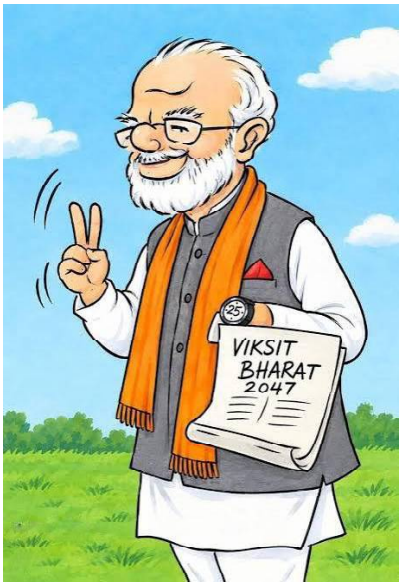
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ECONOMIQUITY

October 2026

How to Sustain the Modi Effect to Achieve the Goal of Viksit Bharat



India's consensus-building at the 2023 G20 Summit and BRICS declaration strengthened its standing as a voice of the Global South. Narendra Modi's leadership brought diverse countries together. The challenge is to translate diplomatic influence into reforms and anchor a multilateral system strained by rivalries.

Viksit Bharat 2047 gives this task purpose. Completing 25 years in public life, Mr Modi has reinforced India's civilisational confidence and development aspirations. A "Modi Restoration" should carry this vision beyond individual programmes, embedding it in democratic institutions and public participation.

Japan's Meiji Restoration offers a parallel. From 1868, Japan modernised education, technology, administration and infrastructure, absorbing external knowledge without abandoning its identity. India need not emulate its militaristic course; the lesson is that ambition requires state capacity, policy continuity and execution.

India's role rests on engaging major powers, bridging blocs and diversifying partnerships. GST, the National Single Window System, PM Gati Shakti and Digital Public Infrastructure have improved coordination. Jan Vishwas replaced imprisonment for minor procedural violations with proportionate penalties. Make in India and production-linked incentives support manufacturing.

Development is cross-sectoral. Manufacturing depends on energy, transport, finance, technology and skills; disasters, conflicts and cyberattacks can combine into polycrises. Scenario testing helps policymakers anticipate disruptions. Resilience requires adaptability and learning.

Small enterprises are central because value-chain participation supports local suppliers. The Export Promotion Mission, with an outlay of ₹25,060 crore for 2025-26 to 2030-31, addresses financing, compliance and market-access barriers. Success depends on firms securing buyers, meeting standards and receiving timely payments; large companies can help suppliers improve quality, technology and delivery.

Mineral security is another priority. The National Critical Mineral Mission can support domestic exploration and processing as clean-energy demand rises. AI-enabled mapping, responsible mining and recycling of batteries, electronic waste and industrial scrap can strengthen supply while protecting workers and the environment.

India must invest in research, skills and people. Links among universities, public laboratories and businesses can translate research into innovation and give smaller firms expertise. Education, apprenticeships and retraining must lead to productive employment, particularly for young people and women.

Predictable regulation is essential. Regulatory Impact Assessment compares alternatives and evaluates economic, social and environmental consequences before rules are adopted. Union ministries, states and regulators must align budgets and accountability around shared outcomes. Competitive federalism and a growth compact with every state can strengthen implementation.

Judicial delays and weak administrative capacity demand reform. Faster justice and a more accountable civil service, including lateral entry and exit, can improve ease of doing business and living.

Development must be measured not by GDP alone, but by livelihood security, quality employment and access to healthcare and education. Cash transfers offer immediate support; lasting welfare depends on services and productive livelihoods. The Modi vision will endure when institutions anticipate risks, coordinate action and learn. Like the Meiji transformation, it must become larger than one leader: a national commitment widening inclusive opportunity across generations.

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EU-China Seek Trade Stability

The European Union (EU) and China have agreed to strengthen economic dialogue following the second meeting of their Trade and Investment Consultations in China.

Both sides agreed to address trade differences through dialogue, improve market access and explore measures to facilitate trade in critical materials and dual-use goods. The next ministerial meeting is scheduled for March 2027. *(MOFCOM, 09.10.26)*

India-New Zealand FTA Takes Effect

The India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA) officially came into force, marking a significant step in strengthening bilateral economic relations. The agreement provides 100 percent duty-free access for Indian exports to New Zealand, creating opportunities for textiles, leather, footwear, engineering goods and agricultural products.

