

CLAWS Newsletter



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by Khushboo Sen Dhuruv

The Atlantic Brief

September 2026 was dominated by heightened geopolitical and security tensions, particularly around Russia, Ukraine and Europe. European governments increased focus on Russian hybrid warfare, drones, sabotage and defence preparedness, while NATO expanded intelligence-sharing and the EU explored stronger collective security mechanisms. EU-Russia tensions also remained high over sanctions and frozen Russian assets. The U.S. remained central to global diplomacy, with Trump pursuing negotiations involving Russia, Ukraine, China and Middle Eastern states while simultaneously expanding sanctions and military partnerships. Washington also strengthened security and economic engagement across Latin America, including Venezuela, Ecuador and Peru. Russia faced growing fiscal pressure, lower gas-export expectations and new Western sanctions, while continuing military operations in Ukraine. Russian use of advanced drones added pressure on Ukrainian air defences. Meanwhile, trade and technology emerged as major strategic issues. The EU pursued closer ties with Canada and the Philippines, while debates intensified over AI safety, European industrial policy and data-center infrastructure. Across the Americas, Mexico, Canada and the U.S. focused heavily on trade negotiations and supply-chain realignment.

EUROPE

Foreign Policy

2 September (Reuters): EU Calls Leipzig Attack State-Sponsored Terrorism. EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said an attempted drone attack at Leipzig/Halle airport in Germany bore the hallmarks of state-sponsored terrorism and attributed responsibility to Russia, following a German government assessment. She called for stronger European coordination as concerns over Russian hybrid activities grow. EU ministers also discussed tightening sanctions against Moscow and increasing support for Ukraine amid continuing regional security tensions.

4 September (Euronews): EU Seeks to Sustain Enlargement Momentum After Iceland Rejects Accession Talks. The EU is seeking to maintain momentum on enlargement after Iceland narrowly rejected reopening accession talks. European officials stressed that the decision would not affect progress by candidate countries, including Montenegro, Albania,

Ukraine and Moldova. Brussels also plans reforms to integrate future members and strengthen safeguards against democratic and rule-of-law backsliding. Upcoming national elections could nevertheless pose political challenges to the bloc's expansion strategy.

5 September (Euronews): EU Considers New Custodian to Break Deadlock Over €210 Billion in Russian Assets. The EU is considering transferring €210 billion in frozen Russian sovereign assets from Belgium's Euroclear to an EU-controlled custodian to overcome Belgium's objections and unlock additional financial support for Ukraine. Belgium fears legal and financial risks from using the funds, while critics warn of reputational damage and market instability. Alternative proposals include using asset-generated revenues to back EU bonds without touching the principal.

16 September (Reuters): EU Opens Door to Canada as First "Associate Member. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen proposed making Canada the EU's first "associate member," seeking closer cooperation amid geopolitical and trade tensions. The proposal would expand collaboration in technology, defence, Arctic policy, raw materials and supply chains, but the status has no defined framework yet and would require agreement from EU member states. Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney welcomed deeper strategic cooperation.

21 September (Reuters): Germany's Political Centre Weakens as Merz Faces Pressure. Germany's recent state elections strengthened both the far-right AfD and far-left Left Party, highlighting growing voter dissatisfaction with mainstream parties. Chancellor Friedrich Merz's CDU suffered a historic setback, increasing pressure within his coalition with the SPD over proposed reforms. Merz rejected calls to step down. Meanwhile, debates are intensifying over the CDU's long-standing refusal to cooperate with the AfD.

24 September (Reuters): Denmark Warns Russia Could Intensify Hybrid Warfare. Denmark's Defence Intelligence Service warns that Russia is likely to intensify hybrid attacks against NATO and Western countries in the coming months, with potentially greater consequences. The assessment cites possible sabotage, cyberattacks and strikes against infrastructure supporting Ukraine. It also identifies a low but growing risk of a limited Russian military attack against NATO countries bordering Russia. Moscow has repeatedly denied involvement in hybrid warfare.

