

Top Stories

[Manohar Parrikar directs Army to retaliate with 'double force' against Pakistan ceasefire violations](#)

PTI / The Indian Express | December 31st, 2014

The Defence Minister stressed that the Indian forces don't violate ceasefire agreement, but only respond to violations by Pakistani troops.

[MEA starts drawing its 2015 agenda](#)

The Times of India | December 20th, 2014
The focus will be on the neighbourhood and connectivity. The MEA will take forward the Indian decision, articulated by the Prime Minister in Kathmandu, to build connectivity and infrastructural linkages with its neighbours.

[Hunt appeal to neighbours](#)

The Telegraph | December 27th, 2014
Bhutan, Myanmar and Bangladesh have in the past helped India capture terrorists belonging to both Islamist and northeastern separatist groups. But the Assam crisis represents the first time the Narendra Modi government has had to turn to the eastern neighbours for help in anti-insurgency operations.

India and the World – an Update

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

December 16th - December 31st, 2014
Volume: 1-24

Neighbourhood

Afghanistan

[Kabul should not slip away: India needs to overcome trust deficit](#)

Hindustan Times | December 18th, 2014

India today is in a better position to deal with the situation in Afghanistan than at any time since the emergence of the

Taliban in the 1990s. It cannot afford to ignore developments in what has been called as the 'gateway to Central and South Asia' situated on 'the highway of conquest'.

Bangladesh

[India attaches highest importance to ties with Bangladesh](#)

PTI / Zee News | December 19th, 2014

President Pranab Mukherjee while welcoming his Bangladesh counterpart assured him that India attaches the highest importance to bilateral relations with the country, a close friend and neighbour, as India always believed that a strong, stable and prosperous Bangladesh is in its interest.

Sri Lanka

[India is a relative, China a friend: Mahindra Rajapaksa](#)

The Times of India | December 30th, 2014

To a question on the nature of his relationship with Modi, the Lankan president said, "We have spoken many times. I think we have very similar visions for our countries, which is what has made it possible for us to further strengthen our relations. I believe our relations will continue to grow in a number of areas".

Asia Pacific

[India, Japan & US trilateral talks to be at foreign ministers' level](#)

Deccan Herald | December 20th, 2014

The trilateral mechanism gained new momentum after the Modi Government redesigned India's "Look East" approach into an "Act East" policy, as it was in sync with Obama's "US rebalance to Asia" and Abe's "Democratic Security Diamond" doctrines.

[India's ties with South East Asia gained momentum in 2014](#)

PTI / Economic Times | December 23rd, 2014

"A new era of economic development, industrialisation and trade has begun in India. Externally, India's 'Look East Policy' has become 'Act East Policy'," Modi had said at the ASEAN-India Summit.

China

[China hopeful of better military ties with India in 2015](#)

PTI / DNA | December 25th, 2014

Summing up the relations between the two militaries this year which despite signing of the Border Defence Cooperation Agreement (BDCA) witnessed a major standoff at the border, Col Yang Yujin, spokesman of the Ministry, said the two sides "properly tackled issues of confrontation at Line of Actual Control (LAC)".

[China wants Nepal to be bridge to India](#)

IANS / Business Standard | December 26th, 2014

Noting that it was beneficial for Nepal to have a strong relationship with India, the Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said at a press conference after his meeting with Nepali counterpart Mahendra Bahadur Pandey: "We hope Nepal becomes the bridge for China to connect to India and South Asia."

[50 China centres & monasteries on India borders](#)

PTI / The Asian Age | December 29th, 2014

A report prepared by the lead intelligence gathering agency at these two frontiers — Sashastra Seema Bal said that 22 China

Study Centres have come up in the Nepalese territory, with 11 of them operating bang on the 1,751-km- long Indo-Nepal border.

South Korea

[Sushma Swaraj to visit South Korea](#)

IANS / Business Standard | December 26th, 2014

The annual trade between the two countries is over \$16 billion, but South Korea has substantial trade surplus. Sushma Swaraj is expected to seek South Korean investment as part of 'Make in India' initiative of the Indian government to bridge this gap.