New Zealand has also committed to facilitating US$20bn in investment into India, potentially supporting manufacturing, employment and trade diversification. *(PIB, 19.10.26)*

India Reassesses US Trade Deal

India is reviewing the proposed interim trade agreement with the US amid changes in US's tariff policies. Indian Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said the government is seeking more favourable tariff terms to ensure Indian exports remain competitive in the US market.



India is simultaneously pursuing trade agreements with Canada, Israel, Chile, the Gulf Cooperation Council and other partners to diversify its international economic engagement. *(NoA, 11.10.26)*

Sachs Backs Four Power Cooperation



Economist Jeffrey Sachs identified the US, India, China and Russia as the world's four major powers, urging them to prioritise cooperation over confrontation. He emphasised that global challenges, including economic instability, geopolitical tensions and climate change, require collective action rather than competing power blocs.

His remarks highlighted India's growing international significance and the need for dialogue among major powers to promote global stability, development and a more cooperative international order.

(TT, 03.11.26)

BRICS Pushes Governance Reform

The 12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum, held in New Delhi on October 26–27, adopted a joint declaration calling for United Nations Security



Council reform and greater representation of the Global South in international governance.

Participating countries also emphasised cooperation against cross-border terrorism, stronger democratic institutions and the responsible use of artificial intelligence. China will assume the BRICS chairship in 2027. *(PIB, 27.10.26)*

India-Poland Strengthen Partnership

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk held bilateral discussions during the latter's visit to India from October 21–23, 2026. Both countries reaffirmed their commitment to advancing the Strategic Partnership, with greater engagement in trade, investment and other areas of mutual interest.

The discussions also reviewed progress under the India-Poland Action Plan 2024-2028. *(PMO, 23.10.26)*

Russia-Ukraine Agree on Ceasefire

Russia and Ukraine have agreed to a temporary ceasefire in the Russian-occupied town of Oleshky, effective October 27, to facilitate humanitarian aid deliveries and civilian evacuations.

The agreement, coordinated with the assistance of US First Lady Melania Trump, comes as peace negotiators prepare for US-brokered talks in November. However, disagreements over territorial control and Ukraine's security guarantees remain major obstacles to ending the war. *(JP, 24.10.26)*

IMF Flags Global Economic Risks

The International Monetary Fund (IMF), in its October 2026 World Economic Outlook, projected global economic growth at 3.1 percent in 2026, followed by 3.4 percent in 2027. Global inflation is expected to rise to 4.7 percent in 2026 before moderating to 4.1 percent in 2027.

The IMF cautioned that geopolitical conflicts, renewed trade tensions, fiscal vulnerabilities and uncertainty surrounding artificial intelligence investments could undermine economic stability.

(IMF, 13.10.26)

EU-Canada Strengthen Economic Ties

The EU and Canada held their 21st bilateral summit in Montreal to strengthen their political and economic partnership. The discussions advanced an 'alliance for the future', focusing on trade, digital cooperation, critical raw materials, defence and economic security.



The framework aimed to strengthen supply-chain resilience, expand investment and reinforce cooperation amid changing global economic and geopolitical conditions. *(EC, 29.10.26)*

India Targets US$220bn Clean Energy

India will require around US$220bn in clean-energy investment over the next three years to accelerate renewable power generation and strengthen grid infrastructure.



The investment is intended to support the country's target of achieving 500 GW of non-fossil-fuel capacity by 2030.

Achieving this target requires expanding generation capacity alongside strengthening transmission networks and supporting infrastructure. *(Reuters, 28.10.26)*

EU Reviews Emissions Trading

The European Union's Environment Council has reviewed proposed changes to its Emissions Trading System (ETS), aiming to align the carbon market with the bloc's 2040 target of reducing emissions by 90 percent.



Discussions covered post-2030 emission limits, international carbon credits, permanent carbon removals and measures to protect industrial competitiveness.

Ministers also considered extending the system's coverage to aviation, maritime transport and waste sectors. *(EC, 12.10.26)*

South Korea Unveils Green Plan

South Korea has unveiled a US$747bn energy-transition and decarbonisation strategy extending to 2035. The Korea-Green Transformation (K-GX) plan combines government spending, climate finance and private investment to accelerate renewable energy deployment and industrial decarbonisation.

