MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES
मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

EURASIA DIGEST

Monthly Compilation of News from Russia, Central Asia & Europe

Vol 6 | Issue 2 | October 2026



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CSTO Stripped Armenia Of Voting Rights

The Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) stripped Armenia of its voting rights for failing to pay membership dues. It comes three years after Armenia accused the military alliance of failing to intervene when Azerbaijan launched a surprise offensive to seize control of the breakaway region of Nagorno-Karabakh. Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has since effectively frozen his country's involvement in the CSTO. He told journalists that Armenia no longer has "any interests related" to the organization

Finnish And Norwegian Leaders Called Russian President

Finnish President Alexander Stubb and Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Støre held a phone call with Russian President Vladimir Putin to discuss ongoing efforts to end the war in Ukraine, a move that, while coordinated with Kyiv, some European leaders criticized. President Stubb's office said they initiated the call in order to "discuss Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine and the diplomatic efforts to end the war and promote peace and stability in Europe."

First Shipment Of Russian Diesel Departed For US Under Trump Deal

The Kremlin has confirmed that the first shipment of diesel to the United States left port the as part of an energy deal made between President Donald Trump and Russia's Vladimir Putin. Trump has announced the diesel deal on October 9, saying that Russia would "immediately" supply 300,000 metric tons of diesel to the U.S. and global markets, followed by another 500,000 tons in November and 1 million tons thereafter.

India-Uzbekistan Strengthened Counterterrorism Cooperation

India and Uzbekistan held the 10th meeting of the Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism in New Delhi on 22 October. The two sides reviewed ongoing counterterrorism cooperation and discussed strengthening collaboration in addressing terrorism and related security challenges.

Tajikistan Hosted SCO Heads Of Government Meeting

The 25th meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Council of Heads of Government was held in Dushanbe in Tajikistan on October 20. Officials deliberated on regional cooperation in economic advancement, trade, industrial growth, and transportation links. The attendees put forward a joint communiqué and sanctioned the organization's budget until 2027.

US–Central Asia Engagement Gained Momentum

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio visited Uzbekistan for the C5+1 Ministerial Meeting and the second meeting of the

Uzbekistan–US Business and Investment Council. President Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Rubio discussed implementation of existing agreements and the expansion of cooperation in politics, security, trade, investment and technology. The engagement is relevant to the broader competition for influence in Central Asia and the region's efforts to diversify external partnerships while retaining room for strategic manoeuvre.

UK-Germany Established Partnership To Counter Hybrid Threats

London and Berlin announced deeper cooperation against cyberattacks, sabotage and other hybrid threats. The initiative seeks to strengthen resilience and coordinate responses to hostile activities affecting critical systems and national security. Given the growing European concern over infrastructure vulnerabilities and interference, the partnership indicates how bilateral security cooperation is expanding beyond conventional military capabilities.

EU Accelerated Defence Industrial Readiness And Innovation

The EU Council approved legislation to simplify defence procurement, accelerate permits for defence-related projects and facilitate cross-border industrial cooperation. It also adopted the €115 million AGILE programme to help small and medium-sized enterprises move emerging defence technologies from prototypes to operational capabilities. Together, these measures reflect efforts to address procurement delays, expand industrial capacity and strengthen Europe's ability to develop and field new military technologies.

France-Chad Renewed Defence Cooperation

French President Emmanuel Macron and Chadian President Mahamat Idriss Déby Itno met in Paris on 13 October, where the two countries signed a declaration of intent to renew defence cooperation. The agreement focuses on military training, defence technology and capability development, replacing the earlier framework centred on France’s permanent military presence in Chad. The renewed partnership comes amid continuing insecurity in the Sahel and the spillover of Sudan’s conflict into Chad.

NATO Tested Collective Defence Plans

NATO conducted Steadfast Duel 2026, bringing together 8,000 military and civilian personnel from all 32 member states. The computer-assisted exercise tested regional defence plans, command-and-control coordination and interoperability across land, air, maritime, space and cyber domains, with particular attention to the Alliance's north-western region. The exercise highlights the importance of integrated operational planning and readiness alongside increased defence spending.

France's Student Protests Escalated Into Nationwide Unrest

Student protests that began in September over teacher shortages, underfunded schools and deteriorating educational facilities expanded into nationwide demonstrations against rising living costs, inequality and declining public services. On 24 October, approximately 410,000 people participated in demonstrations across France with clashes, looting and vandalism reported in several cities despite the deployment of 70,000 police officers and gendarmes.

Hungary Dropped Opposition To Ukraine's EU Accession

On 7 October, Hungary consented to lift its opposition on Ukraine's European Union accession talks, paving the way for further progress on two additional negotiating clusters. The resolution came after an understanding about laws aimed at enhancing the educational and cultural entitlements of the ethnic Hungarian minority in Ukraine's Transcarpathia region. Hungary expressed its readiness to lift the veto following the adoption of the suggested minority-rights legislation by Ukraine's parliament, which might facilitate advancements in the accession talks.

Kazakhstan-Belgium Deepened Bilateral Cooperation

Belgium's King Philippe visited Kazakhstan on a state visit from October 11-14 and met President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev. The discussions concentrated on enhancing bilateral relations, broadening economic engagement, and exploring prospects for increased cooperation across various domains.

Estonia Lowered Minimum Voting Age For European Parliament Elections

On 14 October, the Estonian Parliament approved an amendment with a vote of 59 to 28, which has lowered the minimum voting age for European Parliament elections from 18 to 16. The law also cuts down the minimum age for candidates from 21 to 18, thereby broadening the eligibility to include Estonian citizens and other EU nationals who are permanent residents in Estonia.

India-Poland Deepened Strategic Partnership

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk visited India on an official visit from 21-23 October with a delegation of around 100 business representatives. It's the first visit of Polish PM after 16 years. The discussions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi encompassed trade, defence cooperation, economic relations, critical technologies, and ways for strengthening bilateral investments. Both nations emphasised their commitment towards enhancing their strategic partnership and promoting cooperation in economic, political, and security domains.