



The emergence of India as a strong economic power is receiving widespread recognition in the region and beyond. Today, it has expanded its footprints and engagement in multiple fields across all continents. Accordingly, India's foreign policy and international conducts should reflect upon its new global stature. In this backdrop, Ananta Aspen Centre is pleased to launch a new initiative -- a bi-weekly digest of all the major news related to India's Foreign Policy. Our sincere effort is to keep you informed and updated on all the major international developments that have implications on India's foreign policy. Hope you will benefit from the initiative. We value your feedback, comments and recommendations.

India and the World – an Update

A bi-weekly News Digest on India's Foreign Policy

(Volume – 1)

January 1st to January 14th 2014

Neighbourhood

South Asia

Pakistan

[India, Pakistan exchange nuclear facilities list](#)

PTI / The Economic Times | January 1st 2014

India and Pak have exchanged lists of their nuclear facilities as part of a 1988 pact that bars them from attacking each other's nuclear installations.

[New Pak envoy to US Jilani to India: Take advantage of PM Sharif's peace initiative](#)

PTI / The Indian Express | January 1st 2014

Jilani, who had earlier served in the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi, said Sharif had "genuine interest" in improving relations with India.

[Composite dialogue quite important for Pakistan and India: FO](#)

The Nation | January 6th, 2014

Pakistan Foreign Office spokesperson, Tasneem Aslam said that the resumption of composite dialogue would restart after post-election government takes over in India.

[India ranks below Pakistan in n-security index](#)

PTI / The Hindu | January 10th 2014

For comparison, China received 64 points and has been ranked at 20th spot, while Pakistan with 46 points stands at 22nd place.

India won't sit quietly if Pakistan breaks rules: Army

The Indian Express | January 13th, 2014

The Army Chief also made a case for no dilution yet of the AFSPA and the Disturbed Areas Act in Jammu and Kashmir, arguing that the drawdown of international security forces from Afghanistan can have a spillover effect.

We respect ceasefire agreement, says Pak. Army

The Hindu | January 14th, 2014

Responding to questions after a civilian was fired at on the LoC last Saturday Indian Army chief Bikram Singh told the press that the army won't be quiet if Pakistan broke the rules. His statement came in.

Bangladesh

Bangladesh votes today, India decides to back Sheikh Hasina

The Indian Express | January 5th, 2016

The fear in New Delhi is that many countries like the US may go to the extent of not recognising the Hasina government, leading to a host of negative repercussions.

For 2 yrs, India knocked on Khaleda door but returned disappointed

Indian Express | January 8th, 2014

In November 2012, when Zia met the PM, she told him she had come with an "open mind" and with the "hope of a new era" that would include overcoming "past wounds" and "past bitterness" but went back to acerbic statements about Hasina being an Indian stooge.

Manmohan Singh congratulates Sheikh Hasina on becoming Bangladesh Prime Minister again

IANS / NDTV | January 12th 2014

The Prime Minister "conveyed that India attaches the highest importance to its relationship with Bangladesh and expressed the hope that bilateral cooperation will be further broadened and strengthened in the coming months".

Bhutan

Bhutan King arrives on 5-day visit

The Hindu | January 5th, 2014

India contributes a significant amount to Bhutan's development expenditure and also helps it earn substantial revenue through the sale of electricity. India in turn is satisfied with Bhutan's cooperation in checking the activities of insurgent groups trying to base themselves in southern Bhutan.

Maldives

GMR project could be revived to safeguard Indian investments: Maldivian President Abdulla Yameen

PTI / The Economic Times

The Maldivian President was in India on his first foreign visit after taking over as the Maldivian president

Sri Lanka

India to focus on housing for plantation Tamils this year

The Hindu | January 9th, 2013

The houses which are to come up in Nuwaya Eliya and Badulla will be part of the third phase of India's project for building 50,000 houses by 2015, at a total cost of Rs.1,400 crore.

Release of Indian fishermen only after talks: Sri Lanka

PTI / India Today | January 12th, 2014

Tamil Nadu CM Jayalalitha said the Centre had informed the state government officials that Sri Lanka will take steps for the release of Indian fishermen from January 13 and sought a similar gesture.

India and Sri Lanka release 52 fishermen each

PTI / NDTV | January 13th, 2014

The Centre is in touch with governments of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh in this regard.

Asia Pacific

China

China loans Pakistan \$6.5 billion for nuclear plants

PTI / Zee News | January 2nd, 2014

China's nuclear trade and cooperation with Pakistan have caused significant concern in India and the West, which believe the new plants will free Pakistan's older reactors to produce uranium for weapons.

