

# THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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# I. COUNTRY REVIEWS

## A. South Asia

### Afghanistan

(September 21-27, 2015)

- **Parallel government not acceptable to NATO; Offensive strategy be changed; Taliban concerned about the quality of projects; ISIS militants in Afghanistan increasing; Ghani hopeful to achieve peace, urges people to support govt. in ending Pakistan's undeclared war; US, China reaffirms long term support for Afghanistan.**

NATO Resolute Support Mission and United States Forces commander Gen. John Campbell said the alliance would not support any parallel government or movement in Afghanistan. Speaking at a press conference here, Gen. Campbell congratulated the Afghans in advance on the religious festival of Eidul Adha and said the Afghan national forces with all their resources would provide security to the countrymen during the festival. He said the unity government in Afghanistan had successfully completed its one year. "I am proud of myself for working with President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Officer Abdullah Abdullah as leaders of the unity government." Campbell said the unity government faced a number of challenges and the Kabul administration was taking measures to cope with the challenges and threats. He said the Resolute Support Mission was not supporting any parallel government or movement but backed the unity government.<sup>1</sup>

Calling the bloodshed of Afghans in the name of jihad a project of foreign intelligence networks, Acting Defence Minister Masoom Stanikzai on September 21 stressed the need for changes to Afghanistan's offensive strategy in the war against Taliban and Islamic State groups. Stanikzai said this during a visit to Kot district of eastern Nangarhar province to monitor an ongoing search operation against Taliban and Daesh militants. The operation has been ongoing for the last three days and likely to be extended to the Shinwari zone encompassing three districts. Addressing hundreds of local residents and military leaders at the Kot district centre, Stanikzai said: "We should change our strategy and measures and should preserve areas taken (from insurgents)." However, he did not go into details about the changes, but said the Afghan forces should support public uprising groups during their operations which should follow the establishment of security posts in areas cleared of militants.<sup>2</sup>

The new Supreme Leader of Taliban Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansour has criticized the low quality of projects concluded in Afghanistan in his first Eid message. "Have not done any

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<sup>1</sup> "NATO Won't Support Any Parallel Govt.: Campbell", *Daily Outlook Afghanistan*, September 21, 2015, at [http://www.outlookafghanistan.net/national\\_detail.php?post\\_id=13136](http://www.outlookafghanistan.net/national_detail.php?post_id=13136)

<sup>2</sup> "Stanikzai Wants Offensive Strategy Changed", *Daily Outlook Afghanistan*, September 21, 2015, at [http://www.outlookafghanistan.net/national\\_detail.php?post\\_id=13146](http://www.outlookafghanistan.net/national_detail.php?post_id=13146)

fundamental work in Afghanistan in the past fourteen years despite announcement of billions of dollars of assistance, i.e. any fundamental work or of long-term benefits for the Afghans! All their projects are designed for short-terms and are of low quality and spurious.” Mullah Mansour’s statement claims. Mullah Mansour commends the work of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and pledges assistance with them but several reports have been published in the past suggesting that Taliban kidnapped and killed NGO workers. “The services which are carried out for the well-being and prosperity of our people by self-less charity organization (NGOs) and other benevolent individuals are commendable acts. We will help in facilitation of their work.” The statement adds. The statement further states that Taliban are advised to protect public property but in several occasions they have placed IEDs under bridges and culverts or place them on roads to aim their targets.<sup>3</sup>

Around 70 militants of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group are busy in forming the core of the group’s branch in Afghanistan, it has been reported. According to a UN report the terror group is making inroads in Afghanistan with the number of sympathizers and followers growing across the country. The report further added that the group is recruiting followers in at least 25 provinces of Afghanistan with 10 percent of the sympathizers belonging to the Taliban group. “The number of groups and individuals who are openly declaring either loyalty to or sympathy with ISIL continues to grow in a number of provinces in Afghanistan,” the report said. Quoting the Afghan government sources, the report said “sightings of the groups with some form of ISIL branding” or sympathy were reported in 25 provinces in the war-torn country.” According to the report the ISIS loyalists and the Taliban militants are fighting each other only in eastern Nangarhar province, citing the drug trade as the main reason behind the brutal clashes. Abdul Rauf Khade, the former Taliban adviser to Mullah Mohammad Omar, has been described as one of the prominent ISIS fighters who formed his own group in southern Helmand and western Farah provinces after visiting Iraq in 2014.<sup>4</sup>

President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani expressed optimism to achieve peace with the support of the people while calling the government’s efforts as successful in regional and international level in obtaining their content regarding the reconciliation process. In a meeting with the tribal elders and influential members of Kandahar, Paktia and eastern zone councils, President Ghani insisted that peace and stability have been one of the main demands of the people and said the government will achieve it with the help of the people. President Ghani also added that Afghanistan has been facing Pakistan in an undeclared war during the past 14 years and the requested the Afghan people to assist the government in ending the ongoing war. He said peace and stability could not be ensured through negotiations with the outsiders only. “We

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<sup>3</sup> “Taliban New Supreme Leader Criticizes Low Quality Of Projects In His First Eid Message”, *Khaama Press*, September 22, 2015, at <http://www.khaama.com/taliban-new-supreme-leader-criticizes-low-quality-of-projects-in-his-first-eid-message-3938>

<sup>4</sup> “Some 70 ISIS Militants From Iraq, Syria Forming The Group’s Branch in Afghanistan,” *Daily Outlook Afghanistan*, September 26, 2015, at <http://www.khaama.com/some-70-isis-militants-from-iraq-syria-forming-the-groups-branch-in-afghanistan-1565>

have a rich country but poor people,” President Ghani said. “By ensuring peace and stability, we can have a fundamental use of facilities and resources for the welfare of our people and development of the country.” The meeting was also attended by President Ghani’s special envoy for political affairs Mohamad Akram Khpolwak.<sup>5</sup>

The United States and China have reaffirmed their long term support for Afghanistan. The US’s Secretary of State John Kerry and China’s Foreign Minister Wang Yi appeared with CEO Abdullah Abdullah and Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani in front of the media at the sideline of 70th UN General Assembly. CEO Abdullah briefed the participants of the meeting about the progress Afghanistan made in the first year of the National Unity Government. The participants of the meeting expressed their continuing strong support for the Government of Afghanistan, and recognized the progress it has made in strengthening government institutions, enhancing economic governance, improving ties with neighbours, and continuing to ensure that all Afghans enjoy rule of law and access to justice. Participants welcomed recent steps taken by the Afghan government as part of the reform agenda to combat corruption and strengthen credibility of the country’s electoral process. Participants praised the efforts of Afghan government in reconciliation process and reiterated their support for an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned inclusive peace process. They also called on Taliban and other armed groups to enter into direct talks with Afghan government.<sup>6</sup>

## Pakistan

(September 21-27, 2015)

- **Begging for Clemency from establishment; Kabul’s involvement will be discussed; Dialogue with Baloch Separatists soon; Need of Zarb-e-Azb operation in Afghanistan; Pak efforts for Afghan peace to continue; Atmosphere of trust needed for Balochistan talks.**

The Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) has appealed to the ‘establishment’ to forgo what it called the bitter past and grant it clemency like the general amnesty offered to the ‘angry Baloch’ people. “Just as clemency is being announced for the estranged Baloch people, the establishment should also heal the wounds of Mohajirs by forgetting past bitterness,” the MQM coordination committee said in a statement issued on September 20. Referring to reports about certain workers who had gone to India over 20 years ago and who allegedly confessed to having been trained there, the MQM said that any worker who had gone to the neighbouring country for saving his life after the launching of the June 19, 1992, army operation “did so without informing the party”. “The MQM has nothing to do with the

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<sup>5</sup> “Ghani Hopeful To Achieve Peace, Urges People To Support Govt. In Ending Pakistan’s Undeclared War”, *Khaama Press*, September 26, 2015, at <http://www.khaama.com/ghani-hopeful-to-achieve-peace-urges-people-to-support-govt-in-ending-pakistans-undeclared-war-1568>

<sup>6</sup> “US, China Reaffirms Long Term Support for Afghanistan”, *Khaama Press*, September 27, 2015, at <http://www.khaama.com/us-china-reaffirms-long-term-support-to-afghanistan-3945>

training of the people who had gone to India." It said that the MQM was a patriotic political party and it would continue to be unconditionally loyal to Pakistan.<sup>7</sup>

Pakistani leaders are convinced that the Badaber Air Force camp attack originated in Afghanistan, but are undecided about the mechanism for sharing proofs with the Afghan government due to yawning trust gap. A late evening call from Afghan President Ashraf Ghani to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, for condemning the September 18 terrorist strike, served to reconnect the two leaders, but there was no indication about the two agreeing to give a fresh start to their dysfunctional counter-terrorism cooperation, except for a vague reiteration by Mr Ghani about not allowing his country's soil to be used against Pakistan. "The Afghan president said that Afghanistan will never allow its land to be used against Pakistan by anyone," Prime Minister's Office quoted the Afghan leader as having told PM Sharif during the telephonic conversation. Mr Ghani also offered condolence over the loss of lives in the attack.<sup>8</sup>

Balochistan Chief Minister Dr Abdul Malik Baloch has said that talks with self-exiled Baloch leaders will be initiated after Eidul Azha in an effort to resolve the issues the province has been facing for a decade. Talking to reporters, he said that efforts to hold dialogue with Nawabzada Brahamdagh Bugti, the chief of the Baloch Republican Party, would be made on the basis of a plan to be prepared in consultation with the federal government. On the occasion, Dr Sajjad Ali Abro of Nasirabad district announced his decision to join the National Party (NP) along with his supporters. Dr Baloch, who also belongs to the NP, praised his decision. The chief minister said that he himself and the NP leadership believed in resolving issues through political dialogue.<sup>9</sup>

Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan on September 22 said the mastermind of the terrorist attack on the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) camp in Badaber, Peshawar, had been traced to Afghanistan and stressed that a Zarb-e-Azb like operation must also be launched there. Twenty-nine people, including worshippers, were martyred in the terrorist attack. Soon after the attack, security forces swung into action killing 14 terrorists. In a statement, the minister said Pakistan would share all evidences with the Afghan leadership. He said the place where terrorists stayed had also been identified. He said five out of a total of 14 attackers had been identified. The attackers were Ibrahim, 27, Adnan, 19; Sirajuddin, 21, Rab Nawaz, 20, and Mohammad Ishaq, 27. He said Pakistan neither feared Afghanistan nor was it answerable to

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<sup>7</sup> "MQM Appeals To Establishment For Clemency", *Dawn*, September 21, 2015, at <http://www.dawn.com/news/1208277/mqm-appeals-to-establishment-for-clemency>

<sup>8</sup> "Sharing of Proof With Kabul Discussed", *Dawn*, September 22, 2015, at <http://www.dawn.com/news/1208526/sharing-of-proof-with-kabul-discussed>

<sup>9</sup> "Dialogue with Self-Exiled Baloch Leaders Soon: CM", *Dawn*, September 22, 2015, at <http://www.dawn.com/news/1208522/dialogue-with-self-exiled-baloch-leaders-soon-cm>

it. "We will share all evidences with the Afghan leadership that the culprit is operating from Afghanistan. Our side is under control; the attacker is across the border," said the minister.<sup>10</sup>

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on September 23 reiterated Pakistan's desire to have good relations with all its neighbours in line with his vision, and said Islamabad will keep on playing its role for peace in Afghanistan. During a meeting with his British counterpart David Cameron, Prime Minister Nawaz also highlighted Pakistan's important role and sacrifices in the fight against terrorism. Nawaz Sharif was received by British Prime Minister David Cameron here at the 10 Downing Street and the meeting was held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere. Both leaders expressed satisfaction on the overall trajectory of bilateral relations between Pakistan and the UK and discussed ways to strengthen cooperation in various areas of mutual interest.<sup>11</sup>

Balochistan National Party-M chief Sardar Akhtar Mengal has said that an atmosphere of trust should be created for initiating negotiations with Baloch militants to resolve the conflict in Balochistan. Talking to reporters in Uthal on his way to Karachi, he said the BNP was holding public meetings and rallies all over the province to highlight the Baloch people's demands and defend their national rights. "The gatherings are not part of preparations for any elections, but are aimed at overcoming political fear among the people," he said, adding that a large public meeting recently held by his party in Quetta had gone a long way in this regard. Sardar Akhtar said he was unaware of a move for the formation of an opposition jirga, "but if it's political then we will welcome it". He said changes envisaged in the Murree agreement about Balochistan should be implemented. He emphasised that it was in the interest of the province that an atmosphere of trust be created for negotiations with Baloch militants. "We have always defended provincial autonomy and favoured empowerment of people over their wealth and resources," he added.<sup>12</sup>

## Bangladesh

(September 21-27, 2015)

- **France and German foreign ministers visit Bangladesh.**

France and German foreign ministers expressed empathy for the vulnerability of Bangladesh in the face of climate change and hoped the next climate conference, scheduled for November in Paris, would come up with some concrete measures to address the concern. Bangladesh was heavily threatened by the adverse effects of climate change and 'we share their concern,' French foreign minister Laurent Fabius said at a press conference in Dhaka. Reaching on a

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<sup>10</sup> "Zarb-e-Azb Like Operation Must Also Be Launched in Afghanistan: Nisar", *The News*, September 23, 2015, at <http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-39825-Zarb-e-Azb-like-operation-must-also-be-launched-in-Afghanistan-Nisar>

<sup>11</sup> "Pak Efforts For Afghan Peace To Continue: PM", *The News*, September 24, 2015, at <http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-39848-Pak-efforts-for-Afghan-peace-to-continue-PM>

<sup>12</sup> "Atmosphere of Trust Needed For Balochistan Talks: Mengal", *Dawn*, September 25, 2015, at <http://www.dawn.com/news/1209167/atmosphere-of-trust-needed-for-balochistan-talks-mengal>

consensus for arranging \$100 billion each year from 2020 for getting rid of adverse impact of climate change 'is a big challenge' as no study had been done from where the financing would come, said Laurent Fabius, who would chair the Paris conference widely known as the COP21. Fabius and his German counterpart Frank-Walter Steinmeier were on a one day joint official visit in Dhaka on September 21. During the visit, the French and German ministers jointly inaugurated a joint chancery building to be shared by their diplomats at Baridhara from summer next year. Bangladesh foreign minister AH Mahmood Ali also spoke at the function. The French and German ministers were scheduled for Monday to inaugurate one of the cyclone shelters built with the support of German development cooperation in Patuakhali district and talk to the local people and farmers on adapting with the consequences of climate change. They had to cancel the trip because of bad weather. Instead, they took a boat trip on the Bangshi River on the North-West of Dhaka district. They also talked to local people about coping up with the changes in the livelihood because of adverse impacts of climate change and other reasons. On their return from the boat trip, Fabius and Steinmeier called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office and had a luncheon meeting with Mahmood Ali.<sup>13</sup>

## Sri Lanka

(September 21-27, 2015)

- **Sri Lanka and India held the 3<sup>rd</sup> defence dialogue; Resolution submitted with amendments at the UNHRC; German Foreign Minister visits Sri Lanka; Mangala Samaraweera chairs the Commonwealth Foreign Ministers Meeting; Paraguay Parliament adopts resolution on Sri Lanka; Northern fishermen staged a protest in Jaffna against Indian fishermen.**

Sri Lankan Defence Secretary Karunasena Hettiarachchi and Indian Defence Secretary G Mohan Kumar held defence talks in New Delhi on the sidelines of the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual defence dialogue which began on September 21. Sri Lanka's delegation, comprises of Karunasena Hettiarachchi, Secretary to Ministry of Defence, Lieutenant General Crishanthe De Silva, Commander of the Army, Rear Admiral N.B.J Rosayro, Deputy Chief of Staff and Commander, Eastern Naval Area of Sri Lanka Navy, Air Vice Marshal C.R Gurusinghe, Representative, Sri Lanka Air Force, Rear Admiral G.D.A.S Wimalathunga, Director General, Sri Lanka Coast Guard Department, Mr M.R.K Lenagala, Deputy High Commissioner, Sri Lanka High Commission, New Delhi and Ms Sashikala Premawardhane, Senior Assistant Secretary, Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defence. During the two-day (September 21 – 22) event cordial discussions were held on several issues of bilateral importance. During their stay, the Sri Lankan delegation also called on several high ranking officials of the Indian defence establishment.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> "Climate Vulnerability: France, Germany Express Empathy", *New Age Online*, September 22, 2015 at <http://newagebd.net/160083/climate-vulnerability-france-germany-express-empathy/#sthash.Z3q6RT2Y.dpbs>.

<sup>14</sup> "Sri Lanka and India Begin Defence Talks", *Colombo Gazette*, September 21, 2015 at <http://colombogazette.com/2015/09/21/sri-lanka-and-india-begin-defence-talks/>.

The draft resolution on Sri Lanka titled “Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka”, was submitted to the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) on September 24 with several amendments to the original text proposed earlier after Sri Lanka objected the first resolution. The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America have co-sponsored the resolution which was officially submitted to the 30<sup>th</sup> session of the UNHRC in Geneva.<sup>15</sup>

Germany and Sri Lanka held talks on steps being taken by the Sri Lankan Government to promote reconciliation and to strengthen the accountability processes as part of the Government’s overall objective of ensuring good governance, respect for human rights and strengthening Sri Lanka’s domestic initiatives. Sri Lanka and Germany have also agreed to vigorously build on their multifaceted bilateral relationship following talks held between Foreign Minister Mangala Samaraweera and visiting German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier on September 22. Samaraweera said that the “fruitful and productive discussions” he had with the German Foreign Minister focused on identified areas of cooperation and on working towards forging closer and tangible links in the short and long term.<sup>16</sup> German Foreign Minister Frank Walter Steinmeier says Germany would lead the European Union to revive the GSP+ relief to Sri Lanka. Steinmeier made these remarks when he called on President Maithripala Sirisena on September 21 at the Presidential Secretariat. Steinmeier conveyed the invitation of German Chancellor Angela Merkel for President Sirisena to visit Germany. The President accepted the invitation.<sup>17</sup>

Foreign Minister Mangala Samaraweera chaired the Commonwealth Foreign Ministers Meeting held in New York on September 24. Foreign Ministers from across the Commonwealth attended the meeting. He also held talks with the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, Kamallesh Sharma.<sup>18</sup>

The Paraguay Parliament has passed a resolution on Sri Lanka backing calls for an international process to ensure justice for the Tamils. The resolution was passed at a time when the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) is meeting in Geneva with Sri Lanka on the agenda. The resolution in the Paraguay Parliament called for an international investigation by the UNHRC in support of justice and independence for the Tamil People. Recently, a

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<sup>15</sup> “Resolution Submitted with Amendments”, *Colombo Gazette*, September 24, 2015 at <http://colombogazette.com/2015/09/24/resolution-submitted-with-amendments/>.

<sup>16</sup> “Germany, Sri Lanka Discuss Reconciliation Moves”, *Colombo Gazette*, September 22, 2015 at <http://colombogazette.com/2015/09/22/germany-sri-lanka-discuss-reconciliation-moves-2/>.

<sup>17</sup> “Germany to Push for GSP Plus for Sri Lanka”, *Colombo Gazette*, September 22, 2015 <http://colombogazette.com/2015/09/22/germany-to-push-for-gsp-for-sri-lanka/>.

