



CUTS International *Global Affairs*

News Wrap #92, August 2025– First Fortnightly

Editorial

Sovereignty, Summits, and the Search for Stability in Global Affairs

Happy 79th Independence Day, India! The world's largest democracy has come a long way from the mid-20th century struggles of decolonisation to today's audacious goal of a \$10 trillion economy by 2035. This 15th of August is a reminder that sovereignty is secured not just by armies or treaties but by the will of people to dream big.

Elsewhere, geopolitics is busy writing its own drama. In Europe, all eyes are on Alaska—yes, the place Sarah Palin once reminded us you could “see Russia from”. There, President Trumps set to meet Vladimir Putin on August 25th. Europe and Ukraine are huddling nervously, wondering if Trump's deal-making instincts will come at their expense.

In a rare moment of hope, Armenia and Azerbaijan signed an agreement in Washington last week that promises to finally open a path to peace through the long-contested Zangezur corridor. And closer to home, Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. landed in India, a visit that goes well beyond the handshakes and photo-ops. With joint maritime drills taking place near the South China Sea, the subtext is clear: Manila and New Delhi are sending a polite but pointed message to Beijing.

In the Middle East, contrasts couldn't be sharper. Israel has approved a full military takeover of Gaza, against even the warnings of its own generals. Australia, on the other hand, is preparing to recognise Palestine at the UN, joining Canada, France, and the U.K. Two very different paths, one messy conflict.

Africa too saw heartbreak, with Ghana losing two senior ministers in a helicopter crash. And then came a rare note of accountability: four years after the Taliban swept into Kabul, the International Criminal Court finally issued arrest warrants against its leaders for crimes against humanity. Justice may be slow, but sometimes it does knock on the right door.

So here we are: eighty years since the end of World War II, and the world order feels as unsettled as ever. The old guard is fading, the new one is not yet fully formed, and somewhere between ambition and anxiety, nations are carving their roles.

Purushendra Singh
Editor

P.S.: As the world watches Trump and Putin meet in Alaska, is this summit set to reshape geopolitics, bring an end to the long-drawn conflict? or should the real question be if not them, then who will protect the people and what's the real solution?

Message for our Readers

This is the 92nd 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 which may have been missed out to keep the news wrap short and swiftly readable.

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Readers are encouraged to send their views and suggestions to: cutsglobal@cuts.org



Trump Extends China Tariff Truce for 90 Days

The U.S. and China have extended their tariff truce for 90 days, postponing steep duty hikes. This move aims to ease trade tensions, safeguard holiday-season supply chains, and allow time for further negotiations toward a broader agreement.



- [India pushes ahead with US trade talks despite tariff hike to 50%](#) | Reuters
- [Why a Product's Country of Origin Matters in Trump's Trade War](#) | Bloomberg
- [Japanese automakers brace for Trump's 'new normal' 15% tariffs](#) | Nikkie Asia
- [Microsoft becomes second company to surpass \\$4 trillion in market value](#) | Aljazeera

Strategic Issues

Russia Pins Hopes on Trump-Putin Summit

President Trump is scheduled to meet Vladimir Putin in Alaska on August 15 to discuss ending the Ukraine war. Trump proposes a territorial swap, while Putin seeks concessions from NATO. The summit has the potential to reshape global diplomacy.



- [Asim Munir threatens India with 'jugular vein' remark in US, says 'no shortage of resources to...'](#) | Hindustan Times
- [China to build Xinjiang-Tibet rail link 'near' LAC with India: Report](#) | The Economic Times
- [Philippines voices concern over 'dangerous' Chinese actions after sea collision](#) | Bangkok Post
- [North Korean and Russian leaders in a call reaffirm their alignment over Ukraine](#) | AP

Energy and Climate

US\$300bn Climate Finance Target by 2035 is Insufficient

India has criticised the US\$300bn annual climate finance target set for 2035 at COP-29, calling it “substantially insufficient.” The government argues the target falls short of developing nations’ needs and violates equity principles under the UN climate framework.



[With AI use growing, Big Tech turns to nuclear power](#) | Nikkie Asia

[Record warm seas help to bring extraordinary new species to UK waters](#) | BBC

[What role does your money play in the climate crisis?](#) | The Economic Times

[Groups seek to influence plastic pollution treaty talks at the UN as negotiations wind down](#) | AP



Zelenskiy, EU Leaders to Speak to Trump Before Putin Summit

Ahead of the Trump–Putin summit, President Zelenskiy and European leaders will hold a virtual meeting with Trump to emphasise Ukraine’s inclusion in peace talks. They fear a U.S.–Russia deal could pressure Kyiv into territorial concessions without its consent.



- [Raghuram Rajan flags a 'bigger issue' if India stops buying Russian oil](#) | The Economic Times
- [Trump brokers potentially game-changing deal with Armenia, Azerbaijan](#) | Eurasianet
- [Australia intelligence chief says spies targeting rare earths and Aukus](#) | Financial Times

- [Australia to recognise Palestinian state, leaving US increasingly isolated among key allies](#) | CNN



Sachs Warns U.S.-China Tensions Could Trigger War

Economist Jeffrey Sachs warns that U.S. hostility toward China risks becoming a self-fulfilling prophecy of war. He urges China to shift trade toward developing regions and play a leading role in the global transition to clean energy.



- [India is not a dead economy, poised to become the 3rd-largest in the world: Amitabh Kant](#) | India Today
- [Moscow becomes centre of global diplomacy amid global geoeconomics turmoil](#) | The Economic Times
- [South Korea, Vietnam leaders pledge closer ties as US tariffs shake up trade](#) | Nation Thailand
- [Indonesia, Peru strike trade agreement as leaders meet](#) | France24



Pakistan Threat Spurs Rethink of India's Space Goals

India's space programme is reassessing its global ambitions amid threats from Pakistan, prioritising strategic autonomy over international prestige. Officials warn that overreliance on foreign partnerships by startups could compromise national security, prompting a shift toward safeguarding sovereignty and resilience in space efforts.



- [China's mega dam Xiluodu stops using Western industrial chips over security concerns](#) | SCMP
- [Can Democracy Survive AI?](#) | Project Syndicate
- [China Is Winning the Cyberwar](#) | Foreign Affairs