



*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 – 10)

***May 16th - May 31st, 2014***

### **'Election 2014' Special**

#### **[Sharif, Cameron congratulate Modi on massive election win](#)**

*Hindustan Times | May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014*

Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina and opposition BNP chief Khaleda Zia also congratulated Modi. Sri Lankan president Mahinda Rajapaksa telephoned Modi to wish him and extended an invitation to the BJP's prime ministerial nominee to visit the island-nation.

#### **[US President Barack Obama phones Narendra Modi, invites him to US](#)**

*The Times of India | May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014*

Even before the President's phone call, the Obama administration extended the most explicit invitation to India's prime minister-to-be on Friday, indicating that the visa flap that had dogged ties with him is a thing of the past.

#### **[China wants to take ties with Modi govt 'to new height'](#)**

*The Hindu | May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014*

Lan Jianxue, a strategic expert at the China Institute of International Studies, said "business-friendly" Mr. Modi could open the door to Chinese investments and upgrade the currently skewed trade relationship between the two countries.

### [Modi talks of strengthening ties with Russia, Japan](#)

*Business Standard* | May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014

"I thank President Putin for his good wishes. Looking forward to making our relations with Russia even stronger in the years to come," Modi Tweeted. He also thanked Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe for his good wishes and hoped for new ties between the two nations.

### [Narendra Modi's swearing-in: SAARC makes history, comes together for a new experience](#)

*DNA* | May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014

The day also saw history being made when leaders of all SAARC countries and Mauritius came together with Modi after the swearing-in ceremony. Incidentally, at present, all eight countries have democratically elected governments.

## **Neighbourhood**

### **South Asia**

#### **Pakistan**

### [Pakistan government holding internal parleys on formulating India policy](#)

*PTI / The Economic Times* | May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014

The Pakistani High Commissioner Abdul Basit has quietly been in touch with the BJP to convey Islamabad's willingness for 'meaningful engagement' with the new government, Express Tribune daily reported.

### [Pakistan releases Indian fishermen, Sri Lanka to follow](#)

*PTI / The Indian Express* | May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Pakistan maritime security forces frequently arrest Indian fishermen and seize their boats for fishing in its territorial waters. Sri Lankan Navy also arrest Indian fishermen for alleged poaching in Lankan waters.

### [Jehadis will soon turn to Kashmir: former Pakistan army chief](#)

*LANS / Zee News* | March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014

"Before that happens, the two countries have to find an amicable and peaceful solution of the Kashmir issue. There is no other alternative," said General Mirza Aslam Beg.

### [In landmark talks, Narendra Modi and Sharif focus on terror and trade](#)

*Hindustan Times* | March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Government sources said Modi and Sharif discussed the importance of boosting trade and investments to reduce hostility, particularly cooperation in the field of energy where Pakistan faces a huge deficit.

### [India releases 32 Pakistani fishermen](#)

*PTI / The Hindu* | May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014

The 32 fishermen will be handed over to Pakistan authorities at the Wagah border.

### [Pakistan promises restriction-free trade with India](#)

*PTI / Livemint* | May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Various sections in Pakistan, especially the extreme right wing, had objected to the term "Most Favoured" being given to India because of the history of issues between the two sides.

## **Afghanistan**

### **[Indian Consulate attacked in Afghanistan's Herat province](#)**

*PTI / The Hindu | May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014*

India has invested in some major infrastructure projects in Afghanistan like Salma hydroelectric dam in Herat province and the Afghan parliament building in Kabul.

## **Bangladesh**

### **[Dhaka raises land boundary, Teesta issues](#)**

*The Asian Age | May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014*

The Speaker of the Bangladesh Parliament Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury said: “We have walked-the-talk with regard to Teesta waters and the Land Boundary pact. These are pending issues and we’re hopeful that these will be resolved in the near future.”

## **Sri Lanka**

### **[Will use international mechanisms, if India exploits our fishing resources: Lankan Fisheries Minister](#)**

*PTI / The Economic Times | May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014*

Sri Lanka had shot down a request from the Tamil Nadu fishermen to allow fishing in Lankan waters for 70 days a year and to allow bottom trawling.