<sup>18</sup> “Mangala Holds Talks with Commonwealth Chief”, *Colombo Gazette*, September 25, 2015 at <http://colombogazette.com/2015/09/25/mangala-holds-talks-with-commonwealth-chief/>.

delegation from the Transnational Government of Tamil Eelam (TGTE) was in Paraguay where they met officials in the Paraguay Government and discussed Sri Lanka.<sup>19</sup>

Northern fishermen staged a protest in Jaffna on September 23 against Indian fishermen poaching in Sri Lankan waters and later handed over a petition to the Deputy Indian High Commission in Jaffna.<sup>20</sup>

## Maldives

(September 21-27, 2015)

- **President Yameen calls on King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud; Maldives and China celebrate 43 years of diplomatic relations; Maldives marks 50 years as a member of the United Nations.**

President Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom has met with the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud on September 25. The meeting was held at the Royal Court in Mina Palace. Discussions at the meeting were held on the bilateral relations between the Maldives and Saudi Arabia. The President and the Saudi King also exchanged ideas on ways of enhancing the existing brotherly relations between the two countries, in a way that would be mutually beneficial to both countries. President Yameen also met with the Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Second Deputy Premier and Minister of Defence. President Yameen conveyed his profound sympathy to the Saudi officials, following the disastrous stampede in Mina, causing the catastrophic loss of lives and injury to many pilgrims.<sup>21</sup>

Vice President, Ahmed Adheeb Abdul Gafoor has said that the Maldives and China will always trust and respect one another. Speaking at the ceremony held at Olympus theatre to celebrate 43 years of diplomatic relations between China and the Maldives, Vice President Adheeb said that the relationship between China and the Maldives will continue to be strengthened. Chinese Ambassador Wang Fukang in his speech at the event said that the friendship between the people of the two countries would be stronger and thanked Vice President Adheeb for attending the ceremony.<sup>22</sup>

As the Maldives marks 50 years as a member of the United Nations, Foreign Minister Dhunya Maumoon has said that seeking U.N. membership was the important foreign policy decision by Maldives. In a statement issued by the Foreign Ministry celebrating 50 years since the country took membership with the United Nations, the Foreign Minister said that the

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<sup>19</sup> "Paraguay Adopts Resolution on Sri Lanka", *Colombo Gazette*, September 24, 2015 at <http://colombogazette.com/2015/09/24/paraguay-parliament-adopts-resolution-on-sri-lanka/>.

<sup>20</sup> "Northern Fishermen Protest in Jaffna against Indians", *Colombo Gazette*, September 23, 2015 at <http://colombogazette.com/2015/09/23/northern-fishermen-protest-in-jaffna-against-indians/>

<sup>21</sup> "President Yameen Meets with the Saudi King", *The Presidency, Republic of Maldives*, September 26, 2015 at <http://www.presidencymaldives.gov.mv/Index.aspx?lid=11&dcid=15979>.

<sup>22</sup> "VP: China and Maldives will Always Trust and Respect One Another", *SunOnline*, September 26, 2015 at <http://www.sun.mv/english/33045>.

Maldives has done numerous works at the international level. “Over the past 50 years, the Maldives has introduced several important initiatives at the United Nations, the security of small states, human rights and environment, and of course climate change, which has now become the most crucial issue facing humanity. The Maldives has also been a leading voice on the issue of human rights. As a member of the United Nations Human Rights Council, we have been a strong advocate for promoting the rule of law and creating the values of human rights.” The statement from the Foreign Minister Dhunya Maumoon said. She said that although the Maldives is a small country, the country has achieved accomplishments “without compromising the core national values: the country’s Islamic principles and our cultural traditions.” President Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom also congratulated people of Maldives on the occasion.<sup>23</sup> Issuing a statement for the occasion, MDP said that the current Government has stepped out of the U.N. regulations, violate international laws, unlawfully brutal, openly violates human rights and disrupt equality.<sup>24</sup>

## B. East Asia

### Japan

(September 21-27, 2015)

- **Prime Minister Shinzo Abe attends the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit; G4 summit held in New York; Taiwanese Presidential candidate Tsai Ing-wen expected to visit Japan in October; Second phase of Abenomics outline three new objectives.**

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe during the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on September 27 said that cooperative global efforts on sustainable development led to the adoption of 2030 Agenda which constitutes five important features, namely People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership. These five “P”s will help eradicate poverty. Prime Minister Abe stressed the need to overcome the North-South dichotomy. Furthermore, it was underscored that Japan will undertake initiatives to achieve quality, inclusive, sustainable and resilient growth by promoting quality infrastructure investment. Japan also intends to work on empowerment of people in health, education, and disaster risk reduction.<sup>25</sup>

G4 leaders including Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi decided to intensify efforts to materialize UNSC reforms by the next UN General Assembly session. The leaders argued that a more ‘representative, legitimate and effective’ Security Council is required to

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<sup>23</sup> “Dhunya: Seeking U.N. Membership Was the Important Foreign Policy Decision by Maldives”, *SunOnline*, September 21, 2015 at <http://www.sun.mv/english/32915>.

<sup>24</sup> “MDP has Said That the Government Violates the U.N. Regulations”, *SunOnline*, September 21, 2015 at <http://www.sun.mv/english/32911>.

<sup>25</sup> “Statement by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit 2015”, September 27, 2015 at [http://japan.kantei.go.jp/97\\_abe/statement/201509/1212969\\_9928.html](http://japan.kantei.go.jp/97_abe/statement/201509/1212969_9928.html)

deal with the international challenges. Prime Minister Abe said that the UNSC reforms has not witnessed much progress since 2005 summit and needs reforms to be effective in 21st century. Japan as the top contributor to the UN argues the case for permanent council seat.<sup>26</sup>

Taiwanese Presidential candidate and Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) opposition leader Tsai Ing-wen is expected to visit Japan from October 6-9. China foreign ministry expressed concerns has registered reservations stating that Japan should refrain from providing space to Taiwan. Furthermore, China reiterated that Japan should follow the one-China principle. Tsai Ing-wen is scheduled to meet leaders of the Liberal Democratic Party and Democratic Party of Japan during his visit.<sup>27</sup>

On September 24, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe outlined the second phase of Abenomics with three new objectives including economic growth promotion, child-rearing assistance and social security measures especially nursing facilities for the aged. He said the target is 20 percent boost in GDP to ¥600 trillion.<sup>28</sup>

## The Korean Peninsula

(September 21-27, 2015)

- **South Korea-US-Japan Foreign Ministers' Meeting expected on the sidelines of the 70th session of the UN General Assembly; South Korean President Park Geun-hye held meeting with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in New York; Korea-US Integrated Defence Dialogue held; North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Su-yong said economic sanctions and hostile US policies affects development objectives.**

On September 29, South Korean Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se is scheduled to meet US Secretary of State John Kerry and Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida on the sidelines of the 70th session of the UN General Assembly. The leaders are expected to discuss security situation in Korean Peninsula and potential provocation from North Korea. The leaders will take stalk of the implementation of the inter-Korea agreement reached on August 25. Furthermore, they are likely to discuss ways to facilitate trilateral cooperation in addressing international challenges.<sup>29</sup>

On September 25, South Korean President Park Geun-hye had a meeting with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in New York where they reported discussed several issues including

<sup>26</sup> "G-4 chiefs push tangible reform in U.N. Security Council", *JJI, Kyodo, Reuters*, September 27, 2015 at <http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2015/09/27/national/politics-diplomacy/g-4-chiefs-push-tangible-reform-u-n-security-council/#.VhUETIK6a1t>

<sup>27</sup> "China Angered By Japan Visit Of Taiwan Opposition Leader", *Reuters*, September 25, 2015 at <http://in.reuters.com/article/2015/09/25/china-japan-taiwan-idINKCN0RPOQ120150925>

<sup>28</sup> "Abe Aims Arrows At New Targets With Three Fresh Goals for 'Abenomics,' 20% Rise in GDP", by Reiji Yoshida and Mizuho Aoki, September 24, 2015 at <http://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2015/09/24/national/politics-diplomacy/abe-outlines-new-goals-abenomics-20-rise-gdp/#.VhY5yIK6a1t>

<sup>29</sup> ROK, the US and Japan to Hold a Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting, *MOFA*, September 22, 2015 at [http://www.mofa.go.kr/ENG/press/pressreleases/index.jsp?menu=m\\_10\\_20](http://www.mofa.go.kr/ENG/press/pressreleases/index.jsp?menu=m_10_20)

climate change, sustainable development and nuclear non-proliferation. President Park stressed that in case Pyongyang engages in provocation that violates UNSC resolutions that will escalate tensions in the region and affect regional peace and stability. President Park is garnering support from UN denuclearization of the Peninsula.<sup>30</sup>

On September 23, two day Korea-US Integrated Defence Dialogue started. The officials discussed the potential challenges from North Korea's likely long-range missile launch in October. Additionally, discussion on penalty in case North Korea launches a long-range missile, transfer of the US operational control of South Korean forces and the allies' defence plan against North Korean nuclear and missile weapons were discussed.<sup>31</sup>

On September 27, North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Su-yong said economic sanctions and hostile US policies affects development objectives of the Kim Jong-un regime. Ri in his statement said the US tirelessly attempts to 'suffocate' its progress by chronic hostility and antagonistic policy aimed at removing the socialist system of North Korea.<sup>32</sup>

## C. Russia

### Russia: National

(September 21-27, 2015)

- **Russian Energy Ministry supports status quo on the existing taxation rate in the oil sector; Over 1.5 million foreigners temporarily banned from entering Russia; Gazprom Neft awards drilling contract to China's ZPEC instead of US based Halliburton; Unemployment in Russia up by 13.5 per cent in August 2015.**

