

## Top Stories

### [Work on TAPI pipeline to begin in December](#)

Live Mint | June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
Countries such as Nepal and Bangladesh had also expressed interest in joining the project, known as the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) pipeline, said Turkmenistan's ambassador to India Parakhat H. Durdyev at an event on India-Central Asia relations organized by the Ananta Aspen Centre. His comments came ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's week-long visit, beginning 6 July, to Central Asian republics—Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

### [Exercise Malabar: Japan Navy to join India, US in Bay of Bengal](#)

The Indian Express | June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
Although Japan had been part of the 2014 Malabar exercise held at its Sasebo naval base, India and US had kept Tokyo out of the initial planning for the current edition. This was because the 2015 Malabar exercise is scheduled to be held in the Bay of Bengal in October this year. India and US have restricted the Malabar largely to a bilateral format after China had protested against the 2007 exercise held in the Bay of Bengal. Along with the Indian and American navies, the 2007 edition had included the Australian, Japanese and Singaporean navies.

### [50 nations in, AIIB takes shape](#)

The Hindu | June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015  
According to an AIIB press statement, the Bank will be headquartered in Beijing, and will have an initial authorised capital stock of \$100 billion. Reflecting regional character of the Bank, its regional members will be the majority shareholders, holding around 75 percent of shares. The AIIB is expected to become operational by the end of the year. Ashok K Kantha, India's Ambassador in China, led the Indian delegation at the ceremony and signed the Articles of Agreement.

## Neighbourhood

### [Relations with neighbours improved: Arun Jaitley](#)

PTI / Business Today | June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015

"When the new government was formed, the PM took an initiative even before his oath...and the initiative was that we

invited all the heads of government of the south nations, and this turned out to be a very correct and a very positive move," he said.

### **Pakistan**

[After PM Modi's phone call to Sharif, Pakistan wants 'peaceful relationship' and resumption of 'talks' with India](#)

IBN Live | June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015

"Also conveyed to Sharif our decision to release detained Pakistani fishermen on this pious occasion. The fishermen released will be able to be with their families to observe this blessed month," PM Modi tweeted.

[Onus on Pak to create environment for improving ties: Jaitley](#)

PTI / Deccan Herald | June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015

On India's relations with China, Jaitley said Modi has particularly developed an "excellent relationship" even with the Chinese leadership. "We have a boundary issue with them and the boundary issue is unresolved. There are other several issues relating to China which are issues of our concern but at least the tense situation around the boundary does not exist," he said, adding that economic and trade relations with Beijing have also become "fairly normal."

### **Nepal**

[India pledges USD 1 billion aid for Nepal's reconstruction programme](#)

PTI / The Indian Express | June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015

The announcement was made by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj during an international donors' conference here. Swaraj hoped that a "stronger, united and more confident Nepal will rise" from the debris of destruction.

[Swaraj calls for early drafting of Nepal's Constitution](#)

PTI / Deccan Herald | June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Nepal's warring political parties earlier this month struck a landmark 16-point deal to end years of deadlock over contentious issues of Constitution-drafting, agreeing to a parliamentary system and eight provinces.

### **Bangladesh**

[Bangladesh to receive 1,100 MW of power from India from January](#)

IANS / Zee News | June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Prime Minister Narendra Modi discussed the power supply from Tripura with his Bangladesh counterpart, Sheikh Hasina, during his visit to Dhaka on June 6-7. Modi has declared that India would enhance the supply of power to Bangladesh from the existing 500 MW to 1,100 MW.

### **Asia Pacific**

#### **Myanmar**

[NSA Ajit Doval meets Myanmar President, top defence officials](#)

PTI / Live Mint | June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Enhancing security cooperation between the two countries was the main focus of the meetings which were also attended by foreign secretary S. Jaishankar.

### **China**

[China Blocks India's Move Seeking UN Action Against Pakistan on Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi](#)

PTI / NDTV | June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015

India's permanent representative to the UN, Asoke Mukherjee, wrote to the UN's Sanctions' Committee terming Lakhvi's release a violation of a UN resolution on terrorist organisations and groups, including the al Qaeda and the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), wherever located.

#### [China offers to align 'Made in China' campaign with PM Modi's 'Make in India' initiative](#)

PTI / The Economic Times | June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015

"New strategy Made in China 2025 features innovation and high end manufacturing. It can be aligned with PM's Make in India plan," said Le Yucheng, Chinese Ambassador to India.