## **Bhutan**

### **[India looks to curb gold smuggling through Bhutan](#)**

*The Times of India | May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2014*

The authorities said gold smuggling through Bhutan has become a serious issue since February when seven Indian men were arrested for attempting to smuggle eight kilograms of gold into Bhutan at Paro airport.

## **Asia Pacific**

### **China**

#### **[Chinese media: Modi won't be 'India's Abe' to target us](#)**

*PTI / The Asian Age | May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014*

Allaying fears that the BJP leader could become “India’s Abe” (Japanese PM Shinzo Abe whom China greatly detests), an article in China’s state-run Global Times said Mr Modi may help solve the border dispute.

#### **[Improvement in Indo-Pak ties vital for regional peace: China](#)**

*PTI / Live Mint | May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014*

“We have noted that latest development and we welcome that. Both India and Pakistan are

major countries in South Asia. The improvement of India-Pakistan relationship not only serves the interests of the two countries but also contributes to regional peace, stability and development,” Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Qin Gang said.

#### [A coming together of dreams](#)

*The Hindu* | May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014

“China-India relations will be embarking on a new starting point upon the formation of the new Indian government. The two sides should seize the opportunity to promote smooth transition of bilateral relations and inject new impetus into the China-India strategic and cooperative partnership”, said the Chinese Ambassador to India.

### **Thailand**

#### [India recalls its troops from joint exercise in Thailand](#)

*PTI / Zee News* | May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014

"We hope for an urgent political resolution and restoration of normalcy based on the principles of democracy, the will of the people and rule of law in Thailand," the Spokesperson in the MEA said.

### **The United States**

#### [Ready to work closely with Narendra Modi to boost strategic ties: John Kerry](#)

*PTI / The Financial Express* | May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014

"When the people of India hold the biggest democratic election in human history, all the world tunes in to watch. And what we saw has been nothing short of remarkable: more voters cast their ballots freely and fairly than any other in world history, with over 530 million Indians going to the polls," he said.

#### [India and China need to take steps on climate change: US](#)

*PTI / Business Standard* | May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014

"Any successful international climate agreement is going to depend on many nations, including the United States, making commitments to reduce their emissions," said a senior administration official.

#### [US banks on India, Pakistan for stability after Afghanistan pullout](#)

*IANS / Deccan Herald* | May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014

"With respect to India, I think we've seen a constructive tone set from the very beginning by Prime Minister Modi and by Prime Minister Sharif, who was one of the first leaders to speak to" Modi after his election victory, a senior US official noted.

#### [Senator proposes 100 day-action plan for India-US ties](#)

*PTI / The Hindu* | May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2014

Senator Mark Warner, who is the Democratic Co-Chair of the Senate India Caucus, has suggested the Modi Government to modify the defence-offset regime, agreeing to build community colleges in India, lifting the foreign direct investment caps in some of the sectors, and announcing a new electronic payment systems.

## **Europe**

### **Indian mango ban prompts protest in Britain**

*New Strait Times | May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014*

Prime Minister David Cameron has pledged to raise the issue with his new Indian counterpart, expected to be Narendra Modi following his party's landslide win in the general election.

### **Italian court allows India to partially encash Agusta bank guarantees**

*The Free Press Journal | May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014*

AgustaWestland had resisted India's attempt for "calling of certain first demand bank guarantees provided with reference to the contract for the supply of 12 AW 101 VVIP helicopters for an amount of Euro 228 million (Rs 1,818 crore) maximum against a call seeking to cash Euro 278 million (Rs 2,217 crore)," the statement said.

## **Russia**

### **Participants at 'Russian Davos' curious about India, Narendra Modi**

*PTI / The Economic Times | May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014*

Khaldoon Khalifa Al Mubarak, Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director, Mubadala Development Company of UAE said his group had good relations with Russia and China. "We would like to do it with India also."

### **Looking forward to work closely with Modi: Russian President Vladimir Putin**

*PTI / India Today | May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014*

"Our relations are above political parties. We are friendly with the Indian people. We want to have good relations with India", Putin told a select group of journalists from the international media.

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