Energy Minister Alexander Novak has said, on September 24, that the Energy Ministry supports the policy of maintaining existing taxation conditions in the oil sector and is against the proposal of the Finance Ministry concerning the Mineral Extraction Tax (MET) calculation procedure. It was earlier reported that the Finance Ministry's plan involves using the dollar's non-forecast exchange rate for calculating price ratio for mineral extraction tax. For example, if the Ministry projects the dollar rate within 63.5-66 roubles per dollar for the mineral extraction tax formula, the rate will total 43.8-50 roubles per dollar. Similar adjustment will be made for limit values of crude export duty.<sup>33</sup>

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<sup>30</sup> "Park Meets with U.N. Chief", *Yonhap News Agency*, September 26, 2015 at <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20150926000018>

<sup>31</sup> "S. Korea, U.S. Start Defence Talks Amid Looming N. Korean Missile Launch", *Yonhap*, September 23, 2015 at <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20150923000389>

<sup>32</sup> "N. Korea Claims Sanctions Hinder Development Goals", *Yonhap, The Korea Herald*, September 28, 2015 at <http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20150928000122>

<sup>33</sup> "Russian Energy Ministry Supports Keeping Existing Taxation In Oil Sector In Coming Years", *Itar-Tass*, September 25, 2015 at <http://tass.ru/en/economy/823436>

Russia's Federal Migration Service has temporarily banned more than 1.5 million foreign citizens for a period of 3, 5 and 10 years from entering Russia for violating the country's legislation.<sup>34</sup>

Gazprom Neft operating the Badra Oilfield in Eastern Iraq has awarded the well drilling contract to China's ZPEC. The Chinese contractor will drill three wells on the field to be commissioned in 2016. ZPEC replaces US Halliburton.<sup>35</sup>

Unemployment in Russia has increased by 13.5 per cent in August 2015 year-on-year to now include 4.1 million people. In August 2014, unemployment figure stood at 5.3 per cent.<sup>36</sup>

## Russia: International

(September 21-27, 2015)

- **Putin and Saudi Arabia's King discuss cooperation to combat Islamic State; Putin says Syrian crisis can only be resolved by strengthening government structures; Russia and Israel discuss coordination of activities in Syria; Russian and Hungarian Foreign Ministers discuss Europe's migration issue; US open to the idea of cooperating with Russia on Ukraine and Syria; Russian drug control agency suggests Tajikistan's rebel general was involved in drug trafficking; Cambodia becomes a dialogue partner in SCO; Greece to implement the extension of Turkish Stream pipeline; Egypt buys 50 Russian Alligator helicopters; Russia to take countermeasures if US moves nuclear weapons to Germany; Japanese Prime Minister says top level dialogue needed to solve territorial issue with Russia; Russia and Ukraine agree on gas supplies during winter.**

Russia's President Vladimir Putin and Saudi Arabia's King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud have discussed ways to strengthen cooperation in the fight against Islamic State and other terrorist groups in a telephone conversation initiated by the Russian side on September 26. *The Kremlin Press Service* stated that 'the two leaders 'exchanged views on regional security, first, from the point of view of seeking ways to settle the situation in Syria and to enhance effective international interaction in the fight against so-called Islamic State and other terrorist groups.' They also focused on the settlement of the Israel-Palestine conflict.'<sup>37</sup>

Russian President Vladimir Putin has said there is no other solution to the Syrian crisis than to strengthen the effective government structures and provide them with assistance in fighting terrorism. He added that there is a need to urge all groups to engage in positive dialogue and

<sup>34</sup> "Over 1.5 mln Foreigners Temporarily Banned From Entering Russia", *Itar-Tass*, September 25, 2015 at <http://tass.ru/en/society/823562>

<sup>35</sup> "Russia's Gazprom Neft Awards Drilling Contract to China's ZPEC Instead of US Halliburton", *Itar-Tass*, September 25, 2015 at <http://tass.ru/en/economy/823468>

<sup>36</sup> "Unemployment in Russia up by 13.5% in August in Annual Terms", *Itar-Tass*, September 23, 2015 at <http://tass.ru/en/economy/823160>

<sup>37</sup> "Putin and Saudi Arabia's King Discussed International Cooperation To Combat Islamic State", *Itar-Tass*, September 26, 2015 at <http://tass.ru/en/world/823915>

the government to conduct reforms. He also stressed that 'it is only the Syrian people who are entitled to decide who should govern their country and how.'<sup>38</sup>

Russian President Putin and Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu have, on September 24 in Moscow, discussed 'the coordination of joint actions regarding Syria'. The chief of the Israeli army's General Staff, Gadi Eisenkot, has also met with his Russian counterpart Valery Gerasimov. After the talks Netanyahu told Israeli media that Israel and Russia had agreed to establish a coordination mechanism to prevent 'misunderstandings, clashes' between their forces in Syria.<sup>39</sup>

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and his Hungarian counterpart Peter Szijjarto discussed the problem of illegal migration to Europe in a phone call on September 25.<sup>40</sup>

*Itar-Tass* has quoted US Deputy national security adviser Ben Rhodes saying that the United States is open to cooperation with Russia on Ukraine and Syria. He added that the US president was looking forward to discussing these issues with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on the side-lines of the UN General Assembly in New York. He also stated that 'President Obama was urged to have this meeting with President Putin by some of our closest European allies.' The meeting is expected to take place on September 28.<sup>41</sup>

The chief of Russia's drug control service (FSKN), Viktor Ivanov has accused Tajikistan's rebel - General Abdukhalim Nazarzoda - of having been involved in drugs smuggling. He added that heroin transit through Tajikistan exceeds by far the country's budget, it's about 20 billion roubles (US\$ 300 million) worth.<sup>42</sup>

Cambodia has officially become a dialogue partner in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) on September 24. Cambodia's Foreign Minister Hor Namhong has said that his country will actively participate in the work of SCO and in the future aspire to become an observer and later join the organization as a full-fledged member.<sup>43</sup>

Greek Minister of Productive Reconstruction, Environment and Energy Panos Skourletis has said that 'Greece will carry on implementation of its plans to construct a natural gas pipeline

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<sup>38</sup> "Putin: Syria Crisis Can Be Resolved Only By Strengthening Government Structures", *Itar-Tass*, September 25, 2015 at <http://tass.ru/en/politics/823553>

<sup>39</sup> "Russia, Israel Agree Coordination Of Joint Actions Regarding Syria", *Itar-Tass*, September 24, 2015 at <http://tass.ru/en/politics/823314>

<sup>40</sup> "Russian and Hungarian Foreign Ministers Discuss Europe Migration Crisis In Phone Call", *Itar-Tass*, September 25, 2015 at <http://tass.ru/en/politics/823651>

<sup>41</sup> "US Willing To Cooperate with Russia on Ukraine and Syria — White House", *Itar-Tass*, September 25, 2015 at <http://tass.ru/en/world/823564>

<sup>42</sup> "Russian Drug Control Suggests Tajikistan's Rebel General Was Involved In Drug Trafficking", *Itar-Tass*, September 25, 2015 at <http://tass.ru/en/world/823382>

<sup>43</sup> "Cambodia Becomes Dialogue Partner in SCO", *Itar-Tass*, September 24, 2015 at <http://tass.ru/en/economy/823294>

to extend the Turkish Stream pipeline on its territory jointly with Russia.' The construction is expected to begin in 2016 and finalized by end-2019.<sup>44</sup>

*Itar-Tass* has reported that Russia and Egypt have signed an agreement on supplies of fifty helicopters of the Ka-52 Alligator family while Moscow has not rule out delivery of the deck-based version of these helicopters that were designed for the now defunct Mistral project.<sup>45</sup>

Presidential press secretary Dmitry Peskov has said Germany's decision to place on its territory US nuclear weapons is exacerbating tensions in Europe, disrupting the strategic balance and will make Russia take national security measures. Earlier, Germany's television broadcaster ZDF had said that preparations are underway for the deployment of new US nuclear bombs in a German base near Buchel, Rheinland-Pfalz.<sup>46</sup>

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has said that the territorial dispute with Russia cannot be solved without dialogue at the top level. He expressed his desire to discuss all issue with Russian President Putin during the side lines of UN meeting.<sup>47</sup>

Russia, Ukraine and the EU have, on September 26, signed an agreement that is expected to maintain the supplies of Russian gas to Ukraine throughout the winter period. In the past, Ukraine has insisted on extra binding gas supply agreements, while Russia has argued that Ukraine is obliged to comply with the terms of the open-ended contract and to maintain the transit of gas EU, while the EU must also provide financial guarantees that the supplies to Ukraine will be paid for. According to the agreement, the price of gas for Ukraine will be US\$ 232 per 1,000 cubic meters.<sup>48</sup>

## D. West Asia

### Iran

(September 21-27, 2015)

- **Iran and Oman met to stressed expediting implementation of the project to build a pipeline; Iranian and Russian Foreign Ministers insisted on the importance of adopting a political strategy to settle the crisis in Syria.**

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<sup>44</sup> "Greece To Go Ahead With Extension Of Turkish Stream Jointly With Russia — Minister", *Itar-Tass*, September 23, 2015 at <http://tass.ru/en/economy/823165>

<sup>45</sup> "Source: Egypt Buys 50 Russian Alligator Helicopters, Deck-Based Version May Be Supplied", *Itar-Tass*, September 23, 2015 at <http://tass.ru/en/defense/823140>

<sup>46</sup> "Kremlin: Russia To Take Countermeasures To US Nuclear Weapons Stationing in Germany", *Itar-Tass*, September 23, 2015 at <http://tass.ru/en/politics/823027>

<sup>47</sup> "Japanese PM Says Top Level Dialogue Required To Solve Territorial Issue with Russia", *Itar-Tass*, September 26, 2015 at <http://tass.ru/en/world/823873>

