



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 – 3)

January 30th-February 14th, 2014

Neighbourhood

South Asia

Pakistan

[Result-oriented talks needed to settle issues: Pakistan](#)

PTI / Zee News | January 30th, 2014

Foreign Office spokesperson Tasnim Aslam however said that she was "unaware" of any solution that Pakistan and India were close to on the Kashmir issue.

[Pakistan not concerned over India's role in Afghanistan](#)

IANS / Zee News | January 30th, 2014

Pakistani spokesperson Tasnim Aslam welcomed a recent statement from Indian Minister for External

Affairs Salman Khurshid who said that Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif wanted to improve relations with India.

[Weekly briefing: No official word on Indian PM's visit, says FO](#)

The Express Tribune | January 31st, 2014 A Pakistani spokesperson confirmed the Indian commerce minister will undertake a two-day visit of Pakistan starting February 16.

[Nawaz Sharif invites India for dialogue on Kashmir](#)

PTI / Economic Times | February 5th, 2014

The Pakistani Prime Minister stressed that the region will remain in the grip of "mistrust and tension" as long as the Kashmir dispute is not resolved in accordance with the aspirations of the Kashmiri people.

Afghanistan

[Salman Khurshid, Hamid Karzai to meet before polls](#)

Mint | February 6th, 2014

Two high-profile projects India is trying to complete by the end of this year are the Afghan parliament building in Kabul and the 42 megawatts (MW) Salma Dam power project on the Hari Rud river in Herat province along the Iran-Turkmenistan border.

Bangladesh

[Visa-on-arrival facility extended to tourists from 180 countries](#)

The Economic Times | February 6th, 2014

Till now visa-on-arrival facility was available to tourists from only 12 countries that included Japan, Finland, Singapore, Indonesia, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Cambodia, Vietnam, the Philippines, Laos and Myanmar.

[Drugs and the Golden Triangle: Renewed Concerns for Northeast India](#)

Nagaland Post | February 10th, 2014

Huge quantities of illicit narcotics can easily ride the new access routes of greater connectivity and can blow up already existing issues of secured human health and wellbeing of society.

['Weapon trafficking linked to ULFA not possible without support of Bangladesh govt'](#)

PTI / Times of India | February 12th, 2014

A special tribunal in Chittagong handed down the death penalty to ULFA leader Paresh Barua, Jamaat-e-Islami chief Motiur Rahman Nizami and 12 others for involvement in Bangladesh's biggest ever weapon haul in 2004.

Nepal

[Nepal eyes tourism spillover from India's easy visa policy](#)

Ekantipur.com | February 8th, 2014

As part of a major policy reform, the Indian government decided to extend the visa-on-arrival facility to travellers from nearly 180 countries from this year.

Bhutan

[India accepted restructuring of 336 MW Chukha Hydroproject in Bhutan](#)

Economic Times | February 10th, 2014

As per announcement made by the prime Minister of Bhutan Tshering Tobgay, the new rate stands at Rs

2.25 a unit against old rate of Rs 2 for around 1,800 units of power exported to India by Chukkhā annually.

Sri Lanka

[India, Lanka discuss fishermen, maritime security trilateral](#)

Zee News / PTI | January 29th, 2014

Also discussed were issues related to the progress of some of the important long-term developmental projects which are being undertaken by India.

[Sri Lanka: Navy arrests 19 Indian fishermen, seizes 5 boat](#)

PTI / First Post | February 2nd, 2014

A Navy official said the latest arrest has raised the number of Indians in Sri Lankan captivity since the talks to 57.

Asia Pacific

China

[Dalai Lama asks China to learn from India](#)

PTI / DNA | February 3rd, 2014

The Spiritual Leader said that over 3,000 years ago, India had the concept of Ahimsa (non-violence). Because of that it commands respect and complimented India as the living example of religious tolerance and culture.

[India, China to discuss incursions, hotline during defence talks](#)

PTI / Zee News | February 9th, 2014

There have been several incursions by the Chinese troops along the Line of Actual Control even after the two sides signed the BDCA last October.

[Joining hands, and dreams](#)

The Indian Express | February 10th, 2014

The Chinese state councilor said that the growth of the China-India strategic and cooperative partnership not only serves the fundamental interests of our two countries and peoples, but will also boost peace and prosperity of the world.

[India, China discuss CBMs on border issue](#)

The Hindu | February 12th, 2014

The BDCA was signed late last year and attempts were made to enhance coordination and iron out possibilities of misunderstanding between the armies along the disputed Line of Actual Control.

The United States

[Jaishankar dispels bilateral "problem of sentiment"](#)

The Hindu | January 30th, 2014

The Indian Ambassador to the US admitted that this episode had been "truly distressing," he added that

what it did highlight was the need for “greater sensitivity, for better understanding and for stronger oversight of our ties.”

