

# CLAWS Newsletter



Faultlines: Africa and Latin America | Volume I | Issue No. 02

By Janavi Mohanraj Jagajothi

## AFRICA

### SECURITY & GEOPOLITICAL

#### **25 May ([AllAfrica](#)): Botswana President Calls for Zero Tolerance on Gender-Based Violence in Military**

Botswana President Duma Boko has urged members of the Botswana Defence Force (BDF) to adopt a zero-tolerance approach towards gender-based violence, emphasising discipline, restraint, and professionalism. Speaking at the 21<sup>st</sup> BDF Strategic Conference, Boko stressed that personal disputes should never escalate into violence, particularly against women and children. He also raised concerns about military housing shortages and the financial insecurity faced by retired service personnel, proposing initiatives to improve accommodation and create post-service employment opportunities. The conference focused on strengthening institutional resilience and maintaining an effective defence force amid fiscal constraints.

#### **03 June ([Reuters](#)): Five Countries Elected to UN Security Council for 2027–2028 Term**

The United Nations General Assembly elected Austria, Kyrgyzstan, Portugal, Trinidad and Tobago, and Zimbabwe as non-permanent members of the UN Security Council for two-year terms beginning on 1 January 2027. Zimbabwe secured the African seat, replacing Somalia, while Kyrgyzstan won its first-ever Security Council seat after defeating the Philippines in multiple voting rounds. Germany failed to secure one of the Western European and Others Group seats despite an active campaign. The new members will join Bahrain, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Latvia, and Liberia, which continue serving until the end of 2027.

#### **20 June ([UN News](#)): Security Council Warns of Atrocity Risk in Sudan's El Obeid**

The United Nations Security Council has expressed alarm over reports of major Rapid Support Forces (RSF) reinforcements around El Obeid, warning of an imminent risk of mass atrocities if a ground offensive is launched. Council members called on the RSF to halt military operations and urged all parties to cease hostilities and uphold their obligations under international humanitarian law. The Security Council also raised concerns over increasing drone attacks and the worsening humanitarian crisis across Sudan. Members reiterated calls for unhindered humanitarian access and warned against external interference that could further fuel instability.

**21 June (Reuters): Abiy Ahmed's Party Secures Another Dominant Electoral Victory**

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's Prosperity Party has won a commanding majority in the country's parliamentary elections, securing 438 seats and reinforcing its dominance in national politics. The outcome was widely expected amid a fragmented opposition landscape. However, voting did not take place in the Tigray region and parts of Amhara due to ongoing instability and security concerns. While the government has highlighted strong economic growth and development achievements, the election unfolded against the backdrop of continuing insurgencies, ethnic tensions, and concerns raised by opposition groups regarding political freedoms and electoral competition.

**22 June (AllAfrica): Somalia Moves to Strengthen Submarine Cable Infrastructure**

Somalia's National Communications Authority (NCA), in partnership with the International Finance Corporation (IFC), convened the first Somalia Submarine Cable Landing Technical Working Group Workshop to enhance the resilience and reliability of the country's broadband infrastructure. The two-day meeting brought together telecommunications operators, internet service providers, and technical experts to address challenges related to cable outages, competition, infrastructure development, and regulatory implementation. Stakeholders also reviewed findings from a recent telecommunications market assessment. The initiative reflects Somalia's efforts to strengthen digital connectivity and support long-term economic growth through improved communications infrastructure.

**22 June (AllAfrica): Global Ebola Cases Surpass 1,000 as DRC Outbreak Intensifies**

Global confirmed Ebola cases have exceeded 1,000 as the outbreak in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo continues to expand, prompting increased efforts by United Nations agencies to contain the disease. UNICEF reported that children account for a significant share of infections and fatalities, with many losing parents to the virus. Meanwhile, the World Health Organization has established an Ebola isolation and treatment facility at Bunia Central Prison to strengthen preparedness and reduce transmission risks. UN agencies have called for greater humanitarian access and additional funding to support response efforts in affected communities.

