



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 – 2)

January 15th to January 28th 2014

Neighbourhood

South Asia

Pakistan

Pak, India trade volume climbs to \$2.5bn

Pakistan Today | January 16th, 2014

Economist Kashif Mustafa further stated that whenever the trade dialogue between both countries gets momentum, other core issues will get resolved.

India, Pakistan to establish reciprocal NDMA by February-end

The Hindu | January 18th, 2014

Bilateral trade between the two countries is slightly more than \$3 billion a year. Both sides expressed hope that trade would go up many times when NDMA is established on a reciprocal basis.

India, Pakistan for greater trade through Wagah border

Reuters | January 19th 2014

Both sides hope closer integration of Pakistan with India's giant economy would help lay the ground for a lowering of political tensions between them.

In a nutshell, Kashmir trade stalls as India, Pakistan dispute drugs bust

Reuters | January 22nd, 2014

The spat, which comes after the two sides agreed on Saturday to allow round-the-clock movement of trucks and containers through their main border crossing further south in Punjab, underlines the fragility of the peace process.

[Pak driver to face our laws: MEA](#)

The Asian Age | January 24th, 2014

Islamabad had sought the release of the truck driver who was arrested after he was found carrying narcotics worth `100 crore in his vehicle by the police at the Kaman post in north Kashmir last week.

Afghanistan

'Half-baked measures won't help Afghanistan'

The Hindu | January 18th, 2014

The Foreign Secretary also spoke about unpreparedness at the Heart of Asia meet by pointing out that all confidence building measures were at preliminary or planning stages.

Asia Pacific

China

India's energy demand to surpass China's by 2035: BP

Mint | January 16th, 2014

In line with the BP Energy Outlook's projections, India's energy import bill may reach \$300 billion by 2030, said Rahool Panandiker, principal at Boston Consulting Group.

India, China, Russia hold trilateral meeting on Afghanistan

PTI / India TV | January 16th, 2014

Like India, China, too, is concerned over the reemergence of al-Qaeda and its likely impact on Muslim Uyghur majority Xinjiang province, that borders Afghanistan and Pakistan-Occupied-Kashmir.

'India-China to pursue ambitious agenda to firm up ties'

PTI/Economic Times | January 26th, 2014

China accuses Abe of attempting to cobble an anti-China alliance in the backdrop of deteriorating ties between the two sides over the disputed islands in East China Sea and has been sharply critical of his policies in the recent months.

Japan

India, Japan Showcase Partnership on Republic Day

Wall Street Journal | January 26th, 2014

During Mr. Abe's trip, the two countries agreed to a wide range of efforts to cement economic and commercial ties, with Japan saying it is committed to helping India further industrialize.

Strong India, Japan can do wonders, says Japanese PM Shinzo Abe

NDTV | January 26th, 2014

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh emphasised on the importance of cooperation in the seas." Our bilateral maritime exercises have now been established on an annual basis," he said.

Japan agrees to cooperate in NE, Lanka projects

PTI / The Hindu | January 27th, 2014

In another significant move, India and Japan will increase the level of cooperation in energy sector in South Asia which will include promoting energy related investment in the thermal power plant building project in Trincomalee, eastern part of Sri Lanka.

South Korea

India red-faced as South Korea raises long-pending 'minesweeper' contract

Times of India | January 16th, 2014

Just as the contract was headed for Cabinet committee on security's final nod, it was put on hold after Italy's Intermarine, one of several contenders defeated in the global tender, and a politician complained to the Central Vigilance Commission and others about irregularities in the selection process.

Trade growth, economic exchanges vital for stronger India- S Korea ties: PM

Business Standard | January 16th, 2014

PM Singh said that the two sides have recognized the possibility of defence trade and joint production by further promoting collaboration between the defence research organizations of both countries.

India, South Korea to boost ties in cyber security, defence

The Indian Express | January 17th, 2014

During the talks, both the sides recognised the possibility of defence trade and joint production of military equipment by further promoting collaboration between our defence research organisations.

India, South Korea sign nine pacts

The Hindu | January 17th, 2014

In order to further security cooperation, it was agreed to hold annual interactions between the national security structures of the two countries as also launch a Cyber Affairs Dialogue.

Myanmar

Easing the India-Myanmar border tiff

Bangkok Post | January 21st, 2014

Though the bilateral relations have been largely peaceful and mutually beneficial, recent border disputes in the state of Manipur in Northeast India have caused concern among the local communities, as well as the state and central government officials.

The United States

Return of stolen idols marks revival in India-US ties

The Hindu | January 16th, 2014

New Delhi and Washington witnessed an uptick in diplomatic hostilities following the arrest and strip search of Ms. Khobragade on December 12, 2013 a crisis that culminated in her criminal indictment for visa fraud and dramatic departure to India under immunity from a new role at the United Nations.

Salman Khurshid, John Kerry meet, commit to take ties forward

PTI/Times of India | January 23rd, 2014

According to an official, they discussed their shared commitment to moving the relationship forward and returning to close partnerships on strategic, security and economic issues.

Middle East

Ahamed attends curtain raiser for Geneva-II

The Hindu | January 15th, 2014

The second “High Level International Pledging Conference for Syria” is being held under the initiative of the UN Secretary General to address critical humanitarian needs for the Syrians.

India ready to play its part in Syrian peace process: Khurshid

IANS / The Statesman | January 22nd, 2014

As part of international effort to destroy Syria's stockpile of chemical weapons, India has offered technical expertise to the Organization for Protection of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and also offered a financial contribution of US\$ one million.

Europe

Putin: India top foreign policy priority for Russia

The Hindu | January 16th, 2014

Mr. Putin said Russia and India are engaged in “dynamic and constructive dialogue” based on “shared long-term interests, mutual sympathies and sincere trust.”

Miscellaneous

Rubber Imports by India Climbing to Record as Supply Shrinks

Bloomberg News | January 17th, 2014

The benchmark RSS-4 rubber in India fell 5.5 percent to 154 rupees (\$2.50) a kilogram in the past year, according to the Rubber Board, Government of India.

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Ananta Aspen Centre is an independent and not-for-profit organisation that seeks to foster positive change in society through dissemination of knowledge. The Centre facilitates discussions on issues of international significance, values-based leadership and cross-sector outreach by engaging the civil society, government, private sector, and other key stakeholders.

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