<sup>48</sup> "Russia, Ukraine Come To Terms Over Wintertime Gas Supplies", *Itar-Tass*, September 25, 2015 at <http://tass.ru/en/economy/823816>

In a meeting between Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh and Oman's Minister of Oil and Gas Mohammed Al Rumhy in Tehran, the two sides stressed expediting implementation of the project to build a pipeline which is planned to carry Iranian gas to Oman. Meanwhile, the minister announced about cooperation with the Omani companies for the sales of oil and petrochemical products. He said Omani firms are also eager to cooperate with Iran in development of oil and gas projects in the Islamic Republic.<sup>49</sup>

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for African and Arab Affairs Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and his Russian counterpart Mikhail Bogdanov have insisted on the importance of adopting a political strategy to settle the crisis in Syria. During a meeting in Moscow, the officials said that applying military approach in Syria has proven futile. Amir-Abdollahian and Bogdanov also condemned military attacks on Yemen and said that military actions will just complicate the situation in the country and spread terrorism to the Middle East region. The two diplomats called on the UN to play more active role in stopping the killing of the Yemeni people.<sup>50</sup>

## Iraq and Syria

(September 21-27, 2015)

- **Iraqi President Fuad Masum and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan stressed the importance of joint cooperation; Ja'afari says Syrian army's achievements behind international shifts towards Syria.**

The Iraqi President Fuad Masum and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan stressed the importance of joint cooperation between the two countries in various fields. They stressed the importance of mutual cooperation between the two countries in various fields.<sup>51</sup>

Syria's Permanent Representative to the United Nations has underscored that the Syrian Arab army's achievements and the Syrian government's wisdom in dealing with the crisis are behind the signs of international shifts towards Syria. Bashar al-Ja'afari, who was speaking in an interview with the Beirut-based *al-Mayadeen TV channel*, said that Syrian government and people will never accept any type of solution from abroad. "We, Syrians, do not need a mediator to guide us to the road that leads to safety," the veteran diplomat said. He asserted that the Syrian state has no problem to go to Geneva 3 as long as it does not go back to zero point, adding that Iran must attend Geneva 3.<sup>52</sup>

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<sup>49</sup> "Iranian, Omani Oil Ministers Stress Expedition Gas Pipeline", *Tehran Times*, September 22, 2015 at [http://www.tehrantimes.com/index\\_View.asp?code=249567](http://www.tehrantimes.com/index_View.asp?code=249567). Accessed on October 15, 2015

<sup>50</sup> "Iran, Russia: Political Strategy Essential To Settle Syria Conflict", *Tehran Times*, September 23, 2015 at [http://www.tehrantimes.com/index\\_View.asp?code=249599](http://www.tehrantimes.com/index_View.asp?code=249599). Accessed on 16 October 2015

<sup>51</sup> "Masum and Erdogan Stress Importance of Cooperation between the Two Countries", *Iraqi News*, September 28, 2015, at <http://www.iraqinews.com/baghdad-politics/masum-erdogan-stress-importance-cooperation-two-countries/>. Accessed on October 15, 2015

<sup>52</sup> "Ja'afari Says Syrian Army's Achievements behind International Shifts towards Syria", *The Syria Times*, September 23, 2015 at <http://syriatimes.sy/index.php/news/local/19744-ja-afari-says-syrian-army-s-achievements-behind-international-shifts-towards-syria>. Accessed on October 19, 2015

## Israel and Palestine

(September 21-27 2015)

- **Israeli Prime Netanyahu met Russian President Putin; Two third support the departure of Abbas: Poll.**

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met Russian President Vladimir Putin along with Israel Defence Forces Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Gadi Eizenkot as well as military intelligence chief Maj. Gen. Herzl Halevi with him. According to a senior *IDF* source, Israel's major concern should be the Iran-Shiite-Hezbollah axis and Iran gaining regional influence and power after the nuclear agreement.<sup>53</sup>

The Palestinian Centre for Policy and Survey Research released the results of a poll conducted in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip between September 17 and September 19. The results show that the popularity of President Abbas has declined “significantly” in the occupied West Bank and has improved “slightly” in the Gaza Strip. Fatah’s popularity has declined in both the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The results revealed an increase in Hamas popularity in the occupied West Bank and a significant decrease in the Gaza Strip. The popularity of the deputy leader of the Islamic movement, Ismail Haniyeh, has improved in the West Bank but fallen slightly in Gaza.<sup>54</sup>

## The Gulf

(September 21-27, 2015)

- **US and Abu Dhabi discussed cooperation and ties of friendship between the UAE and the US, especially the military domain; Yemen President visits UAE forces Command in Aden.**

His Highness Shaikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, received General Lloyd Austin III, Commander of the US Central Command (Centcom), at Al Shati Palace. The two sides discussed cooperation and ties of friendship between the UAE and the US. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations, especially in the military domain, and ways to enhance cooperation and defence coordination between the two friendly countries. They discussed ways to develop relations in the best interest of both sides.<sup>55</sup>

<sup>53</sup> “Israel Fears Return of Persian Empire”, *Al Monitor*, September 21, 2015 at <http://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2015/09/israel-fear-persian-empire-iran-shiite-hezbollah-axis-nuke.html>. Accessed on October 15, 2015

<sup>54</sup> “Two- Third Palestinians Support Abbas Departure”, *Palestine Chronicles*, September 23, 2015 at <http://www.palestinechronicle.com/two-thirds-of-palestinians-support-abbas-departure/>. Accessed on October 15, 2015

<sup>55</sup> “Mohammed Bin Zayed Discusses Defence Cooperation with Centcom”, *Khaleej Times*, September 22, 2015 at <http://www.khaleejtimes.com/nation/government/mohammed-bin-zayed-discusses-defence-coordination-with-centcom>. Accessed on 19 October 2015

Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, President of Yemen, visited the Command of the UAE forces in Aden, which is a part of the Arab Coalition's 'Operation Restoring Hope' in support of the people of Yemen and their legitimate government, national news agency *Wam* reported. Hadi and accompanying delegation were received by the commander of forces, senior officers and soldiers. He also praised the high operational efficiency they have displayed in this mission, in supporting the legitimacy of the Yemen government, and to enhance the region's security.<sup>56</sup>

## India and West Asia

(September 21-27 2015)

India's stance on the Syrian crisis has been subtle yet expected. New Delhi under the previous government of the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) maintained its opposition to external military intervention in Syria, and asked for all parties involved to engage in dialogue for a political solution. India's position on the Assad government leans more towards support than strict neutrality.<sup>57</sup>

## E. The United State of America

### National

(September 21-27, 2015)

- **Freddie Gray murder investigators found conflicting statements among the six officers; House Speaker John Boehner announces his resignation by the end of October.**

According to a report published on September 27 by the *Baltimore Sun* newspaper, investigators found conflicting statements among the six officers questioned in the case, explaining why a judge has ordered separate trials for them. It report that at least one Baltimore police officer involved in the Freddie Gray murder investigation said Gray did ask for medical help, but that he and other officers questioned whether he might be faking his injuries. All three face charges of manslaughter, misconduct in office, assault and reckless endangerment. Goodson faces an additional charge of second-degree murder. Gray was arrested on April 12. He died in a hospital a week later of the spinal cord injury.<sup>58</sup>

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<sup>56</sup> "Yemen President Visits UAE Forces Command in Aden", *Khaleej Times*, September 25, 2015, at <http://www.khaleejtimes.com/region/mena/yemen-president-visits-uae-forces-command-in-aden>. Accessed on October 19, 2015

<sup>57</sup> "India and the Syrian Civil War", *The Diplomat*, September 21, 2015, at <http://thediplomat.com/2015/09/india-and-the-syrian-civil-war/>. Accessed on September 19, 2015

<sup>58</sup> "Report: Baltimore Officer Said Freddie Gray Asked for Medical Help", VOA News, September 27, 2015 at <http://www.voanews.com/content/report-baltimore-officer-said-freddie-gray-asked-for-medical-help/2981285.html>

Early on September 25, the U.S. House Speaker John Boehner sent shock waves throughout Washington when he announced that he would resign from one of the most powerful positions in the U.S. government and leave Congress at the end of October 2015. The bombshell came one day after Pope Francis made history by addressing a joint meeting of Congress, at Boehner's invitation. Boehner, a devout Catholic, had invited three popes to address lawmakers and had waited 20 years for one to accept. The announcement came after a closed-door meeting with his fellow Republicans. Some of his party's most conservative members had been threatening to challenge his leadership, saying he was too prone to compromise with Democrats.<sup>59</sup>

## International: Asia

(September 21-27, 2015)

- **The US trained Syrian rebels gave trucks and ammunition to al-Qaida affiliate; US-China committed to creating a bilateral investment treaty; US-China would increase cooperation in fighting corruption, money laundering and terrorist financing; China has agreed to implement a cap and trade programme to limit emissions.**

A Syrian rebel commander who recently completed a U.S. training programme has told the Pentagon that he surrendered six coalition-provided trucks and ammunition to militants from the al-Qaida affiliate in Syria, known as the al-Nusra Front. After earlier denying reports that some fighters had handed over gear, the Pentagon acknowledged on September 25 that it had received notification from the New Syrian Forces (NSF) unit. U.S. Central Command spokesman Colonel Patrick Ryder said roughly 25 percent of the equipment assigned to that unit was apparently turned over earlier this week in exchange for safe passage within the region. Ryder said, "If accurate, the report of NSF members providing equipment to al-Nusra Front is very concerning and a violation of Syria train-and-equip programme guidelines".<sup>60</sup>