**23 June (Le Monde): Amnesty Criticises EU-Libya Migration Cooperation**

Amnesty International has criticised the European Union's efforts to expand migration cooperation with Libya, warning that such engagement risks enabling ongoing human rights abuses against migrants. The organisation accused both Libya's internationally recognised

government and rival eastern authorities of intensifying crackdowns on refugees and migrants through mass arrests, arbitrary detention, and forced expulsions. Amnesty argued that deeper EU cooperation, including plans to strengthen maritime coordination capacities, could further implicate European institutions in abuses already documented by international organisations. The criticism highlights continuing tensions between migration management objectives and human rights concerns in the Mediterranean region.

#### **24 June (BBC): UNAIDS Warns US Funding Cuts Threaten South Africa's HIV Response**

UNAIDS has warned that the United States' decision to withdraw HIV/AIDS funding from South Africa could undermine years of progress in combating the epidemic. The funding reduction affects programmes previously supported through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), which contributed significantly to prevention and community outreach efforts. UNAIDS Executive Director Winnie Byanyima urged Washington to reconsider the move, warning that vulnerable populations could be disproportionately affected. South African authorities stated that efforts toward greater self-reliance were already underway, although concerns remain over the potential impact on healthcare services and HIV prevention programmes.

### **POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS**

#### **02 June (Le Monde): France Inaugurates Memorial to Victims of the Rwandan Genocide**

France and Rwanda marked a significant moment in their evolving relationship with the inauguration of a memorial in Paris dedicated to the victims of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi. Unveiled by French President Emmanuel Macron and Rwandan President Paul Kagame, the memorial features a double stele created by artist Grada Kilomba and honours more than one million victims killed during the genocide. Located along the Seine, the monument reflects ongoing efforts to preserve historical memory, promote reconciliation, and acknowledge one of the darkest chapters in modern African history.

#### **04 June (ANGOP): Angola Secures Seat on UN Economic and Social Council**

Angola has been elected to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for the 2027–2029 term, receiving overwhelming support from UN member states. The election reflects international recognition of Angola's contributions to sustainable development, multilateral cooperation, human rights, and peacebuilding. As a member of ECOSOC, Angola will participate in shaping global policies on development, education, health, gender equality,

and international cooperation. The new mandate also strengthens Angola's ability to advocate for African priorities, including the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda and the African Union's Agenda 2063.

**17 June ([Parliament of South Africa](#)): Migration Takes Centre Stage at Commonwealth Africa Parliamentary Conference**

Migration emerged as a key theme at the 19th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth Africa Region (CSPOC Africa) in South Africa. Addressing delegates on behalf of President Cyril Ramaphosa, Minister Ronald Lamola urged African legislatures to hold governments accountable for addressing the root causes of migration, including unemployment, economic stagnation, conflict, and weak regional integration. He condemned violence against migrants and refugees, reaffirmed South Africa's constitutional commitment to human rights, and highlighted the importance of regional economic initiatives such as the African Continental Free Trade Area in creating opportunities across the continent.

**19 June ([Saxafi Media](#)): Somaliland Seeks Greater International Recognition Through Israel Ties**

Somaliland President Abdirahman Mohamed Abdillahi received the Friends of Zion Award in Jerusalem during a visit aimed at strengthening relations with Israel and advancing Somaliland's international recognition campaign. The visit followed the inauguration of Somaliland's embassy in Jerusalem and high-level meetings with Israeli officials on cooperation in trade, technology, security, and infrastructure. During the event, Friends of Zion founder Mike Evans pledged to advocate for formal United States recognition of Somaliland. Somaliland officials expressed hope that growing diplomatic ties with Israel could support broader efforts to secure international recognition and expand global partnerships.

