

# Reviewing **Indo- Pak** Bilateral Relations

**Quarterly Monitoring Brief**

APRIL 2014- JUNE 2014

The Indian election, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's visit to Delhi and resumption of ceasefire violations along the Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir, dominated bilateral relations between the two neighbouring countries during the quarter under review.

Throughout April, progress in normalizing bilateral relations was put on hold as India headed to polls for the 16<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha. The much anticipated granting of Non-Discriminate Market Access (NDMA) status to India stalled in the earlier half of April. Lack of stakeholder consensus within Pakistan, the need to delink NDMA status from election rhetoric and the desire to garner support from an incoming government in New Delhi were reported to be the main considerations in delaying the decision to normalize trade relations with India.

As election results flooded in, echoing a historic win for the Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP), Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was one of the first heads of government to congratulate BJP's prime ministerial candidate Narendra Modi. Similarly, in a welcome and surprise initiative, Narendra Modi broke from convention and invited all SAARC heads of government to his inauguration ceremony in New Delhi.

After careful deliberation, Prime Minister Sharif accepted the invitation and attended the inauguration ceremony of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Following the inauguration, bilateral talks between the two premiers and their foreign affairs teams were held the following day. The two prime ministers also had a 10 minute one-on-one meeting.

During the meeting, Sharif reiterated Pakistan's commitment to normalize relations, restart the stalled bilateral dialogue and Pakistan's desire to resolve all outstanding issues between the two countries. Sharif also extended an invitation to the new Indian premier to visit Pakistan. Modi expressed his willingness to resolve outstanding issues with Pakistan, while highlighting India's concerns about cross-border terrorism and the trial of suspects accused of orchestrating the Mumbai attacks. Both prime ministers also expressed their willingness to move towards trade liberalization at the earliest.

The second major factor in Indo-Pak relations during this quarter was the multiple violations of the ceasefire along the LoC in the disputed region of Kashmir. The ceasefire was rocked by up to 20 violations, including an improvised explosives device (IED) blast along the LoC. The Indian army also reported foiling several infiltration attempts in the region.

Progress in granting NDMA to India, which had been gaining momentum in the previous quarter, came to a standstill. It is expected that trade normalization talks will resume after peace talks between the two countries are reinstated.

Bilateral coordination in repatriating prisoners continued this quarter. In a gesture of good will, Pakistan released and repatriated 150 Indians prisoners on the eve of Prime Minister Modi's inauguration. One additional exchange of inadvertent border crossing between the Indian Border Security Force and the Pakistan Rangers was reported in the media.

Despite PM Sharif's historic visit to New Delhi, progress in normalization of Indo-Pak relations was slow during this reporting period. It is expected to pick up pace in the coming quarter, with the possibility of meetings between commerce secretaries and foreign secretaries in the next quarter.

<b>Media Reports</b>	
<b>Kashmir</b>	
25-04-2014 <a href="#">The ceasefire along the Line of Control (LoC) was violated</a> by mortar shelling and firing by both sides in <a href="#">the Poonch sector</a> .	Express Tribune The News
28-04-2014 <a href="#">Another ceasefire violation took place</a> at the LoC in Bimar Ghali area of <a href="#">Jammu and Kashmir's</a> Poonch district.	India Today Dawn
04-05-2014 <a href="#">The ceasefire along the LoC in Poonch</a> district was violated for the third time in nine days, as troops exchanged fire. The Indian army also reported a <a href="#">foiled infiltration attempt by five to six militants in Dera Dabsi in Poonch</a> , the second attempt in less than two days. The two incidents were unrelated.	Hindustan Times
05-05-2014 <a href="#">Three Kashmiri students were abused and beaten at a hostel in Greater Noida</a> by six inebriated boys for refusing to chant anti-Pakistan slogans. <a href="#">100 Kashmiri students staged a protest after the incident</a> against the university's failure to provide them security.	The Times of India Hindustan Times
11-05-2014 <a href="#">Troops along the LoC</a> exchanged small arm fire in Nangi Tekri <a href="#">area in Poonch district</a> .	The Times of India The Express Tribune
13-05-2014 <a href="#">Ceasefire violations along the LoC continued</a> as troops exchanged fire in the Krishna Ghati sector of Poonch district.	India Today
13-05-2014 Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir Omar Abdullah <a href="#">expressed hope that the new government in New Delhi</a> would carry forward the dialogue process with Pakistan to address long pending issues, including Kashmir. He added that Kashmir is a long standing issue with a political genesis, which requires a political solution which will satisfy the political aspirations of the Kashmiri people.	Business Standard

