



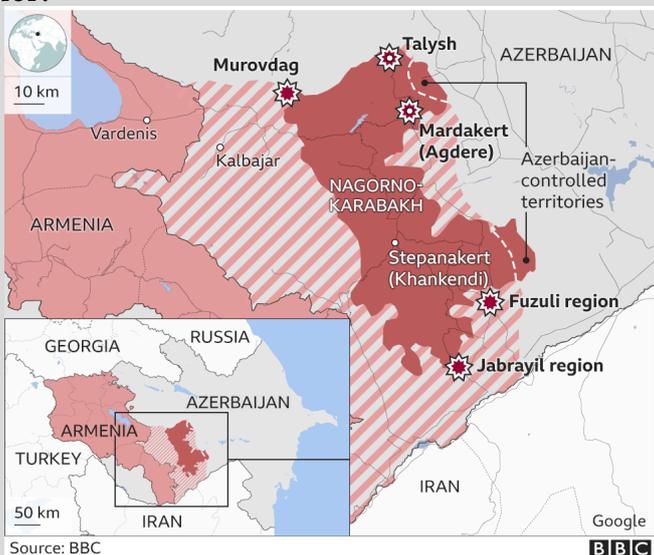
STATECRAFT WEEKLY

11th of October 2020

UN Secretary General begs for cessation of hostilities after fresh outbreak

- Shivank Singh Chauhan

The former border spat seems likely to grind on into the third week of constant hostilities. Antony Guterres, the UN Secretary General has repeated his concerns regarding the possibility of extension with multiple countries such as Israel and Turkey looking all set to join in to provide at least nominal support to either side. The recently negotiated cease fire agreement seems to have little to no effect on the scale or intensity of the conflict with both sides releasing statements to the intention of achieving an absolute military victory over the other.



Escalation in Nagorno Karabakh: Ceasefire breached overnight?

- Abhishek Sudke

The two weeks of fighting in the Nagorno-Karabakh region between Armenia and Azerbaijan showed a hint of hope when the Russian Federation stepped in to negotiate a ceasefire and following 10 hours of negotiations between the foreign ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan, the ceasefire was signed between the two states. However, Putin's efforts in brokering peace seems to have gone in vain with Azerbaijan accusing Armenia of shelling large cities overnight. All eyes on Putin's diplomatic prowess as peace in the Southern Caucasus is threatened once again.

PM Ardern stamps out Coronavirus ahead of the re-election bid

- Askshit Aryan



New Zealand moved to lift the last of its restrictions in Auckland following 10 solid days with no new cases linked to a cluster that first surfaced in August in the commercial city. The government will now allow unrestricted gatherings, and trips on public transit without social distancing or masks in the city of 1.6 million people. Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, who is facing re-election next week, called the reopening a validation of the country's "go hard, go early" response. In the debate, President Trump insisted that the pandemic will be "gone" by warm weather, but before weather could change, it seems the coronavirus' position on affecting the President sure did.

The North Korean night-time military parade: Key highlights

- Aditi Hari Ramani

North Korean Leader, Kim Jong Un, attended a military parade on the 10th of October. The highlight of the parade was Kim's address where he thanked the troops for preventing a coronavirus outbreak and protecting North Korea from natural disasters. A new missile showed off in the parade has become a matter of concern for many as it's a clear threat to the US Defences and would be a challenge for the American government.



Caste supremacy and the Supreme court

- Sarthak Singhal

Amid rising tensions across the country due to the caste violence in the Hathras rape case, the Supreme court on Thursday allowed the three doctors accused in the death by suicide of Payal Tadvi, to continue their medical degree in BYL Nair Hospital. Payal was a member of the scheduled Muslim Tadvi Bhil tribe and was a victim of caste-based harassment and discrimination from three of her seniors at the hospital. The order was passed despite opposition from Payal's family and the Maharashtra state administration.



Rape: India's self made plague that is growing.

- Gowtham Srinivas

Rape cases have been dramatically increasing over the last few years. The latest government data pegged a 7.3% increase from 2018-2019. However the conviction rate for the same cases continues to be as low as 28%. For every 100 men accused of rape, the law punishes only 28. That number doesn't seem to add up does it ?

Genome Editing as a new epoch: CRISPR and the Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2020

- Kunal Panda



Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer Doudna won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry this year “for the development of a method for genome editing”, a rare sight, to witness two women bagging the top science prize in the world. Their scientific discoveries and developments in CRISPR, or "clusters of regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats" is a paradigm shift for genetics and allied disciplines. The usage of CRISPR was first witnessed in prokaryotic cells as a form of acquired immunity from invasive viral RNA, as the Cas9 protein acts like “genetic scissors” to literally cut RNA strands. The two scientists proved that the protein could be controlled so that they can cut any DNA molecule at a predetermined site. Where the DNA is cut it is then easy to rewrite the code of life.