**20 June ([ANGOP](#)): Angola and UK Deepen Human Rights Cooperation**

Angola and the United Kingdom have reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening cooperation on human rights through discussions between their permanent representatives in Geneva. The meeting focused on multilateral cooperation within the United Nations system and global human rights challenges, particularly as Angola begins its 2026–2028 term on the UN Human Rights Council. Angola reiterated its support for constructive dialogue and peaceful conflict resolution, while the United Kingdom emphasized issues related to the

protection of women and youth and expressed interest in expanding cooperation with African partners, particularly Angola.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

### **25 May ([AllAfrica](#)): Botswana Pushes Economic Diversification Amid Diamond Sector Downturn**

President Duma Boko has called for bold economic reforms and deeper private-sector participation as Botswana confronts mounting economic pressures caused by declining global demand for diamonds. Speaking at the Botswana–South Africa Business Forum, Boko urged businesses to support economic diversification through public-private partnerships, infrastructure investment, innovation, and local sourcing initiatives. He also highlighted the importance of reducing dependence on mining by expanding sectors such as tourism, manufacturing, ICT, and regional finance. The appeal comes amid slowing economic growth, a sovereign credit rating downgrade, and ongoing efforts to strengthen Botswana's long-term economic resilience.

### **01 June ([Korea.net](#)): Korea-Africa Foreign Ministers' Meeting Strengthens Strategic Cooperation**

South Korea hosted the Korea-Africa Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Seoul, bringing together representatives from 50 African countries and key continental organisations, including the African Union and African Development Bank. The discussions focused on strengthening economic cooperation, sustainable growth, and joint responses to global challenges such as supply chain disruptions and development financing. The meeting forms part of Seoul's broader diplomatic diversification strategy and efforts to expand engagement with Africa. Officials also explored opportunities for increased trade, investment, infrastructure cooperation, and collaboration on emerging global issues, reflecting growing Korea-Africa strategic relations.

### **09 June ([Reuters](#)): IMF Approves \$250 Million Credit Facility for Rwanda**

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved a new \$250 million Extended Credit Facility for Rwanda to help the country navigate tightening global financial conditions while safeguarding social and development spending. The 38-month programme includes an immediate disbursement of \$35.7 million and is intended to support macroeconomic stability amid rising fiscal pressures. Although Rwanda's economy expanded by 9.4% in 2025, growth is expected to moderate in 2026 due to higher global oil and fertiliser prices linked to ongoing

geopolitical tensions. The IMF also encouraged fiscal reforms and stronger revenue mobilisation.

**11 June ([Human Rights Watch](#)): Rights Groups Urge Accountability in US-Backed Mining Investments in DR Congo**

Human Rights Watch and Resource Matters have called on the United States and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to address corruption and human rights concerns as Washington expands investment in the country's critical minerals sector. The appeal follows the US Development Finance Corporation's decision to increase funding for the Orion Critical Mineral Consortium, which is pursuing major mining investments in Congo. Rights groups warned that sustainable economic development requires stronger transparency measures, community consultation, and accountability mechanisms. They also opposed any easing of sanctions on individuals previously accused of benefiting from corrupt mining arrangements.

**17 June ([Reuters](#)): NDB Approves \$1 Billion for South African Urban Infrastructure**

The New Development Bank (NDB), established by BRICS nations, has approved a loan of up to \$1 billion to support urban infrastructure development in South Africa. The funding will be directed toward eight metropolitan municipalities, including Johannesburg, Cape Town, Tshwane, and eThekweni, to improve essential services such as water supply, sanitation, electricity distribution, and waste management. The programme aims to strengthen urban resilience and enhance service delivery in rapidly growing urban centres. The investment reflects the NDB's continued focus on financing infrastructure and sustainable development projects across emerging economies.

**17 June ([Associated Press](#)): Fifteen Countries Adopt Mombasa Declaration Against Illegal Fishing**

Fifteen countries from Africa, Asia, Europe, the Caribbean, and the Pacific have adopted the Mombasa Declaration, committing to stronger measures against illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing. Agreed during the 11th Our Ocean Conference in Kenya, the declaration calls for improved transparency regarding vessel ownership, licensing, and fishing activities, alongside enhanced international data-sharing mechanisms. Signatories emphasized that illegal fishing poses a significant threat to marine ecosystems, food security, and the livelihoods of coastal communities. The initiative seeks to strengthen enforcement efforts and promote sustainable management of global fisheries resources.

