



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 – 9)

May 1st - May 15th 2014

Neighbourhood

South Asia

Pakistan

[India rejects Pakistan Army Chief's remark calling Kashmir the 'jugular vein' of Pakistan](#)

IANS / DNA | May 3rd, 2014

"He has mentioned Kashmir in a manner which is unwholesome and unacceptable. I think that these are matters that, frankly it is not for me to advise them but, are best left to bilateral discussions between civilian authorities. This is not the realm of the armed forces to be discussing publicly," said the External Affairs Minister Salman Khurshid.

[Pakistan's ISI planned terror attacks on US and Israeli consulates in India](#)

PTI / The Times of India | May 4th, 2014

Official sources claimed that Sakir Hussain, a Sri Lankan national, told his interrogators that he had been hired allegedly by an official in Pakistani high commission in Colombo as part of the ISI's alleged plans to conduct reconnaissance of US consulate in Chennai and Israeli consulate in Bengaluru.

[India seeks NDMA first to resume trade talks with Pakistan](#)

The Economic Times | May 5th, 2014

This MFN status is part of a road map drawn up by the two countries to normalise trade relations. Pakistan had agreed to give India non-discriminatory access in December 2012. India accorded Pakistan MFN status in 1996.

[Don't deport Indian journalists, forum urges Pakistan](#)

IANS / ABP News | May 13th, 2014

Earlier, the Press Club of India and Press Club of Mumbai have also issued similar appeals and condemned the reported "arbitrary moves" to expel the two senior Indian journalists from Pakistan.

Bangladesh

[Development of N-E India will benefit Bangladesh too: Minister](#)

PTI / Business Standard | May 4th, 2014

"The northeastern India is enriched with its natural resources and Bangladesh could import raw materials from there to manufacture products in low price to be exported abroad including India, benefiting both the countries," said the Bangladeshi Foreign Minister Abul Hassan Mahmud Ali.

Sri Lanka

[India complies with Lanka's terrorist list: Report](#)

PTI / Zee News | May 4th, 2014

Sri Lanka had designated 16 Tamil diaspora groups and 424 individuals as terrorists late March.

[India, Sri Lanka hold talks on nuclear deal](#)

PTI / The Indian Express | May 6th, 2014

Discussions were held in a warm, friendly and cordial manner on the draft text of a comprehensive agreement on bilateral civil nuclear cooperation, the Indian High Commission here said in a statement.

[Sri Lanka, India Fishing Committee to Meet in Colombo in June](#)

PTI / NDTV | May 12th, 2014

Sri Lanka had seized over 160 fishermen despite the agreements reached at talks held in Chennai in January.

Nepal

[India has eye on Chinese centres in Nepal: SSB](#)

The Asian Age | May 1st, 2014

"We do not need to bother about these centres as such. But we need to be aware about them and we are aware about them. Their activity has not reached the threshold where it starts to impinge on our security," outgoing SSB chief Arun Chaudhary said.

[Nepal Maoist party opposes Indian investment in hydropower sector](#)

IANS / India TV | May 6th, 2014

Time and again, India has been reminding Nepal at the top level that all Indian investments in Nepal should be secured and protected. The two sides had signed the Bilateral Investment Protection and Promotion Agreement (BIPPA) some two years back after Indian investors in Nepal were threatened by Maoists.

[China, India top foreign policy priorities for Nepal: PM Sushil Koirala](#)

IANS | Zee News | May 9th, 2014

"Nepal's proximity to two powerful ancient civilizations, which also happen to be the two fastest growing economies and rising global powers, gives it a greater future ahead," the prime minister said while briefing ambassadors about Nepal's foreign policy.

Asia Pacific

[India Calls for Strong Maritime Connectivity with Association of Southeast Asian Nations](#)

PTI / NDTV | May 12th, 2014

During an international conference on cross-border connectivity, Secretary (West) Anil Wadhwa said, "We are in the process of finalising the recommendations which our Ministry of Shipping would take forward in their discussions with the ASEAN countries for a Joint Working Group on Maritime Connectivity."

China

[India, China to have meeting points at LAC](#)

PTI / Live Mint | May 1st 2014

Recently, an Indian delegation headed by a Joint Secretary-rank officer visited China after a Chinese delegation headed by the in-charge of Operations in the People's Liberation Army (PLA) held discussions with the Director General of Military Operations in New Delhi.

[China snaps at India over South China Sea situation](#)

Hindustan Times | May 12th, 2014

Beijing's sharp reaction comes after New Delhi over the weekend said it was worried about the recent developments in the South China Sea where last week Chinese ships are said to have rammed into Vietnamese vessels.

Myanmar

[Myanmar, India ink accord to curb insurgency, trafficking](#)

IANS / The Economic Times | May 10th, 2014

According to a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed here Friday, the two countries would take measures to bring in peace and stability in the border regions, Xinhua reported.