Indian army's big step in plugging gap along China border

NDTV | January 3rd, 2014

The new Corps allows India to plug the gap in its preparedness along the China border both in the Northern and Eastern Sectors.

Deepening mutual trust

The Hindu | January 6th 2013

Analysing the developments of India-China relations of 2013, the Chinese Ambassador to India remarked that mechanisms like the China-India Strategic Economic Dialogue, Financial Dialogue, Joint Economic Group are becoming more effective while bilateral cooperation has spread from trade in goods and project contracting to trade in service, etc.

India's new envoy takes charge in Beijing

The Hindu | January 9th, 2014

The new envoy Mr. Ashok Kantha expressed his determination to work with the Chinese government to maintain the present momentum in the relationship and enhance it in all areas

Japan

Japan wants India's support on disputes with China

PTI / Business Standard | January 9th, 2014

The Japanese Defence Minister said both Japan and India should ask for a dialogue with Chinese side and tell China not to change status quo by force.

South Korea

South Korea keen on setting up nuclear power plant in India

PTI / Times of India | January 12th, 2014

Sources said India not very keen to have Korean nuclear reactors immediately. The DAE first wants to concentrate on existing plants and deal with the issues like liability over which many foreign collaborators have raised questions.

The United States

Khobragade case: US wants to get ties back on track

PTI / The Hindu | January 4th, 2014

The United States has been describing this as an isolated incident and has been saying that it wants to move forward.

Devyani wants freedom to return to US but MEA has other plans for plea deal

The Indian Express | January 9th, 2014

For the government, it's learnt, facilitating Khobragade's unimpeded re-entry into the US is not a priority as much as ensuring she gets diplomatic accreditation (G-1 visa) from the US state department following her transfer to the United Nations.

U.S. offered reduced charge of misdemeanour

The Hindu | January 12th, 2014

The moment it became clear that an "impasse" had been reached the Indian side concluded, "The only option left for us was to pursue the route of getting the visa for her as a diplomat of the U.N."

After Devyani Khobragade Case, Domestic Helps in US to Work under Indian Laws

International Business Times | January 12th, 2014

According to NDTV, the domestic workers who go to the US in the future will have their visas subject to Indian laws, rather than the US laws, due to which Khobragade's housekeeper Sangeeta Richard was able to lodge a complaint against the Indian diplomat at the American state department.

India, U.S. to move WHO resolution on addressing violence against women

The Hindu | January 13th, 2014

The resolution calls upon the WHO to develop a 'Global Plan of Action' for addressing all forms of inter-personal violence, in particular against women and children, taking into account the unique role of the health sector in a multisectoral response.

India to reject US Exim Bank plea for Financial Institution status

Financial Express | January 14th, 2014

Exim bank said it needs the status as it will give provisions to recover dues against its exposure in India.

Intelligence meet breaks India-U.S. diplomatic ice

The Hindu | January 14th, 2014

Last week, two senior U.S. officials, Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz and Assistant Secretary of State Nisha Desai Biswal postponed their visits to New Delhi.

Middle East

Saudi Arab

[India to ink labour cooperation pact with Saudi Arabia](#)

The Hindu | January 1st, 2014

The Ministry of External Affairs expects this agreement to be a stepping stone for a comprehensive pact for the entire Indian labour force in the Gulf nation.

Africa

[India not keen on closing mission in South Sudan](#)

The Hindu | January 4th, 2014

Indian companies have 25 per cent stake in a South Sudan oil company whose crude is sent across Sudan by an India-built pipeline.

Europe

[NIA opposes Italian Marines exemption plea](#)

PTI / The Hindu | January 8th, 2014

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) told the court that the special court derives its jurisdiction from the order passed by the Supreme Court and the issue that charge sheet has not been filed cannot be a ground to seek exemption from personal appearance.

Miscellaneous

[India Terminates \\$753 Million AgustaWestland Helicopter Contract](#)

Bloomberg News | January 2nd, 2014

The 2010 deal for 12 helicopters from the unit of Italian defense and aerospace manufacturer has been terminated “with immediate effect” because of “breach of the pre-contract integrity pact (PCIP).

[PM asks Asian LNG buyers to come together to demand fair pricing](#)

PTI / The Indian Express | January 4th, 2013

PM Manmohan Singh said that the import of natural gas and pricing the imported gas constitute challenges that we must meet successfully in the time to come.
