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MONTLY GLOBAL AFFAIRS

PREPARED BY
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GEOPOLITICS
GLOBAL ECONOMY
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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SECTION 01

International Relations

October's diplomatic calendar was dominated by two high-stakes elections and a Moscow summit: Brazil and Israel went to the polls, Russia hosted 48 African delegations, and Washington kept shuttle diplomacy over Ukraine alive — all while allies waited to see what the United States would do on Iran after the 3 November midterms.

Lula Wins a Fourth Term as Bolsonaro Contests the Result

Brazil's presidential runoff on 25 October returned President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva to office for a fourth, non-consecutive term. Lula took about 51.8% of the vote to Senator Flávio Bolsonaro's roughly 48.2%, a margin of more than four million votes. At 80, he is the first candidate since the two-round system began in 1989 to win a runoff after finishing second in the first round on 4 October.

Bolsonaro, an ally of US President Donald Trump, rejected the result and called for it to be annulled, and reports said he travelled to the United States after the vote. Lula's new term begins on 5 January 2027.

> **STRATEGIC INSIGHT**
>
> **What happened:** Lula won Brazil's 25 October runoff with about 51.8% of the vote while his rival refused to accept the result.
>
> **Why it matters:** A contested outcome in Latin America's largest economy tests Brazilian institutions and shapes the region's balance between Washington and the left.
>
> **What to watch next:** Whether legal challenges to the result gain any traction before the 5 January inauguration.

Israel Votes to a Deadlock

Israelis voted on 27 October in the first national election since the Hamas-led attack of 7 October 2023 and since the US–Israel war with Iran began in February. Turnout reached 77.7%, a 27-year high. Exit polls showed neither Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's bloc (51–52 seats) nor that of former military chief Gadi Eisenkot (49–51) reaching the 61 seats needed in the 120-seat Knesset, with Arab-led parties projected at 18–19 seats — an unprecedented showing.

Likud emerged as the largest single party with about 27 seats against 21 for Eisenkot's Yashar. Netanyahu said he would seek another right-wing government, while Eisenkot said he was ready to form one; opposition parties have also promised a national inquiry into the failures of 7 October, which Netanyahu has resisted. Final tallies were due on 30 October and official results on 4 November, with weeks of coalition bargaining expected while Netanyahu stays on in a caretaker capacity.

> **STRATEGIC INSIGHT**
>
> **What happened:** Israel's election produced a deadlock, with neither main bloc able to reach 61 seats without Arab-led parties.
>
> **Why it matters:** Prolonged coalition talks leave a caretaker government in charge during the Iran war.
>
> **What to watch next:** Official results on 4 November and whether any leader can assemble a majority.

Russia–Africa Summit Opens in Moscow

Moscow hosted the third Russia–Africa summit on 28–29 October, the first held in the Russian capital after Sochi in 2019 and St Petersburg in 2023. The Kremlin said delegations from 48 African countries attended, with 22 represented by heads of state, and Putin co-chaired the meeting with African Union Chairperson Évariste Ndayishimiye of Burundi. Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi held talks with Putin on the opening day.

Grain, fertiliser, nuclear energy and logistics headlined the agenda, alongside a new action plan for the Russia–Africa Partnership Forum covering 2027–2029. The presidents of the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda were also announced as attendees, adding a layer of crisis diplomacy over eastern Congo.

> **STRATEGIC INSIGHT**
>
> **What happened:** Russia convened 48 African delegations in Moscow for its third Russia–Africa summit.
>
> **Why it matters:** Facing Western sanctions, Moscow is courting African partners for trade, energy and security cooperation.
>
> **What to watch next:** Whether pledges on grain, fertiliser and nuclear energy become signed contracts under the 2027–2029 action plan.

EU and Canada Launch an “Alliance for the Future”

The EU and Canada held their 21st summit in Montreal on 29–30 October, where leaders were expected to launch an “alliance for the future” — a framework for shared prosperity and economic security — building on the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) and the Strategic Partnership Agreement. European Council President António Costa travelled to Montreal for the talks.