14-05-2014 PM Manmohan Singh's special envoy for Af-Pak, Satinder Lambha, who has conducted back channel talks with Pakistan for a decade, said that <a href="#">the LoC should become the border between India and Pakistan</a> .	The Times of India
21-05-2014 In yet another incident of cross LoC firing, <a href="#">troops exchanged automatic and small weapons</a> fire in Poonch district.	The Hindu
12-06-2014 <a href="#">An Indian army jawan was killed and three others injured in an IED explosion</a> near the Line of Control in Tarkundi area of Poonch district.	The Indian Express
13-06-2014 A day after the IED blast, the <a href="#">ceasefire along the LoC was violated in Poonch district</a> as troops exchanged mortar, automatic and small arms fire. The incident took place a day <a href="#">after PM Modi met defence officials to discuss India's war preparedness</a> . A <a href="#">ceasefire violation was also reported in Rajouri district</a> . In another reported incident, <a href="#">two civilians were injured in Nakyal sector</a> by shelling by Indian troops.	The Times of India The Indian Express Express Tribune Hindustan Times
14-06-2014 During his first visit to Jammu and Kashmir to review security related matters with the state government, Indian Defence Minister Arun Jaitley said that Indian troops are capable of responding to ceasefire violations along the LoC, adding that upholding the ceasefire was itself a confidence building measure (CBM).	The Times of India Hindustan Times
19-06-2014 Another exchange of fire between troops violated the ceasefire in Samba district near Jammu. No casualties were reported as a result of incident.	The Times of India
27-06-2014 The ceasefire was violated by yet another exchange of fire between troops in Poonch district.	The Times of India The Hindu
29-06-2014 New Delhi's decision to provide telephone and other facilities to cross-LoC traders was hailed as a positive development by the leadership of the People's Democratic Party of Jammu and Kashmir.	The Hindu
<b>Economic Relations</b>	
12-04-2014 Nawaz Sharif's decision to delay granting Non-Discriminate Market Access (NDMA) was a <a href="#">result of backdoor diplomacy with India's political leadership</a> , which advised postponing the implementation of NDMA until after the elections in order to avoid	The News

heated debates over the issue in India's political arena as the country prepared to head to the polls.	
17-06-2014 Pakistan's High Commissioner to India Abdul Basit said <a href="#">that the process of granting NDMA to India will resume</a> after bilateral talks between the two countries resume.	The Indian Express
19-06-2014 S. M. Muneer, Chief Executive of the Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) <a href="#">reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to normal trade relations with India</a> in a meeting with Indian Minister of Commerce and Industry Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi.	Dawn
19-06-2014 In a meeting with Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry O Rogozin, Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj <a href="#">raised India's concerns over Russia's move to sell Mi35 attack helicopters to Pakistan</a> .	The Indian Express
28-06-2014 During talks with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, Indian Vice President Hamid Ansari raised India's concerns about a feasibility study commissioned by China to build a rail link with Pakistan through Pakistan Administered Kashmir.	The Indian Express
29-06-2014 Indian Minister for Commerce and Industry Nirmala Sitharaman confirmed that she will <a href="#">meet her Pakistani counterpart Khurram Dastagir</a> on the sidelines of the SAFTA ministerial council's meeting in Bhutan in July to <a href="#">devise a roadmap for removing bottlenecks in trade liberalization</a> .	The Times of India The Nation
<b>Bilateral Relations</b>	
04-04-2014 <a href="#">Proceedings in the Mumbai trail attacks in Pakistan came to a standstill due to security reasons</a> . The special judge of the anti-terrorism court expressed his inability to conduct the trail of seven Pakistani suspects within the prison after the March 3 terrorist attack on the district courts in Islamabad.	Dawn
06,16-04-2014 The Indian Border Security Force (BSF) <a href="#">seized 36kg of heroin in Ferozepur sector</a> in Punjab, after a shootout with smugglers allegedly from Pakistan. The BSF said that it also retrieved a cell phone with a Pakistani number and sim card from the scene. <a href="#">In another incident on 16 April in Attari sector</a> , a Pakistani national was shot in an encounter with BSF personnel who recovered 8 kg of heroin from the intruder.	Hindustan Times Business Standard
14-04-2014 The Pakistan Maritime Security Agency (PMSF) <a href="#">arrested 24 fishermen</a> and seized four boats at the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL).	The Times of India

