



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 – 15)

August 1st - August 15th, 2014

Neighbourhood

South Asia

Pakistan

[Skewed ties with India harming Pak, says Sharif](#)

The Times of India | August 10th, 2014

"We don't have good relations with any of our neighbours except China. For development, progress and economic growth, Pakistan needs to have friendly and cordial relations with all its neighbours, especially India and Afghanistan," Nawaz Sharif said.

[Pakistan targets LoC posts again in just 37 hours](#)

PTI / India Today | August 10th, 2014

General Officer Commanding of Nagrota-based 16 Corps, Lieutenant General K H Singh had recently said that the Indian Army has been directed to give a befitting reply to Pakistani troops over ceasefire violations, firing and infiltration attempts from across the border.

[PM Narendra Modi slams Pakistan for proxy war against India](#)

PTI / The Economic Times | August 12th, 2014

"The neighbouring country has lost the strength to fight a conventional war, but continues to

engage in the proxy war of terrorism," the Prime Minister said while addressing troops of Army and the Indian Air Force on his maiden trip to Leh and Ladakh.

Afghanistan

[Consortium led by SAIL undecided on size of Afghan iron ore investment](#)

Reuters / The Economic Times | August 11th, 2014

The original proposal called for investment in three blocks at Hajigak in Afghanistan and in a 6 million-tonne-per-year (MTPA) steel plant. Under the new proposed terms, the size of the plant would fall to 1.2 MTPA, the steel ministry had said.

Nepal

[After winning hearts, Modi ends historic Nepal visit \(Roundup\)](#)

IANS / Business Standard | August 4th, 2014

India and Nepal Monday agreed to "review, adjust and update" their 1950 Treaty of Peace and Friendship and other bilateral agreements, and not to let "unscrupulous elements" misuse their open border.

Sri Lanka

[Rajapaksa orders release of all Indian fishermen in Sri Lankan custody](#)

The Hindu | August 13th, 2014

"On the occasion of India's Independence Day, President Rajapaksa orders the release of Indian fishermen in Sri Lankan custody," said a tweet from his official account.

Asia – Pacific

China

[China wants India to play key role in 'Silk Road' plan](#)

The Hindu | August 10th, 2014

The plan is expected to emphasise infrastructure projects aimed at boosting regional connectivity, as well as a range of initiatives such as maritime connectivity and ecological cooperation.

Singapore

[Ties that bind](#)

The Indian Express | August 9th, 2014

While we celebrate our past, we also look towards the future by considering how we can further elevate our already close relationship. For a start, we look forward to sharing with India our experiences in developing "smart cities", skills training, port management and water management. These are among a few exciting opportunities that Singapore and India can consider for joint cooperation.

Myanmar

[Sushma on Myanmar mission](#)

The Telegraph | August 7th, 2014

India invested over \$300 million in Myanmar in the 2013-14 financial year while China invested less than \$100 million.

[Myanmar won't allow anti-India activities from its soil: President](#)

PTI / India TV News | August 11th, 2014

The Myanmar President said both sides would focus on operationalising an MOU which provides for intelligence sharing and cooperation between security forces of the two neighbours.

Japan

[Ahead of Modi's visit, India pushes Japan for nuclear deal](#)

Times of India | August 11th, 2014

Civil nuclear talks were hit badly by the Fukushima disaster in 2011 but Japan agreed to resume negotiations last year as it said it wanted to contribute to nuclear safety worldwide by sharing with the world its experience and lessons derived from the nuclear accident.

[An Indo-Pacific anchor of stability](#)

Business Standard | August 12th, 2014

The personal chemistry between Mr Abe and Mr Modi is a major asset, and may prove decisive on issues where outcomes hang in delicate balance. One such issue is the still-to-be-concluded civil nuclear agreement between the two countries on the lines negotiated successfully with the United States in 2008.

The United States

[John Kerry Meets PM Narendra Modi in Prelude to Washington Summit](#)

IANS / NDTV | August 1st, 2014

Mr Kerry, who in his speech on Thursday said the US was keen to partner the Modi government in its vision of "Sabka saath sabka vikas" or 'cooperation of all, development for all', met PM Modi at 11 a.m.

[India, US decide to jointly produce defence equipment](#)

The Financial Express | August 9th, 2014

Stressing on indigenisation of the defence industries, the Indian Defence Minister Arun Jaitley said, "The development of our own indigenous capabilities is a major objective that guides our present policies. In this direction, we have taken steps to raise the FDI cap in the defence sector. We look forward to work closely with the US in this regard".