Ahead of the summit, reports said the EU dropped the idea of “associate membership” for Canada from its draft declaration after Prime Minister Mark Carney’s speech and divisions among member states. Both sides are hedging against fraying ties with Washington, and the meeting reaffirmed their commitment to the rules-based international order.

> **STRATEGIC INSIGHT**
>
> **What happened:** The EU and Canada met in Montreal to launch an alliance on trade, technology and defence.
>
> **Why it matters:** Two large partners are deepening ties as relations with the United States fray.
>
> **What to watch next:** How concrete the summit’s deliverables prove, and the EU–UK summit on 20 November.

Washington Keeps Ukraine Diplomacy Alive

US special envoy Steve Witkoff met Vladimir Putin in St Petersburg on 21 October for more than three hours, a day after meeting Volodymyr Zelensky in Norway. During the visit Russia freed Stephen Hubbard, a retired American teacher jailed for allegedly fighting as a mercenary for Ukraine; he is the second American Moscow has released in about two months.

The Kremlin said it was ready to return to three-way talks with the US and Ukraine but dismissed recent Ukrainian and European proposals as lacking substance. Witkoff called the discussions constructive and said trilateral talks would continue at the technical level. He also thanked Moscow for a recent diesel arrangement that eased sanctions so Russian fuel could reach the US — a deal that drew anger in Kyiv and European capitals and is widely read as an effort to ease fuel prices before the midterms.

> **STRATEGIC INSIGHT**
>
> **What happened:** Witkoff met Putin on 21 October and Russia freed an American prisoner, while both sides kept the door open to trilateral talks.
>
> **Why it matters:** Diplomacy continues, but the Kremlin still dismisses Ukrainian and European proposals, and the diesel deal has strained trust with allies.
>
> **What to watch next:** Whether technical-level trilateral talks actually convene.

Machado Returns to a Venezuela in Transition

Opposition leader and Nobel laureate María Corina Machado returned to Venezuela on 25 October after about ten months abroad, appearing first at a church in Lara state and then in Caracas, where supporters swarmed her car. She has called for elections soon.

Delcy Rodríguez has led an interim government since US forces captured Nicolás Maduro in January, and Washington's position has been that Venezuela must stabilise before voting. Trump said he knew nothing about the return, while Secretary of State Marco Rubio said US-supported reconciliation talks offer the country its best chance in thirty years of a free and fair election. No election date has been set.

> **STRATEGIC INSIGHT**
>
> **What happened:** Machado ended months in exile and returned to Venezuela on 25 October.
>
> **Why it matters:** Her return tests Rodríguez's interim government and Washington's insistence on stabilisation before elections.
>
> **What to watch next:** Whether the reconciliation talks produce a concrete election timetable.

In Brief

• The Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the 2026 Peace Prize to Navanethem "Navi" Pillay, the former UN human rights chief, for her efforts to promote peace and international law (announced 9 October).

• After September's White House summit Trump said he would meet Xi Jinping again in November; APEC in Shenzhen and the G20 in Miami in December are the expected venues, and the US–China trade truce runs to 10 January 2027.

• The Kremlin said preparations are under way for a Putin–Trump–Xi summit in Shenzhen in November, which it called unprecedented; Washington has not confirmed such a meeting.

SECTION 02

World Economy

October's economic story was energy: Brent near $115, US inflation back at 3.7%, a Federal Reserve that held rates but split toward a hike, and an IMF warning that the global economy's resilience is reaching its limits — even as China edged past its growth target and India's central bank began tightening.

The Fed Holds, With Two Votes for a Hike

The Federal Reserve left its benchmark rate at 3.75%–4.00% on 28 October, but not unanimously: the vote was 10–2, with Governor Lisa Cook and Cleveland Fed President Beth Hammack dissenting in favour of a 25-basis-point hike. The statement said inflation remains elevated. No new dot plot was issued; September's projections had 16 of 18 officials expecting at least one more hike in 2026, with a median policy rate of 4.1%.

Futures priced roughly 85% odds of a hike at the 9 December meeting, when new projections are due, and the 10-year Treasury yield traded near 5%. Chair Kevin Warsh now leads a committee weighing an energy-driven inflation shock against the drag of higher borrowing costs.

