

# Panel Discussion: The First 100 Days of the New Indian Government – Review and Outlook

A Bertelsmann Stiftung Asia Briefing

Thursday, September 18, 2014, 6:00 p.m.

## Program

The Loft  
Kalkscheune  
Johannisstrasse 2  
10117 Berlin

## **Background**

The convincing victory of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the 2014 Indian general elections came as a surprise to many. Most opinion polls, which had predicted a win for the BJP and the National Democratic Alliance that it leads, had not anticipated the scale of the party's victory. The swearing-in of Narendra Modi as the 15<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister of India on the 16<sup>th</sup> of May was, therefore, considered as a watershed event by many. His was the first government backed by a single-party majority in 30 years.

Now, that the first 100 days of the new Indian government are over and the dust of post-election adjustment and adaptation has settled, it is time to reflect on the Modi government's future course of action associated by the voters with the promise of change, especially economic growth, development and effective governance.

What to expect from the new Indian government in terms of India's future political, economic and societal trajectory? To what extent are the newly found government arrangements sustainable and are they supportive of badly needed reforms? What does the budget tell us about the new government's top priorities? How will India under Modi position itself towards other countries, such as Germany (or the EU) or the US. In what way one can already see actual performance against Narendra Modi's ambitious 10-point charter for the first 100 days of his new government and the Presidential Address of June 9?

This Asia Briefing wants to give an initial assessment of the new Indian government's positioning and performance from political, economic and societal perspectives and to reflect on what the first 100 days of the new Indian government mean for Germany and other Western countries.

## Program

**5:30 pm**                    **Arrival of participants and registration**

**6:00 pm**                    **Welcome**

**Stephan Vopel**

Director, Program Germany and Asia, Bertelsmann Stiftung

**6:15 pm**                    **Panel Discussion**

**Thomas Matussek**

Ambassador (retd.)

Managing Director, Alfred Herrhausen Society

**Prof. Ummu Salma Bava**

Senior Director, Europe Area Studies Programme and Professor of European Studies, Centre for European Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University

**Dr. Milan Vaishnav**

Associate, South Asia Program, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

**Kamini Issar Ernst**

Senior Director (Germany), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry

**Moderator: Dr. Amrita  
Cheema**

Journalist and Anchor, Deutsche Welle

**7:30 pm**                    **Q & A**

**8:00 pm**                    **Reception**