[Hagel Says U.S., India Should Jointly Develop, Produce Arms](#)

The Wall Street Journal | August 9th, 2014

Mr. Hagel said the U.S. is proposing projects that would transfer production and technology know-how to India. Among the weapons involved is the Javelin antitank missile. Technology transfer and joint production of the Javelin "is an unprecedented offer that we have made only to India and no one else to ensure defense industrial cooperation receives the attention it demands," he said.

[PM Narendra Modi meets Chuck Hagel, voices Iraq concern](#)

The Asian Age | August 9th, 2014

On the bilateral front, Mr Modi welcomed the sustained high-level engagement by the US with the new Indian government. He told Mr Hagel that he looked forward to his visit to the US “not just as an occasion to think in terms of what we can do for each other, but also as an opportunity to see how the world’s oldest democracy and the world’s largest democracy can build a partnership for peace, stability and prosperity in the world”, the statement said.

[It's official: US overtakes all to become India's largest defence supplier](#)

India Today | August 12th, 2014

The statistics revealed by Jaitley, who holds dual charge of defence and finance ministries, show that almost 40 per cent of the money spent by India on defence imports in the past three years have gone to the Americans, followed by the Russians (30 per cent) and the French (14 per cent). Israel is a distant fourth with merely 4 per cent share.

Australia

[India, Australia to expedite talks on civil nuclear deal](#)

PTI / Business Today | August 9th, 2014

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj held bilateral talks with her Australian counterpart Julie Bishop during which both the leaders stressed that the civil nuclear deal should be finalised as soon as possible.

[White paper asks Australian government to engage with India on priority](#)

PTI / DNA | August 12th, 2014

The white paper submitted to the Australian Government has sought inking of a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) on "top priority" and called for fast engagement with the new Narendra Modi-led government.

ASEAN

[India keen to take ties with ASEAN to 'new heights'](#)

PTI / The Economic Times | August 9th, 2014

Swaraj also spoke about the South China Sea issue and noted that India supports freedom of navigation and access to resources in accordance with principles of international law, including the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

[India, ASEAN likely to sign FTA later this month](#)

PTI / Hindustan Times | August 10th, 2014

Foreign ministers of all ASEAN countries as well external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj have hoped that the pact will be finally signed during the four-day-long meeting of economic trade ministers of India and ASEAN beginning August 25.

Europe

Russia

[India looks to boost exports to Russia](#)

Live Mint | August 6th, 2014

Items identified by the commerce ministry includes machinery, vehicles, aircraft and spacecraft, optics, electrical machinery, pharmaceuticals, plastics and meat. The ministry has

written letters to various sector-specific export promotion councils to focus on these items in order to boost their exports to Russia.

Italy

[Italian PM talks to Modi on Marines case](#)

The Times of India | August 12th, 2014

Modi said in his response that a fair and early resolution was in mutual interest. He conveyed that the matter was sub-judice before the Supreme Court and encouraged the Italian side to allow the judicial process to take its own course. "In this context, he emphasized that Indian judiciary is free, fair and independent and we are convinced that it will take all aspects into consideration in adjudicating the case," the PMO said in a statement.

World Trade Organisation (WTO)

[India's stand on WTO deal gets support from UN body](#)

PTI / Live Mint | August 4th, 2014

India decided last week not to ratify the WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) without any concrete movement towards finding a permanent solution to its public food stock-holding issue for food security purposes.

[India opted for tough stand at WTO to protect poor: PM Narandra Modi](#)

PTI / The Economic Times | August 9th, 2014

Last month, WTO talks in Geneva failed on account of the tough stand taken by India on its food security issue. New Delhi refused to ratify the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA), which aims at easing customs procedures and is dear to the developed world.

[India wants final solution to food security issue in WTO](#)

IANS / Business Standard | August 13th, 2014

"The stand taken by India is aimed at achieving a permanent solution on the issue of public stockholding for food security purposes so that the country's efforts to ensure food security remain consistent with its international obligations," Commerce Minister Nirmala Sitharaman told the Rajya Sabha in a written reply.

Miscellaneous

[A Look East energy policy](#)

The Hindu Business Line | August 13th, 2014

The prospects for energy cooperation across our western borders are bleak. Though agreement has been reached on the "TAPI Pipeline" to bring gas from Turkmenistan to India through Afghanistan and Pakistan, it is unlikely that the security of this pipeline can be guaranteed for years.

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