



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 – 16)

August 17th - September 3rd, 2014

Neighbourhood

South Asia

Pakistan

[Modi govt shows Pakistan its tough side, calls off foreign secretary-level talks](#)

The Times of India | August 19th, 2014

The talks between Sujatha Singh and her Pakistani counterpart, Aizaz Ahmed Chaudhry, would have been the first official-level meeting by the Narendra Modi government.

[Heaviest cross-border firing since 1971 war, India lodges protest with Pakistan](#)

PTI / IBN Live | August 26th, 2014

The BSF said the firing by Pakistani forces in the last 45 days was possibly the "heaviest" since the 1971 war. "Yes it is (the heaviest firing) for last so many years -- I think may be after the 1971 war. 45 days is a very long period for this kind of thing to happen", BSF Director General DK Pathak told reporters in Jammu.

[Pakistan made a spectacle, but we will not hesitate to talk: Narendra Modi](#)

Financial Express | August 30th, 2014

Modi said that his government had called off foreign secretary-level talks with Pakistan because, by holding discussions with separatists from Jammu and Kashmir just ahead of the talks, Islamabad had chosen to make a “spectacle” of New Delhi’s efforts at initiating bilateral dialogue.

[No Talks Possible Till Pakistan Stops Terrorism: Home Ministry](#)

NDTV | September 1st, 2014

Relations have been frosty with Pakistan ever since India called off talks last month after Islamabad's envoy to Delhi insisted on holding consultations with Kashmiri separatist leaders days before the foreign secretaries of the two countries were to meet.

Bangladesh

[Bangladesh PM seeks immediate signing of Teesta deal with India](#)

PTI / The Hindu Business Line | August 24th, 2014

“We want to create an environment for increasing trade and investment between North Eastern States of India and Bangladesh,” Minister of State with independent charge for North East Region V K Singh said, adding that the existing makeshift ‘border hats’ increased the people-to-people contact to a great extent between the two countries.

[Indo-Bangladesh business conclave emphasizes on enhancing bilateral trade](#)

Business Standard | August 30th, 2014

The participants focused on finding ways for the removal of bottlenecks in the free flow of trade and commerce between the two countries and strengthening connectivity on all fronts.

Asia Pacific

China

[India, China hold border mechanism talks](#)

PTI / DNA | August 27th, 2014

Both sides are currently working on operationalising the Border Defence Cooperation Agreement (BDCA) signed last year to improve relations between the two militaries at the borders.

[Commerce Ministers to hold talks ahead of Xi Jinping's visit to India](#)

PTI / The Economic Times | August 31st, 2014

High on the agenda of investments are the Chinese industrial parks in India, which was expected to be announced by Xi during his visit. India wants China to set up four such parks, while China wants to make a beginning with one. Discussions were expected to be focussed on the products China wants to manufacture in the Parks while Chinese officials maintained the quantum of the investment would be announced by Xi during his visit.

Singapore

[India to further deepen its bilateral relations with Singapore: Sushma Swaraj](#)

ANI / DNA | August 17th, 2014

Swaraj was glad over the fact that Singapore being not only the largest trading and investment partner in the ASEAN group but also shared similar thoughts on many global and regional issues.

Japan

[India, Japan aim to iron out civil N-deal wrinkles](#)

Hindustan Times | August 18th, 2014

India has put the onus of signing the pact on Japan due to extra conditions put forth apparently by foreign minister Fumio Kashida, who belongs to Hiroshima, the site of World War II nuclear holocaust, South Block officials said.

[‘Let's do in 5 years what was missed in 5 decades’](#)

The Hindu | August 31st, 2014

Laying out the agenda for his Japan visit, Prime Minister Modi said, “We will explore how Japan can associate itself productively with my vision of inclusive development in India, including the transformation of India’s manufacturing, infrastructure sectors, energy and social sectors.”

[Modi in Japan: PM invites Japanese investment, announces special team to facilitate business](#)

PTI / The Indian Express | September 1st, 2014

Addressing top business leaders of Japan and India here, Modi flagged the recent decisions to liberalise FDI policy in the railways, defence and insurance and said rules and laws are being changed in India which would show results in the near future.

[Investment for the future](#)

By Tarun Das & Samarth Pathak (*Ananta Aspen Centre*)

The Financial Express | September 2nd, 2014

What is required now is greater synergy in the realms of foreign policy, defence, nuclear energy and trade. If a vibrant India and a strong Japan can work cohesively to forge a mutually-viable partnership, it will indeed be a new dawn not only for Asia, but for the world.

