



*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 1 – 8)

***April 15th - April 30th, 2014***

### **Neighbourhood**

#### **South Asia**

#### **Pakistan**

#### **[India releases 21 Pakistan prisoners](#)**

*ANI / DNA | April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014*

Earlier in February, the Border Security Force (BSF) handed over 20 Pakistani prisoners to the Pakistani Rangers at Wagah outpost in Punjab.

#### **[India, Pakistan may resume dialogue after Lok Sabha polls](#)**

*IANS / Deccan Herald | April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014*

The Pakistani Envoy to the US, Jalil Abbas Jilani, also said in a talk at Harvard University that there was increasing awareness in both countries that there can be no military solution to their problems.

#### **[India, Pak DGMOs talk after another ceasefire violation](#)**

*The Times of India | April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014*

"Pakistani troops resorted to firing from small arms firing and mortars on Indian posts in the Doda battalion area in the Poonch district," said an Indian official, adding the ceasefire

violation was probably a Pakistani army ploy to push through infiltrators under the cover of firing.

### **Afghanistan**

#### **[Indian Army commanders to meet to discuss Afghanistan](#)**

*DNA | April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014*

Keeping in view of drawdown of US-led forces from Afghanistan in 2014, Indian Army is also providing training to Afghanistan National Army (ANA). According to army, Army is targeting to train about 1100 Afghan troops by the end of 2014, as compared to 574 personnel training in last year.

### **Bangladesh**

#### **[BNP: No water, no relation](#)**

*Dhaka Tribune | April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014*

"We are a small country and we are not so much powerful economically. Our movement is not against India rather we want to ensure proper sharing of water." Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, acting secretary general of the party, said.

### **Bhutan**

#### **[Bhutan, India sign pact for developing hydropower projects](#)**

*PTI / Zee News | April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014*

Three Hydroelectric projects totaling 1416 MW - the 336 MW Chukha project, the 60 MW Kurichu project and the 1020 MW Tala project - are already operational in Bhutan and are supplying electricity to India.

### **Asia Pacific**

#### **[US, Japan boosting trilateral cooperation with India, South Korea](#)**

*PTI / The Economic Times | April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014*

"To achieve our shared objectives of promoting peace and economic prosperity in the Asia-Pacific and around the globe, the US and Japan are strengthening trilateral cooperation with like-minded partners, including the Republic of Korea, Australia, and India," said a joint US-Japan statement.

### **China**

#### **[No accord on consulate in Lhasa](#)**

*The Hindu | April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014*

Despite India's long-pending interest in Lhasa, China has clarified that it will not allow any additional foreign diplomatic presence in Tibet. Only Nepal has diplomatic presence in Lhasa, while U.S. requests were denied.

### [India, China, Pak naval ships hold rare exercises](#)

*PTI / Business Standard | April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014*

Besides India, ships from seven other countries, including China, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei took part in the exercises held off the coast of the eastern Chinese city of Qingdao.

### [India, China discuss implementation of border pacts](#)

*The Hindu | April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014*

Interestingly, the Chinese side announced their Defence Minister General Chang Wanquan's plans to visit India later this year and confirmed plans for a joint army exercise at a time when the two sides are trying to resolve their differences over sending a youth delegation to Beijing next month in which Arunachal Pradesh, one of the States bordering China, is a sticking point.

### [Indian Navy refuses Chinese navy chief's request](#)

*The Hindustan Times | April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014*

The Indian side were taken unawares by Chinese navy chief, Wu Shengli's request as it is unheard of for the chief of a navy to make a request to see the Combat Information Centre of another country's warship; China itself is not known to throw open its warship CICs to military officers from other countries.

### [India, China agree to deepen naval ties after landmark exercise](#)

*The Hindu | April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014*

As more Chinese ships sail west and Indian ships sail east, both countries have used this week's exercise to stress their intent to ensure they will deepen mutual trust to address any insecurities.

## **Myanmar**

### [India calls for end to UN resolution on Myanmar human rights](#)

*PTI / Statesman | April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014*

Indian Ambassador to the UN, Asoke Mukerji said India would continue to support the steps taken by the Myanmar government towards reform and reconciliation, with reference to pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, release of political prisoners, holding of peace talks with the ethnic groups, including the Kachins and proposal for signing of a nationwide ceasefire accord soon.

## **The United States**

### [India polls will set new stage for Indo-US ties: Nancy Powell](#)

*PTI / NDTV | April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014*

Giving examples of cooperation on "strategic issues as never before", Nancy Powell, former US Ambassador to India, said India and US have initiated a series of regional dialogues including US-India-Afghanistan bilateral and trilateral meetings and a separate trilateral with Japan.

### [India to play key role in Asian growth: U.S.](#)

*IANS / The Hindu | April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014*

"India needs a transparent, straightforward way of attracting foreign investment, offering

private capital a way to share in India's opportunity," said Nisha Desai Biswal, the US assistant secretary of state for South and Central Asian Affairs.

### **Japan**

#### **[Foreign Secretary Sujatha Singh to visit Japan this week](#)**

*Live Mint | April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014*

With India looking for \$1 trillion in investment for its infrastructure sector, Japan is seen as a natural partner. The nation is already involved in the construction of the \$90 billion Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor project.

### **Singapore**

#### **[Singapore always keen to strengthen ties with India: Speaker](#)**

*PTI / Business Standard | April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014*

Highlighting the two countries' good track record of working closely, country's Parliament speaker Halimah Yacob told members of the Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI) to progress on the past performance.

### **Europe**

#### **[Marines case: Italy to send envoy back to India, mulls international arbitration](#)**

*PTI / The Indian Express | April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014*

"We are off the bilateral level, to raise the dispute to an international level: we are still willing to talk to the Indians", said Italian Defence Minister Federica Mogherini adding, "We have no other option than resorting to international arbitration."

#### **[India-European Union FTA talks to resume after new government: French Ambassador Francois Richier](#)**

*PTI / The Economic Times | April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014*

Richier, who was speaking on the sidelines of an event related to Paris International Auto Show, said French companies have invested around USD 19 billion in total till date in India.

### **Middle East**

#### **Iran**

#### **[India to make May-July oil payments to Iran: Reports](#)**

*Reuters / The Economic Times | April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014*

As long as Tehran complies with the terms of its preliminary agreement with western powers, which took effect on Jan. 20, Iran receives some of its funds frozen abroad in eight payments from various buyers over six months.

## **Miscellaneous**

**'India well-poised to play constructive role in global net governance'**

*IANS / ABP News | April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014*

Vinay Kwatra, the Indian representative at the Global Multistakeholder Meeting on the Future of Internet Governance pointed out several serious strategic and public policy challenges that the Internet poses. He said there is the apparent inability of the current structures of Internet governance to respond to some of the core and strategic concerns of the member states.

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