[Sushma Swaraj in South Korea, holds talks with trade minister](#)

PTI / Live Mint | December 28th, 2014

Following her arrival, Swaraj met South Korea's minister of trade, industry and energy Yoon Sang-jick, to seek Korean support for India's flagship 'make in India' programme. Amongst the specific issues discussed was the possibility of Korean co-production of LNG tankers with Indian shipyards, official sources said.

[Sushma Swaraj woos South Korea firms](#)

PTI / The Asian Age | December 29th, 2014

Ms Swaraj strongly pitched for the campaign launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make India a manufacturing hub. Ms Swaraj, who is on her first visit to South Korea, said India is committed to "qualitatively expanding our industrial base, both to meet the growing domestic demand, export and also to generate employment."

Japan

[Bringing Tokyo closer to New Delhi](#)

The Hindu | December 26th, 2014

Given the growing political momentum in the relationship, thanks in part to the personal friendship between Prime Ministers Modi and Shinzo Abe, the time is ripe for converting words into action and charting a substantive agenda for progress on a variety of fronts including economics, security, energy and climate change, and global governance.

The United States

[Indo-US ties back on track, to get major boost by Obama visit](#)

PTI / Zee News | December 28th, 2014

Meetings with Modi by top officials of the Obama Administration reflected that the Prime Minister was focused on India's development and taking Indo-US ties to a new level as he considers it as a win-win for both the countries.

Europe

Russia

[India, Russia ties hit BIPPA hurdle once again](#)

Business Standard | December 19th, 2014

A meeting on this issue had been pending for a long time with India postponing it. During a review meeting by the principal secretary to the PM on November 20 to take stock of the pending issues between the two countries, it was decided the draft BIPPA would not be shared with Russia until it was finalised.

[India downplays Russia-Pakistan energy deal](#)

PTI / Times of India | December 26th, 2014

"India and Russia have just concluded a very very successful summit where we have been assured that nothing that Russia does will adversely impact on our security interest. "Therefore we are confident that our concerns on this matter are understood well by our Russian friends and they will not do anything that adversely impinges on us," External Affairs Ministry spokesman Syed Akbaruddin said.

Environment and Climate Change

[India, Climate, and the Coal Conundrum](#)

The Energy Collective | December 24th, 2014

"India is a big, important, and sophisticated country that certainly should be involved in developing innovations in energy and other technologies", writes Lewis Perelman.

[India needs to take the lead](#)

The Hindu | December 31st, 2014

India needs to improve its own energy efficiency. It should leverage this necessity to lead the way to a meaningful international agreement in Paris. Its policy goal should be to reduce the dangers of global warming for its people and get financial and other benefits from climate change agreements through, for example, an enhanced Clean Development Mechanism.

Miscellaneous

[India's foreign relations on uptick, with new flamboyance, promise of better things](#)

IANS / The Economic Times | December 25th, 2014

The new government launched its foreign policy with a bang - by inviting eight South Asian neighbours, including Pakistan, to the swearing in, a step that was lauded all round. It gave Modi an opportunity to get to know his immediate neighbours and also reassured them of the new government's intentions.

[India announces USD one million for UN tsunami fund](#)

PTI / The Indian Express | December 26th, 2014

"India joins the international community in its efforts to prepare for any such natural calamity in the future by establishing effective early warning systems," External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj said in her message.

[FDI in India jumps 25 per cent in April-Oct FY'14: Nirmala Sitharaman](#)

PTI / The Financial Express | December 29th, 2014

"A strong manufacturing sector has the potential to take our economic growth to a higher trajectory, provide jobs to our youth and fulfil their aspirations," Commerce and Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said.

[MEA wants all diplomats to master Hindi](#)

Hindustan Times | December 29th, 2014

With Modi government giving a definite push for the promotion of official language, all missions and posts will have Hindi software in their offices. Then all private secretaries and personal assistants should undergo compulsory Hindi language training before being posted abroad. The logic behind this particular step, sources said is to ensure the staffers who often act as the first line of communication between officers and commoners, who reach out to the mission, are well versed in the national language.

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