[Khobragade-like episodes should be avoided](#)

IANS | February 5th, 2014

In a statement to the Lok Sabha, Salman Khurshid said the dialogue between the two countries "will be held as soon as a mutually agreed agenda and convenient dates for the meeting are finalized".

[India warns US of consequences on visa reform](#)

AFP / Times of India | February 6th, 2014

The Indian Ambassador to the US charged that the changes attacked the business model of India's showcase IT industry, which he said was making the US economy more competitive by helping companies operate round-the-clock.

[India-US partnership would keep growing after poll: Condoleezza Rice](#)

IANS / DNA | February 8th, 2014

India and US "must also keep working together on major global challenges, such as addressing the drivers of climate change that have critical implications for every nation," Rice said.

[India-US talks may resume in March](#)

The Hindustan Times | February 10th, 2014

New Delhi is keen getting on US technology in the shale gas resource assessments as well as sharing lessons on its exploitation.

[US challenges India's solar export restrictions](#)

PTI / Times of India | February 11th, 2014

As the US trade representative, Mike Froman said the US has requested WTO dispute consultations with India concerning domestic content requirements in phase II of India's Solar Mission.

[We will defend it in WTO, says India](#)

The Hindu | February 12th 2014

India's total solar power installed capacity is 2,000 MWs, up from 2 MW three years ago. At the next NSM meeting scheduled for February 26, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh is expected to approve a goal of 100,000 MWs for 2022.

Europe

[European companies come well armed for tie-ups at Defexpo](#)

The Hindu | February 9th, 2014

With the Navy in the middle of a major modernisation drive, a number of submarine and torpedo manufacturers working with it are participating in the exhibition.

Russia

[India, Russia mull over meeting Afghan defence requirements](#)

Russia and India Report (www.indrus.in) | January 28th, 2014

Afghan President Hamid Karzai had made a request to Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh for supplying military equipments to Kabul during his last official visit to India in order to improve its defence capabilities to meet the security challenges following planned NATO troops' withdrawal.

[Russian- Indian ties at their peak – Russian Ambassador to India](#)

Voice of Russia | February 10th, 2014

The Russian Ambassador believes that the ties manifest themselves in a “diverse multisided cooperation,” including military, technical, nuclear and space spheres.

[Russia supplies first batch of Mi-17B-5 helicopters to India](#)

TASS | Voice of Russia | February 12th, 2014

The new Russian MI-17B-5 helicopter is an upgraded version of MI-8/17 which Russia supplied to India before.

Germany

[Immense opportunities for German companies in India: President Pranab Mukherjee](#)

PTI / Economic Times | February 6th, 2014

Describing Germany as a long standing and good friend, Mukherjee said India attaches high priority to India-Germany strategic partnership based on shared values.

[Twin green pacts signed, India to get 900 million euros from Germany](#)

The Indian Express | February 6th, 2014

The agreements were signed as German President Joachim Gauck, who is currently visiting India, met PM Manmohan Singh in New Delhi.

Italy

[Italian marines case may impact ties with India: EU](#)

IANS / The Hindu | January 30th, 2014

Earlier, a 16-member Italian parliamentary delegation arrived in India on a two-day visit (Jan 27-28) to express support and solidarity with the two marines.

[Indian move upsets Italy](#)

PTI / The Hindu | February 10th, 2014

The Marines, who were on-board Italian vessel ‘Enrica Lexie’, allegedly shot dead the two fishermen on Feb. 15, 2012 off Kerala coast.

Miscellaneous

[India for building security architecture in Asia-Pacific: Menon](#)

PTI / Business Standard | February 3rd, 2014

Chinese delegate however rejected any security partnership with Japan until the leadership in Tokyo admits the alleged crimes committed by the country's soldiers during the World War II.

[World needs new awakening to tackle rich-poor divide: Salman Khurshid](#)

PTI / DNA | February 6th, 2014

The Indian Foreign Minister said while large number of people in this world do not have access to electricity, there are others who are living under the shadow of water shortages, hunger and malnutrition.

[To do business with India and China, Britain needs to lose its imperial swagger](#)

The Guardian | February 9th, 2014

Indian goods imports from Germany are nearly double those from Britain. And Britain recently lost a big combat aircraft contract to France.

[India and New Zealand pledge NZ\\$500,000 each for research](#)

The Hindustan Times | February 12th, 2014

The announcement made on the occasion of Waitangi Day, New Zealand's national day that was

celebrated recently, seeks to increase research collaboration across a range of areas including food security and agriculture, community development and innovation, health, environment and sustainability, to name a few.

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