It targets 100 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030 and aims for electric and hydrogen vehicles to account for over 70 percent of new vehicle sales by 2035. *(Reuters, 07.10.26)*

India Calls for Equitable Climate Finance

At COP31 in Antalya, Türkiye, India called for equitable climate action, urging developed nations to fulfil their Paris Agreement climate finance commitments through predictable funding, technology transfer and adaptation support.



Reinforcing this agenda, Pradeep S Mehta, Secretary General, CUTS International, wrote to Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav on November 06, 2026, proposing the Global Alliance for Leveraging Innovative Finance (GALIF), a Fund of Funds approach to mobilise resources for climate change and biodiversity protection, particularly in developing countries. *(PIB, 10.11.26)*

Thailand Approves Solar Scheme

Thailand's Cabinet has approved a 50bn-baht (approximately US$1.48bn) rooftop solar programme as part of its broader energy-transition strategy. The initiative aims to expand solar power generation and accelerate the country's shift towards cleaner energy sources.

The programme represents a major investment in distributed renewable energy infrastructure. *(Reuters, 27.10.26)*

UK Plans Nuclear Reforms

The UK plans to reform its nuclear regulatory system by the end of 2027, aiming to reduce reactor design approval times from three or four years to approximately two years.

The proposed changes are intended to support the country's ambition to expand nuclear capacity to 24 GW by 2050. The reforms include improved coordination among regulators and greater scope to draw on assessments conducted by trusted overseas regulatory authorities. *(Reuters, 26.10.26)*

ADB-Japan Fund Green Ammonia

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of Japan have signed financing agreements to support AM Green's renewable-powered ammonia facility in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh.

The project will convert an existing natural-gas-based ammonia and urea plant into a facility capable of producing approximately 1.1 million tonnes of renewable ammonia annually. The financing includes a US$100mn loan through a fund financed by the Japan International Cooperation Agency and administered by ADB. *(ET Sustainability, 19.10.26)*

Green Climate Fund Raises US$3.3bn

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) approved US$1.97bn in new climate finance at its 46th Board meeting, marking the largest amount approved at a single meeting. The



approvals covered 21 projects and programmes and included the accreditation of 16 new partners.

With these decisions, the Fund's total approvals for 2026 reached US$3.3bn, setting a new annual record. This expansion highlights the role of multilateral climate funds in mobilising resources for climate mitigation and adaptation initiatives. *(GCF, 29.10.26)*

PM GatiShakti Marks Five Years

India's PM GatiShakti National Master Plan has completed five years, evolving into an integrated digital platform for infrastructure planning and coordination. It now brings together 58 Central Ministries and Departments, all 36 States and Union Territories, and approximately 1,800 data layers.



The Network Planning Group has evaluated 421 infrastructure projects worth ₹20.23 lakh crore. The platform is also expanding into district-level and social-sector planning to improve connectivity, reduce project delays and strengthen infrastructure coordination. *(PIB, 13.10.26)*

NTPC-Rosatom Explore Nuclear Tie-up

India's NTPC is exploring a ₹1.5tn partnership with Russia's Rosatom to develop six nuclear reactors, supporting the country's long-term target of expanding nuclear power capacity by 2047.



The proposed collaboration could strengthen India's domestic nuclear energy programme, improve energy security and reduce dependence on fossil fuels. It also reflects growing India-Russia cooperation in strategic energy infrastructure and advanced nuclear technology. *(Mint, 15.10.26)*

India's Critical Mineral Hurdles

India's efforts to strengthen domestic supplies of critical minerals face significant execution and regulatory challenges amid global supply-chain vulnerabilities. Of 733 mineral blocks auctioned, only 125 were operational as of August 2026, according to government reviews.

Land acquisition hurdles, delayed clearances, inadequate technology and limited processing capacity are constraining production. The Centre has urged states to improve coordination and accelerate mining projects to reduce import dependence and support energy security. *(ET, 27.10.26)*

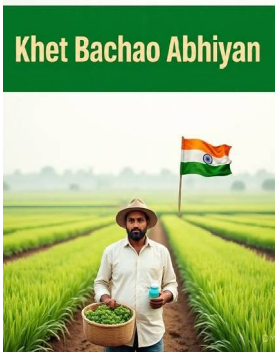
'Khet Bachao Abhiyan' Launched

Union Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the nationwide 'Khet Bachao Abhiyan-Rabi 2026' from Karnal, Haryana. The campaign aims to promote sustainable agriculture, improve soil health and encourage judicious use of agricultural resources.

