



CUTS International *Global Affairs*

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When the Earth Shakes and Armies March: September's Geopolitical Tremors

September arrived with earthquakes both literal and political. Afghanistan mourns nearly 800 lives lost to seismic devastation - a reminder of nature's fury while the world's power map shudders in its own aftershocks. Meanwhile Brazil, preparing to host the U.N. climate summit in the Amazon, scrambles for hotel rooms—an irony as the planet literally burns.

From the Caribbean to the South China Sea, military posturing has become diplomacy's new dialect. President Maduro warns of 1,200 U.S. missiles aimed at Venezuela; Washington's naval buildup suggests the Monroe Doctrine still breathes. Thousands of miles away, Indian and American soldiers drill heliborne operations and counter-drone tactics in Alaska's **Yudh Abhyas 2025**, a rehearsal for twenty-first-century conflict. This is in-line with what next likely US Ambassador to India, Sergio Gor has to say about India, “strategic partner whose trajectory will shape the region and beyond”.

Yet the most consequential tremors are in conference halls. At Vladivostok's Eastern Economic Forum and Brazil's BRICS video summit, leaders representing 75 percent of humanity declared an end to “500 years of colonial exploitation.” Xi Jinping's words —“Humanity rises and falls together”—rang louder than any parade. Expanded BRICS and SCO nations, now six billion strong, reject rules set in distant financial capitals. President Lula's emergency BRICS session on Trump's tariffs was less trade talk than manifesto for economic independence.

In the Pacific, eighteen island nations met in Honiara without the U.S., China, Japan, or Taiwan—signaling fatigue with great-power games even as rising seas threaten their survival. Nepal adds a volatile subplot: Gen Z protesters torching Parliament and confronting the army, demanding accountability from leaders deaf to climate urgency.

Traditional alliances are splintering; new coalitions of the Global South are coalescing. Youth movements from Kathmandu to the Caribbean demand action while governments chase short-term politics. The lesson is clear: waiting for permission from established powers is a luxury the planet cannot afford.

As the earth quakes beneath Afghanistan and politics tremble from Venezuela to Nepal, we must ask: is this creative destruction for a fairer world order—or the prelude to deeper chaos? The answer lies in whether that 75 percent of humanity can turn demographic weight into genuine global leadership.

Purushendra Singh
Editor

P.S.: With the UN General Assembly about to convene, will world leaders move beyond speeches to deliver concrete action on climate, conflict, and economic justice—or will another “high-level week” pass as mere theatre?

Message for our Readers

This is the 94th 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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India, US restart talks on trade after tariff tirades

India and the United States held trade talks in New Delhi on Tuesday, marking a significant reversal in bilateral ties after weeks of criticism from US officials and raising hopes for a breakthrough on a free trade agreement that was jeopardised by punitive tariffs. The meeting represented the first formal, face-to-face bilateral engagement of the two negotiating teams, representing a high-level trade dialogue since the escalation of trade tensions.



- [India, EAEU sign agreement to start free-trade talks](#) | India Business Law Journal
- [Sainsbury's ends Argos sale talks with China's JD.com](#) | Financial Times
- [Google sets out \\$6.8 billion UK investment ahead of Trump's state visit](#) | Times Now
- [US Approves Potential \\$1.85 Billion Sale of F-35 Sustainment to Poland](#) | US News

Strategic Issues

Israel threatens Hamas 'wherever they are' as Qatar host a summit

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he did not rule out further strikes on Hamas leaders "wherever they are", as the heads of Arab and Islamic states held a summit to back Qatar after Israel's attack last week in the Gulf state.



- [Poland asks NATO to impose a no-fly zone over Ukraine to stop Putin's drone incursions](#) | Independent
- [Qatar, U.S. to finalise enhanced defence cooperation agreement, Rubio says](#) | Al-Monitor
- [Belarus, Russia conduct joint military drills amid NATO tensions](#) | Al Jazeera
- [Australia to invest \\$8 billion in nuclear submarine shipyard](#) | France 24
- [NATO launches 'Eastern Sentry' as Zelenskyy says Putin seeks all Ukraine](#) | Türkiye Today

Energy and Climate

A global majority wants strong climate action, but governments keep ignoring them in favour of short-term politics

Despite overwhelming global public support for climate action, governments prioritise short-term political gains and special interests. A major study reveals that policymakers vastly underestimate the public's willingness to act, raising concerns ahead of COP30 as climate threats intensify worldwide.



- [China's Himalayan mega-dam is a global threat](#) | Nikkie Asia
 - [EU set to miss UN deadline for new climate targets, draft shows](#) | China Daily
 - [Centre announces policy to tap geothermal energy](#) | The Economic Times
 - [Australia faces cascading climate risks, government report says](#) | The Hindu
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Egypt's opportunity to rethink relations with Ethiopia

Ethiopia's inauguration of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) presents Egypt with a chance to reassess its stance. It urges cooperation over confrontation, emphasising mutual benefits and regional stability through diplomatic engagement and shared water management



- [India can turn Trump's taunts into a massive opportunity](#) | The New Indian Express
 - [Former chief justice sworn in as Nepal's interim prime minister following deadly protests](#) | CNN
 - [SCO summit 2025: Key takeaways from Beijing's push to reshape global order](#) | CNBC
 - [North Korean and Chinese leaders hold first official talks in 6 years](#) | Korea JoongAng Daily
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US calls on G7, EU to impose tariffs on China, India over Russian oil purchases

The Group of Seven nations' finance ministers discussed further sanctions on Russia and possible tariffs on countries that they consider "enabling" its war in Ukraine, as the U.S. called on its allies to impose tariffs on purchasers of Russian oil.



- [IATF2025 ends on high note with record \\$48.3bn in deals signed by participants](#) | APA News
- [US looks to state-backed TSMC model for Intel turnaround](#) | Nikkie Asia
- [Mexico, under US pressure, mulls 50% tariff on Chinese cars, communications](#) | CNA
- [Pakistan Turns to Asian Development Bank for \\$2 Billion Loan as China Backs Out of Flagship CPEC Railway Project](#) | Swarajya



[South Korean workers return home after days in detention following a US immigration raid](#)

Over 300 South Korean workers detained in a U.S. immigration raid at a Hyundai factory site returned home, sparking public outrage. The incident prompted diplomatic talks and renewed calls to reform U.S. visa policies for skilled Korean labour.



- [Charges dropped against two men accused of spying for China](#) | BBC
- [Why open societies foster golden ages](#) | The New Indian Express
- [IT pact with US in 1997 crippled India Inc from producing world-class hardware: Experts](#) | MSN

CUTS EVENT

Are We Setting Sail Without Checking the Weather? Implications for the Australia-India FTA Under Trump 2.0 | September 11, 2025, Thursday | 1730-1900 AEST/ 1300-1430 IST