



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 – 12)

June 17th - June 30th, 2014

Neighbourhood

South Asia

[External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj Asks Indian envoys to engage neighbours](#)

The Economic Times | June 24th, 2014

It discussed engaging neighbours and helping them to become prosperous, which would contribute to India's development, according to sources. The situation in Afghanistan, where India has major interests also came up for discussion.

Pakistan

[India-Pakistan Commerce ministers to resume trade talks next month](#)

PTI / The Financial Express | June 29th, 2014

In 2012, Pakistan expanded the list of items tradable with India from 1,918 items to 5,800. Only 1,209 items now remain on the negative list.

Bangladesh

[No visa-free entry for Bangladeshi nationals](#)

The Times of India | June 24th, 2014

However, the home ministry gave the go-ahead to the external affairs ministry to discuss the possibility of granting long-term, multiple-entry tourist visa to Bangladeshis who are either under 18 years or above 65 years of age.

[India–Bangladesh trade can double to USD 10 billion by 2018: CII](#)

ANI / DNA | June 24th, 2014

Two-way trade between India and Bangladesh stood at USD 6.6 billion in 2013-14 with India's exports at USD 6.1 billion and imports from Bangladesh at USD 462 million. CII has suggested addressing Non-tariff barriers (NTBs) such as harmonization and classification issues and non-recognition of Technical Standards to grow trade.

[External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj reaches Bangladesh for 2-day visit](#)

PTI / IBN Live | June 26th, 2014

Swaraj arrived in Dhaka for the two-day visit accompanied by Foreign Secretary Sujatha Singh and other senior officials.

[India eases visa norms for certain categories of visitors from Bangladesh; Modi accepts Hasina's invite](#)

PTI / The India Express | June 26th, 2014

Swaraj, during her call on Hasina, extended invitation from Prime Minister Narendra Modi for her which was accepted by the Bangladeshi Prime Minister.

[Sushma Swaraj Meets Bangladesh Nationalist Party Chief Khaleda Zia](#)

PTI / NDTV | June 27th, 2014

The external affairs minister's meeting with Ms Zia comes in the backdrop of the Indian government's efforts to reach out to all sections of Bangladesh society.

[Sushma Swaraj returns home after extremely satisfying Bangladesh visit](#)

PTI / The Indian Express | June 27th, 2014

Swaraj held a series of meetings with the top leadership here yesterday including Bangladesh's President Abdul Hamid, Prime Minister Hasina, and held delegation-level talks with her Bangladeshi counterpart A H Mahmud Ali.

Bhutan

[Narendra Modi thanks guardian deities, Kings for Bhutan visit success](#)

PTI / The Economic Times | June 17th, 2014

Modi, who chose Bhutan as his first foreign destination since taking over last month, received a rousing welcome in that country with the Monarchy and the government going out of the way to display their special gestures.

Sri Lanka

[24 Fishermen Return Home From Sri Lanka](#)

PTI / The New Indian Express | June 26th, 2014

Commander of the Coast Guard station at Karaikal Udhal Singh said the state and central governments had initiated steps to secure release of the fishermen, arrested on June 17 when they were fishing off Kodiakarai in six motorised boats.

[Sri Lanka shuts terror door on Pakistan](#)

The Times of India | June 29th, 2014

A bomb blast in a Chennai train in May revealed new plots against India by Pakistan-based jihadist groups using Sri Lanka and Maldives as transit points.

Afghanistan

[Afghanistan seeks more cooperation with India: Envoy](#)

IANS / Business Standard | June 25th, 2014

The Afghan Ambassador said that India and Afghanistan are working on a trilateral agreement with Iran to facilitate trade through Iran's Chabahar Port. This trilateral trade arrangement would help both India and Afghanistan, he added.

Asia – Pacific

China

[Army chief likely to visit China next month](#)

PTI / ABP News | June 24th, 2014

In December last year, the then IAF chief NAK Browne was also supposed to visit China but that trip was postponed by the then UPA government. The contacts between armies of the two countries have been growing recently. The two armies will hold their fourth joint military exercise in November this year.

[In China's new diplomacy, a revival of 'Panchsheel'](#)

The Hindu | June 25th, 2014

Last month, Mr. Xi outlined for the first time China's vision of a new "Asian Security Concept" at a regional security summit in Shanghai.

[Beijing explores India, China, Pak joint security mechanism](#)

PTI / Deccan Herald | June 27th, 2014

Like India, China too is saddled with militant infiltration from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). Several ETIM Militants were reportedly killed in the ongoing Pakistan military operation in the tribal areas.

[India reacts to reported Chinese claim on Arunachal](#)

Hindustan Times | June 28th, 2014

"The fact that Arunachal Pradesh is an integral and inalienable part of India has been conveyed to Chinese authority at several occasions including at the very highest level," an Indian foreign ministry spokesman said on Saturday.