#### [China 'agrees' to review its stand on Lakhvi](#)

ANI / Business Standard | June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015

"The External Affairs Minister raised the issue of Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi and China's stand on the issue in the 1267 Committee of the United Nations. She mentioned that Lakhvi is no ordinary terrorist, he is the man responsible for the Mumbai terror attacks, in which more than 160 people died, including several foreigners," said MEA official spokesperson Vikas Swarup.

### **Japan**

#### [SoftBank may invest at least \\$20 billion in India's solar energy projects](#)

Live Mint | June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015

"We have already made considerable investments in the technology sector here. With this partnership, our goal is to create a global market-leading clean energy company to fuel India's growth with clean and renewable source of energy," said Masayoshi Son, SoftBank's chairman and chief executive.

#### [India, Japan to sign pact on increasing IP cooperation](#)

PTI / Business Standard | June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015

The key feature of the pact will be building awareness among the general public about the most important property rights for the 21st century.

### **The United States**

#### [Modi has changed terms of India-US engagement: Envoy](#)

IANS / The Times of India | June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015

"In two summits with the US in four months, the Government addressed lingering differences with the US on nuclear liability, injected new energy into defence and economic cooperation, and explored pragmatic ways forward on IPR issues and climate change," said Indian Ambassador Arun K Singh Singh.

#### [US want India, Pakistan to resolve issues 'on their own'](#)

PTI / Deccan Chronicle | June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015

"Our expectation continues to be that Pakistan will be a responsible stakeholder on security issues, in particular the nuclear issue," State Department spokesman John Kirby told reporters at his daily news conference yesterday.

#### [India, US discuss cooperation on trade, terrorism](#)

IANS / India Today | June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015

On a short visit to Washington, Indian Foreign Secretary Subrahmanyam S Jaishankar met, among others, US National Security Advisor Susan E Rice, US Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken and US Trade Representative (USTR) Michael Froman on Monday. At his meeting with Rice in the White House, they reviewed the implementation of initiatives taken during the two summits between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Barack Obama in the past one year, the Indian Embassy said.

## **Africa**

### [India offers Tanzania expertise in natural gas sector](#)

PTI / DNA | June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015

During extensive talks Prime Minister Narendra Modi had with Tanzanian President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, both the countries also decided to establish a Joint Working Group to strengthen cooperation in counter terrorism.

## **Europe**

## **Russia**

### [India looking at rupee-ruble trade: Sitharaman](#)

IANS / Business Standard | June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Interacting with a Confederation of Indian Industry delegation that she is leading at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum being held over June 18-20, Sitharam said the Russian government was keen to engage with India and Indian businesses more aggressively, said a CII release.

### [With two summits, PM Modi to have hectic schedule in Russia](#)

IANS / Zee News | June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015

Modi is to travel to Russia to attend the summits of the Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa bloc (BRICS) and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. He is also slated to travel to the five central Asian republics of Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan later for brief visits to the energy-rich nations.

## **Environment and Climate Change**

### [PM Narendra Modi, French President Francois Hollande to co-launch book on environment](#)

The Economic Times | June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015

The idea is said to have been mooted by the Indian prime minister when he visited France earlier this year, raising it with foreign minister Laurent Fabius, who then pursued it with leaders of his government. The idea was received enthusiastically by the French, officials of that country said, with a special launch planned before climate change talks at the 21st Conference of Parties (COP21) in Paris in December.

### [Climate Summit Countdown: BASIC bloc reminds rich nations of \\$100 bn promise](#)

The Indian Express | June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015

"Developed countries must provide new, additional, predictable, adequate and sustained public support... The agreement must establish a clear link between the actions by developing countries to contribute to effectively addressing the climate change challenge," a joint statement from the BASIC countries said.

## **Miscellaneous**

### [India, Pakistan accession to SCO to be processed soon](#)

IANS / Zee News | June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015

On June 3, foreign ministers from the SCO member countries held a council meeting chaired by Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov resulting in a joint statement. It said: "Preparations for the summit of the SCO member countries due to be held in Ufa on July 9-10 were on the table" and that "a decision to launch a procedure of India's and Pakistan's accession to the SCO as member countries will be crucially important".

### [Ahead of PM Narendra Modi's 6-nation tour, emphasis back on International North-South Transport Corridor](#)

The Economic Times | June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015

After the Road Transport and Shipping Minister Nitin Gadkari's trip to Tehran for signing an MoU on Chabahar Port expansion project, foreign secretary S Jaishankar was in Iran recently for foreign office consultations where connectivity of projects are understood to have been discussed. These visits along with upcoming trip of Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj to Tehran are key to reengaging Tehran in the backdrop of talks for a final deal on Iranian nuclear issue and possible lifting of sanctions.

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