Military Affairs

1 September (Euronews): EU Brings Experts Together to Strengthen European Defence.

The EU is creating a high-level group of political and military leaders from EU countries, the UK and Ukraine to identify ways to close Europe's defence capability gaps. EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas said Europe must act faster as Russian threats increase and the US reduces its military presence. The group will draw on Ukraine's battlefield experience and provide concrete defence recommendations.

15 September (Euronews): France-Germany Rift Threatens EU Defence Ambitions.

France and Germany are divided over how Europe should strengthen its defence capabilities amid reduced US involvement, Russian pressure and growing geopolitical competition. France supports strategic autonomy and prioritising European defence industries, while Germany favours cooperation with NATO partners and US defence firms. Their differences are disrupting major joint projects, including fighter and tank programmes, complicating EU defence planning and weakening Europe's unified security strategy.

22 September (Times of India): Russia's 'Grey-Zone' Tactics Raise Alarm Across Europe.

European governments are increasingly concerned that Russia could use "grey-zone" tactics such as drones, cyberattacks, sabotage and ambiguous strikes to test NATO's response without triggering full-scale war. Recent warnings and military activity have heightened fears of attacks targeting Ukraine's supporters. Analysts say Moscow could exploit divisions within NATO, while European countries are strengthening air defences, infrastructure protection and preparedness against potential hybrid threats.

Economy and Trade

4 September (Euronews): EU Officials Push for New Europe-Wide Taxes to Fund €2

Trillion Budget. Senior EU officials are urging new EU-level taxes and revenue streams to finance the bloc's proposed €2 trillion budget for 2028–2034. France, Spain and EU institutions argue that greater resources are essential for competitiveness, security, defence and traditional policies. However, fiscally conservative member states oppose expanding the budget and question the revenue potential of new taxes. EU leaders aim to reach agreement by year-end.

23 September (AP News): EU and Philippines Reach Preliminary Free Trade Agreement.

The European Union and the Philippines have reached substantial agreement on a free trade

deal aimed at expanding their nearly €30 billion in annual trade. The agreement would create opportunities for exporters and investors while strengthening supply chains. Electronics dominate current trade, with the EU exporting aircraft, pharmaceuticals and pork and importing Philippine semiconductors and industrial machinery. Further negotiations and parliamentary ratification are required.

23 September (Politico): EU and UK Seek Closer Trade Ties in Brexit Reset. The EU and UK are seeking to deepen trade and economic cooperation as part of a post-Brexit “reset.” Discussions include reducing checks on food and agricultural goods, linking emissions-trading systems and creating a youth-mobility scheme. Brussels wants progress quickly, while UK officials say the government remains committed to agreements designed to reduce costs, expand opportunities and strengthen cooperation despite political changes in Britain.

24 September (Politico): EU Launches Effort to Stop Trump’s Proposed Diesel Export Ban. The European Union is seeking talks with the Trump administration over a proposed 90-day U.S. ban on diesel exports, warning that the measure could disrupt European fuel markets. EU officials said high-level contacts are underway and urged Washington to consult partners before actions affecting shared markets. The White House is considering the restriction as rising diesel prices put pressure on U.S. consumers and businesses.



Science and Technology

16 September (Reuters): EU’s von der Leyen to Invite AI Labs for Talks on AI Risks. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said she will invite leading frontier AI companies to discuss measures for managing risks from increasingly powerful models. She backed calls from some U.S. AI executives to slow development of advanced systems and said the EU would work with partners including Canada and the UK on model evaluation, verification, early warnings and AI security.

22 September (Euronews): Made in Europe’ Battery Rules Could Raise EV Prices. A new Bruegel report warns that proposed EU “Made in Europe” requirements for electric-vehicle batteries could raise the cost of a typical EV by around €2,100 if battery cells must be produced in the EU. The report argues that higher production costs could disproportionately affect cheaper models and consumers, while the EU seeks to strengthen domestic supply chains and reduce dependence on foreign suppliers

RUSSIA

Foreign Policy

11 September (Reuters): Modi and Putin Seek Stronger India-Russia Trade and Defence Ties. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin met in New Delhi to strengthen bilateral cooperation in trade, energy and defence. The leaders discussed disruptions to maritime trade caused by conflicts in Ukraine and West Asia and agreed to deepen their strategic partnership. India and Russia also aim to increase bilateral trade from nearly \$70 billion to \$100 billion by 2030.

