

GREAT DECISIONS

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4. India changes course

Acronyms and abbreviations

AIPAC—American Israel Public Affairs Committee
BJP—Bharatiya Janata Party
BRICS—an association of five major emerging nations: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa
CMP (Indian abbreviation AAP)—Common Man Party
FDI—Foreign Direct Investment
GDP—Gross domestic product
IMF—International Monetary Fund
NDA—National Democratic Alliance
NDTV—New Delhi Television Ltd.
NRI—Non-resident Indian (Indians living abroad)
RAW—Research and Analysis Wing
RSS—Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh

Glossary

Bangladesh: A country in South Asia bordered by India to its west, north and east and Burma to its southeast. The present-day borders of Bangladesh took shape during the Partition of Bengal and British India in 1947, when the region was first known as East Pakistan, as a part of the newly formed state of Pakistan. Political exclusion, ethnic and linguistic discrimination and economic neglect resulted in nationalism, popular agitation and civil disobedience and led to the Bangladesh Liberation War (supported by Indira Gandhi) and independence in 1971.

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP): One of two major political parties in India. As of 2014, it is India's largest political party in terms of representation in the national parliament. It is a right-wing party with close ideological and organizational links to the Hindu nationalist Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh.

Common Man Party (Aam Aadmi Party, abbreviated as AAP): An Indian political party that came into

existence following a disagreement between the activists Anna Hazare and Arvind Kejriwal on whether or not to politicize the India Against Corruption campaign.

Dalit: A term that refers to a group of people traditionally referred to as “untouchable.” *Dalits* are a mixed population, consisting of numerous social groups from all over India; they speak a variety of languages and practice a multitude of religions. The word *Dalit* is derived from Sanskrit, and means “ground,” “suppressed,” “crushed” or “broken to pieces.”

Ajit Doval: An Indian intelligence officer, serving as Prime Minister Narendra Modi's National Security Adviser since May 2014. He was the Director of the Intelligence Bureau in 2004–05, after spending a decade as the head of its operations wing.

Indira Gandhi: The only child of Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. She is the third prime minister of India and a central figure of the Congress Party. Gandhi—who served from 1966 to 1977 and then again from 1980 until her assassination in 1984—is the second-longest serving prime minister of India and the only woman to serve in that role. Gandhi was known for her political ruthlessness and centralization of power.

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (Mahatma Gandhi): The preeminent leader of the Indian independence movement against British rule in India. Gandhi uniquely employed nonviolent civil disobedience that successfully led to India's independence. Mahatma in Sanskrit means “high-souled” or “venerable.” Gandhi was assassinated by Nathuram Godse in January 1948.

Rajiv Gandhi: The seventh prime minister of India, serving from 1984 to 1989. He took office after the 1984 assassination of his mother, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, to become the youngest Indian premier. Rajiv was also assassinated in May 1991.

Nathuram Godse: The man who assassinated Mahatma Gandhi in January 1948. Godse was a member of RSS but left in the early 1940s to form a militant organization, Hindu Rashtra Dal. Godse resented what he considered Gandhi's partiality toward India's Muslim population and planned Gandhi's assassination with six others. After a trial that lasted over a year, Godse was sentenced to death in November of 1949.

Gujarat: A state in the western part of India known locally as the "Jewel of the West." Narendra Modi was its chief minister from 2001 to 2014.

Anna Hazare (Kisan Baburao "Anna" Hazare): An Indian activist who led movements to promote rural development, boost government transparency, and investigate and punish corruption in public life. In addition to organizing and encouraging grassroots movements, Hazare frequently conducted hunger strikes to further his causes, a tactic reminiscent to many of the work of Gandhi.

Hindutva: Meaning "Hindu-ness." A ideology coined by Vinayak Damodar Savarkar that envisions Indian culture as a manifestation of Hindu values. It was central to a number of movements advocating Hindu nationalism in India. A coalition of organizations called the Sangh Parivar advocate the concept of Hindutva. Organizations that fall under the Sangh Parivar coalition include Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and others.

Hurriyat Conference: A political front formed as an alliance of 26 political, social and religious organizations in Kashmir. It was formed with goal of achieving self-determination. The word *hurriyat* means "liberty" in Arabic, Urdu and Persian.

Indian National Congress (INC): One of the two major contemporary political parties in India, the other being the Bharatiya Janata Party. It is one of the largest and oldest democratically operating political parties in the world. The party's social liberal platform is largely considered to be on the center-left of the Indian political spectrum.

Arun Jaitley: Currently the minister of finance, minister of corporate affairs and minister of information and broadcasting of India. He is a member of the BJP. In the 2014 general election, he ran as BJP's candidate for Amritsar where he was defeated by the Congress party's candidate Captain Amarinder Singh.

Jammu: The largest city in the Jammu division is another source of tension between India and Pakistan. Currently, Jammu is mostly under Indian control. Jammu, which is considered part of the Kashmir-Jammu state, is considered by Pakistan as disputed territory. Pakistan refers to it alternatively as "Indian-occupied Kashmir" or "Indian-held Kashmir."