It will raise awareness about balanced fertiliser application based on soil testing, crop diversification, crop residue management and the adoption of organic and natural farming practices. *(NoA, 23.10.26)*

Adani Proposes Airport Fee Hike

Adani Airport has proposed nearly doubling user development fees at Mangaluru International Airport by FY31 to finance a ₹4,200 crore expansion plan. Domestic departure charges could rise from ₹735 to ₹1,440, while international fees may increase from ₹1,120 to ₹2,210.



The proposal, submitted to the aviation tariff regulator, also covers terminal expansion, runway improvements and other infrastructure upgrades, subject to regulatory approval. *(Mint, 18.10.26)*

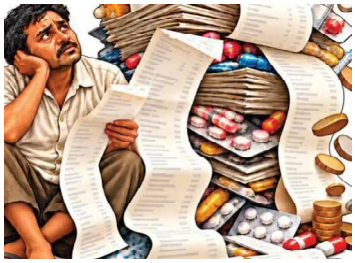
Ban on Reuse of Medical Devices

The Centre has directed public and private hospitals to stop reusing single-use medical devices and disposable surgical equipment, citing patient safety concerns. The Directorate General of Health Services warned that reuse, even after sterilisation, could cause cross-infections, device malfunction and other complications.

State health authorities and drug controllers have been instructed to monitor healthcare facilities and take action against violations under applicable medical device and healthcare regulations. *(ToI, 24.10.26)*

Cancer Drugs to Become Cheaper

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has capped trade margins at 30 percent for 137 identified non-scheduled anti-cancer medicines. The measure is expected to reduce the maximum retail prices of certain medicines by up to 70 percent and generate annual savings of around ₹2,500 crore for patients.



The revised prices will take effect from November 9, 2026. The initiative seeks to address excessive mark-ups, improve access to cancer treatment and reduce the financial burden on patients and their families. *(PIB, 17.10.26)*

Villages Get a Governance Boost

The Union Cabinet has approved the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana (PM VGSY) for 2026-27 to 2030-31, with an outlay of ₹7,395.55 crore. The scheme aims to strengthen grassroots governance and build the capacity of elected representatives and Panchayat functionaries across more than 2.55 lakh Panchayats and traditional local bodies.

It seeks to improve participatory planning, institutional capacity, digital governance and delivery of public services, supporting the broader vision of Viksit Bharat. *(PIB, 28.10.26)*

China Curbs AI Exports

China's Ministries of Commerce and Science and Technology proposed revisions to the country's catalogue of technologies prohibited or restricted from export. The proposal covers 40 technology categories across AI, biomedicine and photovoltaics, including 23 AI-related areas such as large models, AI agents, chip design and computing clusters.



Certain technologies would require export authorisation, while others could be prohibited. The move highlights the growing use of export controls to protect strategic technologies, with implications for global AI development, semiconductor supply chains and India's technological self-reliance.

(Bloomberg, 16.10.26)

Govt Data Shifts to Cloud Infrastructure

The Government is reportedly planning to migrate approximately 4.8 lakh government open datasets to indigenous cloud infrastructure, including Shakti DB, ahead of the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023, rollout.

The initiative aims to strengthen domestic control over government information, including sensitive and personal data. However, it also highlights concerns surrounding data localisation, cloud security, governance and safeguards during data transfers. *(NDTV, 13.10.26)*

MeitY Clarifies DPDP Compliance Rules

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) issued the Digital Personal Data Protection (Removal of Difficulties) Order, 2026, clarifying verifiable consent requirements for processing children's personal data and that of persons with disabilities with lawful guardians.

The clarifications provide greater certainty on compliance obligations, particularly for organisations handling vulnerable individuals' personal information. *(MeitY, 06.10.26)*

TDB Backs Indigenous AI Chip

The Technology Development Board (TDB), under the Department of Science and Technology, signed an agreement with BigEndian Semiconductors to support Project VeerAI, a ₹260 crore initiative to develop an indigenous AI Vision System-on-Chip.

The project aims to advance the technology from Technology Readiness Level 5 to 9 for commercial deployment in surveillance applications, including CCTV systems, reducing dependence on foreign semiconductor technologies.