> **STRATEGIC INSIGHT**
>
> **What happened:** The Fed held at 3.75%–4.00% on 28 October, with two officials dissenting in favour of a hike.
>
> **Why it matters:** A divided committee and markets pricing a December hike signal that the war-linked inflation shock is not yet contained.
>
> **What to watch next:** The 9 December meeting and its new rate projections.

US Inflation Climbs to 3.7% on Fuel Costs

US consumer prices rose 0.6% in September, lifting annual inflation to 3.7% from 3.4% in August. Core inflation, which excludes food and energy, rose 0.3% on the month and 2.6% over the year, up from 2.4%. Gasoline jumped 9.1% in the month and accounted for more than half of the headline increase, while other motor fuels, including diesel, rose 11.9%.

Airline fares (+1.2%) and shelter (+0.4%) also pushed core prices higher. After the report, markets lifted the odds of an October hike, though most economists expected a hold followed by a December increase — a politically awkward backdrop weeks before the midterms.

> **STRATEGIC INSIGHT**
>
> **What happened:** September CPI rose to 3.7% year over year, driven by a 9.1% monthly jump in gasoline prices.
>
> **Why it matters:** Fuel-led inflation reinforces the Fed's hawkish tilt and puts cost-of-living pressure at the centre of the midterm campaign.
>
> **What to watch next:** Whether fuel prices ease enough to slow inflation in the next CPI report.

Oil Near $115 as Iran Declares Hormuz Closed

Iran's Revolutionary Guards declared the Strait of Hormuz closed on 26 October, and Houthi missiles and drones set Saudi Arabia's Ras Tanura oil hub ablaze, holding Brent crude near $115–116 a barrel — roughly 8% above its late-September level of about $106.

Shipping and security officials say Iran is now striking more vessels in and near the strait with guided missiles rather than drones. US Central Command says it has helped Gulf partners export more than 1.5 billion barrels since the summer and cleared mines laid by the Revolutionary Guards from shipping lanes, but flows remain far below the pre-war level of roughly 19–20 million barrels a day.

STRATEGIC INSIGHT

What happened: Brent held near $115–116 as Iran declared Hormuz closed and Houthi strikes hit Saudi oil infrastructure.

Why it matters: With Hormuz and the Red Sea both contested, the oil market has few workarounds left, feeding inflation and central-bank caution.

What to watch next: Whether Washington's choice between a deal and renewed strikes on Iran moves prices after 3 November.

IMF: Resilience Is "Reaching Its Limits"

The IMF's October World Economic Outlook, released on 13 October at the IMF–World Bank annual meetings in Bangkok, projects global growth of 3.1% in 2026 — slightly above July's 3.0% but below 3.5% in 2025 — and 3.4% in 2027. Global headline inflation is forecast to rise to 4.7% this year from 4.1% in 2025 before easing to 4.1% in 2027. The Fund assumes Hormuz reopens around March 2027, with conditions returning to pre-war norms by October 2027.

Growth is increasingly concentrated: 32 economies account for 95% of the world's expansion, with AI-related investment and energy exporters outside the conflict zone cushioning the shock while energy importers lag. India is forecast to grow 7.0% in both 2026 and 2027, China 4.5% and the United States 2.3%. IMF research director Silvana Tenreyro urged governments to rebuild fiscal space, with interest costs projected at about 2.3% of global GDP.

STRATEGIC INSIGHT

What happened: The IMF raised its 2026 growth forecast slightly to 3.1% but lifted its inflation forecast to 4.7%.

Why it matters: Aggregate resilience is masking a widening gap between AI-linked economies and energy importers, plus mounting debt costs.

What to watch next: Whether Hormuz reopens on the IMF's assumed March 2027 timeline.

China Beats Its Growth Target — Quietly

China's economy grew 4.5% year on year in the third quarter, up from 4.3% in the second, bringing growth for the first nine months to 4.6% and keeping Beijing within its 4.5%–5% target for 2026. Industrial output rose 5.5% in September, while retail sales grew just 1.1%.

Domestic demand remains weak: fixed-asset investment fell 7.2% over January–September, and the property market is still shrinking. Technology exports, led by semiconductors, continue to carry the recovery, a pattern analysts call a managed, slow slowdown.