Indonesia

[India committed to furthering close defence ties with Indonesia: Envoy](#)

IANS / Business Standard | May 7th, 2014

Speaking at the closing ceremony of the 23rd edition of the joint naval exercise between the two countries, code-named INDINDO CORPAT, earlier this month, the Indian Ambassador expressed his confidence that the contemporary strategic partnership between these two maritime neighbours would be strengthened in the future, according to an Indian embassy statement.

The United States

[Pentagon praises Indian developmental assistance in Afghanistan](#)

PTI / The Times of India | May 1st, 2014

"India is showing increased interest in Afghan security assistance, though activities in this area remain limited. India currently offers India-based training to Afghan national security forces (ANSF) personnel across a number of specialties, and the Indian government committed to expand this programme. India does not provide direct military support or training in Afghanistan," the Pentagon said.

[US: Bangladesh influenced by India](#)

Dhaka Tribune | May 2nd, 2014

The report said: "The government of Bangladesh has demonstrated political will and firm commitment to combat domestic and transnational terrorist groups."

[US to enhance security cooperation with new Indian government](#)

IANS / Zee News | Friday, March 2nd, 2014

"The improvement of relations between India and Bangladesh and the growing ties between India and its ASEAN counterparts allow for more efficient, integrated and open markets across the region," Nisha Desai Biswal, assistant secretary of state for South and Central Asia told a Congressional panel.

[US reminds India and China to take responsibility for high carbon emission](#)

PTI / The Indian Express | May 7th, 2014

"It is absolutely essential that nations that produce high levels of carbon emissions be responsible in addressing this challenge," White House Press Secretary Jay Carney said.

[U.S. senators against export of natural gas to India, China](#)

PTI / India TV | May 10th, 2014

The senators urged Mr. Obama to consider the impacts on American manufacturing and families that rely on natural gas.

Europe

[Mango war heats up, India threatens to drag EU to WTO](#)

PTI / The Financial Express | May 2nd, 2014

"We do hope that the EU will see sense, considering the strength of the economic partnership between India and EU, and not precipitate the situation any further, which leads us to go to the WTO," said commerce and industry minister Anand Sharma.

[Ukraine crisis: India expresses concern, calls for diplomatic solution](#)

IANS / Business Standard | May 7th, 2014

India expresses "sincere condolences to the people of Ukraine on the recent tragic loss of lives in Odessa", the external affairs ministry spokesperson said in a message.

[German state seeks better trade ties with India](#)

IANS / Zee News | May 10th, 2014

India's Ambassador to Germany, Vijay Gokhale, underlined the strategic partnership between India and Germany and enumerated the areas of manufacturing, high technology and SME (small and medium enterprises) cooperation as the ones to be targeted in future for realising the true potential of the Indo-German economic partnership.

Middle East

[India, Iran and Oman go under sea to build pipelines, change geopolitics](#)

The Times of India | May 1st, 2014

The new plan proposes to transport oil and natural gas through deep sea pipelines via Oman in a process where Iran, and even Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan energy can feed the pipeline for an ever-growing Indian market.

[India to showcase its products in Saudi Arabia](#)

IANS / Business Standard | May 4th, 2014

Saudi Arabia is the fourth largest trading partner for India. The value of the two-way trade between

the two countries in 2012-13 exceeded \$43 billion and reached \$32.7 billion during April-November 2013.

[Israel seeks security for its citizens in India](#)

India Today / May 8th, 2014

The request came in view of the festival season which sees a large amount of Israeli arrivals in India. The Israelis fear threats from Al Qaeda and its affiliated organisations AQIM, AQAP, Al-Nasr Al Sharia, which have carried out terrorist attacks in Africa against Israeli citizens.

Miscellaneous

[India Rejects WHO Data Showing Delhi Air as World's Dirtiest](#)

AFP / NDTV | May 8th, 2014

The WHO stressed that its new air pollution database, which relies mainly on data gathered by the cities themselves, did not aim to rank cities, pointing out that "some of the worst ones ... are not collecting data regularly."

[Set own house in order, implement UNSC reforms: India to UN](#)

PTI / Deccan Herald | May 10th, 2014

India's Permanent Representative to the UN Asoke Mukerji yesterday said an "over-riding view" of a majority of participants in the previous five rounds of talks is that the requirement to reform the Council to make it more effective and representative cannot be delayed any longer.

[India not pursuing any agenda for expansion of BRICS](#)

PTI / The Free Press Journal | May 13th, 2014

"There is no consideration at the present juncture of any expansion of the BRICS. New Delhi is not thinking of BRICS expansion during the forthcoming summit in Fortaleza, Brazil, scheduled for 15th July 2014. Hence there is no intention at all amongst Indian officials to pursue the agenda of expansion of the BRICS," the sources said.

[MEA drive to expands its digital footprint](#)

The Asian Age | May 15th, 2014

Foreign secretary Sujatha Singh is learnt to have taken a keen interest in promoting the digitisation initiative as part of the MEA's push for "digital diplomacy".

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