

## Top Stories

[Modi's visits abroad generated a new global confidence: Sushma Swaraj](#)  
Live Mint | December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014  
Outlining the government's foreign policy vision, Ms. Swaraj said the PM had "consistently advocated a proactive and innovative approach" in line with the centre's primary goal of accelerating economic development. "India needs access to capital, technology, resources, energy, markets and skills; a secure environment, a peaceful neighbourhood and a stable world; and an open and stable global trading system," she said.

[India's gain at Lima: A more united front of developing nations](#)  
Business Standard | December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
"Negotiations for the new climate agreement were to be held next year. Some developed countries tried to get that to happen this year. We blocked it in a manner that sent a strong signal: You cannot ride roughshod over the most fundamental interests of the developing countries," said an Indian negotiator, speaking minutes before the Lima conclusion.

[Vladimir Putin's visit: Russia offers to fully 'Make in India' one of its most advanced helicopters](#)  
The Economic Times (*with inputs from PTI*) | December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014  
Modi said that he discussed a broad range of new defence projects with Putin. "I am pleased that Russia has offered to fully manufacture in India one of its most advanced helicopters. It includes the possibility of exports from India. It can be used for both military and civilian use. We will follow up on this quickly," Modi said. "We also discussed how to align our defence relations to India's own priorities, including Make in India," he added.

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## India and the World – an Update

*A Bi-weekly News Digest on India's Foreign Policy*

December 1st - December 15th, 2014  
Volume: 1-23

## Neighbourhood

### Pakistan

[Navy chief Admiral Robin Dhowan: Ready to tackle threat of jihadis steering Pakistani warships](#)

Times of India | December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014

The Navy is closely monitoring incidents like the failed attempt by al-Qaida's Indian sub-continent wing to hijack Pakistani

frigates PNS Aslat and PNS Zulfikar at Karachi in September with the ostensible purpose to use them against Indian and US ships.

#### [Arun Jaitley: Boundaries can't be redrawn](#)

The Asian Age | December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014

"Our neighbouring country will have to understand that whatever means they use, they will not get any part of this country. The times have changed when the borders of the country could be changed. Boundaries cannot be now rewritten," said the Finance Minister.

### **Bangladesh**

#### [In Tripura, a message to foster Bangla ties](#)

The Telegraph | December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014

Modi also complimented the Bangladesh government and its Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for helping in the transshipment of heavy equipment for the Palatana project and promised to try further to improve relations with the neighbouring country. The adviser to Bangladesh Prime Minister, Taufiq-e-Ilahi Chowdhury, and deputy minister for power Nasrul Hamid were present.

#### [Mamata backs enclave exchange, but seeks rehab package from Centre](#)

Hindustan Times | December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014

"We are in favour of exchanging enclaves with Bangladesh. If the problem is resolved, it will be inscribed in golden letters in the diplomatic relations between the two countries. We want a rehab package because many people would come (to Bengal) from Bangladesh," she said while addressing a meeting on Thursday, about 500 meters away from Karala enclave.

#### [Bangla to help boost NE connectivity](#)

The Assam Tribune | December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014

MHA sources said that only improvement of infrastructure inside Bangladesh would not be enough as road and rail connectivity inside India would also have to be augmented considerably to take advantage of the transit facilities through Bangladesh.

### **Asia Pacific**

#### [India is the brightest spot in Asia Pacific region: S&P](#)

PTI / Business Today | December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014

"India has been the region's brightest spot since our last report. After a modest beginning, Prime Minister (Narendra) Modi's government has picked up the pace of reform, eliminating the diesel subsidy in early November, liberalising foreign investment into the insurance sector, and curbing discretionary government spending for the second half of the current fiscal year," the Standard & Poor's Ratings Services said.

### **China**

#### [Indian, Chinese army meet for peace along LAC](#)

PTI / DNA | December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014

In September, the two armies were locked in a faceoff in Ladakh's Chumar sector just as Chinese President Xi Jinping was visiting India for the first summit talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Chinese border patrols have been intruding deeper into India's side of the border, in a sign of assertiveness that has fuelled concern in the region.

#### [India asks China to cease infra projects in Pakistan](#)

IANS / Zee News | December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj said the government has seen reports with regard to China and Pakistan being

involved in infrastructure building activities in Pakistan-administered Kashmir, including construction of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

### **The United States**

#### **[Richard Rahul Verma Confirmed as Next US Ambassador to India](#)**

PTI / NDTV | December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Mr Verma had played an important role in the Congressional passage of Civil Nuclear Deal while being at the Hill, advocated for strong Indo-US ties when in the administration and recently started a "India 2020" project at a top American-think tank Center for American Progress.

#### **[India very important player in climate talks: US](#)**

PTI / Business Standard | December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014

"India's obviously a very important player. We don't have anything in the works of the kind that we were involved with China," US State Department Special Envoy on Climate Change Todd Stern said referring to the recent US-China climate agreement.

