



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 – 5)

March 1st - March 14th, 2014

Neighbourhood

South Asia

Pakistan

[India, Pak officials to discuss cross-LoC trade issues](#)

PTI / Zee News | March 2nd, 2014

The meeting comes against the backdrop of tension along the LoC after the arrest of a driver from Pakistan-occupied- Kashmir (PoK) for allegedly smuggling 'brown sugar' worth Rs 100 crore on January 17.

[Pakistani daily: India-Pak should reduce defence expense](#)

IANS / Business Standard | March 7th, 2014

Instead of working to lift the region's 1.6 billion people out of poverty, south Asian countries'

governments are more focused on external security and this is especially true in the context of India-Pakistan relationship, the Dawn said in an editorial.

[Increase in Pakistan-printed fake currency notes smuggling to India](#)

PTI / DNA | March 8th, 2014

Sources suspect that the smuggling of Fake Indian Currency Notes may increase ahead of Lok Sabha polls.

[Pakistani Senate ask govt to take up water disputes with India](#)

PTI / Zee News | March 11th, 2014

Surprisingly, the members in the upper house insisted that the resolution should be passed despite the announcement by Leader of the House Raja Zafarul Haq that the government had already made water issues a part of the agenda of the dialogue with India.

Bangladesh

[Hasina brings up Teesta](#)

The Telegraph | March 5th, 2014

Prime Minister Singh did not mention anything on the water pact in his summit statement.

[Mega-Deal: India Agrees To Help Provide Bangladesh With More Electric Power](#)

International Business Times | March 6th, 2014

Prime Minister Hasina suggested that two other neighboring countries, Bhutan and Nepal, should consider joint endeavors to constrict hydropower plants to help meet electricity demand across the region.

Sri Lanka

[Manmohan to meet Rajapaksa today](#)

The Hindu | March 4th, 2014

Dr. Singh had declined to travel to Sri Lanka for the Commonwealth Heads of Government summit, amid intense criticism of the country's human rights record.

[Sri Lanka fails to get assurance from India on UNHRC resolution](#)

PTI / DNA | March 4th, 2014

Sri Lanka has come under increasing international pressure to probe allegations of excessive civilian deaths during the final battle between the Army and the LTTE that ended in May, 2009.

[32 Indian fishermen arrested by Sri Lankan Navy](#)

PTI / ABP News | March 4th, 2014

The fishermen were being taken to the port of Kankasanturai to be handed over to the fisheries surveillance officials, a Naval spokesman said.

[Sri Lanka releases 24 more TN fishermen](#)

PTI / Times of India | March 13th, 2014

The fishermen were arrested by Sri Lankan navy for allegedly crossing International Maritime Boundary Line and fishing in the island nation's waters.

Bhutan

[India approves Rs 1,765 cr for hydropower project in Bhutan](#)

PTI / Economic Times | March 5th, 2014

The approved amount of Rs 1,765 crore would be released in April after the completion of internal procedures within the Government of India, according to a press release from Bhutan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

[India pledges to provide Rs 8.5 billion to Bhutan](#)

PTI / Economic Times | March 10th, 2014

The decision in this regard was taken at the first meeting of the Small Development Project Committee (SDP) for the 11th Five Year Plan, comprising representatives from the Royal Government of Bhutan and two from the Embassy of India.

Nepal

[Indian Army chief to visit Nepal next week](#)

PTI / India TV | March 6th, 2014

Gen Singh will meet his Nepalese counterpart Gen Gaurav Shumsher Rana and other senior defense officials.

Asia Pacific

[India expresses concern over territorial row in Southeast Asia](#)

Philippines Star | March 7th, 2014

China has been conducting maritime patrols in disputed areas and has enacted a law requiring foreign fishing boats to seek its permission before operating in the West Philippine Sea

[India seeks deeper engagement with ASEAN on maritime security](#)

PTI / India TV | March 7th, 2014

“With power equations being re-drawn, the ASEAN India relationship provides an egalitarian balance for maintenance of peace and stability. An inclusive, open architecture is our common objective,” said Mr. Salman Khurshid

China

[China emerges as India's top trading partner: Study](#)

PTI / Economic Times | March 2nd, 2014

India's trade (exports and imports) with China was only of \$7 billion in 2004 which rose to \$38 billion in 2008 and to \$65 billion in 2013.

[India condemns terror attack in China](#)

The Hindu | March 4th, 2014

“India strongly opposes terrorism in all its forms and manifestations,” an official statement by the External Affairs Ministry said.

[India Inc beats Chinese peers in financial health](#)

Business Standard | March 10th, 2014

Indian companies have higher market capitalisation for every unit of assets and borrowings. On an average, Chinese companies' market capitalisation is 1.5 times their total debt.