17 September (Reuters): Russia Warns US Sanctions Could Hinder Ukraine Peace Efforts. Russia warned that new U.S. sanctions, if signed into law by President Donald Trump, could complicate efforts to reach a peace agreement in Ukraine. The sanctions package targets Russia's energy and defence sectors and its oil-shipping network. It also allows tariffs of up to 100% on countries including China and India buying Russian energy. Moscow described the measures as unfriendly actions.

21 September (Reuters): Kremlin Rejects French National Rally Warnings Over Russia. The Kremlin rejected criticism from France's National Rally leaders Marine Le Pen and Jordan Bardella, who said they would oppose any Russian attempts to influence French policy through threats or destabilization. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Russia poses no threat to France or other European countries and has no disputes with European states that could cause serious disagreements.

22 September (Reuters): Trump Set for UN Meetings as Iran and Ukraine Wars Dominate Agenda. U.S. President Donald Trump was scheduled to meet at least 11 world leaders during the UN General Assembly, with the conflicts in Iran and Ukraine central to discussions. His meetings included Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Gulf leaders and officials from Britain, Venezuela, Denmark and Greenland. Trump was also expected to address the Iran conflict, global security and U.S. foreign-policy priorities in his UN speech.

23 September (The News): Russia Signals No Immediate Path to Ukraine Peace Talks. Russia said there are currently no conditions for restarting formal peace negotiations with Ukraine, while maintaining that Moscow remains open to talks. The Kremlin reiterated that any Putin-Zelenskyy meeting would require Zelenskyy to travel to Moscow, a proposal Kyiv

has rejected. The statements came ahead of U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio's meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov in New York.

24 September (The Moscow Times): Kremlin Weighs U.S. Invitation for Putin to Attend G20 Summit. The Kremlin said it appreciates the U.S. invitation for President Vladimir Putin to attend the G20 summit in Miami in December and will consider it through diplomatic channels. Secretary of State Marco Rubio confirmed the invitation, saying it could allow Putin to meet President Donald Trump and other leaders. Moscow said no decision has been made and that discussions on a possible agenda are premature.

24 September (TASS): Russia Calls for Revision of UN Sanctions on North Korea. Russia is calling for a revision of the UN Security Council sanctions regime against North Korea, Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Rudenko said. He argued that the sanctions imposed under Resolution 1718 in 2006 have been ineffective and unfairly restricted North Korea's economy. Moscow said it will continue opposing efforts by the U.S. and its allies to use sanctions to pressure Pyongyang over nuclear disarmament.



Military Affairs

18 September (Reuters): Russia Summons UK Envoy Over Arms Supplies to Ukraine. Russia summoned Britain's chargé d'affaires in Moscow to formally protest what it called London's increased weapons supplies to Ukraine. Moscow accused the UK of becoming an accomplice to alleged Ukrainian war crimes, while Britain rejected the accusation and reaffirmed its military support for Kyiv. The incident comes amid severely strained Russia-UK relations, with Moscow currently lacking an ambassador in London.

18 September (AP News): Russia Protests US Typhon Missile Deployment in Japan. Russia has formally protested Japan's decision to host U.S.-made Typhon medium-range missile systems on Kyushu, saying the deployment threatens Russian security and regional stability. Moscow urged Tokyo to remove the systems and raised the issue with Japan's ambassador. The dispute comes amid tensions over the Kuril Islands, which are controlled by Russia but claimed by Japan, and continuing expansion of U.S.-Japan military.

22 September (Reuters): Jet-Powered Russian Drones Strain Ukraine's Air Defences. Russia's growing use of jet-powered Shahed drones is putting additional pressure on Ukraine's

air defences. The drones fly faster and at altitudes of up to 7 kilometres, limiting the effectiveness of some mobile defence teams. Ukraine says its interception rate has fallen to about 60%, from more than 90% for earlier models. Russia launched 2,100 such drones in the first three weeks of September.