STRATEGIC INSIGHT

What happened: China's Q3 GDP grew 4.5% year on year, leaving it on track to meet its 2026 target.

Why it matters: Export strength in technology goods is masking weak consumption, investment and property.

What to watch next: Whether Beijing adds domestic stimulus as external demand softens.

India's RBI Raises Rates for the First Time Since 2023

On 7 October the Reserve Bank of India raised its repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.50% from 5.25%, its first hike since February 2023, and moved to a stance of "calibrated tightening". Governor Sanjay Malhotra cited renewed inflation pressure from higher crude oil prices and pressure on the rupee.

The move came as the IMF projected India to remain the fastest-growing major economy at 7.0% in 2026 and 2027, helped by domestic demand, services and AI-related investment. Banks may pass the hike on to borrowers, raising EMIs on floating-rate loans.

STRATEGIC INSIGHT

What happened: The RBI raised the repo rate to 5.50% on 7 October, its first increase in over three years.

Why it matters: India is tightening to defend the rupee and contain imported inflation while still growing faster than any other major economy.

What to watch next: Whether crude prices force further tightening in December.

In Brief

• The US fiscal 2026 deficit reached $1.99 trillion, up about $217 billion on the year, with record outlays of $7.4 trillion and interest costs above $1 trillion; net tariff revenue fell 11% to roughly $173 billion after about $145 billion in refunds following a Supreme Court ruling.

• In early October Europe agreed to release diesel reserves under US pressure and the G7 agreed to coordinate refinery maintenance schedules to avoid shutdowns; Russia extended its diesel export ban to the end of October.

• The UAE announced plans to invest $25 billion in India’s energy sector.

SECTION 03

Geopolitics & Defense

A war in the Gulf, bargaining at the Kremlin and a cluster of nuclear signals defined October's security picture, with the 3 November US midterms casting a shadow over every decision on Iran.

Iran War: Trump Weighs a Deal or "Finishing It Off"

Trump told Fox News on 25 October that he faced a decision to "finish it off" or make a deal, adding that there would be no strike that day. He has suggested US strikes could resume after the 3 November midterms, and the Wall Street Journal reported that Gulf allies were told to prepare for a "short, intense" campaign after the vote; at a rally on 27 October he hinted at action within weeks.

A third US carrier group is heading to the region, about 20 warships are already there, and Washington is trimming diplomatic and military staffing in parts of the Middle East. Iran is reportedly bracing for renewed bombing and preparing to retaliate across the region, including against Israel and the UAE, while its Revolutionary Guards declared Hormuz closed on 26 October. The war, which began in February, is now in its eighth month.

> **STRATEGIC INSIGHT**
>
> **What happened:** Trump said he must choose between a deal and "finishing off" Iran, with a possible campaign signalled for after the 3 November midterms.
>
> **Why it matters:** A US decision either way will determine whether Hormuz reopens, oil falls and the Gulf war widens or winds down.
>
> **What to watch next:** Any strike order, a deal announcement, or Iranian retaliation in the days after the election.

Yemen's War Reaches the Bab el-Mandeb

Yemen's civil war, dormant since a 2022 truce, resumed in July, and in October it reached the Bab el-Mandeb strait. On 9 October Saudi Ambassador Mohammad Al-Jaber said Houthi forces had been driven from the strait, a claim the Houthis denied, saying they repelled Saudi-backed advances from Lahij. Clashes near the strait killed 97 on 27 October, and the coalition said it destroyed five missile tunnels and four launchers.

Houthi strikes have hit Riyadh's airport, which reopened to commercial flights on 25 October, and Saudi Arabia's Ras Tanura hub. On 26 October Egypt's parliament authorised President el-Sisi to send troops to Saudi Arabia for defensive purposes.

> **STRATEGIC INSIGHT**
>
> **What happened:** Saudi-backed forces and the Houthis fought around Bab el-Mandeb as Egypt authorised troops for Saudi Arabia.
>
> **Why it matters:** Control of the Red Sea chokepoint decides whether shipping has any alternative to the disrupted Hormuz route.
>
> **What to watch next:** Whether the coalition secures the coast and how Houthi strikes on Saudi targets develop.

