th, 2014

The sheer scale of the Indian market can become a powerful engine for growth for all its neighbours. Even if India were to open its doors to all that its neighbours wish to export to it (with adequate safeguards on local content requirements), this would still remain a very small fraction of its total imports.

[Business visa for 3-5 years for SAARC countries: Modi](#)

The Hindu | November 26th, 2014

Ahead of the summit, three meetings at foreign ministers', foreign secretaries' and joint secretaries' levels decided to scrap three SAARC regional centres and merge four others into one

[Pak joins chorus for bigger China role in Saarc, India says no](#)

Hindustan Times | November 26th, 2014

"As far as we are concerned, we need to first deepen cooperation among Saarc (members) before we try and move horizontally," external affairs ministry spokesperson Syed Akbaruddin told mediapersons on the sidelines of the 18th summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation in Kathmandu.

[Pakistan blocks SAARC pacts citing insufficient time](#)

The Hindu | November 26th, 2014

According to officials from various countries present at the meeting, Pakistan's foreign affairs advisor Sartaj Aziz said the agreements were still “under discussion” within their government, and cited “insufficient time” provided by the SAARC secretariat to clear elements of the declaration through its own cabinet.

[PM Modi holds talks with SAARC leaders](#)

PTI / The Asian Age | November 27th, 2014

During his meeting with Mr Ashraf Ghani, the Afghanistan leader shared his views on the current security situation with Mr Modi assuring him of India's commitment to strengthen relations with the war-torn country, he said.

Bangladesh

['Need to build NE India, Bangladesh, Myanmar tourist circuit'](#)

PTI / Business Standard | November 16th, 2014

"Now our relation with neighbouring Bangladesh is very cordial. With the given situation, we need to boost tourism between our north eastern region and Bangladesh. The people of the two countries have lingual and cultural affinity," Tripura Tourism Minister Ratan Bhaumick said.

Sri Lanka

[5 Indian fishermen released in Lanka after presidential pardon](#)

PTI / Business Standard | November 19th, 2014

"We would like to thank President Mahinda Rajapaksa for remitting the sentence of five Indian fishermen and release them from jail," Indian High Commissioner Y K Sinha told PTI. Sinha met the five fishermen after their release to ascertain their well being. He said the High Commission is arranging for ensuring return of the five Indians as soon as possible.

Asia Pacific

China

[China builds hydroelectric dam on Brahmaputra in Tibet, India fears flash floods](#)

The Times of India | November 24th, 2014

Announcing that Tibet's largest hydropower station had become partly operational on Sunday, Beijing said it would be useful in "harnessing the rich water resources of the Yarlung Zangbo river to empower the development of the electricity-strapped region".

The United States

[US President Obama to be chief guest at Republic Day: White House](#)

The Economic Times | November 22nd, 2014

Kiran Pasricha, who heads the Ananta-Aspen Centre in Delhi and has been part of several India-US dialogues, said, "This will go a long way in strengthening the relationship to reset it after a dive in ties in recent years. Obama's visit will build on PM's excellent visit in September. This bodes well for the relations."

Australia

[Modi and Abbott hold talks, sign pacts on social security, narcotics](#)

India Today | November 17th, 2014

India and Australia agreed on a Framework for Security Cooperation. "I greatly welcome the New Framework for Security Cooperation. Security and defence are important and growing areas of the new India-Australia partnership -- for advancing regional peace and stability, and combating terrorism and trans-national crimes," Modi said.

[Modi and Abbott target free trade pact, sign 5 deals](#)

Business Standard / Agencies | November 18th, 2014

"We have agreed to speed up negotiations on the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement. I also asked for easier access for Indian business to the Australian market and quicker investment approvals," Modi said at the joint press conference.

Fiji

[Fiji Can be Hub for Indian Ties With Pacific Islands: PM Narendra Modi](#)

IANS / NDTV | November 19th, 2014

In his statement after talks with Fijian Prime Minister Bainimarama, PM Modi said he saw his visit as an opportunity to renew an old relationship and lay the foundation for a strong partnership in the future.

Europe

[Russian Air Chief holds talks with top Indian defence brass](#)

PTI / The Economic Times | November 17th, 2014

Russian Air Force Chief Colonel Gen Viktor Nikolaevich Bondarev called on Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar and met with Indian Air Force Chief Air Marshal Arup Raha and Army Chief Gen Dalbir Singh. His visit coincides with the arrival of an 18-member Russian Air Force team at Air Force Station Halwara in Punjab to participate in Phase II of the Indo-Russian bilateral exercise "Aviva Indra".

[German envoy meets Sanskrit teachers to resolve language row](#)

ANI / Business Standard | November 20th, 2014

After the meeting the German ambassador said that he was very much in favour of having Sanskrit taught in schools while India was also in favour of German language to be learned by its kids. There is a mutual respect for each other's language and both have their own place.

Middle East

[Oman-India gas pipeline a most promising option](#)

IANS / The Economic Times | November 19th, 2014

Geographically, the Oman-India Pipeline is comparatively more feasible because India is close to the sources of natural gas in the Middle East and the undersea distance is less than 1,500 km. Furthermore, this pipeline could be linked to other natural gas sources in the Middle East and even to Turkmenistan and Iran if need be.

Miscellaneous

[PM Narendra Modi returns home after three-nation tour](#)

PTI / Times of India | November 20th, 2014

During his four-city tour in Australia, Modi and his counterpart Tony Abbott agreed on a landmark framework for security cooperation across the spectrum in defence, cyber and maritime security and combating terrorism, including the threats posed by foreign fighters joining extremists groups.

[Dalai Lama Hails Good Start Between Modi Government, China](#)

PTI / NDTV | November 22nd, 2014

"No matter how difficult, one must make efforts through mutual understanding for an agreeable solution. For that, personal contact is necessary. So I think it's a good start," the Dalai Lama said at an event in New Delhi on 'Cultivating Key Human Values' organised by Ananta Centre.

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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.

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