SP011/11/2026

CHAKRA
DIALOGUES FOUNDATION
—RASHTRAHIT SARVOPARI—

SPECTRUM

Tracking Strategic Shifts Worldwide and Their Impact on India

1st to 16th November 2026



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1. UN staff member dies in Houthi detention
On 1 November in Yemen, a Yemeni employee of the UN Human Rights Office died while in Houthi custody after being detained for more than two years. The UN called for an independent investigation and demanded the release of other detained personnel. The incident renewed concerns about the safety of humanitarian workers and the operational environment in Yemen.
Implications for India: Raises concerns about maritime security, Indian nationals in the region, and instability around the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.

2. UN peacekeeping mission in Western Sahara enters liquidation
On 1 November in Western Sahara, the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) entered its liquidation phase after its mandate was not renewed. The decision followed disagreements at the UN Security Council over competing resolutions on the territory's future. The development risks heightening tensions between Morocco and the Polisario Front, which is backed by Algeria.
Implications for India: Highlights challenges facing UN peacekeeping and the importance of maintaining balanced relations with Morocco and Algeria.

3. US midterm elections reshape Washington's political landscape
On 3–4 November in the United States, the Democratic Party reportedly secured control of both chambers of Congress. The results represented a major political setback for President Donald Trump and could constrain his domestic legislative agenda. International partners began assessing the implications for US foreign policy, trade, and security commitments.
Implications for India: Congressional opposition could influence US trade policy, immigration, technology cooperation, and bilateral strategic relations.

4. International Court of Justice schedules judgment in Myanmar genocide case
On 3 November in The Hague, Netherlands, the International Court of Justice announced that it would deliver its judgment in The Gambia v. Myanmar on 19 November 2026. The case concerns allegations of violations of the Genocide Convention against the Rohingya population. Eleven countries have intervened in the proceedings, reflecting the wider international significance of the case.
Implications for India: The judgment could affect India's Myanmar policy, border security, Rohingya refugee considerations, and regional diplomacy.

5. Bangladesh seeks extradition of Sheikh Hasina
On 9–10 November in Dhaka and New Delhi, Bangladesh reiterated its request to India for the extradition of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Dhaka stated that it had completed the legal formalities necessary for her return. The issue has become an important test of bilateral relations between New Delhi and Dhaka.
Implications for India: India faces a sensitive diplomatic and legal challenge requiring careful management of bilateral relations, domestic security, and regional stability

6. India and European Union review strategic partnership
On 9 November in New Delhi, India and the European Union held their seventh Strategic Partnership Review Meeting. Discussions covered the proposed India–EU Free Trade Agreement, critical technologies, artificial intelligence, semiconductors, clean energy, and connectivity. Both sides also reviewed cooperation under the India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor and Global Gateway initiatives.
Implications for India: Strengthens India's European strategic engagement, trade diversification, technology partnerships, and connectivity ambitions.

7. India and France deepen strategic space cooperation
On 9–10 November in Paris, France, Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri visited France and co-chaired the third India–France Strategic Space Dialogue. Discussions focused on expanding cooperation in space technology, strategic applications, and bilateral space partnerships. The engagement builds on the growing India–France relationship in defence, aerospace, and advanced technologies.
Implications for India: Strengthens India's access to advanced space technologies and reinforces France as a key strategic partner in Europe.

8. India and South Africa strengthen bilateral engagement
On 11 November in Pretoria, South Africa, India and South Africa held the 12th round of Foreign Office Consultations. The discussions reviewed bilateral cooperation and opportunities for strengthening political, economic, and multilateral engagement. The meeting reinforced the importance of the relationship between two influential Global South partners.
Implications for India: Strengthens BRICS and IBSA cooperation and creates opportunities for coordination on UN reform and Global South priorities.

9. India and Indonesia intensify counterterrorism cooperation
On 12 November in New Delhi, India and Indonesia held the seventh meeting of their Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism. The two sides discussed counterterrorism cooperation and coordination between their respective security institutions. The engagement reflects shared concerns over transnational terrorism and emerging security threats.
Implications for India: Strengthens India's security partnerships in Southeast Asia and supports cooperation against terrorism and extremist networks.

10. India and Somalia hold first Foreign Office Consultations
On 15 November in Mogadishu, Somalia, India and Somalia conducted their first round of Foreign Office Consultations. Discussions provided an institutional platform for expanding bilateral cooperation and strengthening diplomatic engagement. The engagement is significant given Somalia's location along the strategically important Horn of Africa and Indian Ocean maritime routes.
Implications for India: Creates opportunities to deepen India's maritime security, anti-piracy, trade, and development partnerships in the western Indian Ocean.

11. COP31 climate summit opens in Türkiye
On 9–15 November in Antalya, Türkiye, the 31st UN Climate Change Conference brought together governments and international stakeholders. The leaders' summit took place on 11–12 November, with discussions centred on climate finance, adaptation, and implementation of climate commitments. India emphasised climate equity, Common but Differentiated Responsibilities, and climate finance for developing countries.
Implications for India: Provides an opportunity to strengthen India's climate diplomacy and demand equitable financing, technology transfer, and adaptation support.

12. Russia and Ukraine resume direct peace negotiations
On 10–11 November in Abu Dhabi, UAE, Russia and Ukraine reportedly resumed direct peace discussions after a nine-month gap, with the United States acting as mediator. The negotiations addressed humanitarian, security, and territorial questions, alongside prospects for a major prisoner exchange. Fundamental disagreements over territorial control remained unresolved.
Implications for India: Creates diplomatic opportunities for India's peace-building role while keeping energy security and relations with Russia and Western countries in focus.

13. Iran–IAEA nuclear dispute intensifies
On 13 November in Vienna and Tehran, the International Atomic Energy Agency raised concerns about Iran's nuclear programme and the lack of access to certain declared enrichment facilities. The agency expressed concern over its inability to verify the status of certain nuclear facilities and material stockpiles. The dispute adds another layer of uncertainty to US–Iran relations and wider West Asian security.
Implications for India: Potential escalation could affect oil prices, the Strait of Hormuz, India's Chabahar connectivity project, and regional energy security.

14. US and China discuss reciprocal tariff reductions and rare-earth supplies
On 13–14 November in Beijing, China, the United States and China reportedly held discussions under a bilateral economic and trade consultation mechanism. Discussions covered proposed tariff reductions, agricultural trade, and implementation of earlier trade understandings. China also extended the suspension of certain expanded rare-earth export controls until January 2027, offering temporary relief to global manufacturers.
Implications for India: Any improvement in US–China trade relations could reshape global supply chains, while India's dependence on critical mineral processing highlights the urgency of diversification.

15. ASEAN summit opens amid regional security and energy concerns
On 15 November in Manila, Philippines, ASEAN leaders began a series of high-level meetings amid growing concerns over energy prices, regional security, and the approaching El Niño phenomenon. The agenda included Myanmar's political crisis, South China Sea tensions, maritime security, and the economic impact of the Middle East conflict. Major-power engagement also featured prominently in regional diplomacy.
Implications for India: Reinforces the importance of the Act East Policy, ASEAN centrality, Indo-Pacific maritime cooperation, and India's strategic engagement with Southeast Asia.

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