Kaliningrad and the NATO–Russia Standoff

Speaking at the Valdai Discussion Club on 1 October, Putin said Russia would use all weapons at its disposal to defend Kaliningrad, accusing NATO of preparing to blockade the Baltic exclave. NATO stressed that it is a defensive alliance and urged Moscow to stop its "nuclear threats", while the Kremlin's Dmitry Peskov called the region an inalienable part of Russia.

The row followed August NATO air exercises around the exclave that simulated suppressing air defences and disrupting communications, which Moscow condemned as provocative. NATO's annual Steadfast Noon nuclear exercise began on 13 October and was scheduled to run for ten days.

> **STRATEGIC INSIGHT**
>
> **What happened:** Putin vowed to use all weapons to defend Kaliningrad, and NATO responded with a calm public line and its annual nuclear exercise.
>
> **Why it matters:** Rhetoric over a small exclave shows how quickly Baltic tensions can take on a nuclear dimension.
>
> **What to watch next:** Any NATO or Russian military movement around Kaliningrad and the Suwalki corridor.

Nuclear Signals Multiply, Arms Control Stays Empty

France and the UK carried out their first joint airborne nuclear-strike exercise, with RAF Typhoons escorting French Rafales on a simulated mission. France also fired an M51.3 submarine-launched ballistic missile at sea for the first time on 6 October, the US Air Force moved its ARRW hypersonic weapon into production, and the Pentagon announced the first US submarine to join its Submarine Rotational Force-West.

The New START Treaty expired on 5 February without a replacement, and the Kremlin said in early October that arms-control talks should have started immediately. The world has now gone eight months without a verified cap on US or Russian strategic arsenals.

> **STRATEGIC INSIGHT**
>
> **What happened:** France and the UK held a first joint nuclear-strike exercise as new missile and hypersonic milestones were announced.
>
> **Why it matters:** Rising deterrence activity without arms-control limits raises the cost of any misjudgement among nuclear powers.
>
> **What to watch next:** Any sign of formal US–Russia arms-control talks.

Ukraine: Energy Truce Collapses, Local Ceasefire Holds

The 12 October "energy ceasefire" effectively collapsed within days: on 15 October Zelensky said Ukraine would resume strikes on Russian refineries, and overnight strikes on 23–24 October cut power in occupied areas including Crimea. Russia extended its diesel export ban through the end of October, and the Black Sea remained a risk zone for commercial shipping.

A narrow exception took effect on 27 October: a limited, US-brokered ceasefire around Oleshky in Kherson region to allow a humanitarian mission in a city under Russian occupation for nearly five years. Ukraine said there were no breaches in its first 30 hours. Analysts also note that AI-enabled drones are increasingly shaping the course of the war.

> **STRATEGIC INSIGHT**
>
> **What happened:** The 12 October energy truce collapsed, but a limited humanitarian ceasefire around Oleshky began on 27 October.
>
> **Why it matters:** Local humanitarian pauses are possible even as large-scale strikes on energy infrastructure resume.
>
> **What to watch next:** Whether the Oleshky arrangement holds and whether it becomes a template for wider pauses.

Asia-Pacific: Drills, Missile Tests and Shoal Clashes

Incidents between Chinese and Philippine forces rose sharply in the first nine days of October around Scarborough Shoal, Second Thomas Shoal and other disputed features. North Korea tested an intermediate-range ballistic missile, and Taiwan announced a roughly $930 million sea-drone build-out.

China staged live-fire drills across five zones from the South China Sea to Liaoning province, none directly around Taiwan; Taiwan's defence minister Wellington Koo said Taipei was monitoring them, while Beijing accused President Lai Ching-te of trying to seek independence through force. US and Japanese forces held the Keen Sword exercise from 19 to 29 October.

> **STRATEGIC INSIGHT**
>
> **What happened:** China, North Korea and the Philippines all produced fresh military friction in October while allies exercised in the region.
>
> **Why it matters:** Multiple low-level flashpoints are stretching regional attention just as US forces are concentrating on the Gulf.
>
> **What to watch next:** A change in the pace of Chinese coast guard operations at the shoals and any new drills near Taiwan.