### **Middle East**

#### ***Israel***

#### **[Sushma Swaraj likely to visit Israel in January](#)**

Times of India | December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Israel is hoping that the visit by Swaraj will pave the way for a visit by PM Narendra Modi next year. If that happens, Modi will become the first Indian PM to visit Israel since the 2 countries established diplomatic relations in 1992.

### **Europe**

#### ***Russia***

#### **[The strategic calculus behind Russian President Putin's India visit](#)**

Hindustan Times | December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014

Russia remains a key source of energy, nuclear technology and weapons for India even if New Delhi now diversifies its arms basket to consolidate ties with other strategic partners. The Russian finance minister recently disclosed that his country was losing \$40 billion a year owing to sanctions, around \$100 billion due to falling oil prices and some \$130 billion in capital flight. Moscow is thus reorienting priorities and will be looking to India to diversify economic ties beyond energy and weapons and ramp up bilateral trade which underperforms at \$10 billion.

#### **[Dealing with an old 'best friend'](#)**

Hindustan Times | December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014

The Western sanctions against Russian oil companies and Moscow's defiant 'pivot' to the Asian market open up opportunities for India to invest in upstream projects in Siberia and the Russian Far East. China has come up with innovative methods to seize the emergent situation and Russia offered unprecedented privileges to elicit Chinese companies, including trading oil in yuan. India too needs to do 'out-of-the-box' thinking.

#### **[For a warmer Russian bear hug](#)**

The Hindu | December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Bilateral trade between India and Russia currently stands at around \$6 billion. To put it in perspective, this is less than a fifteenth of the annual trade between Russia and China. It is also less than one per cent of India's total foreign trade. An inter-governmental commission examined a range of measures to redress this state of affairs. Yet, we have gotten no further than

thinking of setting up a joint study group to look into the feasibility of a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement. This process needs to be given a push at the highest levels.

#### [India, Russia, here and now](#)

The Indian Express | December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Russia retained its special position by supplying the kind of technologies no other country was prepared to supply to India. Consider, for example, Russian assistance to India in building the nuclear-powered submarine, Arihant.

#### [Vladimir Putin seals energy deals in India as PM Modi lauds Russia ties](#)

AFP / Live Mint | December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014

The two countries signed 20 agreements—including pledges to boost defence cooperation and explore joint energy projects in the Arctic—during talks that Putin said focused on “international issues”.

#### [Russia agrees to supply 12 nuclear reactors to India over 20 years](#)

PTI / The Economic Times | December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014

The strategic vision document on nuclear cooperation said the two Sides have decided to fast-track the implementation of agreed cooperation projects for nuclear power plants. "Both Sides will strive to complete the construction and commissioning of not less than 12 units in the next two decades, in accordance with the Agreement of 2008. The 20 agreements signed between the two countries provided for cooperation in a spectrum of areas including nuclear energy, oil and gas, health, investment, mining, media and wind power.

### **Switzerland**

#### [Switzerland expects to sign FTA with India soon](#)

PTI / Live Mint | December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Many Indian companies carry out business development, client servicing and trading activities from Switzerland and focus on Swiss strength in R&D is steadily gaining interest. India also remains an important market for Swiss Tourism. As per Switzerland government data, Swiss enterprises have created over one lakh jobs in India and the business relations between the two countries go back to 1851.

### **Climate Talks, Lima**

#### [Javadekar warns against doing away with interests of poor at Lima climate talks](#)

Business Standard | December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014

The Union Environment and Forest Minister said in his speech: “Our ambition in the post-2020 period is directly linked with ambitious actions in the pre-2020 period by the developed countries; otherwise, the poor people in developing countries will not get the carbon space to achieve sustainable development.”

#### [The road from Lima](#)

The India Express | December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014

India should base its contributions on existing building blocks for domestic actions in key sectors, based on the principle of co-benefits. These include promoting solar and wind energy, enhanced energy efficiency and other measures already proposed in the 12th Plan

#### [Lima deal saves climate talks, India satisfied](#)

The Times of India | December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014

The agreement — Lima Call for Climate Action — paves the way for all nations to submit their 'nationally determined' pledge for emission cuts and adaptation measures by October next year — not by June, 2015 that was expected after last year's Warsaw talks.

### **Miscellaneous**

[Deconstructing the Modi foreign policy](#)

The Hindu | December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014

India must actively involve itself regionally to help influence developments, which is what Mr. Modi is seeking to do. Indeed, his priority — apparent from the time he invited regional leaders to his inauguration — is to retrieve India's lost ground in its backyard.

[India's GDP growth will overtake China's over 2016-18: Goldman Sachs](#)

Business Standard | December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Goldman Sachs also expects the Indian rupee to remain largely stable against the dollar, thanks to the capital flows. This means that even as the US Federal Reserve begins to increase rates next year, India will not see the kind of turmoil seen in 2013. However, India's rupee could appreciate strongly against other developed market currencies such as the euro and the British pound.

[Indian economy to record 5.9 percent growth in 2015: UN](#)

IANS / ABP Live | December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014

A factor behind the forecast of India's performance, the report said, is that it is "likely to make progress in implementing economic policy reforms, thus providing support to business and consumer confidence".

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