Xi Jinping: The current president of China. Upon his election, Prime Minister Modi reached out to Xi Jinping to diffuse the tension between both countries. Modi has made significant efforts to create a strong relationship with China, both politically and economically.

Kashmir: A region of the northwestern Indian subcontinent, it has been the subject of dispute between India, Pakistan and even Kashmiri insurgents since the partition of the Indian subcontinent in 1947. India and Pakistan have fought at least three wars over Kashmir, including the Indo-Pakistani Wars of 1947, 1965 and 1999. India claims the entire state of Jammu and Kashmir, and as of 2010 controls 43% of the region including most of Jammu, the Kashmir Valley, and other areas. Pakistan, on the other hand, controls approximately 37% of Kashmir, namely Azad Kashmir and other areas.

Arvind Kejriwal: An Indian politician and former civil servant who was the seventh chief minister of Delhi from December 2013 to February 2014. He is the National Convener of the AAP.

Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE): A now-defunct organization based in northern Sri Lanka that waged a secessionist nationalist campaign to create an independent state in the north and east of Sri Lanka for Tamil people. This campaign evolved into the Sri Lankan Civil War, which ran from 1983 until 2009, when the Sri Lankan military won.

Maharajah: A Sanskrit title for a "great ruler," "great king" or "high king."

Manohar Parrikar: A member of the BJP and defense minister in the government of India. Before being inducted into the Council of Ministers of the Union Government on Nov. 9, 2014, he was chief minister of Goa, first from 2000 to 2005 (Goa's first BJP chief minister), and later from March 2012 to November 2014.

Mohan Bhagwat: The head of the RSS. He was chosen as the successor to K.S. Sudarshan in March 2009.

Narendra Modi: The current prime minister of India, Modi has been in office since May 2014. A member of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Modi led it to victory in the 2014 elections, an incredible feat considering that the last time any party secured an outright majority in the Lok Sabha (lower house of the Indian parliament) was in 1984. Modi is a Hindu nationalist and a member of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

Tamil Nadu: One of the 29 states of India, it also shares a maritime border with Sri Lanka.

National Democratic Alliance: A center-right coalition of political parties in India. At the time of its formation in 1998, it was led by the Bharatiya Janata Party and had 13 constituent parties. Current Prime Minister Narendra Modi is one of many elected political officials who represent the alliance in the Indian government.

Nehru-Gandhi clan: A prominent Indian political dynasty. Their political involvement has traditionally revolved around the Congress Party. Members of the family have traditionally led the Congress party and the republic of India since independence.

Jawaharlal Nehru: A member of the Nehru-Gandhi clan. He was the first Prime Minister of India and a central figure in Indian politics for much of the 20th century. He emerged as the paramount leader of the Indian independence movement under the guidance of Mahatma Gandhi and ruled India from its independence in 1947 until his death in office in 1964. Nehru is considered to be the architect of the modern Indian nation-state.

New Delhi: The capital of India and seat of the executive, legislative and judiciary branches of the government of India.

Vallabhbhai Patel: One of the leaders of the Congress Party and one of the founding fathers of the Republic of India. He played a leading role in the country's struggle for independence and guided its integration into a united, independent nation. In India and elsewhere he was often addressed as "Sardar," which means "chief" in Hindi, Urdu and Persian.

Planning Commission: Located in New Delhi, it is a government agency that focuses on improving the economy, among other functions. In his first independence day speech in 2014, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced scrapping of the Planning Commission.

Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS): A right-wing charitable, educational, Hindu nationalist, nongovernmental organization. It is the world's largest voluntary nongovernmental organization. RSS states that its ideology is based on the principle of selfless service to India.

Research and Analysis Wing (RAW): The primary foreign intelligence agency of India. It was created after the Sino-Indian War in 1962 and the Indo-Pakistani War of 1965, as both wars exposed gaps in intelligence gathering undertaken by the Intelligence Bureau. Aside from gathering foreign intelligence and counter-terrorism, RAW is also involved in the security of India's nuclear program.

Nawaz Sharif: The 18th and current prime minister of Pakistan, in office since June 2013. Indian Prime Minister Modi connected with Sharif upon his election, an act that seemed to symbolize a dramatic shift in Indian-Pakistani relations. The possibility of a shift was short-lived, as tensions over Kashmir basically cut off the political reconciliation.

Sikkim: A landlocked Indian state located in the Himalayan Mountains.

Manmohan Singh: An Indian economist who served as the 14th prime minister of India from 2004–14. The first Sikh in office, Singh was the first prime minister since Jawaharlal Nehru to be re-elected after completing a full five-year term.

South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC): An economic and geopolitical organization of eight countries. The combined economy of SAARC is 3rd largest in the world in the terms of GDP after the United States and China and 8th largest in the terms of nominal GDP. India makes up over 70% of the area and population among these eight nations.

Vadnagar: A city and municipality in the Indian state of Gujarat. It is the birthplace of Narendra Modi, the 15th prime minister of India.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee: A moderate Hindu intellectual who served as prime minister of India, first for 13 days in 1996 and then from 1998 to 2004. A leader of the center-right BJP, he is the first Prime Minister from outside the Indian National Congress party to serve a full five-year term.