24 September (TASS): Russia Reports Ukrainian Forces Encircled Near Dobropolye.

Russia's Defence Ministry said its Centre battlegroup is continuing operations against Ukrainian forces it claims are encircled near Dobropolye in Donetsk region and is advancing toward Aleksandrovka. Moscow said Ukrainian attempts to break the encirclement have been repelled and claimed daily Ukrainian losses of 30–50 personnel. The ministry described Dobropolye as strategically important for Russian operations and Ukrainian logistics in the Donbas.

24 September (Reuters): NATO Steps Up Intelligence Sharing Over Russia Threat.

NATO is increasing intelligence-sharing following a series of sabotage and other incidents apparently linked to Russia, Supreme Allied Commander Europe Alexis Grynkeuich told Reuters. He said a limited Russian attack on NATO territory was unlikely but could not be ruled out. The alliance is also adjusting command structures as European members assume greater security responsibilities, while the United States plans to retain critical but more limited capabilities.

Economy and Trade

21 September (Reuters): Russia's 2026 Budget Deficit Set to Reach 3% of GDP.

Russia's budget deficit is expected to reach 3% of GDP in 2026, nearly double the government's original target of 1.6%, Finance Minister Anton Siluanov said. The January-August deficit had already reached 2.5% of GDP. Moscow plans to increase borrowing and use reserve funds to cover additional spending, while higher oil prices are expected to boost revenues later this year.

23 September (The News): Russia Cuts Natural Gas Production and Export Forecasts.

Russia has lowered its forecasts for natural gas production and seaborne LNG exports, reflecting the long-term decline in pipeline deliveries to Europe. Gas production is now projected at 683.1 billion cubic meters in 2026, below an earlier estimate, while LNG exports are forecast at 35 million tons. Moscow is increasingly redirecting energy supplies toward Asian markets as European countries phase out Russian gas imports.

24 September (The Moscow Times): Russia Proposes New Tax Hikes to Fund 2027 Budget. Russia's Finance Ministry has submitted a 2027 budget draft projecting deficits of about 2% of GDP annually through 2029, while prioritizing defence and security spending. Proposed tax increases include higher rates on passive income, a 22% VAT on cross-border online purchases and new taxes on corporate windfalls. The measures come as Russia faces growing fiscal pressure from military spending and slowing economic growth.

Science and Technology

11 September (Reuters): Anthropic Disrupts Russian, Chinese AI Campaigns Targeting Claude. Anthropic said it disrupted efforts to misuse its Claude AI models for biological-weapons research, weapons development and cyber operations. The company linked one campaign targeting Ukrainian government, military and diplomatic officials to a Russian group associated with the SVR. Anthropic also accused seven China-based AI labs, including Alibaba, DeepSeek and Moonshot, of large-scale attempts to extract Claude's capabilities through illicit model distillation.

16 September (Reuters): Russia Calls for Treaty to Prevent Space Arms Race. Russia said there is still time to prevent an arms race in space, urging a legally binding treaty banning offensive weapons in orbit. The proposal follows the U.S. acknowledgment that it operates weapons in space to defend against space-based attacks. Moscow said it was monitoring U.S. capabilities and had not been notified about them. China has also warned that U.S. orbital weapons could fuel a wider arms race.

THE AMERICAS

NORTH AMERICA

Foreign Affairs

8 September (Reuters): Nicaragua Says German Arms Exports to Israel Violate International Law. Nicaragua told the International Court of Justice that Germany's arms exports to Israel violate the 1948 Genocide Convention and humanitarian law, urging the court to continue its case against Berlin. Germany has asked the ICJ to dismiss the case, arguing it

lacks jurisdiction. Nicaragua says Germany should have acted over what it described as a serious risk of genocide in Gaza.

18 September (Reuters): Trump-Xi Summit to Focus on Trade, Taiwan and AI. U.S. President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping are set to meet in Washington to address strained U.S.-China relations. Key issues include extending the tariff truce, Chinese purchases of U.S. agricultural products and Boeing aircraft, rare-earth exports, Taiwan, China's ties with Iran, fentanyl precursor flows and artificial intelligence. The leaders are also expected to discuss broader economic and national-security concerns.