(PIB, 05.10.26)

RBI Tightens Banks Cyber Checks

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reportedly intensified cybersecurity scrutiny of banks following customer data breaches and unauthorised financial transfers. The lenders had been asked to demonstrate regulatory compliance, examine application programming interface (API) vulnerabilities and assess preparedness for AI-related threats.



Incidents included data exposure affecting approximately 3,900 State Bank of India customers and unauthorised transfers worth US$2mn at two Mumbai-based non-bank lenders. These developments highlight vulnerabilities in digital financial systems and the need for stronger cybersecurity controls.

(Reuters, 30.10.26)

TRAI Drafts Telecom AI Rules

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) released draft guidelines on responsible AI use in telecommunications networks and services for stakeholder consultation. The proposed framework seeks to strengthen accountability and governance as telecom networks increasingly adopt AI-driven systems.



It aims to promote responsible deployment in a sector critical to digital connectivity and national security. *(TRAI, 30.10.26)*

IP Office Moves to Curb AI Misuse

The Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks proposed guidelines addressing AI misuse in Trade Marks Registry proceedings. Following a Delhi High Court order, the draft seeks to prevent AI-generated legal submissions containing fabricated judgments and non-existent case citations.

It highlights the risks of unverified AI-generated material in legal and administrative processes, emphasising accuracy, professional accountability and safeguards in formal decision-making.

(IP India, 17.10.26)

India Moves Towards AI-Enabled DPI

India's digital public infrastructure (DPI) is transitioning from standalone systems (DPI 1.0) to interconnected networks (DPI 2.0) spanning identity, payments, healthcare, agriculture and education.



The *State of DPI in India 2026* report by IIM Bangalore highlights shared registries, consent frameworks and data-sharing mechanisms. The next phase, DPI 3.0, could integrate artificial intelligence (AI) to deliver predictive and personalised services. *(BS, 26.09.26)*

Airlines Shift to Navi Mumbai Airport

IndiGo and the Air India Group have agreed to shift some international and domestic operations to Navi Mumbai International Airport, facilitating redevelopment at Mumbai's existing airport.



IndiGo will transfer 12 daily international departures between February and July 2027, while Air India Express plans domestic operations from December 2026. Together, the airlines are expected to handle nearly three million passengers annually at the new airport. *(Mint, 25.10.26)*

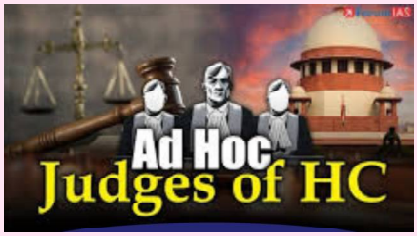
RBI Stresses Data Sovereignty

Reserve Bank of India Governor Sanjay Malhotra emphasised the importance of maintaining secure and sovereign data centres to strengthen India's financial infrastructure and cybersecurity. He noted that information technology has become central to the banking system, particularly as artificial intelligence transforms financial services.

The RBI's new data centre in Bhubaneswar will support critical payment systems, including NEFT and RTGS, government banking operations and services for regulated financial institutions. *(ToI, 26.10.26)*

Bar Bodies Resist Judges' Return

The Supreme Court expressed concern that its 2021 initiative to appoint retired High Court judges as *ad hoc* judges under Article 224A has remained largely unimplemented.



The initiative aimed to address mounting judicial backlogs, with pending cases exceeding 65 lakhs across High Courts. The Court observed that resistance from bar associations, alongside retired judges' preference for private legal practice and arbitration, had undermined efforts to expedite case disposal. *(ToI, 30.10.26)*

Major Ports Set for Corporatisation

The government plans to corporatise 11 of India's 12 major ports by 2030, granting them greater financial and operational autonomy. The proposed framework envisages professionally managed companies, independent boards, market-based tariffs and eventual stock market listings.



It also aims to increase private participation in terminal operations to 80 percent and raise cargo handled through public-private partnerships to 85 percent, improving efficiency and maritime competitiveness. *(Mint, 21.10.26)*

IRDAI Seeks Consensus on Reforms

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) Chairman Ajay Seth said proposed insurance distribution reforms would be implemented only after building consensus with industry stakeholders. Following concerns over changes to commissions and distribution practices, the regulator is consulting industry participants.

