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President Putin Visited Azerbaijan

On 18 August, Russian President Vladimir Putin [arrived](#) in Baku for a state visit and met with the president of Azerbaijan, Ilhan Aliyev. The two leaders held an official meeting and signed several intergovernmental agreements on cooperation in healthcare, education, science and food security. This included a MoU between the Russian Direct Investment Fund and the Export and Investment Promotion Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Russia on Kyiv's Incursion into Kursk

Russian President Vladimir Putin vowed to deal with the Ukrainian "bandits" on Russian territory and [said](#) that Kyiv's incursion into Russia's Kursk region would not halt Moscow's advance in Ukraine. The incursion has so far displaced around 1,30,000 people, with Kyiv's forces having seized control of dozens of towns and villages near the border. Meanwhile, Russian forces have pressed on with their advance in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

Russia- Mongolia Joint Military Exercise

Russian and Mongolian armed forces [held](#) a week long joint military exercise starting 19 August near the town of Choibalsan, around 560 kilometers east of Ulaanbaatar. The drills mark the first time Mongolia has hosted a joint military exercise involving a foreign army. It is also the first time both countries have deployed tactical airborne troops during an exercise. The drills followed US Secretary of State Antony Blinken's visit to Mongolia in July, during which he praised the deepening of bilateral ties.

India was Russia's Largest Oil Importer in July

India was as the largest [buyer](#) of Russian oil in July. Russian crude exports to India reached a record 2.07 million barrels per day (bpd) compared with 1.76 million bpd to China in July this year. This comprised 44 per cent of India's oil imports. China's drop was attributed to weakening processing margins among refineries and low demand for fuel.

Russia "Happy" to Facilitate Azerbaijan-Armenia Peace Deal

Russian President Vladimir Putin, during talks with his Azerbaijani counterpart Ilham Aliyev on 19 August, [said](#) that Russia "would be happy to" facilitate the signing of a peace treaty between Armenia and Azerbaijan. Putin said he also planned to meet the Armenian leader and share the outcome of his talks with Aliyev. It is noteworthy that Russian peacekeepers completed their withdrawal from Nagorno-Karabakh this June, one year ahead of schedule.

Uzbek PM Abdulla Aripov Visited Kabul

On 17 August, Uzbek Prime Minister Abdulla Aripov [arrived](#) in Afghanistan for the highest-level visit by a foreign official since Taliban returned to power in 2021. He met the Taliban leaders and discussed bilateral relations with an emphasis on economic and commercial projects.

Armenia-USA Nuclear Tech Cooperation

On 22 August, the United States of America [confirmed](#) that it was considering a request from the Republic of Armenia to ink a deal regarding the transfer of civil nuclear technology. It ensures that USA builds a

new nuclear power plant in Metsamor, Armenia. This follows the civil nuclear cooperation agreement signed between USA and Armenia in 2022.

Kazakh President Visited Tajikistan

On 22 August, Kazakhstan's President Kassym Jomart Tokayev [visited](#) Tajikistan for high-level talks. The two leaders signed the Treaty on Allied Relations, highlighting the growth in bilateral trade and signaled their commitment to remove trade barriers and enhance logistical cooperation.

Turkmenistan's National Leader Visited Iran

On 29 August, the national leader of Turkmenistan, Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov [met](#) the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Masoud Pezeshkian, during his visit to Tehran. The leaders discussed bilateral cooperation and signed a MoU on sister city relations between the seaport of Turkmenbashi and the port of Amirabad. The Turkmen leader also held discussions with the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Hosseini Khamenei.

PM Modi Visited Poland

PM Modi's visit to Poland on 21- 22 August was the first such visit by an Indian PM to Poland in 45 years. The [joint statement](#) mentions a [five-year action plan](#) to implement the goals of the recently elevated 'strategic partnership'. The action plan highlights opportunities in energy, climate, green technologies, infrastructure, and mining alongside deepening security and defence cooperation. Further cooperation in these sectors will be explored in the next meeting scheduled for the end of 2024.

PM Modi Visited Ukraine

PM Modi's visit to Ukraine on 23 August was the first such by an Indian PM since the establishment of diplomatic relations with [Ukraine](#) in 1992. PM Modi reaffirmed India's role to mediate in the war with "innovative solutions". The two leaders tasked the India-Ukraine inter-governmental commission to specifically focus on rebuilding trade and [economic](#) relations. Simultaneously they also inked agreements on agriculture, food industry, medicine, culture and humanitarian assistance.

Korea in Europe's Nuclear Market

KHNP- a Korean nuclear company has finalised a \$17 billion deal to supply two nuclear units to the [Czech](#) Republic. Being the first Korean contract in Europe, this has sparked interest from other European nations. This Czech deal is significant as many Western nations are increasingly wary of low-cost suppliers like China and Russia due to security concerns. KHNP further plans to produce hydrogen from nuclear power by 2028 and develop small modular reactors by 2031, interesting several European players.

EU Braces for Battles with Budapest

EU foreign and defence ministers have opted to gather informally in Brussels rather than [Budapest](#), signalling growing frustration between Hungary and the EU. Orbán's recent self-declared peace missions involving Ukraine and easing of visas for Russians have strained relations. The situation is further complicated by the delayed finalization of a \$50 billion aid package for Ukraine, hampered by Hungary's potential veto power. The European response remains uncertain, with Orbán's actions poised to shape the EU's internal dynamics in the coming months.