At a joint news conference after talks at the White House on September 25, President Barack Obama and his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, said that they were committed to creating a bilateral investment treaty between the world's two largest economies. While Obama said the two countries had agreed to "step up our work toward a high-standard bilateral investment treaty," which he said would help level the playing field for American companies. Xi said he and Obama agreed to "vigorously push forward" the bilateral investment treaty negotiation. Obama said Xi also discussed his "commitment to accelerate market reforms, avoid devaluing China's currency, and have China play a greater role in upholding the rules-based system that underpins the global economy — all of which are steps we very much support."<sup>61</sup> One day

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<sup>59</sup> Saine, Cindy, "Boehner Stuns Congress With Abrupt Resignation", *VOA News*, September 25, 2015 at <http://www.voanews.com/content/us-house-speaker-boehner-to-resign-from-congress/2978948.html>

<sup>60</sup> "US-Trained Syrian Rebels Gave Equipment to al-Qaida Affiliate", *VOA News*, September 26, 2015 at <http://www.voanews.com/content/united-states-trained-syrian-rebels-gave-equipment-qaida-affiliate/2980561.html>

<sup>61</sup> "US, China Pledge to Speed Up Work Toward Investment Treaty", *VOA News*, September 25, 2015 at <http://www.voanews.com/content/united-states-china-pledge-speed-investment-treaty/2980125.html>

after President Barack Obama and his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, held talks in Washington, the Chinese Foreign Ministry released a statement on September 26 saying the two countries have agreed to increase cooperation in fighting corruption, money laundering and terrorist financing.<sup>62</sup>

On September 25, China has agreed to implement a cap and trade programme to limit emissions, in what could be a crucial step in international efforts to combat climate change. Chinese President Xi Jinping announced the programme after he met with President Barack Obama at the White House. U.S. officials said the programme will go into place by 2017 and will cover some of the worst-polluting sectors of China's economy. The cap and trade programme helps add legitimacy to a landmark climate deal the U.S. and China reached last year during Obama's visit to Beijing.<sup>63</sup>

## India-US Relations

(September 21-27, 2015)

- **India-US relationship defined by natural synergy of democracies; India-US relations are going through busy times; Kerry says US economic partnership with India is growing stronger; Energy as a key strategic component of India-US relationship; US reiterates its support for India's membership in four major global non-proliferation export control regimes; Joint Declaration on Combating Terrorism recognises the threat posed by Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammad, D Company, and the Haqqani Network; Modi first Indian premier to visit the world's leading tech hub.**

On September 21, India asserted that India-US relationship is defined by natural synergy of democracies. The assertions were made at a business conclave on the eve of the first India-US Strategic and Commercial Dialogue (S&CD). US Vice President Joe Biden said addressing the 40th Leadership summit of US-India Business Council (USIBC), the largest bilateral trade association in the US comprised of 300 top US and a score of Indian companies said, "Our goal is to become India's best friend". Biden said, "The President and I, and the entire administration believe that the India-US relationship will be a relationship that will go a long way in defining the 21st century".<sup>64</sup>

<sup>62</sup> Salinas, Mary Alice, "US, China Agree to Cooperate on Fighting Corruption, Terrorist Financing", *VOA News*, September 26, 2015 at <http://www.voanews.com/content/obama-welcomes-xi-to-white-house/2978346.html>

<sup>63</sup> Gallo, William, "China to Put Key Climate-change Policy Into Action", *VOA News*, September 25, 2015 at <http://www.voanews.com/content/us-china-to-implement-cap-and-trade-emissions-program/2978229.html>

<sup>64</sup> "'Our Goal is to Be India's Best Friend', Says US Vice President Joe Biden", *NDTV News*, September 22, 2015 at <http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/america-wants-to-be-indias-best-freind-says-vice-president-biden-1220220>; "US Wants to be India's 'Best Friend': VP Joe Biden", *India Today*, September 22, 2015 at <http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/us-wants-to-be-indias-best-friend-vp-joe-biden/1/479854.html>; and, "Vice President Joe Biden, Secretary of State John Kerry, Indian Minister of External Affairs Sushma Swaraj Renew Commitment to Grow U.S.-India Trade Relations", *Business Wire*, September 21, 2015 at <http://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20150921006457/en/Vice-President-Joe-Biden-Secretary-State-John>

India's External Affairs Minister, Sushma Swaraj said in Washington on September 22 at the opening of the first ministerial of the India-US Strategic and Commercial Dialogue (S&CD) that India-US relations are going through busy times. External Affairs Minister Swaraj said, "These are busy times for India-US relations. The achievements in relations are testimony to the leadership of (US) President Barack Obama and (Indian) Prime Minister Narendra Modi". In his opening remarks, John Kerry, US Secretary of State said that the economic partnership between the two countries was going stronger with each passing day. On the security side, he said the US's collaboration with India would benefit both countries and their people.<sup>65</sup> Kerry said, "In today's era, foreign policy is economic policy and economic policy is foreign policy. Our economic partnership with India is growing stronger with each passing day".<sup>66</sup>

On September 22, Piyush Goyal, India's Union Minister of State for Power (Independent Charge) at the S&CD described energy as a key strategic component of India-US relationship. Goyal said, "Energy is one of the key strategic components of our bilateral relationship. The energy dialogue which was launched in 2005 has come a long way in the last decade. We have redrawn the priorities and the focus of the energy dialogue overtime". He added that "This has also helped us to develop the energy dialogue in a more comprehensive to meet our mutual expectation". He asserted that the dialogue was an affirmation of the fact that India and the US had a strong commitment to engage with each other in the energy sector for promoting greater technological innovation and developments to deliver energy solution for sustainable growth.<sup>67</sup>

On September 22, External Affairs Minister Swaraj listed six key takeaways such as bilateral trade and investments, Energy and Environment, cyber security, climate change from the first India-US S&CD that she and the US Secretary of State John Kerry co-chaired. In the joint statement the US reiterated its support for India's membership in four major global non-proliferation export control regimes, including the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG). It also reaffirmed its support for a reformed UN Security Council with India as a permanent member.<sup>68</sup> A separate Joint Declaration on Combating Terrorism recognised the threat posed by Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammad, D Company, and the Haqqani Network, operating

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<sup>65</sup> "Busy Times for India-US Relations, Says Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj", *NDTV News*, September 22, 2015 at <http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/busy-times-for-india-us-relations-says-foreign-minister-sushma-swaraj-1220517>

<sup>66</sup> "Achievements in Indo-US relations are Testimony to Leadership of President Obama, PM Modi: Sushma Swaraj", *Zee News*, September 22, 2015 at [http://zeenews.india.com/news/india/achievements-in-indo-us-relations-are-testimony-to-leadership-of-president-obama-pm-modi-%E2%80%8Bsushma-swaraj\\_1800719.html](http://zeenews.india.com/news/india/achievements-in-indo-us-relations-are-testimony-to-leadership-of-president-obama-pm-modi-%E2%80%8Bsushma-swaraj_1800719.html)

<sup>67</sup> "Energy Key Component of Indo-US Relations, Says Piyush Goyal", *Business Standard*, September 22, 2015 at [http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/energy-key-component-of-indo-us-relations-says-piyush-goyal-115092201385\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/energy-key-component-of-indo-us-relations-says-piyush-goyal-115092201385_1.html)

<sup>68</sup> "Joint Statement on the First U.S.-India Strategic and Commercial Dialogue", Media Note, Office of the Spokesperson, *US Department of State*, Washington, DC, September 22, 2015 at <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2015/09/247192.htm>

from safe havens in the region and the need for Pakistan to bring perpetrators of 2008 Mumbai attacks to justice.<sup>69</sup> Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry and US Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker led the dialogue's commercial segment aimed at raising India-US bilateral trade fivefold to \$500 billion.<sup>70</sup> The S&CD set the stage for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's third summit with President Barack Obama later this month.

On September 27, India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Silicon Valley with a focus on innovation and entrepreneurship as he became the first Indian premier to visit the world's leading tech hub. The trip to Silicon Valley forms part of Modi's visit to the US' west coast – the first by an Indian prime minister in more than three decades. Modi met Apple CEO Tim Cook, after he kicked off his Silicon Valley tour meeting Elon Musk as he visited Tesla Motors. Cook said, "We have a unique tie with India. Our founder Steve Jobs went to India for inspiration". Congressman Ed Royce, Chairman of the powerful House Foreign Affairs Committee said in a welcome statement as soon as Modi landed at San Jose Airport that "With Prime Minister Narendra Modi in office, we have the opportunity to reinvigorate US-India relations and bring our partnership to new heights".<sup>71</sup>

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<sup>69</sup> "Tracking PM Modi in America: Terror to Dawood to Trade, India, US Jointly Sign Off", *The Indian Express*, September 24, 2015 at <http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-others/tracking-pm-modi-in-america-terror-to-dawood-to-trade-india-us-jointly-sign-off/>; and, "India, US agree to step up terrorism cooperation", *Business Standard*, September 23, 2015 at [http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/india-us-agree-to-step-up-terrorism-cooperation-115092300030\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/india-us-agree-to-step-up-terrorism-cooperation-115092300030_1.html)

<sup>70</sup> "Accords on Terrorism to Space Cooperation Set Stage for PM Modi's US Visit", *NDTV News*, September 23, 2015 at <http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/accords-on-terrorism-to-space-cooperation-set-stage-for-pm-modis-us-visit-1220781>; and, "India-US Bilateral Trade Can Be Increased Fivefold: John Kerry, Sushma Swaraj Highlight Priority Areas", *The firstpost.com*, September 23, 2015 at <http://www.firstpost.com/world/india-us-bilateral-trade-can-be-increased-five-fold-john-kerry-sushma-swaraj-highlight-priority-areas-2442626.html>