<p>01-05-2014 <a href="#">In his address at the ceremony</a> of Youm-e-Shuhada (Martyr's Day), Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff, General Raheel Sharif, <a href="#">called Kashmir the 'jugular vein of Pakistan'</a> and said the issue should be resolved in accordance with the wishes and aspirations of the Kashmiri people, and in line with UNSC resolutions.</p>	<p>The Times of India Hindustan Times</p>
<p>02-05-2014 The Indian BSF <a href="#">repatriated two Pakistani nationals</a>, both residents of Karachi, who inadvertently crossed into Indian territory. They were handed over to the Pakistan Rangers.</p>	<p>Hindustan Times</p>
<p>03-05-2014 Prime Minister's advisor on security and foreign affairs, Sartaj Aziz <a href="#">reiterated Pakistan's willingness to talk to any government elected by the Indian people</a>, including <a href="#">one led by prime ministerial candidate Narendra Modi</a>. He highlighted that peace with India had been PM Nawaz Sharif's poll plank, and that he remains committed to improving relations with the country.</p>	<p>Hindustan Times Pakistan Today</p>
<p>03-05-2014 <a href="#">Pakistan foreign ministry formally protested</a> to India's Deputy High Commissioner about the refusal of visas to 500 Pakistani pilgrims who intended to attend an annual festival at a Sufi saint's shrine.</p>	<p>The News</p>
<p>06-05-2014 Pakistan's High Commissioner to India met senior officials at the Indian External Affairs Ministry to report <a href="#">a threat letter received by the Pakistani mission in New Delhi</a>.</p>	<p>The News</p>
<p>15-05-2014 <a href="#">Two Indian journalists, present in Pakistan</a> under a bilateral agreement between the countries, <a href="#">have been asked to leave the country after their visa renewal request was denied</a>. The journalists, who had been present in Pakistan since August 2013, had been granted three month visas, which were periodically renewed. India's Ministry of External Affairs has termed Pakistan's decision 'regrettable and unfortunate'.</p>	<p>The Indian Express The News</p>
<p>16-05-2014 PM Nawaz Sharif telephoned Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and prime ministerial candidate <a href="#">Narendra Modi to congratulate him on his party's victory in the Indian general elections</a>.</p>	<p>Dawn</p>
<p>19-05-2014 Pakistan's High Commissioner to India Abdul Basit reached out to BJP leaders on behalf of PM Nawaz Sharif to <a href="#">communicate Pakistan's willingness for meaningful engagement with India's new government</a>, according to officials.</p>	<p>Express Tribune</p>
<p>19-05-2014 Addressing members of the Press Club of India, Pakistan's High Commissioner Abdul Basit said <a href="#">that a national consensus to improve relations with India</a> existed in</p>	<p>The Times of India</p>

