SP010/11/2026

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DIALOGUES FOUNDATION
—RASHTRAHIT SARVOPARI—

SPECTRUM

Tracking Strategic Shifts Worldwide and Their Impact on India

16th to 31st October 2026



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1. India–US trade negotiations
US Secretary of State Marco Rubio met Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in Mumbai on 20 October. Discussions focused on trade, defence, energy, technology, and strengthening bilateral strategic cooperation. Both sides indicated progress towards a trade agreement, although negotiations remained ongoing.
I*mplications for India: Improved market access and strategic cooperation, while preserving India's negotiating autonomy.*

2. India–New Zealand Free Trade Agreement
The India–New Zealand FTA entered into force on 20 October. The agreement provides enhanced market access for Indian exports and strengthens bilateral economic cooperation. It represents an important step in India's trade diversification strategy.
Implications for India: Greater export opportunities and deeper economic integration in the Indo-Pacific.

3. Pakistan–Türkiye–Qatar–Indonesia defence cooperation
Pakistan, Türkiye, Qatar, and Indonesia signed a defence cooperation agreement in Doha. The agreement reportedly covers military technology, training, joint production, and defence research. It reflects growing defence-industrial collaboration among the participating countries.
Implications for India: Potential changes in regional defence dynamics and Pakistan's military-industrial capabilities.

4. India–Poland strategic partnership
Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk visited India from 21–23 October. The discussions covered trade, defence, critical minerals, technology, and investment. Both countries expressed interest in expanding bilateral cooperation and economic engagement.
Implications for India: Strengthens India's European outreach and creates opportunities for defence and technology cooperation.

5. SCO Council of Heads of Government
The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation held its Council of Heads of Government meeting in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The meeting brought together India, China, Russia, Pakistan, and Central Asian countries. Discussions focused on regional cooperation, economic connectivity, and development.
Implications for India: Provides a platform for Central Asian engagement and diplomatic dialogue with China and Pakistan.

6. Brazil's presidential election
Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva reportedly secured another presidential term following the election. The outcome signals continuity in Brazil's domestic and international policy direction. Brazil remains an influential partner in BRICS and other Global South initiatives.
Implications for India: Strengthens India–Brazil cooperation in BRICS, IBSA, trade, and multilateral reform.

7. BRICS Parliamentary Forum in New Delhi
The 12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum convened in New Delhi on 26–27 October.
The forum adopted a Joint Declaration emphasising sovereign equality, peaceful coexistence, and global governance reform. Discussions highlighted cooperation among emerging economies and the Global South.
Implications for India: Reinforces India's leadership in Global South diplomacy and advocacy for UN Security Council reform.

8. Israel's parliamentary election
Israel's parliamentary election reportedly resulted in a political deadlock, with no bloc securing a clear majority. The outcome necessitated coalition negotiations and created uncertainty regarding government formation. The political situation could influence Israel's domestic and foreign policy priorities.
Implications for India: Potential uncertainty in defence cooperation and wider strategic engagement with Israel.

9. India–Mexico trade negotiations
India and Mexico initiated negotiations for a Preferential Trade Agreement on 28 October. Both countries signed Terms of Reference outlining the framework for negotiations. The initiative aims to strengthen bilateral trade and economic cooperation.
Implications for India: Expands India's Latin American economic engagement and diversifies export markets.

10. North Korea's missile activity
North Korea reportedly conducted ballistic missile launches towards the Sea of Japan during the reporting period. The launches prompted monitoring and security concerns among South Korea, Japan, and the United States. The developments highlighted continuing tensions on the Korean Peninsula.
Implications for India: Reinforces the importance of Indo-Pacific security cooperation and monitoring regional proliferation risks.

11. G20 foreign ministers' meeting
G20 foreign ministers met in Atlanta on 30–31 October.
Discussions focused on global security, trade, Ukraine, and critical minerals amid geopolitical divisions. The meeting reportedly concluded without a joint communiqué.
Implications for India: Highlights challenges to multilateral consensus and reinforces India's role as a bridge between competing powers.

12. West Asian maritime security
Attacks and threats against commercial shipping continued to raise concerns across West Asia. The Strait of Hormuz remained strategically important amid regional tensions and maritime disruption risks. Energy markets and international shipping remained vulnerable to escalation.
Implications for India: Risks to oil imports, maritime trade, shipping costs, and Indian nationals in the Gulf.

13. Russia–Ukraine conflict and energy infrastructure
The Russia–Ukraine conflict continued to involve attacks on energy infrastructure and strategic facilities. The conflict maintained pressure on European security and international energy markets. Diplomatic efforts remained constrained by competing territorial and security demands.
Implications for India: Potential oil-price volatility and continued pressure to balance relations with Russia and Western partners.

14. UN Secretary-General succession
The selection process for the next UN Secretary-General continued during October.
Member states and regional groups remained engaged in discussions over potential candidates. The process is significant for the future direction of multilateral diplomacy.
Implications for India: Opportunity to advocate for UN reform and leadership supportive of developing-country priorities.

15. Climate resilience and disaster preparedness
Extreme weather and climate-related disasters continued to highlight vulnerabilities in infrastructure and communities. Governments increasingly emphasised disaster preparedness, early-warning systems, and resilient infrastructure. Climate resilience remained an important international development and security priority.
Implications for India: Strengthens the case for investment in disaster resilience and India's regional leadership through CDRI.

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