



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 – 13)

July 1st - July 15th, 2014

Neighbourhood

South Asia

Pakistan

[296 Indian nationals in Pakistan jails](#)

PTI / Zee News | July 1st, 2014

The list includes 47 civil offenders, 237 fishermen and 12 youth offenders. She did not specify the nature of charges.

[Record number of Pakistanis visited India last year](#)

The Times of India | July 5th, 2014

Industry sources said expanding business opportunities and better healthcare facilities in the country drew Pakistani nationals to India. There has been a recent thaw between the two countries after PM Narendra Modi invited Pakistani PM Nawaz Sharif for his swearing-in ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

[Pakistan fires at posts, India responds](#)

The Asian Age | July 13th, 2013

Officials in Jammu said that the Pakistani troops fired small arms at the BSF's Stop 2 (Pindi)

post along the international border, called “working boundary” by Islamabad. They added the BSF retaliated to Pakistan’s “unprovoked firing” and that no casualties were reported.

Nepal

[India seeks extension of its flagship projects in Nepal](#)

IANS / Zee News | July 3rd, 2014

According to a report published in Thursday's edition of The Kathmandu Post, the Indian embassy here made such a request very recently to Nepal's finance ministry seeking a three-year extension of the bilateral agreement that enables India to provide aid up to Indian Rs.3 crore for each project through district development committees (DDCs) in Nepal.

[India, Nepal to discuss security concerns, military supplies](#)

PTI / IBN Live | July 4th, 2014

A 13-member delegation from India led by Joint Secretary North at the Ministry of External Affairs Abhay Thakur is arriving in Kathmandu on Saturday to attend the 11th India-Nepal Bilateral Consultative Group Meeting.

[Huge Indian package for Nepal during Narendra Modi's visit likely](#)

PTI / The Financial Express | July 5th, 2014

The Finance Ministry said Indian companies were willing to sign power development agreements with Nepal to generate hydropower.

[2,700 Border Pillars Missing on Nepal, Bhutan Borders](#)

PTI / NDTV | July 6th, 2014

The condition of these crucial security structures is not only bad along this fence-less 1,751-km long border on the eastern flank of the country, but also along the Bhutan frontier where close to 900 border pillars are either damaged or have simply vanished.

Sri Lanka

[India to seek fishing rights around Lankan waters: Report](#)

PTI / Zee News | July 6th, 2014

Sri Lanka had shot down a proposal from India to allow fishing in the Sri Lankan waters during the fishing talks which began in January this year.

[Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Meets Sushma Swaraj, Fishermen Issue on Top of Agenda](#)

NDTV | July 11th, 2014

The two ministers discussed the fishermen issue between the two countries. Indian Fishermen, fishing in Palk Bay, are struggling to catch fish in the Indian Ocean and often get arrested by Sri Lankan officials for venturing into, what Lanka calls its territory.

Asia – Pacific

China

[Army Chief General Bikram Singh Addresses China's National Defence University Cadets](#)

PTI / NDTV | July 4th, 2014

Mr Singh spoke on strategic military leadership challenges in the 21 st century, without making any direct reference to Sino-India ties but later answered questions on the bilateral ties and relations between the two militaries, Indian officials said.

[PM Narendra Modi meets Chinese President Xi Jinping ahead of BRICS Summit](#)

PTI / Hindustan Times | July 15th, 2014

Xi acknowledged that there was a possibility of enhanced trade, particularly in the services sector from the Indian side and the increased Chinese tourist numbers to India.

Singapore

[Singapore offers assistance to Narendra Modi government for building smart cities](#)

The Economic Times | July 2nd, 2014

In what was a first visit by a foreign minister of a South-east Asian country since the Modi government took charge, Singapore's K Shanmugam met his Indian counterpart Sushma Swaraj and NSA Ajit Doval to pitch for greater Indian presence in the region amid recent tensions in South-east Asia.

The United States

[Obama formally invites Modi, wants 'defining partnership'](#)

PTI / The Hindu | July 11th, 2014

Thanking Mr. Obama for the invitation, Mr. Modi said he looks forward to a result-oriented visit in September with “concrete outcomes” that impart “new momentum and energy” to the strategic partnership.

[India to lodge protest with US over NSA snooping on BJP](#)

The Times of India | July 2nd, 2014

According to a Washington Post report, based on documents leaked by Snowden, BJP figures in the list of non-US political parties along with Lebanon's Amal, which has links with Hezbollah, Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood and the Pakistan Peoples Party which were spied on by the NSA after an official authorization by the US government.

[Ghosts From The Past](#)

The Telegraph | July 2nd, 2014

The invitation to Modi to visit the White House in September, rarely extended to leaders who travel to New York for the annual United Nations General Assembly, had additionally been interpreted — quite wrongly as it turns out — that the United States of America had reversed course on its visa ban on the long-time former chief minister of Gujarat. One television station went so far as to assert that the US had done a U-turn on Modi. Nothing is farther from the truth.