## **20 June ([TheStar](#)): Zimbabwe Seeks AIIB Membership to Support Infrastructure Development**

Zimbabwe has formally applied to join the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), marking a significant step in its efforts to expand access to development financing and strengthen international economic partnerships. During engagements with AIIB officials in Beijing, Zimbabwe highlighted priorities including climate-resilient infrastructure, water systems, sustainable energy, and regional connectivity. The move aligns with Harare's broader strategy to restore financial credibility and re-engage international financial institutions after decades of limited access to global capital markets. Membership could provide new opportunities for infrastructure investment and long-term economic development.

### **ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE**

## **1 June ([SA News](#)): South Africa Reaffirms Clean Air as a Fundamental Human Right**

South Africa has renewed its commitment to tackling air pollution, with Deputy Minister Bernice Swarts describing clean air as a constitutional and human rights imperative. Speaking at a government-civil society dialogue on air quality in the Highveld Priority Area, she stressed that pollution remains a major public health and social justice challenge. Swarts acknowledged concerns regarding emissions from industry, transport, waste burning, and domestic fuel use, while calling for stronger cooperation between government, communities, and civil society. The initiative aligns with broader efforts to improve environmental governance and protect vulnerable populations from the effects of pollution.

## **23 June ([SA News](#)): South Africa Launches Ambitious Ten Million Trees Campaign**

South Africa has announced a nationwide initiative to plant ten million trees on Heritage Day, 24 September 2026, as part of President Cyril Ramaphosa's One Billion Trees Programme. Led by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, the campaign seeks to mobilise government institutions, businesses, communities, and civil society in support of climate action and environmental restoration. Building on the success of the 2025 tree-planting drive, the initiative aims to enhance climate resilience, promote sustainable development, and generate economic opportunities through greening projects, while encouraging broad public participation across all provinces.

## LATIN AMERICA

### SECURITY & GEOPOLITICAL

#### **11 June (Reuters): White House Defends Cuba Sanctions Amid UN Human Rights Concerns**

The Trump administration has defended its sanctions policy towards Cuba after the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights warned that US measures were causing widespread hardship for the Cuban population. The sanctions, which target Cuban officials, state entities, and broader economic sectors, have been linked to disruptions in access to essential goods and services, including food, healthcare, and energy supplies. While Washington maintains that the measures are directed at Cuba's leadership and national security concerns, UN officials argue that their broader humanitarian impact raises significant human rights concerns. The issue highlights continuing tensions between US pressure campaigns and international criticism of their social consequences.

#### **13 June (ABC News): US Strike Kills Tren de Aragua Leader, Trump Announces**

US President Donald Trump announced that Héctor Rusthenford Guerrero, widely known as "Niño Guerrero" and the leader of the Venezuelan criminal organisation Tren de Aragua, was killed in a US military strike. According to Trump, the operation was conducted by US Southern Command in coordination with Venezuelan authorities and was presented as retaliation for crimes attributed to gang members operating in the United States. Guerrero had previously been indicted on terrorism-related charges in the US. The operation reflects Washington's expanding use of military force against transnational criminal organisations, though such actions continue to generate legal and human rights concerns.

#### **17 June (Reuters): ELN Signals Openness to Peace Talks While Preparing for Continued Conflict**

Colombia's National Liberation Army (ELN) has expressed willingness to engage in peace negotiations with the country's next president, while insisting it is capable of withstanding any renewed military offensive. Speaking from the Chocó region, an ELN commander stated that the group would pursue dialogue if political space is offered but would continue armed confrontation if not. The statement comes ahead of Colombia's presidential transition and highlights the enduring challenge posed by armed groups despite years of peace efforts. The

ELN also indicated that kidnappings and taxation of illicit economic activities would remain key sources of financing, underscoring the complexities facing any future peace process.

