



# CUTS International *Global Affairs*

News Wrap #99, November 2025- Second Fortnightly

## **Entering the last month of 2025: Absent Powers and Emerging Voices**

The second fortnight of November 2025 crystallises a reality that has been building throughout the year: the architecture of global governance is being redrawn, not through grand declarations but through conspicuous absences and quiet assertions of new leadership. The United States' decision to boycott both COP30 in South Africa and the G20 Summit in Johannesburg, coupled with Secretary of State Marco Rubio's denunciation of the G20 theme "Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability" as promoting what he termed "DEI" and climate change initiatives, marks a watershed moment in multilateral cooperation.

Yet the world did not pause. At COP30, with only hours remaining before the summit's close, 194 delegates continue to grapple with divisions over fossil fuel limitations. India, alongside Russia and Saudi Arabia, has pushed back against stringent restrictions that would constrain energy security and economic growth, a position that reflects the developmental imperatives facing major emerging economies. The absence of American leadership has not paralysed climate negotiations; instead, it has placed the onus squarely on the EU, China, and India to drive climate action forward.

In Johannesburg, the summit also witnessed concrete partnerships taking shape: India, Australia, and Canada announced a trilateral technology and innovation framework encompassing artificial intelligence, critical and emerging technologies, nuclear energy, and supply chain diversification.

The Malabar naval exercises, concluded on 18 November, saw India, the United States, Australia, and Japan conduct advanced anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare drills, demonstrating that strategic cooperation continues even as diplomatic forums fracture. This duality, where nations maintain security partnerships whilst pursuing independent positions on climate and economic policy, characterises the emerging order.

The ceremonial handover of the G20 presidency from South Africa to the United States occurred quietly, without the traditional formalities, a fitting symbol for a moment when global institutions function but the rituals that once defined them are increasingly dispensable. What remains to be seen is whether this transition represents a temporary disruption or a fundamental shift in how global cooperation operates.

Also on 28-29th November, 2025 - CUTS, in partnership with Chintan Research Foundation, convened a closed-door roundtable of twenty experts near Sariska Tiger Reserve, Rajasthan.

The discussion examined pathways for a rules-based global order, including revival of the G20, BRICS expansion, and the idea of a G4 comprising China, India, Russia and the United States.

Purushendra Singh  
Editor

*P.S.: As Munich Security Conference surveys reveal that whilst respondents acknowledge the United States is abandoning its global leadership role, the Global South's contributions remain underappreciated. Will the partnerships forged in Johannesburg translate into sustained influence, or will they prove as ephemeral as the ceremonies that were skipped?*

### Message for our Readers

This is the 99th 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 easy to read.

This newsletter contains copyrighted material whose use has not been specifically authorised by the copyright owners. Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS) is making these articles available in our efforts to advance understanding of bilateral trade and economic issues. We believe that this constitutes a 'fair use' of the copyrighted material as provided for in Article 10 of the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works (Paris Text 1971) and Section 107 of the U.S. Copyright Law. If anybody wishes to use materials from this publication for purposes that go beyond 'fair use', s/he must obtain permission from the copyright owner. CUTS will not draw any profit from this publication, since it is solely for informative and educational purposes.

Readers are encouraged to send their views and suggestions to: [cutsglobal@cuts.org](mailto:cutsglobal@cuts.org)



### Middle East Boosts Korea's Arms Exports

South Korea is rapidly expanding its arms exports to the Middle East, which has become a key market amid rising defence spending and intensifying geopolitical tensions. Countries, such as the UAE, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia are pursuing major contracts and joint ventures with Korean firms.



- [Micron to invest \\$9.6 billion in Japan to build AI memory chip plant](#) | CNA
- [Google is soaring toward a \\$4 trillion market cap as Nvidia stock slumps](#) | Quartz
- [OpenAI and Foxconn to partner in AI hardware design and manufacturing in the US](#) | The Economic Times

- [Australia Blocks U.S.-Based Cosette's \\$387.2 Million Takeover of Mayne Pharma](#) | The Wall Street Journal
- 



### US-Korea Drills Target North Korea

The US and South Korea have launched large-scale military drills aimed at deterring North Korea – exercises that Pyongyang's state media, KCNA, condemned as provocative and destabilising. The drills underscore Washington and Seoul's commitment to counter North Korea's growing nuclear and missile capabilities.



- [Pakistan will regret letting the army back in](#) | Bloomberg
  - [Taiwan says it has discussed with the US arms purchases for extra defence budget](#) | Arab News
  - [Can South Korea Afford the Many Costs of Nuclear-Powered Submarines?](#) | Foreign Policy
- 



### US COP30 Exit Shifts Climate Burden to EU, China and India



The US' decision to abstain from the 30<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP 30) marks a continuation of its retreat from global climate commitments, following earlier withdrawal from the Paris Agreement. Months earlier, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) initiated a formal review of its "endangerment findings," effectively questioning the scientific basis of climate change.



- [America's loss is China's gain at COP30: How Beijing is shaping climate talks](#) | MSN
- [Global partnership key to accelerate industrial transition: Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav](#) | Deccan Herald
- [Mediterranean, Black Sea fish stocks show recovery but threats persist, UN says](#) | FAO
- [Britain eases opposition to new oil, gas permits, holds firm on taxes](#) | Yahoo News



### Takaichi-Modi to Deepen Japan-India Ties

Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi and her Indian counterpart, Narendra Modi, agreed to deepen their countries' cooperation across a wide range of areas, including security, the economy, and investment. The agreement comes at a time when the Indo-Pacific security environment is becoming increasingly challenging.



- [Trump and the End of American Hegemony](#) | Project Syndicate
- [US State Department stops processing visas for Afghan allies](#) | DD News
- [Congo and Rwanda presidents to meet in the US to sign peace deal](#) | AP
- [China urges UK to uphold 'one-China principle' amid Taiwan dispute](#) | First Post

---

# Geo-Economics

## Energy Focus Drives India-US Trade Talks

India and the US are advancing trade discussions with a focus on energy cooperation, as India reduces its reliance on Russian crude and ramps up LPG imports from the US. The negotiations signal deeper economic engagement, aligning India's energy security with the broader strategic partnership.



- [OPEC+ holds 2026 group-wide oil output steady, agrees capacity mechanism](#) | CNBC
- [EU members seek safeguards in US tariff deal to protect industry](#) | Awani International
- [Europe needs a plan for decoupling from America](#) | Financial Times
- [Tanker rates surge as Russian oil sanctions shift cargo flows](#) | S&P Global

# Miscellaneous

## UAE Escapes EU Censure on Sudan

The UAE avoided diplomatic fallout after the European Parliament passed a resolution on the Sudan conflict that made no mention of Abu Dhabi's alleged support for the RSF militia.