<sup>71</sup> "PM in Silicon Valley: Narendra Modi Meets Tim Cook Of Apple, Takes Tour of Tesla Motors with Elon Musk", *The Indian Express*, September 27, 2015 at <http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-others/modi-in-san-jose-pm-modi-arrives-in-silicon-valley-attends-indian-diaspora-event/>; "Narendra Modi's Speech at the Shark Tank, Silicon Valley As It Happened", *The Wall Street Journal*, September 25, 2015 at <http://blogs.wsj.com/indiarealtime/2015/09/25/indias-narendra-modi-live-at-the-shark-tank-san-jose/>; and, see Luce, Edward, "Silicon Valley Trip Shows Depth Of Modi's Digital Delusions", *The Financial Times*, September 30, 2015 at <http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/3261d8ae-66c4-11e5-97d0-1456a776a4f5.html#axzz3ovVVEDre>

## II. INTERNAL SECURITY REVIEWS

### Jammu & Kashmir

(September 21-27, 2015)

- **Government suspends Geelani's passport; J&K suspends internet services on Eid-ul-Adha; Clashes mark Eid celebrations in parts of Kashmir.**

Separatist leader and Hurriyat Conference (G) chairman Syed Ali Geelani's passport has been suspended by government for four weeks to bar him from attending the Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC) foreign ministers meeting in New York.<sup>72</sup>

Amidst apprehensions of misuse of the social networking sites in view of the beef ban in the state, the J&K government snapped all the internet services in the Valley for two days starting from September 25. The decision was taken in a high-level meeting held in Srinagar.<sup>73</sup>

On Eid-ul-Adha on September 25, parts of Kashmir saw clashes between stone-pelting mobs and security forces. Two journalists were injured even as authorities placed separatist leaders including Syed Ali Shah Geelani and Mirwaiz Umar Farooq under house arrest. Clashes were reported from Eidgah, Rajouri Kadal and some other areas of old Srinagar city and a few places in Anantnag district, a police officer said. Flags of Pakistan and militant group Al-Jehad were also waved by some youth in some areas of old Srinagar, he said.<sup>74</sup>

### Northeast India

(September 21-27, 2015)

- **ULFA (pro-talk) cadres may switch sides; Manipur: Joint operations neutralised three PLA cadres; seized arms and ammunition; Two HPC(D) cadres arrested in Cachar district of Assam; Top NDFB(S) leader nabbed in BTAD.**

In the wake of slow progress of talks between the Government of India and United Liberation Front of Asom (pro-talk faction), the possibility of a sizeable number of them switching over to the hardline faction headed by Paresh Baruah cannot be ruled out. Talking to *The Assam Tribune*, a senior central committee member of the pro-talk faction of the ULFA admitted that the cadres of the outfit who are sitting idle in the designated camps were frustrated and the possibility of some of them joining the hardline faction cannot be ruled out. He said that the

<sup>72</sup> Kathju, Junaid, "Geelani's Passport Suspended For 4 Weeks", *Rising Kashmir*, September 23, 2015 at <http://www.risingkashmir.com/news/geelani-passport-suspended-for-4-weeks/>

<sup>73</sup> Sharma, Arun and Ehsan, Mir, "J&K Suspends Internet Services In The State For 2 Days", *The Indian Express*, September 25, 2015 at <http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-others/to-avoid-tension-during-eid-ul-zuha-govt-ban-internet-in-jk-for-two-days-from-tomorrow/>

<sup>74</sup> "Clashes Mark Eid Celebrations In Parts of Kashmir", *The Hindu*, September 26, 2015 at <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/clashes-mark-eid-celebrations-in-parts-of-kashmir/article7690615.ece>

Government of India would lose a golden opportunity of political solution of the problems if the talks are not resumed by November and this would only strengthen the hands of the hardline faction.<sup>75</sup>

In a series of counter-insurgency operations undertaken jointly by the Assam Rifles along with the State police in different parts of Manipur from August 1 to September 15, 40 underground cadres and three 'over ground workers' were apprehended and a huge quantity of arms and ammunition belonging to the different outfits active in Manipur was recovered. Three cadres of PLA were also killed in an encounter, noted a press release issued by the IGAR (South).<sup>76</sup>

Two Hmar People's Convention Democrats (HPC-D) militants were arrested by the Mizoram Police at Hmarkhawlien in Cachar district of Assam on September 21. Identified as self-styled sergeant Lalchualova (36) alias LC Hmar and self-styled private Reuben Lalromawia (19), the duo have allegedly taken part in the ambush of an MLA convoy on March 28 this year. The two are also believed to be the bodyguards of Lalbiakliana alias Biaka Hmar, who oversaw the Zokhawthiang ambush.<sup>77</sup>

In a major operational success against NDFB (S), security forces led by Assam Police on September 25 arrested self-styled chief of army staff of the outfit Rabi Basumatary along with his personal security officer Jwnglaw Narzary from the Morabari jungle near the Hakua river on the bordering area of Baksa and Chirang districts in BTAD. The joint operation of Assam Police, Army and Sashastra Seema Bal, also recovered an AK 56 rifle, 170 rounds of AK ammunition, 50 rounds of INSAS ammunition and four hand grenades from them.<sup>78</sup>

## Left-wing Extremism

(September 21-27, 2015)

- **Security forces arrest TPC Maoist 'area commander' in Bihar; Top cop rules out Naxalite resurgence in Telangana; COBRA commando injured in Bastar blast; Top 'urban' Maoist dies of heart attack: CPI (Maoist); Eighty-eight Maoist supporters surrender in Malkangiri; Bastar police seize 1,750 kg of explosives, arrest Seven.**

The 'area commander' of Maoist outfit Tiritiya Prastuti Committee Ram Dular Kharwar alias Nawaljee was arrested by security forces from Bihar's Rohtas district on September 22. The security forces, comprising the CRPF and Bihar police seized from him a country-made rifle, six live ammunitions of AK-47, 50 detonators and 13 packets of IED, said Rohtas SP Manavjit

<sup>75</sup> Choudhury, R Dutta, "ULFA (pro-talk) Cadres May Switch Sides", *The Assam Tribune*, September 22, 2015 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=sep2215/at054>

<sup>76</sup> "Arms, Ammo Recovered", *The Assam Tribune*, September 23, 2015 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=sep2315/oth054>

<sup>77</sup> "2 HPC (D) Cadres Arrested", *The Assam Tribune*, September 23, 2015 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=sep2315/oth053>

<sup>78</sup> "Top NDFB(S) Leader Nabbed in BTAD", *The Assam Tribune*, September 26, 2015 at <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=sep2615/at053>

Singh Dhillon. During interrogation, Kharwar admitted that he had planned to sabotage upcoming assembly polls in the district, the SP added.<sup>79</sup>

Ruling out the resurgence of the Maoist movement in the new state of Telangana, a top police official said that the recent spotting of some Naxals in Telangana was the result of a rift between the extremists belonging to Chhattisgarh and Telangana. According to sources in the Telangana police, there has been an increasing build-up of animosity between the Maoists from Telangana who are holed up in Chhattisgarh and the local leaders, who have been demanding that the Telangana Maoists return to their state and revive the movement. However, the Telangana leaders preferred to stay in Chhattisgarh as they felt they could become victims in the hands of the Telangana police.<sup>80</sup>

A jawan of the Central Reserve Police Force's Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (COBRA) was grievously wounded in a bomb explosion in the Maoist-hit Bastar region of Chhattisgarh on September 24. Jawans of 206 COBRA battalion, posted in the Chintagufa police camp in Sukma district, were providing cover to policemen and CRPF jawans who were ill or proceeding on leave. The Maoists are observing the CPI (Maoist) foundation week in the region from September 21 to September 27.<sup>81</sup>

A Central Committee member of the CPI (Maoist), Sridhar Srinivasan alias Vijay alias Vishnu, has died of a heart attack, the Maoist outfit has said in a press statement. Described as a "brilliant revolutionary intellectual" in Maoist literature, Srinivasan, who died on August 18, was active in Maharashtra's Mumbai, Pune and Vidarbha regions. In its statement, CPI (Maoist) spokesperson Abhay said that Srinivasan's death was a "major blow" as they had "lost an exemplary communist leader". The Central Committee member carried a cash reward of Rs 60 lakh in Chhattisgarh alone, besides rewards in several other states.<sup>82</sup>

Eighty-eight Maoist supporters surrendered in Malkangiri district of Odisha while the outlawed CPI (Maoist) organisation observed a dawn-to-dusk bandh in the district on September 25 to protest against continuing surrender of rural Maoist elements in the district. The Maoists supporters, who came over to district police headquarter to surrender before the

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<sup>79</sup> "Maoist Held With Arms And Explosives", *Business Standard*, September 23, 2015 at [http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/maoist-held-with-arms-and-explosives-115092300601\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/maoist-held-with-arms-and-explosives-115092300601_1.html)

<sup>80</sup> Vudali, Srinath, "Top Cop Rules Out Naxalite Resurgence in Telangana", *The Times of India*, September 24, 2015 at <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Top-cop-rules-out-Naxalite-resurgence-in-Telangana/articleshow/49083758.cms>

<sup>81</sup> Dahat, Pavan, "COBRA Commando Injured In Bastar Blast", *The Hindu*, September 24, 2015 at <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/central-reserve-police-forces-commando-battalion-for-resolute-action-cobra-commando-injured-in-bastar-blast/article7686149.ece>

<sup>82</sup> Haygunde, Chandan, "Top 'Urban' Maoist In Maharashtra Dies Of Heart Attack", *The Indian Express*, September 26, 2015 at <http://indianexpress.com/article/cities/pune/top-urban-maoist-in-maharashtra-dies-of-heart-attack/>

Malkangiri SP, were from Badaliguda village under Kalimela police station limits. They included a dozen militias and one village committee member of Maoists.<sup>83</sup>