Seth also highlighted the need to expedite health insurance claims and improve customer experience, indicating that regulatory reforms would consider industry feedback and consumer interests. *(TH, 27.10.26)*

India Reassesses Critical Technologies

NITI Aayog is preparing a list of critical technologies in which India needs to develop domestic capabilities to strengthen self-reliance and reduce vulnerability to global supply disruptions.

The proposed roadmap may include targeted research funding, investment incentives and government procurement guarantees to encourage domestic innovation and attract private-sector participation. *(ET, 22.10.26)*

Banking Reforms Panel Formed

The Finance Ministry has constituted a high-level committee to review India's banking sector and recommend reforms to support economic growth and global competitiveness.

Headed by former Central Vigilance Commissioner Suresh N Patel, the committee will examine banking practices, regulatory frameworks, capital requirements and operational efficiency. It will also develop a roadmap for artificial intelligence, digital innovation, cybersecurity and talent development in the banking industry. *(Reuters, 30.10.26)*

Reliance Welcomes Starlink Rivalry

Reliance Industries has welcomed competition from Elon Musk's Starlink in India's satellite communications market, emphasising that all operators must comply with Indian laws and regulatory requirements.

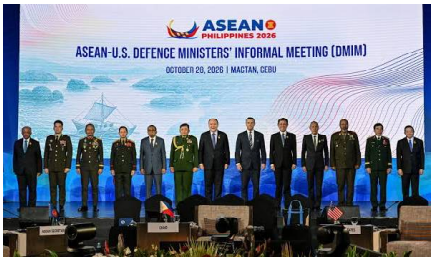
The statement followed Musk's criticism of alleged obstacles to Starlink's market entry. Reliance clarified that Jio's own satellite



services are also awaiting government clearances, stressing that domestic and international companies should receive equal regulatory treatment. *(TH, 16.10.26)*

ADMM-Plus Discusses Regional Security

The 13th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) was held in Cebu, Philippines, on October 28–29, with participation from ASEAN members and eight dialogue partners, including India, the US, China, Japan and Australia. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh led the Indian delegation.



The forum provided a platform to discuss regional and international security challenges and strengthen defence cooperation. India's participation reflected its continued engagement with ASEAN-led institutions under the Act East Policy and its emphasis on ASEAN centrality in the Indo-Pacific. *(PIB, 26.10.26)*

China Expands Naval Operations

The Liaoning carrier strike group transited Philippine waters, including the Basilan Strait, and operated east of the Philippines. Taiwan reported more than 50 Chinese naval and official vessels operating simultaneously from southern Japan to Taiwan and the Philippines, describing the threat level as "obvious".

Japan tracked Chinese warships passing through the Osumi Strait. Analysts viewed the coordinated activity as signalling the PLA's expanding reach beyond the First Island Chain. *(Reuters, 29.10.26)*

Trilateral Defence Ties Deepen

Hegseth and Japanese Defence Minister Shinjiro Koizumi agreed to strengthen "denial" capabilities and bolster defensive postures along the First Island Chain.

Japan and the Philippines also advanced destroyer transfer plans, implementation of the Reciprocal Access Agreement, and their opposition to unilateral changes to the *status quo* in the East and South China Seas. *(JMDJS, 28.10.26)*

Quad Foreign Ministers' Meet

The foreign ministers of the US, Australia, India and Japan met on the sidelines of the G20 gathering. They pledged to strengthen reliable supply chains, denounced "economic coercion" and arbitrary export restrictions (without naming China), committed more than US$85mn to trusted AI technologies across the Indo-Pacific, and launched work on mapping semiconductor and supply-chain vulnerabilities.

Plans also advanced for a Quad Leaders' Summit in Manila in November, the first leaders' meeting since 2024. *(Reuters, 31.10.26)*



US-Japan Hold Keen Sword 27 (V-22)

The large-scale US-Japan field training exercise involved approximately 45,000 Japan Self-Defence Forces personnel and 11,000 US personnel, alongside forces from Australia, Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands, New Zealand and the Philippines, with observers from the Republic of Korea and the UK.

Activities included anti-ship operations, rapid airfield damage



repair, cyber defence, mass-casualty response and carrier operations involving the USS Theodore Roosevelt strike group. The exercise aimed to enhance interoperability and deterrence. *(DVIDS releases, 20.10.26)*

AUKUS Advances Both Pillars

Australia confirmed that the AUKUS pathway remains on track for the delivery of Virginia-class submarines from the early 2030s. USS Colorado arrived at HMAS Stirling for maintenance, ahead of the planned launch of Submarine Rotational Force-West in late 2027.