[India, Japan strengthen strategic ties](#)

Live Mint | September 1st, 2014

Japan under India-friendly Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pledged to give India 3.5 trillion yen (over \$33.58 billion) in public and private investment besides overseas development assistance over the next five years to fund next-generation infrastructure, connectivity, transport systems, smart cities, manufacturing, clean energy and skill development

[India, Japan for upgrading trilateral talks with U.S.](#)

The Hindu | September 2nd, 2014

In a significant regional signal, a joint declaration issued after talks between Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Shinzo Abe on Monday said, “They [the three countries] will also explore the possibility of expanding... their consultations to other countries in the region.”

[Japan visit a huge success, PM Modi tells Tokyo Indians, urges them to fulfil 'Clean India' mission](#)

IBN Live | September 2nd, 2014

Having signed five key agreements with Japan including the Varanasi-Kyoto pact, Modi lauded Japan's decision to invest over \$33 billion in India over the next five years, apparently the highest ever by another country. He said, "India and Japan took several good decisions. We have heard billion, million but for the first time 'trillion' word will be discussed a lot. 3.5 trillion Yen investment in India.. huge amount."

Vietnam

[Swaraj arrives in Vietnam on 3-day visit](#)

PTI / The Indian Express | August 24th, 2014

“India and Vietnam enjoy excellent political relations. We expect that the External Affairs Minister’s visit to Vietnam will pave the way for high-level exchange of visits between India and Vietnam during the course of the year,” MEA spokesperson Syed Akbaruddin had said.

[India, Vietnam to deepen cooperation in defence, oil sectors](#)

PTI / India TV News | August 25th, 2014

“External Affairs Minister mentioned that India is already engaged and is committed to continue cooperation with Vietnam (in oil sector) and also is looking to expand its cooperation with Vietnam in this sector,” Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Syed Akbaruddin said. He said both sides also discussed “briefly” the five oil blocks which Vietnam had offered to India during the visit of Secretary General of Vietnamese Communist party Nguyen Phu Trong, last November.

[India-Vietnam look to add new vistas of co-operation](#)

The Economic Times | August 26th, 2014

Earlier during Ms. Sushma Swaraj’s talks with Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Pham Binh Minh Swaraj said that the newly-elected Indian Government continues to regard Vietnam as a pillar in its Look East policy. They also highlighted the need to continue improving economic ties in an effort to raise two-way trade to \$7 billion by 2015 and \$15 billion by 2020.

Australia

[AIBC looks for turnaround in Australia-India trade](#)

PTI / The Hindu Business Line | August 29th, 2014

The white paper, a joint initiative of Australia India Business Council (AIBC) and Australia India Institute (AII), was presented to Prime Minister Abbott. The paper has sought a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) on “top priority” and called for fast engagement with the new Narendra Modi-led government.

[India to finalise uranium deal with Australia during Tony Abbot's visit](#)

The Economic Times | September 1st, 2014

The negotiations between the two sides have been on since 2012, after Labor Party reversed its decision to ban uranium sale to India as New Delhi has not signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Abbott's Conservative Party, however, had long favoured selling uranium to India.

The United States

[US pushes India, Pakistan to resume talks](#)

India Today | August 20th, 2014

"We are engaging with the governments of both India and Pakistan directly through our embassies to talk about this issue, and again, would strongly support efforts by both countries to improve their bilateral relations," State Department Deputy Spokesperson Marie Harf told reporters at her daily news conference.

[Barack Obama's Phone Call Ended Frosty Ties With PM Narendra Modi, Says US Envoy](#)

NDTV (with inputs from PTI) | August 20th, 2014

"You know that President (Barack) Obama called up Prime Minister elect even before he was sworn in to congratulate him and extend an invitation and I think that set the tone," said America's interim Ambassador Kathleen Stephens to reporters.

Middle East

[Saudi Agriculture Show to Have Largest Ever Indian Participation](#)

PTI / NDTV | August 25th, 2014

Besides being a major trade partner India consider Saudi Arabia as an important economic partner for investments, joint ventures, transfer of technology projects and joint projects in third countries.

Miscellaneous

[India will sign services and investment pacts with Asean: Nirmala Sitharaman](#)

The Economic Times | August 28th, 2014

A day after cancelling her visit to Myanmar for the India-Asean economic ministers' meet, the minister told ET on Wednesday, "We worked one and a half months for it and we will be signing it. It is not possible to say whether it will be next week or next month, but we will honour our commitment to the region.

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