[US looking at 'reinvigorating' India-US relationship: Rhodes](#)

PTI / IBN Live | July 4th, 2014

Economy and trade, energy and climate change, counter- terrorism, regional security and Asia Pacific region are expected to be the focus areas when Obama meets Modi this fall, which would also be an opportunity for the two leaders to establish a personal equation for the years to come, Deputy National Security Advisor Ben Rhodes said on Thursday.

[Top US diplomat headed to India ahead of strategic dialogue](#)

IANS / ABP News | July 9th, 2014

As soon as the results were announced Obama made a call to congratulate "candidate Modi" and invited him to the US and Secretary of State John Kerry "echoed" the invitation.

[Grand reception awaits Narendra Modi in US](#)

PTI / Deccan Chronicle | July 10th, 2014

Overseas Friends of BJP's president Chandrakant Patel said hectic preparations for holding a massive public rally of Indian diaspora for Modi in the New Jersey/New York area is being done at the national level.

[Narendra Modi means business, we'll see deeper ties now: US Assistant Secretary of State Nisha Biswal](#)

The Economic Times | July 14th, 2014

Biswal told ET that the Modi government's first budget was a positive signal that the PM means business and the US is looking forward to investments and trade in the defence, insurance and energy sectors besides strong cooperation in hotspots like Iraq.

Europe

France

[France concerned over joint venture project delay](#)

DNA | July 1st, 2014

In 2007, India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and France's MBDA began talks on a Rs 30,000 crore project named 'Maitri' to jointly development and produce the short-range, surface-to-air missile. After six years of negotiations, in February 2013, a MoU to co-develop these SR-SAM was signed by French president Francois Hollande.

[India to play proactive role in evolving climate consensus](#)

The Hindu | July 2nd, 2014

Minister of State for Environment, Forests and Climate Change Prakash Javadekar highlighted the initiatives taken by Narendra Modi in Gujarat by setting up a separate Department of Climate Change at the State level and other initiatives on solar and renewable energy resources.

Britain

[Hague meets Sushma, discusses economic relations](#)

IANS / Business Standard | July 8th, 2014

External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Syed Akbaruddin said Sushma Swaraj also thanked the

British Foreign Secretary William Hague for the announcement that a statue of Mahatma Gandhi would be installed by early next year in Parliament Square in Britain.

[Britain's Hague Plugs Eurofighter on Visit to India](#)

Reuters | NDTV | July 8th, 2014

London hopes that a stalled deal for India to buy 126 Rafale jets from France's Dassault Aviation may yet collapse, perhaps opening the door to a new deal involving the Eurofighter Typhoon that is partly built in Britain.

Middle East

Iraq

[India among jihad targets of ISIS](#)

The Hindu | July 2nd, 2014

The reference to India, the first in an ISIS manifesto, raises new concerns for the safety of the almost hundreds of its nationals trapped in Iraqi cities controlled by the Islamist group, which is battling the governments of Iraq and Syria.

[Nearly 2,200 more Indians expected to return from Iraq: MEA](#)

PTI / Hindustan Times | July 6th, 2014

As the momentum of evacuation picked up, the facilitation process of transporting Indian nationals from Iraq is focused on the non conflict zone in southern Iraq, external affairs ministry spokesperson Syed Akbaruddin told reporters on Sunday.

[More Indian workers return from Iraq](#)

ANI / DNA | July 11th, 2014

Chartered flights are being organized and travel documents are being processed by the Indian Embassy in Baghdad for the Indian nationals who have registered to return home.

Iran

[Govt pays USD 550 million in oil dues to Iran](#)

Reuters / Business Today | July 9th, 2014

Iran wanted the last three payments under the joint plan of action (JPA) totalling \$1.65 billion from India, but New Delhi could not clear the May and the June instalments on time as the banking mechanism to remit the funds was not in place.

Miscellaneous

[United Nations Marks 100th Anniversary of WWI, Lauds Indian Soldiers' Role](#)

PTI / NDTV | July 9th, 2014

The Secretary General said 100 years after the war, nations continue their efforts to help people realise the universal aspiration for peace, development and human rights. "That work demands tremendous patience and political will. But it also faces immense challenges, as we see with today's horrific violence on many fronts.

[India to become third largest economy in world by 2030: PwC](#)

PTI / The Hindu Business Line | July 5th, 2014

The London-headquartered accountancy giant said the rapid rise of the Indian economy with its young workforce would push it up from being the 10th largest economy in 2013 to the third largest by 2030, pushing the UK back into sixth place.

[Modi to launch first multilateral engagement with BRICS leaders](#)

PTI / Hindustan Times | July 14th, 2014

The BRICS Development bank, an idea which was conceived in Delhi in 2012 and approved in Durban last year, is to be set up with an initial corpus of USD 50 billion, with scope for expansion upto USD 100 billion when new members are added.

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