### **18 June ([Associated Press](#)): Jamaica Considers Agreement to Accept Third-Country Migrants from the United States**

Jamaica is in discussions with the United States regarding a framework to accept third-country migrants deported from the US as part of Washington's broader immigration enforcement strategy. According to Jamaican officials, the proposed arrangement would allow the island to receive up to 25 non-Jamaican deportees every two weeks under a managed transit process. The proposal has generated domestic political debate, with opposition leaders raising concerns over security, social infrastructure, and transparency. The discussions reflect a broader trend of Caribbean states negotiating migration arrangements with the United States amid evolving regional migration dynamics.

## **POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS**

### **22 June ([Reuters](#)): De La Espriella Declared Victory in Tight Colombian Presidential Runoff**

Right-wing candidate Abelardo De La Espriella has declared victory in Colombia's presidential runoff after securing a narrow lead over left-wing rival Iván Cepeda. Campaigning on promises of stronger security measures, economic liberalisation, and expanded oil and gas development, De La Espriella capitalised on public concerns over crime and economic performance. While the result signals a significant political shift from the outgoing administration of President Gustavo Petro, the close margin and divided Congress are expected to constrain the implementation of some campaign pledges. Final verification of the election results remains subject to Colombia's electoral procedures.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS**

### **17 June ([Reuters](#)): Argentina Records \$1.34 Billion Fiscal Surplus in May**

Argentina posted a primary fiscal surplus of 1.924 trillion pesos (approximately \$1.34 billion) in May 2026, according to Economy Minister Luis Caputo. The figure represents a substantial increase from the 632.8 billion peso surplus recorded in April, reflecting the government's continued emphasis on fiscal discipline under President Javier Milei's economic reform programme. The result is likely to reinforce investor confidence in Argentina's efforts to

stabilise public finances, reduce inflationary pressures, and restore macroeconomic credibility after years of fiscal imbalances and economic volatility.

**17 June (Reuters): World Bank Approves \$2 Billion Financing Support Package for Argentina**

The World Bank Group has approved a guarantee-backed financing package designed to help Argentina mobilise up to \$2 billion in commercial loans while reducing borrowing costs and strengthening public debt management. The package combines guarantees from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), supporting a six-year commercial loan with a three-year grace period. The initiative is expected to improve Argentina's access to international financing and support broader efforts to stabilise the economy amid ongoing fiscal and financial reforms.

**19 June (The News International): Argentina Eases Biotech Patent Rules to Boost Innovation and AI Investment**

Argentina has repealed Resolution 283/15, removing restrictions on the patenting of biotechnological innovations in a move aimed at attracting investment and aligning the country with international standards. The government stated that the reform will create a more predictable regulatory environment, particularly benefiting the agricultural biotechnology sector. The decision follows recent proposals by the Milei administration to position Argentina as a global hub for artificial intelligence through low taxation and minimal regulation, including the introduction of a framework for AI-run "non-human corporations." The reforms reflect Argentina's broader strategy to attract technology-driven investment and strengthen innovation-led growth.

**20 June (CTV News): Canada, US and Mexico Set for First CUSMA Review Meeting**

Canada, the United States, and Mexico will hold their first trilateral review meeting of the Canada-United States-Mexico Agreement (CUSMA) on 1 July, marking the beginning of a key assessment of North America's principal trade framework. The discussions will determine whether the agreement is extended, renegotiated, or subjected to an annual review process. While Canada and Mexico have expressed support for extending the pact, uncertainty remains over Washington's position. The meeting comes amid ongoing bilateral trade discussions and

reflects broader efforts to maintain regional economic integration amid evolving political and economic priorities across North America.