[India Flags Concerns to China over Rail Link Through Pakistan Occupied Kashmir](#)

PTI / NDTV | June 28th, 2014

All outstanding issues between India and China to be addressed speedily have been raised, Foreign Secretary Sujatha Singh told a media briefing in Beijing after the Indian Vice-President's meeting with the Chinese Premier.

[Chinese troops make bids to enter Indian waters in Ladakh: Reports](#)

PTI / The Times of India | June 29th, 2014

The spokesperson of the ministry of external affairs when asked by reporters yesterday about reports of fresh incursions by Chinese troops in Ladakh region merely said Indian soldiers guarding the country's borders will be able to provide an appropriate response should any incident occur on the border.

Japan

[PM Narendra Modi's Japan Visit Postponed Till Budget Session of Parliament Ends](#)

PTI / NDTV | June 18th, 2014

The Prime Minister was expected to visit Japan during early July, given the strong strategic, economic and cultural foundations of the bilateral relationship.

[India gears for combat exercises with US, to include Japan](#)

Times of India | June 22nd, 2014

India had invited Japan to participate in this year's Malabar war games, which have ruffled the feathers of a prickly China in the past, during Shinzo Abe's visit to New Delhi in January. Prime Minister Narendra Modi himself is very keen to further strengthen the strategic partnership with Japan, the second country he will visit after Bhutan. The chemistry is reciprocated by Abe, with Modi being one of the only three persons he follows on twitter.

[Defence, nuclear energy key sectors for India-Japan ties](#)

Live Mint | June 24th, 2014

Speaking to an audience in New Delhi via video link from Tokyo during a seminar titled India's Japan moment organized by the Ananta Aspen Centre think-tank, Tomohiko Taniguchi, special adviser to Abe, said he hoped that "sooner rather than later" the Delhi-Tokyo relationship will be upgraded to a "very special relationship that encompasses not just the economic relationship, the investment relationship but also national security and foreign policy".

[Japan's UNIQLO looks to enter business in India](#)

IANS / Business Standard | June 26th, 2014

Prime Minister Modi highlighted the benefits the country's garment sector offers, including availability of cotton, skilled manpower, robust infrastructure, a big domestic market and good ports for exports.

The United States

[PM Narendra Modi be granted honour to address joint meeting of US Congress, urge American lawmakers](#)

PTI / The Indian Express | June 22nd, 2014

Modi's predecessor Manmohan Singh was the last Indian Prime Minister to address a joint session of the US Congress when he visited Washington in 2005.

[Ahead of Modi's US trip, IAEA pact ratified](#)

The Times of India | June 24th, 2014

The ratification will not just come as a reassurance to the US over India's commitment to the agreement ahead of PM Narendra Modi's visit to Washington in September, but is also likely to pave the way for India's membership of Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).

[LeT responsible for attack at Indian Consulate in Herat: US](#)

PTI / DNA | June 25th, 2014

The Indian consulate in Herat was attacked on May 23 by four heavily-armed gunmen, who were subsequently killed in an encounter as India attributed the pre-dawn strike to terror elements "beyond the borders" of the war-torn country.

[US urged to back India's APEC entry](#)

PTI / The Hindu | June 26th, 2014

An India within APEC would likely ameliorate some concerns about U.S.-India economic ties today, asserted Alyssa Ayers, who served in the South and Central Asia Bureau of the State Department for several years, before joining CFR.

Middle East

Iraq

[Iraq crisis: 40 Indian workers abducted in Mosul, govt clueless on whereabouts](#)

Hindustan Times | June 18th, 2014

The foreign ministry spokesperson said they were not yet contacted by the abductors. "We have not received a call of any nature, asking for ransom or confirming that they (militants) have taken the workers under their control," he said.

[Sushma Swaraj takes stock of Iraq crisis, meets south Asia envoys](#)

PTI / The Asian Age | June 23rd, 2014

The meeting, the first of its kind, comes within a month of the PM's meeting with leaders of India's neighbours.

[17 more Indians evacuated from Iraq's conflict zone](#)

IANS / India TV | June 25th, 2014

The government had Monday said that over 120 Indians were stranded in the conflict zone in Iraq where Sunni insurgents have made rapid advances against the Iraqi authorities. It said 17 Indians had moved out.

Israel

[Israel plans to open centres on agri-horticulture in Bihar](#)

PTI / Zee News | June 24th, 2014

The west Asian country is running 20 centres of excellence in the field of agriculture and

horticulture across India and these two proposed centres in Bihar were among nine more it was planning to start by 2015, Israeli Embassy Spokesperson said.

Europe

Russia

[Russian Deputy PM holds talks with Sushma Swaraj; discusses trade and energy security](#)

PTI / The Indian Express | June 18th, 2014

Russia has in-principle agreed to the Indian nuclear liability law, paving the way for signing a contract for unit 3 and 4 of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KNPP).

[Narendra Modi calls Russia 'time tested friend'](#)

IANS | IBN Live | June 19th, 2014

At a meeting with Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitri Rogozin who called on Modi here, the prime minister appreciated Russia's support in building India's military capabilities.

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