



CUTS International *Global Affairs*

News Wrap #96, October 2025– First Fortnightly

October Diplomatic Fest: Shifts in Strategic Partnerships

Wishing everyone a prosperous, healthy and Happy Diwali

The first half of October 2025 witnessed significant diplomatic developments reshaping regional and global partnerships. On the global stage, more than twenty world leaders convened in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, for a peace summit focused on ending the Gaza conflict, with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi emphasising a unified message for peace. Meanwhile, France offered a different kind of spectacle—political turbulence continued as Prime Minister Sébastien Lecornu earned the dubious distinction of serving the shortest term in the Fifth Republic's history before being reappointed by President Emmanuel Macron.

This revolving door eight prime ministers since 2017 has given rise to a new joke in European diplomatic circles: France has become Italy, and Italy has become France, referring to the striking contrast between Giorgia Meloni's surprisingly stable Italy and Macron's increasingly unsettled France.

India's diplomatic manoeuvres demonstrated a pragmatic approach to complex regional realities. The announcement to reopen its embassy in Kabul, following high-level talks between External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and Afghanistan's Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi, reflects India's willingness to pursue strategic interests through Chabahar port connectivity and Wagah border trade while navigating the complexities of engaging with Taliban-governed Afghanistan.

UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer's two-day visit yielded impressive outcomes: million pounds defence deal, the India-UK Connectivity and Innovation Centre, a joint AI centre, invitations for nine UK universities to open Indian campuses, and critically, a minerals industry guild recognising that supply chain resilience has become a matter of national security in an era where rare earth minerals can be weaponised as effectively as conventional arsenals.

The India-Australia partnership took a decisive step forward with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh co-chairing the first-ever India-Australia Defence Industry Roundtable in Sydney on October 10, co-organised by CUTS International. Additionally, this was first visit by an Indian Defence Minister to Australia in over twelve years. In a region where geopolitical tensions intensify daily, such defence cooperation transcends symbolism to become strategic imperative.

Additionally, CUTS International and Chintan Research Foundation organised a BRICS+ roundtable on technology and trade policies, examining whether this expanding grouping can transcend its members' competing interests to become a genuine force in global governance.

Finally, the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Venezuelan opposition leader María Corina Machado for keeping "the flame of democracy burning amid a growing darkness," while the U.S. Senate confirmed 107 nominees, including Sergio Gor as Ambassador to India, signalling continued American diplomatic engagement in South Asia.

As we celebrate Diwali, these developments remind us that in international relations, as in life, darkness and light coexist; the challenge lies in ensuring that diplomacy, cooperation, and democratic values continue to illuminate pathways forward.

Let there be light!

Purushendra Singh
Editor

P.S.: Could Malaysia's ASEAN chairmanship set a new tone for regional cooperation in trade, security, and climate policy? What to expect at the upcoming ASEAN summit?

This is the 96th edition of the fortnightly news wrap from the Centre, which carries select published news or comments on a relevant issue. There are equally important issues that may have been overlooked to keep the news wrap short and swiftly readable.

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Chinese Exporters Feel Trade War Strain

With the threat of a return to triple-digit US tariffs looming, Chinese exporters across various industries said they were pivoting away from the American market but faced shrinking profit margins and heightened credit risks.



- [Nvidia, Microsoft, xAI and BlackRock part of \\$40 billion deal for Aligned Data Centres](#) | CNBC
- [IMF Urges Caution on BoJ Rate Hikes](#) | Trading Economics
- [South Korea says no response yet from US on trade proposals, after rough agreement on security](#) | MSN
- [Rates of supertanker shipping are rising sharply due to the US-China trade conflict that has engulfed ports](#) | Maritime Professionals



Venezuela to Shut Embassies in Norway and Australia

A Pentagon review reportedly confirms that the \$368bn AUKUS submarine deal remains intact, with the US set to sell three nuclear-powered submarines to Australia starting in 2032. Australian leaders have expressed confidence in the deal, despite ongoing scrutiny under Trump's "America-first" agenda.



- [Congo, M23 sign deal in Doha on ceasefire monitoring, sources say](#) | The Straits Times
- [Venezuela to close embassies in Norway, Australia](#) | MSN
- [Islamabad says Pakistan, Afghanistan agree to a 48-hour ceasefire after dozens killed](#) | The Deccan Herald
- [US Backs Philippine Ally After Latest Maritime Clash with China](#) | The Diplomat



Developing Nations Seek \$1.3tn Climate Fund Ahead of COP30

Finance ministers from developing nations have proposed a \$1.3tn annual climate finance plan ahead of COP30 in Brazil. The initiative seeks to bolster climate action and sustainable development, emphasising fair contributions from wealthier countries and improved global financial structures.



- [Malaysian pension fund KWAP launches \\$475 million climate-focused investment fund](#) | Reuters
- [Protests against Tunisian chemical factory blamed for health issues turn violent](#) | Arab News
- [India panel urges faster nuclear approvals, fuel security to meet 100 GW goal](#) | Hindustan Times
- [Indonesia Allows Suspension of International Carbon Trade after Four Years](#) | Kontan Indonesia



India, Canada Chart Roadmap to Revive Ties

India and Canada have agreed on a new roadmap to revitalise their bilateral partnership, signalling a major reset in relations after months of diplomatic strain.



- [German policy needs a decisive 'Africa shift', association says](#) | Polity
 - [Australia calls India a 'trusted partner', stresses need to establish a Defence Innovation Bridge](#) | The Economic Times
 - [Syrian president promises to 'redefine' relations with Russia in historic meeting with Putin](#) | Middle East Eye
 - [Next phase of BRICS cooperation will be defined by how effectively it integrates technology, trade policies: MEA Secretary](#) | Indian Express
 - [Kremlin rejects Trump's view that the Russian economy could collapse](#) | The Print
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IMF-Pakistan Seal \$1.2bn Deal

Pakistan has reached a \$1.2bn staff-level agreement with the IMF to help address its severe debt crisis. The deal aims to stabilise the economy, support reforms, and unlock further financial assistance amid ongoing fiscal challenges and inflationary pressures.



- [China takes steps against US-linked units of South Korea shipbuilder Hanwha](#) | CNA

- Malaysia to discuss sectoral tariffs with US at Asean summit, state media reports | The Business Times
- Saudi Aramco chief warns of global oil shortage if industry fails to invest | Financial Times
- Europe needs a better chip strategy | Financial Times



WFP Warns Millions Face Hunger Amid Funding Cuts

Nearly 14 million people could face severe hunger by the end of the year, the World Food Programme (WFP) warned, as slashed humanitarian funding threatens six of its most critical operations.



CUTS EVENT

[An Emerging BRICS Vision for the Global South](#)