The Bastar police on September 25 arrested seven “Maoist suppliers” and seized 1,750 kg of explosives comprising 750 kg of Gelatin and 1000 Kg of Ammonium Nitrate in the restive region, said S.R.P. Kalluri, Inspector-General of Police (Bastar Range). The seizure is being considered a major success for the Bastar police as 1,750 kg of explosives could blow up more than 70 anti-landmine vehicles. It comes ahead of a major operation to be launched against the Maoists in all parts of Bastar next month.<sup>84</sup>

### III. UNITED NATIONS REVIEWS

#### India and the UN

(September 14-27, 2015)

- **General Assembly agrees on text-based negotiation for UNSC reform; India with LMDCs for the Paris Summit; India to take a call on UNHRC Lanka resolution once tabled; “Indian lifestyle” a remedy for climate change: Javadekar; India slips in UN’s broadband penetration ranking; India key for success of sustainable development goals; UNSC reforms essential to make it relevant in the 21<sup>st</sup> century: Modi; Pakistan protests India’s move to ‘raise wall’ on LoC; India exposes ‘Sayeed Salahudeen submission’.**

On the night of September 14, the General Assembly adopted by consensus a resolution to continue text-based negotiations on reform of the Security Council in the 70<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly.<sup>85</sup> India welcomed the development as it had been attempting to move along this path to ultimately secure a place for itself in an expanded Security Council.<sup>86</sup> India’s PR, Asoke Mukherji said this was significant as it had significantly changed the dynamics of

<sup>83</sup> “88 Maoist Supporters Surrender In Malkangiri”, *The Hindu*, September 26, 2015 at <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/88-maoist-supporters-surrender-in-malkangiri/article7690507.ece>

<sup>84</sup> Dahat, Pavan, “Bastar Police Seize 1,750 Kg Of Explosives, Arrest 7”, *The Hindu*, September 26, 2015 at <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/bastar-police-seize-1750-kg-of-explosives-arrest-7/article7689863.ece>

<sup>85</sup> “United Nations Adopts Documents Based Negotiations For Security Council Reforms”, *The Indian Express*, September 15, 2015, at <http://indianexpress.com/article/world/world-others/united-nation-adopts-documents-based-negotiations-for-security-council-reforms/>

<sup>86</sup> “UNSC Reforms: India Hails Text-Based Negotiations As ‘Historic’, ‘Pathbreaking’”, *The Indian Express*, September 15, 2015 at <http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-others/unsc-reforms-india-hails-text-based-negotiations/>

the Intergovernmental Negotiations.<sup>87</sup> While France and UK are party to the process, US, Russia and France have not contributed to the text of negotiation. Russia and US have affirmed their support for India's claim to a permanent seat.<sup>88</sup>

India has teamed up with 13 like-minded developing countries (LMDCs) to negotiate at the upcoming climate change summit in December 2015. The coalition will also stand together in the October 2015 meeting in Bonn. The countries are China, Bolivia, Cuba, El Salvador, Ecuador, Iran, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Malaysia, Vietnam, Argentina and Saudi Arabia.<sup>89</sup>

India is in the process of going through the report of the UNHCR on the last years of the war against the LTTE. The report calls for the setting up of hybrid courts with international and Sri Lankan lawyers to investigate war crimes by the Sri Lankan armed forces and the Tamil Tigers. The report does not conclude that the 'war' was a genocide.<sup>90</sup> Meanwhile, the government of Tamilnadu has passed an Assembly Resolution urging the Central government to seek investigation by an international tribunal.<sup>91</sup>

The Minister for Environment, Prakash Javadekar, has said in an interview that the Indian lifestyle free of extravagant habits can help the world deal with climate change. He added that while India's peak is a long time away, its per capita emissions will be lower than US and China due to its lifestyle underlined by minimizing wasteful consumption.<sup>92</sup> He also emphasized the importance of green technology and transfer in mitigating the effects of climate change. <sup>93</sup>Meanwhile, the government also plans to produce a short film capturing India's holistic approach to conserving the climate and showcase the film all over the world.<sup>94</sup>

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<sup>87</sup> "UN Adopts Text-based Negotiations on UNSC Reforms", *The New Indian Express*, September 14, 2015, at <http://www.newindianexpress.com/world/UN-Adopts-Text-based-Negotiations-on-UNSC-Reforms/2015/09/14/article3028097.ece>

<sup>88</sup> "Russia backs India bid at UNSC", September 17, 2015, at <http://www.asianage.com/india/russia-backs-india-bid-uns-843>

<sup>89</sup> "India, Like-Minded Nations to Negotiate Together at Climate Change Summit", September 16, 2015, at <http://www.livemint.com/Politics/RRrNgJ15Snt9HcHvasBKno/India-likeminded-nations-to-negotiate-together.html>

<sup>90</sup> "Examining UNHRC Report on Sri Lanka, Waiting for US's Draft Resolution: India", September 17, 2015, at <http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/Examining-UNHRC-Report-on-Sri-Lanka-Waiting-for-USs-Draft-Resolution-India/2015/09/17/article3031879.ece>

<sup>91</sup> "TN Urges Centre to Seek International Probe Into 'War Crimes' in Sri Lanka", *The Hindu*, September 16, 2015 at <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/jayalalithaa-moves-resolution-for-international-probe-on-alleged-war-crimes-in-sri-lanka/article7658982.ece>

<sup>92</sup> "Interview-Minister Touts "Indian Lifestyle" As Remedy For Climate Change", *Reuters*, September 21, 2015, at <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2015/09/21/india-climatechange-idUKL5N11R24H20150921>

<sup>93</sup> "Green Technology, Funds Crucial To India's Climate Change Fight: Prakash Javadekar", *The Economic Times*, September 23, 2015, at [http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2015-09-23/news/66822645\\_1\\_technology-mechanism-nationally-determined-contributions-climate-change](http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2015-09-23/news/66822645_1_technology-mechanism-nationally-determined-contributions-climate-change)

<sup>94</sup> "Delhi Climate Diplomacy Drive", *The Telegraph*, September 21, 2015, at [http://www.telegraphindia.com/1150922/jsp/nation/story\\_43874.jsp#.Vg6O8uyqqko](http://www.telegraphindia.com/1150922/jsp/nation/story_43874.jsp#.Vg6O8uyqqko)

Addressing the General Assembly on September 25, PM Modi said the discourse on climate change needs to become a discourse on climate justice.<sup>95</sup>

India's rank in broadband penetration, mobile and fixed fell from 113 (2013) to 155 (2014), despite an overall increase in mobile users from 3.6 per cent to 5.5 percent for the same years. This was brought out in the report of the Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development titled "State of Broadband 2015". While in terms of household penetration of the internet, the top ten countries are in Asia and the Middle East, with Japan topping the list.<sup>96</sup>

Ahead of the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Vice Chairman of the Niti Aayog, Arvind Panagariya, has said that uplifting the poor people of India through use of technology will contribute significantly to achieving the global SDG aim of ending poverty by 2030. He was speaking at a meeting organised by the Permanent Mission of India in New York and the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS). For India, developing the agriculture sector productivity is key to this. Alongside, he emphasized the importance of sharing of their successes by the developed countries. He explained the congruence between the SDGs and the goals of the Indian government of the day.<sup>97</sup>

Speaking after the adoption of the goals, PM Narendra Modi said, "Our national plans to ensure sustainable development are purposeful and ambitious".<sup>98</sup> The leader of the United Jihad Council (UJC), Syed Salahuddin, voiced his objection to the Indian proposal to build a wall along the line of control (LoC) and called upon the Pakistan PM to raise the issue in the UN General Assembly.<sup>99</sup> The wall is to be a 197-km-long, 10-meter-high and 135-foot-wide. Pakistan's Permanent Representative sent two letters on this subject to the concerned UN office.<sup>100</sup> India is reported to have mocked Pakistan for quoting a terrorist on this issue.<sup>101</sup>

<sup>95</sup> "Need to Ensure Climate Justice, Says PM Modi at United Nations", *NDTV News*, September 26, 2015, at <http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/need-to-ensure-climate-justice-says-pm-modi-at-united-nations-1223108>

<sup>96</sup> "India Slips in UN's Broadband Penetration Ranking", September 22, 2015, at <http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/info-tech/india-slips-in-uns-broadband-penetration-ranking/article7674780.ece>

<sup>97</sup> "India Key For Success of Sustainable Development Goals: Arvind Panagariya", *NDTV News*, September 22, 2015, at <http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/india-key-for-success-of-sustainable-development-goals-arvind-panagariya-1220412>. Also see "World Leaders Adopt UN Sustainable Development Goals to Eradicate Poverty by 2030", September 25, 2015, *The Indian Express*, at <http://indianexpress.com/article/world/world-news/world-leaders-adopt-un-sustainable-development-goals/>

<sup>98</sup> "UNSC Reforms Essential to Make it Relevant: Modi", September 25, 2015, at <http://www.newindianexpress.com/world/UNSC-Reforms-Essential-to-Make-it-Relevant-Modi/2015/09/25/article3047528.ece>. Also see, "Our March in Step with U.N. Vision: Modi", *The Hindu*, September 25, 2015, at <http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/prime-minister-narendra-modi-new-york-visit-narendra-modi-addresses-at-united-nations-general-assembly/article7689871.ece>

<sup>99</sup> "India Constructing Wall Along LoC", *The Greater Kashmir*, September 22, 2015, at <http://www.greaterkashmir.com/news/kashmir/story/197246.html>

<sup>100</sup> "Pakistan Protests India's Move to 'Raise Wall' on LoC", *The New Indian Express*, September 25, 2015, at <http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/Pakistan-Protests-Indias-Move-to-Raise-Wall-on-LoC/2015/09/25/article3046882.ece>

<sup>101</sup> "Nation at 9: India Exposes 'Sayeed Salahudeen Submission'", September 26, 2015, at <http://www.newsx.com/nation-at-9/11185-nation-at-9-india-exposes-sayeed-salahudeen-submission>