Under AUKUS Pillar II, the Maritime Big Play Pacific demonstration in the San Diego area showcased uncrewed systems and payloads, including developments in Australia's Ghost Shark and Speartooth programmes. *(Reuters, 28.10.26)*

Philippines-China Tensions Escalate

The Philippines summoned China's Ambassador after remarks suggesting that China could easily win a confrontation with the Philippines. Manila described the comments as provocative and unacceptable, arguing that they aggravated an already sensitive bilateral relationship.

The diplomatic exchange comes amid continuing maritime disputes in the South China Sea, where both countries maintain competing claims and have repeatedly accused each other of provocative actions. *(Reuters, 19.10.26)*

Quad Advances Key Initiatives

The second Quad-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission, conducted aboard an Indian Coast Guard vessel along the Chennai-Perth route, was successfully completed, strengthening maritime cooperation among Quad partners. Critical minerals cooperation also advanced under the May 2026 framework, including US funding for recycling infrastructure in India and ASEAN countries.



Private-sector initiatives to develop resilient recycling value chains progressed, alongside discussions on strengthening regional energy security and logistics connectivity. *(QJPR, 31.10.26)*

WaterLab Jaipur: Strengthening Community-Based Water Quality Monitoring

CUTS International, in partnership with Villgro Innovations Foundation, Cluix and the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED), Rajasthan, is advancing WaterLab Jaipur to strengthen drinking-water quality monitoring through technology and community engagement. The initiative has progressed from baseline assessments and site consultations to the installation of monitoring equipment at Bandhu Nagar and Murlipura in North Jaipur, and Laxmi Nagar in South Jaipur.

During October, programme work focused on stakeholder coordination, technical follow-up, dashboard and device-related discussions, and documentation of implementation experiences. The initiative seeks to support more responsive water-quality monitoring by combining technological solutions with institutional coordination and community participation.

Advancing Safer Roads through Policy Engagement and Speed Management

CUTS International continued its engagement on road safety, focusing on speed management as a critical intervention to reduce road crashes and fatalities. The initiative involves collaboration with the Rajasthan Transport Department, IIT Kharagpur, the Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAI) and the Road Safety Network (RSN), with emphasis on strengthening policy frameworks and promoting evidence-based interventions.

The work includes support for the development of Rajasthan State Speed Management Guidelines, technical consultations and engagement with policymakers. It also seeks to advance national-level discussions on safer speeds, child road safety and stronger implementation of road-safety measures.

Regulatory Impact Assessment: Strengthening Evidence-Based Policymaking

CUTS International continues to highlight the importance of Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) as a diagnostic tool for better policymaking. RIA enables policymakers to examine the likely economic, social and environmental consequences of proposed regulations before implementation, while also helping assess existing legislation and identify opportunities for corrective action.

The initiative emphasises the need to combine impact assessment with sound legal scrutiny, stakeholder consultation and evidence-based decision-making. It seeks to promote regulatory frameworks that are proportionate, transparent and responsive to the interests of consumers, businesses and wider society.

UPI MDR charges must balance financial viability and inclusion
Policy Circle, October 12, 2026
By Pradeep S Mehta, Sohom Banerjee and Tasmita Sengupta
https://cuts-ccier.org/upi-mdr-charges-must-balance-financial-viability-and-inclusion/

Viksit Bharat demands impact assessment anchored in law for optimal regulations
The Financial Express, October 06, 2026
By Pradeep S Mehta and Tasmita Sengupta
https://cuts-ccier.org/viksit-bharat-demands-impact-assessment-anchored-in-law-for-optimal-regulations/

Sources: BS: Business Standard; EC: EU Council; ET: Economic Times; GCF: Global Climate Fund; HT: Hindustan Times; IMF: International Monetary Fund; JMDJS: Japan Ministry of Defense Joint Statement; JP: Jakarta Post; MeitY: Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology; MOFCOM: Ministry of Commerce (People's Republic of China); NDTV: New Delhi Television; NoA: News on Air; PIB: Press Information Bureau; PMO: Prime Minister's Office; QJPR: Quad Joint Press Release; TG: The Guardian; TH: The Hindu; ToI: Times of India; TRAI: Telecom Regulatory Authority of India; TT: The Tribune

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