19 September (Reuters): Trump Signs Russia Sanctions Bill Into Law. US President Donald Trump signed the Russia sanctions bill into law, enabling increased economic pressure over Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The legislation targets Russia's energy and defence sectors and its "shadow fleet" of tankers. It also authorizes tariffs on Russia's major trading partners, prompting criticism over potentially prolonged economic consequences. The law honours late Senator Lindsey Graham, its longtime advocate.

19 September (Reuters): US-China Summit: Xi Enters Talks With Strong Trade Momentum. Chinese President Xi Jinping heads to Washington for a September 24 summit with Donald Trump as China's exports and trade surplus remain strong despite US tariffs. The leaders are expected to focus on extending a trade truce, with limited breakthroughs anticipated. Taiwan, US-China trade, and China's relationship with Iran may also feature prominently, while Asian allies remain concerned about potential compromises involving Taiwan.

20 September (Reuters): Canada and France Strengthen Strategic Ties. Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney called for stronger ties with France to address emerging global threats. During talks with French President Emmanuel Macron in Saint Pierre and Miquelon, the two countries announced cooperation between their space agencies and defence ministries to develop space launch systems and ground reception facilities. The partnership reflects efforts to deepen strategic, defence and technological cooperation between Canada and France.

21 September (Reuters): Zelenskiy and Trump Agree to Meet in New York. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said he and U.S. President Donald Trump agreed to meet in New York during the UN General Assembly. Zelenskiy said discussions would focus on diplomatic efforts to end the war with Russia, including de-escalation, energy and food

security, and protecting lives. He described the talks as potentially significant and thanked Trump for recent U.S. diplomatic engagement and Russian sanctions.

22 September (Euronews): Trump-Zelenskyy Meet as EU Struggles Over Russia Sanctions. U.S. President Donald Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy are set to meet in New York during the UN General Assembly to discuss efforts to end the Russia-Ukraine war. Meanwhile, EU ambassadors have failed to agree on extending sanctions against Russia before the deadline. A dispute over removing two Russian businessmen from the sanctions list has complicated efforts to secure unanimous approval.

22 September (Reuters): Trump Uses UN Speech to Outline Foreign Policy Priorities. President Donald Trump used his UN General Assembly address to defend U.S. and Israeli military action against Iran, warning that he could destroy Iran if no peace deal is reached. He also said progress was possible on ending the Ukraine war, urged countries to leave the International Criminal Court, and promoted “super intelligence” as the U.S. government’s preferred term for artificial intelligence.

Military Affairs

17 September (Reuters): US Senator Urges Diplomats’ Role in Europe Troop Review. Democratic Senator Jeanne Shaheen has urged Secretary of State Marco Rubio to ensure U.S. diplomats participate in a Pentagon review of American military deployments in Europe. The review could consider withdrawing about 25,000 of the roughly 80,000 U.S. troops stationed there. Shaheen said ambassadors had been excluded from consultations, while a State Department official disputed that claim, saying diplomats were being consulted.

17 September (Reuters): US Approves Potential \$24.3 Billion F-35 Sale to Saudi Arabia. The U.S. State Department approved a potential \$24.3 billion sale of 48 F-35 fighter jets to Saudi Arabia, including engines, equipment and support. The deal still requires congressional approval. Saudi Arabia has sought the advanced aircraft to modernize its air force and counter regional threats, particularly Iran. The proposed sale could also affect the regional military balance and U.S. commitments to Israel’s military advantage.

19 September (Reuters): Canada Optimistic About Concluding Trade Deal With India by Year-End. Canada is optimistic about concluding negotiations on a Comprehensive

Economic Partnership Agreement with India by the end of 2026, Trade Minister Maninder Sidhu said. Indian negotiators are expected to visit Canada next month, while the two countries' leaders may meet at the December G20 summit. Discussions also cover LNG, nuclear energy and critical minerals, with Indian companies exploring investments in Canadian projects.

20 September (Reuters): Trump Plans Military Complex Inside Proposed Washington Arch. President Donald Trump said his proposed 250-foot triumphal arch near Arlington National Cemetery will also serve as a military complex for storing and deploying drones, positioning snipers and holding ammunition. Trump said the change was requested by the military and justified by national security. The project faces legal challenges from veterans and preservationists, while experts have questioned the military rationale and raised concerns about its location near Reagan National Airport.

