



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 – 6)

March 14th - March 28th, 2014

The Growth Net Special

*[Ananta Centre (formerly part of Aspen Institute India) and Smadja and Smadja group recently convened The Growth Net 2014 in New Delhi from March 23-25. In the three-day conclave, **100 speakers** and nearly **300 representatives** from over **25 countries**, gave a unique insight into the global economic agenda. The discussions culminated with thought leaders from **Africa, Latin America, Asia and Europe** unanimously sharing their optimism on the growth potential in the developing markets despite the slowdown.]*

[Cyber safety, gender issues India's top security challenges: Menon](#)

ANI / Business Standard | March 24th, 2014

Addressing The Growth Net 2014, Menon identified cyber issues and gender safety as India's top security challenges.

[India, China Working to Counter Terrorism Threat: NSA](#)

Outlook | March 24th, 2014

India and China have already started working together on security issues for obvious reasons. We share a periphery and interests. We both are threatened by the kind of terrorism and extremism that we see today. For several years, we have consulted and talked to each other on these issues," he said while addressing 'Growth Net' seminar.

[Growth Net 2014 ends on an optimistic note for emerging economies](#)

ANI News | March 26th, 2014

Convened by the Ananta Centre (formerly Aspen Institute India) and Smadja and Smadja group, The Growth Net 2014 featured more than 100 speakers and nearly 300 representatives from over 25 countries discussing global economic imperatives. Concluding the meeting on a positive note, thought leaders from Africa, Latin America, Asia and Europe unanimously shared their optimism on the growth potential in the developing markets despite the slowdown.

Neighbourhood

South Asia

Pakistan

[Pakistan seeks good relations with India: envoy](#)

IANS / DNA | March 23rd, 2014

The Pakistani High Commissioner Abdul Basit "also reaffirmed full solidarity of the Pakistani nation with their Kashmiri brothers and sisters", the statement added.

[Pakistan again seeks US intervention on Kashmir](#)

PTI / Zee News | March 24th, 2014

External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid had said, "Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India - there is no question of anybody interfering with this idea. The US knows this very well".

[Pakistan postpones MFN status to India citing lack of consensus](#)

ANI / DNA | March 25th 2014 Sharif said that India was showing reluctance when it came to resolving the Kashmir issue and proposed a third-party intervention for the same.

[26/11 Mumbai terror attacks: Pakistani court adjourns case for the 3rd time](#)

PTI / The Indian Express | March 25th, 2014

The Anti Terrorism Judge Atiqur Rehman had refused to come during the last two hearings also as he was not satisfied with the security arrangement in the high-profile case.

[Ties with India should move forward holistically: Pakistan](#)

PTI / Economic Times | March 27th, 2014

A crucial cabinet meeting, set to discuss and approve the long-pending Non Discriminatory Market Access (NDMA) to India last Friday, was put off at the last moment.

Sri Lanka

[116 fishermen reach Karaikal port](#)

The Hindu | March 19th, 2014

The return of the men and their 26 boats has set in an atmosphere of goodwill in the run up to the March 25 talks between the fisherfolk of the two countries.

[50 fishermen injured as Lankan naval personnel attack them](#)

PTI / IBN Live | March 27th, 2014

The injured were part of a group of 2,000 fishermen who had put out to sea last night in 400 boats.

[India abstains as UNHRC votes for Lanka probe](#)

The Hindu | March 28th, 2014 In a 23-12 vote, the council backed a Western-sponsored resolution that said it was time for a “comprehensive investigation into alleged serious violations and abuses of human rights and related crimes by both parties in Sri Lanka.”

Nepal

[Nepal keenly watching Indian polls \(Election Special\)](#)

IANS / Business Standard | March 23rd, 2014

There is a lot of interest and enthusiasm among Nepal's common people about India's elections as several print and electronic media operating here have been covering at least one news item on Indian politics every day, which has generated interest and sometimes healthy debates.

Asia Pacific

China

[China's request for entering Indian waters turned down](#)

PTI / Hindustan Times | March 20th, 2014

The request was politely declined and the Chinese Navy was told that Indian Navy and the Air Force were already scanning the area and there was no need for anybody else to search the area, sources told PTI.

[Xi calls good relations with India his 'historic mission'](#)

The Times of India | March 21st, 2014 India's plans for the "year of friendly exchanges" include a "Glimpses of India" tour covering a dozen Chinese cities to enhance people-to-people contacts.

The United States

[India's role in Afghanistan very critical: Gen Dunford](#)

PTI / The Indian Express | March 14th, 2014

Dunford said India can play a very important role, diplomatically and economically in particular.

[Arrest warrant issued against Devyani Khobragade in US visa fraud case](#)

PTI / The Indian Express | March 15th, 2014

The indictment states that the diplomat “knowingly made” multiple false representations and presented false information to US authorities in order to obtain a visa for a personal domestic worker.

[India welcomes US Congress backing for Sikhs in American military](#)

PTI / DNA | March 19th, 2014

India's Ambassador to the US, S Jaishankar said that India's Sikh sons and daughters have held the highest offices in the land and have served at the highest ranks, including at four-star ranks in the Indian military.

[India, Pakistan ties 'promising but fragile': US commander](#)

PTI / Business Standard | March 25th, 2014

Observing that India continues its rise as a regional and emerging global power, Locklear said its increasing, positive presence in the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean region as security provider is an important factor in regional stability.

Europe

[European Union bans Indian mangoes, vegetables due to concerns over pests](#)

The Hindustan Times | March 26th, 2014

This decision had to be taken due to a high number of such consignments being intercepted at arrival in the EU with quarantine pests, mainly insects, like non-European fruit flies.

[Black money: India threatens to drag Switzerland to G20](#)

Hindustan Times | March 28th, 2014

Confirming the development, a Swiss government spokesperson told PTI from Bern: "We have received a letter from India's finance minister. He will receive an answer soon."

Russia

[Putin thanks India for its stand on Ukraine](#)

The Hindu | March 18th, 2014

India did not join the Western powers' condemnation of Russia's intervention in Crimea and kept a low profile on the issue.

[Government keen to sign accord with Russia for Unit III, IV of KNPP](#)

PTI / India TV News | March 23rd, 2014

Officials said that the major impediments in signing the deal with the Russians were few clauses of the Civil Liability of Nuclear Damages Act (CLND), 2010, and differences over these have been settled now.

Miscellaneous

[India remains the biggest arms buyer](#)

PTI / Business Standard | March 17th, 2014

The world's top five arms importers were now India, China, Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

[Keep up pace on Security Council reform, India tells Ashe](#)

The Hindu | March 21st, 2014

Mr. Khurshid suggested transiting to a "creative phase" of the Security Council Reforms so as to achieve "concrete outcomes" by 2015.

[BRIC countries oppose ban on Vladimir Putin attending G20 Summit](#)

PTI / DNA | March 24th, 2014

India has already made it clear that it will not support any "unilateral measures" against Russian government.

[India committed to world free of nuclear weapons: Khurshid](#)

IANS / First Post | March 26th, 2014

The minister, who led the Indian delegation at the summit, said there was a need to strengthen the international nuclear security architecture by ratifying and implementing the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and its 2005 amendment and the International Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

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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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