In Brief

• Ethiopia and Eritrea traded accusations of invasion while fighting intensified in Tigray, raising fears of a wider Horn of Africa war.

• UK police charged two men over an alleged Iran-linked plot targeting RAF Fairford, and Kuwait sentenced three men to death over an alleged Iran- and Hezbollah-linked plot (26–27 October).

• Drones were shot down near the US embassy in Baghdad as Iranian-linked threats to US diplomatic sites persisted.

QUICK REVISION

One-Liners: Quick Revision Digest

Forty rapid-fire facts drawn from this edition — ideal for a final scan before an exam, interview, or current-affairs quiz.

1. Brazil held its presidential runoff on 25 October 2026.
2. Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva won with about 51.8% of the vote against Flávio Bolsonaro.
3. Lula, aged 80, begins his fourth term on 5 January 2027.
4. Flávio Bolsonaro rejected the runoff result and called for it to be annulled.
5. Israel held its first election since the 7 October 2023 attack on 27 October 2026.
6. Israeli turnout reached 77.7%, a 27-year high.
7. A governing majority in Israel's 120-seat Knesset requires 61 seats.
8. Likud won about 27 seats and Gadi Eisenkot's Yashar about 21 in early results.
9. The third Russia–Africa summit was held in Moscow on 28–29 October 2026.
10. The Kremlin said 48 African delegations attended, with 22 represented by heads of state.
11. The EU–Canada summit in Montreal on 29–30 October launched an "alliance for the future".
12. US envoy Steve Witkoff met Vladimir Putin in St Petersburg on 21 October 2026.
13. Russia freed American Stephen Hubbard during Witkoff's visit.
14. María Corina Machado returned to Venezuela on 25 October after about ten months abroad.
15. Navi Pillay was awarded the 2026 Nobel Peace Prize.
16. The Federal Reserve held its rate at 3.75%–4.00% on 28 October 2026.
17. The Fed's October vote was 10–2; Lisa Cook and Beth Hammack dissented in favour of a hike.
18. Futures priced roughly 85% odds of a Fed hike at the 9 December meeting.
19. The US 10-year Treasury yield traded near 5% in late October.
20. US September CPI rose 3.7% year over year, up from 3.4% in August.
21. US core CPI rose 2.6% year over year in September, up from 2.4%.
22. Gasoline prices jumped 9.1% in the September US CPI report.
23. The US fiscal 2026 deficit reached $1.99 trillion.
24. US net tariff revenue fell 11% to roughly $173 billion in fiscal 2026.
25. Brent crude traded near $115–116 a barrel in late October.
26. Iran's Revolutionary Guards declared the Strait of Hormuz closed on 26 October 2026.
27. The IMF's October World Economic Outlook was released on 13 October in Bangkok.
28. The IMF projects global growth of 3.1% in 2026 and 3.4% in 2027.
29. The IMF forecasts global headline inflation of 4.7% in 2026.
30. The IMF says 32 economies account for 95% of global growth.
31. The IMF assumes the Strait of Hormuz reopens around March 2027.
32. China's third-quarter GDP growth was 4.5% year on year.
33. The RBI raised India's repo rate to 5.50% on 7 October, its first hike since February 2023.
34. Trump said he must decide whether to "finish off" Iran or make a deal.
35. Gulf allies were reportedly told to prepare for a short, intense campaign against Iran after the 3 November midterms.
36. Egypt's parliament authorised troops for Saudi Arabia on 26 October 2026.
37. Putin said on 1 October that Russia would use all weapons to defend Kaliningrad.
38. NATO's annual Steadfast Noon nuclear exercise began on 13 October 2026.
39. France and the UK held their first joint airborne nuclear-strike exercise in October.
40. The 12 October Russia–Ukraine "energy ceasefire" collapsed within days.

SELF-TEST

Quiz: Test Your Knowledge

Twenty multiple-choice questions covering every section of this edition. Answers appear on the next page — no peeking!