Myanmar

[Myanmar assures protection for Indians, community opens border](#)

The Hindu | March 11th, 2014

Indian traders dropped their plans to launch a protest from Monday after Myanmar assured to protect Indians entering the country.

Malaysia

[Malaysia hopes to woo 8 lakh Indians this year](#)

The Hindu | March 13th, 2014

Last year, 6.50 lakh Indian tourists visited Malaysia, thus maintaining its position as the sixth top tourist generating market for that country.

The United States

['US takes no position on India's future leadership'](#)

IANS / Business Standard | March 4th, 2014

"We're a proud partner with India on virtually every field of human endeavour, from innovative solutions, to poverty and disease control, to space exploration and counter-terrorism," said the US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia.

[U.S. seeks 'talk and trade' to rebuild India ties](#)

Reuters / Euronews | March 6th, 2014

Vice President Joseph Biden, on a visit to India last year, called for bilateral trade to grow fivefold over the next 10 years to half a trillion dollars. That is roughly the size of last year's U.S. trade deficit

[India, US move on since diplomat row, immunity issue insulated](#)

PTI / DNA | March 8th, 2014

Senior Indian diplomat Devyani Khobragade was arrested on December 12 in New York on visa fraud charges. The incident triggered a row between the two countries with India retaliating by downgrading privileges of certain category of US diplomats among other steps.

[S Jaishankar presents credentials to Obama at the White House](#)

PTI / Business Standard | March 11th, 2014

The Indian Ambassador during the credentialing ceremony assured Obama of his commitment to expand key pillars of the bilateral relationship including economic relations and trade ties, defense and security, energy, science and technology and global issues.

[India and US to hold top-level meet to bolster military ties](#)

Times of India | March 11th, 2014

The expansive India-US defence cooperation over the last decade has seen the armed forces from the two countries conduct over 70 exercises, including the high-end Malabar naval combat exercises.

[US court dismisses case against Devyani Khobragade](#)

PTI / ABP News | March 13th, 2014

The judge said Khobragade served as a consular officer in the US from October 26, 2012 through

January 8, 2014, a position that "cloaked her with consular immunity" as per the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations.

Australia

[Australia cautions India over processed food exports](#)

Business Standard | March 6th, 2014

One key reason for export rejections by Australia was its new food labelling policy.

Europe

[Ukraine crisis worries India](#)

The Hindu | March 7th, 2014

India had managed to strike deals with these companies as an alternative to Russia. It has in the past managed to play off the two countries and get the best possible deal.

[India bats for Russia interests](#)

The Telegraph, India | March 7th, 2014

The US, UK, Canada, Germany, France, Italy and Japan — the seven G8 nations other than Russia — have criticised Russian President Vladimir Putin's decision to send troops into Ukraine's southeastern Crimean Peninsula.

[New laws may hurt Indian bank branches in UK](#)

Hindustan Times | March 13th, 2014 The five Indian banks operate branches in the UK and cater mainly to the large Indian diaspora. They are Bank of Baroda, Bank of India, Export-Import Bank of India, Syndicate Bank and State Bank of India.

Middle-East

[India-Pakistan-Iran pipeline remains the most viable option](#)

The Hindu | March 6th, 2014

The biggest problem is despite deep energy and civilisational links, India and Iran are unfamiliar with each other's processes and systems of doing business in other areas.

[India is Dubai's top trade partner](#)

PTI / Deccan Chronicle | March 10th, 2014

India, Turkey and Switzerland are respectively the leading exports partners of Dubai, Whereas Saudi Arabia stands at the top for re-exports followed by India and Iraq. China, however, leads the list of top imports partners followed by the USA and India.

Miscellaneous

[BIMSTEC leaders vow to jointly combat terrorism](#)

PTI / The Hindu | March 4th, 2014

BIMSTEC brings together over 20 per cent of the world population, which is about 1.5 billion, and a GDP of over USD 2.5 trillion.

[PM seeks strong cooperation from BIMSTEC to counter terrorism](#)

PTI / Times of India | March 4th, 2014

The Prime Minister also spoke of the many opportunities that BIMSTEC countries share in the fields of trade, economic cooperation and connectivity, saying all of this "presage a bright future for us".

[Seychelles, Mauritius join Indian Ocean maritime security group](#)

The Hindu | March 7th, 2014

Beginning in 2011 as a concept, the trilateral has reached a state of preparedness from where it is capable of responding to illegal activity such as piracy.

[Oral polio vaccine must for travellers](#)

Times of India | March 11th, 2014

The Union government has declared that any case of poliovirus would be treated as an emergency and high-quality surveillance has been in place to detect any untoward importation of the poliovirus into India.

[India, ASEAN agreement on services and investment trade soon](#)

IANS / Business Standard | March 9th, 2014

India and ASEAN forged a deal on goods five years ago that has led two-way trade to grow exponentially: it is now almost \$80 billion.

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About Ananta Aspen Centre

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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