**22 June (Reuters): EU Deepens Critical Minerals Partnership with Brazil**

The European Union is strengthening cooperation with Brazil as part of its strategy to diversify critical mineral supply chains and reduce dependence on traditional suppliers. During a visit to Minas Gerais, EU Commissioner for International Partnerships Jozef Síkela highlighted Brazil's importance as a strategic partner, particularly in rare earth processing and value-added mineral production. The partnership aims to support local refining capacity, technology transfer, and sustainable mining practices while securing long-term supplies of critical minerals for European industries. The initiative reflects growing competition among major economies to secure access to resources essential for clean energy technologies and advanced manufacturing.

**INFRASTRUCTURE, TECHNOLOGY & ENERGY**

**08 June (Reuters): Brazil's Embraer Sees Eventual Breakthrough for E2 Jets in China**

Brazilian aircraft manufacturer Embraer remains optimistic about securing a foothold for its E190-E2 and E195-E2 aircraft in the Chinese market. Embraer Commercial Aviation CEO Arjan Meijer stated that the E2 family would complement China's domestically produced C909 and C919 aircraft by filling the gap between regional and narrow-body segments. Although the company has struggled to expand its commercial presence in China since the closure of its Harbin joint venture in 2016, Embraer continues discussions with potential customers and highlights that the E2 family has already received Chinese certification. The company views China as a long-term opportunity while remaining focused on aircraft seating up to 150 passengers.

**12 June (European Commission): EU and Brazil Launch Digital Partnership**

The European Union and Brazil have elevated their digital cooperation through the signing of a new Digital Partnership aimed at strengthening collaboration in areas such as artificial intelligence, data governance, digital infrastructure, connectivity, online platforms, and digital public services. The agreement builds on decades of bilateral engagement and follows the adoption of mutual data adequacy decisions earlier this year, facilitating secure data exchanges between the two partners. The initiative seeks to promote resilient digital supply chains, inclusive digital transformation, and rules-based global digital governance while advancing technological cooperation between the EU and Latin America's largest economy.

**16 June (Reuters): BYD Expands Battery Production and Energy Storage Investments in Brazil**

Chinese electric vehicle manufacturer BYD is accelerating battery production in Brazil as part of its strategy to increase local manufacturing and strengthen its presence in Latin America's largest automotive market. The company aims to achieve 50 per cent domestic content in Brazilian-made vehicles by 2027 and is preparing to invest up to 500 million reais in Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) production. The expansion is expected to support Brazil's growing renewable energy sector by improving grid storage capacity while advancing the localisation of electric vehicle supply chains. The move further reinforces Brazil's role as a key destination for global clean energy and automotive investments.

**BRICS**

**05 June (MEA): BRICS Foreign Policy Dialogue Focuses on Resilience and Global Governance Reform**

India hosted the 11th BRICS Foreign Policy Dialogue in New Delhi, bringing together policy planning officials and senior representatives from the expanded BRICS membership. Discussions centred on future global challenges, institutional resilience, emerging technologies, climate action, energy transition, and reforms of global governance structures. Participants also examined opportunities for strengthening cooperation through innovation, sustainability, and people-centric development initiatives. Held under India's 2026 BRICS Chairship, the dialogue provided a platform for members to exchange perspectives on the evolving international landscape and the role of BRICS in shaping future multilateral cooperation.

**21 June (PIB): BRICS MSME Forum Calls for Stronger Economic Cooperation**

India hosted the first BRICS MSME Forum and the Third SME Working Group Meeting in Agra under the theme of resilience, innovation, cooperation, and sustainability. Representatives from BRICS member and partner countries discussed strategies to strengthen small and medium enterprises through improved access to finance, technology adoption, digital transformation, sustainability, and market integration. Participants emphasised the role of MSMEs in driving economic growth, employment, and innovation across developing economies. The forum highlighted the importance of deeper cooperation among BRICS nations to build more resilient and globally competitive MSME ecosystems.