<p>Pakistan, and reiterated Islamabad's willingness to engage with the incoming government in New Delhi. <a href="#">He also shared that PM Nawaz Sharif had invited Narendra Modi to visit Pakistan.</a></p>	<p><b>The News</b></p>
<p>21-05-2014 Presiding over a national security meeting, <a href="#">PM Mawaz Sahrif said that his government wants negotiations with the newly elected governments</a> of India and Afghanistan, and wanted to move forward, on equal terms, on outstanding issues with the two states.</p>	<p><b>The News</b></p>
<p>21-26-05-2014 In a historic move, Narendra Modi <a href="#">extended invitations to all SAARC heads of state</a> to attend his <a href="#">prime ministerial inauguration ceremony</a> in New Delhi. After <a href="#">careful deliberation</a>, PM Nawaz Sharif <a href="#">accepted the invitation</a>. The inauguration ceremony was proceeded by bilateral talks between the two premiers, during which they <a href="#">agreed to get peace talks back on track</a>. In a gesture of good will, <a href="#">Pakistan released 150 Indian prisoners</a> on the eve of the inauguration ceremony.</p>	<p><b>The Hindustan Times</b> <b>Express Tribune</b> <b>India Today</b> <b>Dawn</b> <b>The Indian Express</b></p>
<p>23-05-2014 Pakistan <a href="#">condemned the attack on India's consulate in Herat</a> and reiterated its stance against terrorism in all forms and manifestations.</p>	<p><b>Express Tribune</b></p>
<p>29-05-2014 Addressing reporters, India's new External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj said that <a href="#">India wanted to develop good and friendly relations with Pakistan</a>, and considered it imperative that the scourge of terrorism should come to an end once and for all. She added that PM Modi had told PM Nawaz Sharif that if bomb blasts continued, peace talks between the two countries would be lost in the din.</p>	<p><b>The News</b></p>
<p>06-06-2014 <a href="#">A list of Pakistani prisoners in Indian prisons has been released</a> for the first time on public domain. The information was previously only available to government bodies.</p>	<p><b>The Times of India</b></p>
<p>11-06-2014 <a href="#">In a letter to PM Modi</a>, PM Nawaz Sharif expressed his satisfaction with their meeting in New Delhi, and stated his intention to work together "in harmony on all unsettled matters for the benefit of both nations."He also echoed PM Modi's sentiment that the two countries needed to work together to tackle poverty and underdevelopment. In addition to the letter, PM Sharif sent gifts for PM Modi and his mother.</p>	<p><b>The Times of India</b></p>
<p>14-06-2014 <a href="#">Responding to PM Sharif's letter</a>, PM Modi <a href="#">wrote back to his Pakistani counterpart</a> saying that he looked forward to working closely with him in an atmosphere free of "confrontation and violence" and in order to chart a new course in bilateral</p>	<p><b>The Times of India</b> <b>The Hindu</b></p>

<p>relations. Briefing the press about the letter, foreign secretary Sujatha Singh said that while 'letter and sari diplomacy' helped India's efforts to have cordial efforts with its neighbours, maintenance of peace along the LoC was one of the most important CBMs between India and Pakistan and also a precondition for normalization of ties.</p>	
<p>26-06-2014 According to Pakistan's <a href="#">ambassador to the United States, Jalil Abbas Jilani</a>, India and Pakistan had <a href="#">reopened back channel talks</a> following the <a href="#">meeting of the two premiers in New Delhi in May</a>.</p>	<p>The Hindu Dawn The Nation</p>
<h2>Track II Diplomacy</h2>	
<p>14-06-2014 A new track II dialogue series, the Pakistan-India Bilateral Dialogue, was initiated in Islamabad on June 2014. Former diplomats and sector specialists from both countries discussed outstanding bilateral issues and agreed on the desire for peace, justice and equity by both sides.</p>	
<p>29-06-2014 <a href="#">Indo-Pak track II diplomacy continued</a> this quarter, as former diplomats, retired military officials, journalists and influential civil society actors from both countries <a href="#">agreed on the necessity of direct links between high officials of two countries, besides enhancing trade and economic links</a> at the <a href="#">Chaopraya Dialogue</a> organized by the Jinnah Institute and Australia-India Institute.</p>	<p>The News The Nation Express Tribune</p>
<h2>Media &amp; Culture</h2>	
<p>05-05-2014 A group of university students from New Delhi have planned <a href="#">a cross country bicycle rally to celebrate the two countries' independence days with Pakistani</a> students in August. They will cycle to Wagah, and will proceed to Lahore University and Quaid-e-Azam university in Islamabad. The convener of the rally said the idea is to promote peace, unity and love in the South Asian region.</p>	<p>The Times of India</p>