Q1. Who won Brazil’s presidential runoff on 25 October 2026?

A) Flávio Bolsonaro
B) Fernando Haddad
C) Lula da Silva
D) Tarcísio de Freitas

Q2. Roughly what share of the vote did the winner of Brazil’s runoff receive?

A) 48.2%
B) 51.8%
C) 55%
D) 60%

Q3. Which country voted on 27 October 2026 in its first election since 7 October 2023?

A) Lebanon
B) Iran
C) Egypt
D) Israel

Q4. How many Knesset seats are needed to form a majority government?

A) 61
B) 51
C) 60
D) 70

Q5. Where was the third Russia–Africa summit held on 28–29 October 2026?

A) St Petersburg
B) Sochi
C) Moscow
D) Addis Ababa

Q6. In which city did the EU and Canada hold their October 2026 summit?

A) Montreal
B) Ottawa
C) Brussels
D) Toronto

Q7. Which American did Russia free during Steve Witkoff’s 21 October visit?

A) Paul Whelan
B) Brittney Griner
C) Evan Gershkovich
D) Stephen Hubbard

Q8. Who won the 2026 Nobel Peace Prize?

A) María Corina Machado
B) Navi Pillay
C) Volodymyr Zelensky
D) Greta Thunberg

Q9. What is the Fed funds target range after the 28 October 2026 meeting?

A) 3.75%–4.00%
B) 3.50%–3.75%
C) 4.00%–4.25%
D) 4.25%–4.50%

Q10. What was the Fed's vote at its October 2026 meeting?

A) Unanimous
B) 9–3
C) 7–5
D) 10–2

Q11. What was US headline CPI inflation year over year in September 2026?

A) 3.4%
B) 3.7%
C) 4.1%
D) 2.6%

Q12. Around what level did Brent crude trade in late October 2026?

A) $85
B) $95
C) $115
D) $140

Q13. What 2026 global growth rate did the IMF project in October?

A) 3.1%
B) 2.5%
C) 3.4%
D) 3.8%

Q14. When does the IMF assume the Strait of Hormuz will reopen?

A) January 2027
B) October 2026
C) December 2027
D) March 2027

Q15. What is India's repo rate after the RBI's 7 October 2026 hike?

A) 5.00%
B) 5.50%
C) 5.25%
D) 6.00%

Q16. What was China's third-quarter 2026 GDP growth?

A) 4.5%
B) 4.3%
C) 5.2%
D) 3.8%

Q17. Which Ukrainian city was covered by the limited ceasefire that began on 27 October?

A) Kherson city
B) Kharkiv
C) Oleshky
D) Zaporizhzhia

Q18. Which two countries held a first joint airborne nuclear-strike exercise in October 2026?

A) US and the UK
B) France and Germany
C) UK and Poland
D) France and the UK

Q19. What did Iran’s Revolutionary Guards declare on 26 October 2026?

A) A ceasefire with Israel
B) The Strait of Hormuz closed
C) A withdrawal from talks
D) Control of Bab el-Mandeb

Q20. What is the name of NATO’s annual nuclear exercise that began on 13 October 2026?

A) Steadfast Defender
B) Baltic Shield
C) Steadfast Noon
D) Northern Strike

ANSWER KEY

Answer Key

Q1 – C	Q2 – B	Q3 – D	Q4 – A
Q5 – C	Q6 – A	Q7 – D	Q8 – B
Q9 – A	Q10 – D	Q11 – B	Q12 – C
Q13 – A	Q14 – D	Q15 – B	Q16 – A
Q17 – C	Q18 – D	Q19 – B	Q20 – C



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Srittam writes StrategicWorld360's Monthly Global Current Affairs briefing, distilling the month's essential developments in international relations, the world economy, and geopolitics into a curated format. The goal behind every edition is the same as the site's tagline: Think beyond headlines.

SOURCES

Public reporting including Reuters, AP, Al Jazeera, Bloomberg, CNBC, NPR, the IMF, the Federal Reserve, the US Treasury, the Council of the EU, USNI News and the Carnegie Endowment, current as of 30 October 2026. This briefing is for general informational and educational purposes and does not constitute financial or legal advice.