### **21 June (PIB): India to Host 11th BRICS Energy Ministers' Meeting**

India will host the 11th BRICS Energy Ministers' Meeting in Gurugram on 25–26 June 2026 under its BRICS Chairship, bringing together energy ministers and senior officials from all member states. Guided by the theme "Energy for All," discussions will focus on energy security, sustainability, universal access, and technological innovation. India aims to advance cooperation on resilient energy systems, clean energy transitions, and supply chain security while showcasing its achievements in renewable energy, smart grids, biofuels, and energy storage. The meeting is expected to strengthen collaboration among BRICS countries on shared energy challenges and sustainable development goals.

## **INDIA — BILATERAL ENGAGEMENTS WITH AFRICA & LATIN AMERICA**

### **02 June (MEA): India Extends Medical Assistance for Africa's Ebola Response**

India has provided urgent medical assistance to support Africa-led efforts to contain the ongoing Ebola outbreak following a request from the African Union Commission. The first tranche of aid, consisting of approximately 2.5 tonnes of medical supplies, was delivered to Uganda in May, followed by a second shipment of 43 tonnes of protective equipment, diagnostic devices, medicines, and infection-prevention supplies. The assistance is intended to strengthen the response capacity of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC). The initiative reflects India's continued commitment to supporting public health and emergency response efforts across Africa.

### **03 June (PIB): India and South Africa Expand Cooperation in Emerging Technologies**

India and South Africa have agreed to deepen bilateral cooperation in emerging technologies, with artificial intelligence, digital infrastructure, and advanced manufacturing identified as priority areas. During high-level talks in New Delhi, both sides explored opportunities for collaboration in quantum technologies, biotechnology, renewable energy, health sciences, and innovation-driven research. The discussions also highlighted cooperation through multilateral platforms such as BRICS, IBSA, and the G20. Building on a long-standing science and technology partnership, the two countries reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening innovation ecosystems, research collaboration, and technology-based solutions to support sustainable development.

**04 June (Reuters): India and Venezuela Seek to Deepen Energy Cooperation Amid Gulf Crisis**

India and Venezuela moved to strengthen energy cooperation during the visit of Venezuelan Interim President Delcy Rodríguez to New Delhi. Discussions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi focused on both upstream and downstream energy projects, with India describing Venezuela as a preferred energy partner. The talks come as India faces supply vulnerabilities linked to disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz caused by the Middle East crisis. Venezuela has re-emerged as a significant crude supplier to India following the easing of US sanctions, with Indian imports reaching 427,000 barrels per day in May. Rodríguez's visit also included planned engagements with Indian refiners and energy sector leaders.

**22 June (ANI): Argentina Pushes for Expanded Trade Pact with India to Deepen MERCOSUR Ties**

Argentina has called for the expansion of the existing Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) between India and MERCOSUR, signalling its intention to strengthen economic engagement with New Delhi. Buenos Aires views India as a key strategic partner and is seeking broader market access, deeper trade cooperation, and enhanced investment flows within the MERCOSUR framework. The initiative reflects growing Latin American interest in diversifying trade partnerships and strengthening South-South economic cooperation.



## **About the Author**

Janavi MOHNRAJ JAGAJOTHI is currently serving as a Research Assistant at the Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS), New Delhi. Her research primarily focuses on Africa, Latin America, and Energy Security, with particular interest in strategic affairs, geopolitical developments, and India's evolving external engagements with the Global South. She is motivated to pursue her doctoral studies in the field of International Relations and Strategic Studies. Prior to joining CLAWS, she was an Erasmus+ ICM scholarship holder and undertook an academic exchange at the Université Catholique de Lille, France. She completed her Master's in International Relations from Loyola College, Chennai, where she developed a strong academic foundation in international security, foreign policy analysis, political communication, area studies, and International Relations theory. With a multidisciplinary academic background and a focus on contemporary global strategic dynamics, Janavi brings analytical depth to her work on Africa, Latin America, energy policy, and broader geopolitical and security issues.

All Rights Reserved 2026 Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS)

No part of this publication may be reproduced, copied, archived, retained or transmitted through print, speech or electronic media without prior written approval from CLAWS. The views expressed and suggestions made in the article are solely of the author in his personal capacity and do not have any official endorsement. Attributability of the contents lies purely with author.