21 September (Reuters): US Plans Two New Military Bases in Greenland. The United States plans to re-establish a Cold War-era military base at Narsarsuaq in southern Greenland and establish another at Mestersvig on the east coast, according to sources. The bases are part of a new security agreement with Denmark and Greenland, expected to be signed Tuesday. The deal follows months of US pressure over Greenland and aims to strengthen Arctic security under NATO.



Economy and Trade

3 September (Reuters): Analysts Raise Canadian Dollar Forecasts as Trade Tensions May Ease. A Reuters poll of 32 analysts found expectations that the Canadian dollar could weaken slightly over the next three months before strengthening over the following year if trade tensions with the United States ease. The Loonie was forecast at 1.39 per U.S. dollar in three months and 1.36 in 12 months. Analysts cited potential trade normalization, narrowing interest-rate differences and stronger Canadian investment.

10 September (Reuters): Canada Agrees \$350 Million Air defence Package for Ukraine. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy said air defences and preparations for winter were priorities during his visit to Canada. Following talks, Prime Minister Mark Carney announced a C\$350 million package to help Ukraine acquire air-defence interceptors, including potentially U.S.-made Patriot missiles. Canada also plans to expand drone production and provide nearly C\$435 million in loan guarantees to support Ukraine's energy security ahead of winter.

19 September (Reuters): Russia Sanctions Law Expands Trump's Tariff Powers. U.S. President Donald Trump has signed a Russia sanctions law giving him authority to impose tariffs of up to 100% on goods from major buyers of Russian oil and gas, including potentially China and India. The law also targets Russian officials, energy companies and sanctions-evasion networks. Critics say its broad language gives the president substantial discretion over future tariff actions, increasing uncertainty for global trade.

21 September (Reuters): How Trump and Xi Shifted from Tariff War to Trade Truce. The U.S. and China escalated into a major tariff war in 2025, with duties on both sides reaching triple-digit levels before negotiations produced a temporary truce. Since then, both governments have reduced some trade restrictions and resumed talks. President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping are now preparing for a Washington summit focused on extending the fragile truce, trade, rare earths and broader economic relations.

Science and Technology

12 September (Reuters): US Senate Weighs New AI Safety Requirements. U.S. Senate negotiators are considering legislation that would require advanced AI companies to adopt a "duty of care" to prevent catastrophic risks, including misuse involving nuclear or biological weapons. The proposal could give the federal government authority to block unsafe AI models, subject to court challenges. It may also pre-empt some state AI safety laws. Bipartisan negotiations remain ongoing ahead of the November elections.

19 September (Reuters): Trump Discusses Bill to Limit Data Centre Electricity Costs. President Donald Trump said he is discussing with Senate Majority Leader John Thune legislation aimed at protecting households from electricity cost increases linked to expanding data centres. The House passed the Ratepayer Protection Act by 417-3, requiring regulators to consider whether large power users should cover additional infrastructure costs. A Senate attempt to advance the measure quickly was blocked by Democratic Senator Martin Heinrich.

21 September (Reuters): Meta Data Centre Boosts Alberta's Appeal to Tech Giants. Meta's planned C\$13 billion data centre in Alberta is increasing the province's appeal to other hyperscale technology companies, according to Capital Power's CEO. More than 100 data centre projects have been proposed in Alberta, attracted by relatively inexpensive natural gas,

available land and a cold climate. Capital Power is discussing electricity supplies with several potential projects, while concerns remain about grid capacity and consumer electricity costs.

SOUTH AMERICA

Foreign Affairs

4 September (BBC): Argentina's Milei Threatens Sanctions on Oil Firms Over Falklands.

Argentine President Javier Milei reiterated Argentina's sovereignty claim over the Falkland Islands and threatened sanctions against oil companies operating around the British-controlled territory. Milei said Argentina would take measures against companies involved in offshore exploration and argued that changing international circumstances could strengthen Buenos Aires' position. The UK maintains sovereignty over the islands and has rejected Argentina's claims.

12 September (Reuters): Eduardo Bolsonaro to Push for U.S. