



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 – 7)

April 1st - April 14th, 2014

Neighbourhood

South Asia

Pakistan

[To re-engage with India as soon as new govt is formed: Pak FM](#)

PTI / Zee News | April 9th, 2014 "The non-discriminatory market access (NDMA) is a new term we have coined for mutual expansion of the trade. We wish to minimise the negative list of both the countries," Finance Minister Ishaq Dar said.

Afghanistan

[Wary Afghanistan goes to polls today under shadow of Taliban threat](#)

Times of India | April 5th, 2014

A joint task force report by two Indian think tanks, Ananta-Aspen Centre and Delhi Policy

Group, which was released by PM's special envoy on Af-Pak S K Lambah on Friday to coincide with the elections, makes a strong case for India to equip Afghans militarily.

[India hopes new Afghan administration will be inclusive](#)

Live Mint | April 5th, 2014

Speaking after the launch of a report titled *Afghanistan Task Force Report: What India Can Do* by two Delhi-based think-tanks, the Ananta Aspen Centre and the Delhi Policy Group, Satinder K. Lambah, the Prime Minister's special envoy on Afghanistan, also called on the international community to "remain committed" to supporting the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF), which is playing the central role in tackling the resurgent Taliban insurgency in the country.

[India has no exit strategy in Afghanistan: Foreign Secretary](#)

PTI / Business Standard | April 9th, 2014

Foreign Secretary Sujatha Singh said India would like to see a strong and stable Afghanistan and exhuded confidence that the country will manage its transition in 2014 and beyond.

[PM congratulates Hamid Karzai for successful conduct of polls](#)

PTI / Zee News | April 7th, 2014

The polls in Afghanistan will end 13 years of rule by Karzai, who has held power since 2001. Preliminary election results are expected on April 24.

Bangladesh

[Likely govt change in India unlikely to hit ties with Bangladesh](#)

PTI / Business Standard | April 7th, 2014

The Indian High Commissioner said as long as the fundamental principles of relations stayed, India's Bangladesh policy would continue to remain unchanged as it would be led by same interests.

Sri Lanka

[Govt: Decision on Lanka was political](#)

Asian Age | April 5th, 2014

Speaking to a news agency, foreign secretary Sujatha Singh said: "Any decision relating to foreign policy is a political decision, is it not? And no official will take a decision without taking a political sign off."

Bhutan

[Bhutan to hire Indian students for hydel project](#)

PTI / The Economic Times | April 10th, 2014

Bhutan's Minister for commerce and foreign affairs Liyonopo Narbo Wangchuk, who is currently leading a Bhutanese delegation here, said Bhutan has tremendous hydro power potential and wants to harness the Indian expertise in the field to tap it to the maximum.

Asia Pacific

China

[India, China to hold strategic dialogue on April 14](#)

PTI / Zee News | April 9th, 2014

China is in touch with India to explore way forward in Afghanistan to deal with the war-ravaged country after the draw-dawn of the US-led NATO troops by the end of this year.

[India, China to discuss border pinpricks](#)

DNA | April 12th, 2014

After the two countries signed the Border Defence Cooperation Agreement (BDCA), they had agreed to have a hotline between their DGMO-rank officers to resolve issues cropping up on the LAC during face-offs between the soldiers of the two sides, defence sources said.

[Foreign secretary Sujatha Singh to test Beijing waters before new government checks in](#)

The Economic Times | April 14th, 2014

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Hong Lei said last week that the two sides will have deep exchanges on bilateral ties, high-level exchanges, and practical cooperation, international and regional issues of mutual concern.

The United States

[US faces trade barriers from India, China in telecom](#)

PTI / India TV News | April 5th, 2014

The report among other things mentions ongoing restrictions on the provision of voice-over the Internet (VOIP) services in China and India. It expresses concerns about undue restrictions on the ability of US satellite service suppliers to provide satellite transmission capacity to customers in both China and India.

[Time to get past tensions and move on: US on ties with India](#)

PTI / NDTV | April 5th, 2014

"We have said we want to get past some of the tensions that have been there over the past several months and move on," State Department Deputy Spokesperson Marie Harf told reporters.

[Space Cooperation: A Vital New Front for India-U.S. Relations](#)

Space News | April 7th, 2014

India's Megha-Tropiques, a satellite mission to study the water cycle in the tropical region in the context of climate change, will now form part of the Global Precipitation Measurement mission being led by the U.S. and Japan.

[India refuses to consider Khobragade episode as closed](#)

The Hindu | April 7th, 2014

Though the first indictment against her was rejected by a U.S. court, prosecutors last month re-indicted her on visa fraud charges and accused her of "illegally" underpaying and "exploiting" her domestic maid.

[US lawmakers look forward to new government in India after general elections](#)

PTI / The Economic Times | April 8th, 2014

Congressman Eliot Engel said he is pleased by the transformation that has occurred in the US-India relationship over the past couple of decades and noted that this transformation could not

have happened without the strong leadership of both major political parties in India and the United States.

[Americans facing competition from India, China: Obama](#)

PTI / The Hindu | April 8th, 2014

“Young people in India and China, they’re all interested in trying to figure out how they get a foothold in this world economy,” Mr. Obama said while addressing students in Maryland.

Europe

Russia

[India, Russia sign Rs 2,600 crore deal for anti-tank ammunition](#)

PTI / DNA | March 31st, 2014

The two sides signed the deal on March 27 for the supply of anti-tank shells to the Army and agreement in this regard was inked by Defence Ministry officials from India and Rosoboronexport officials from the Russia side, the Defence Ministry said in New Delhi.

Middle East

[3 Israel diplomats sent home](#)

Asian Age | April 9th, 2014

According to reports, one of the three diplomats had even slapped the immigration official while the other too also roughed him up. All three were headed for work to Kathmandu, Nepal.

Miscellaneous

[FS engages envoys in ‘interactive sessions’](#)

The Asian Age | April 7th, 2014

These sessions have evoked a huge response amongst the diplomatic corps with large numbers – some 80 to 100 – including high commissioners and ambassadors turning up to brainstorm with the FS on issues that might be of concern or interest.

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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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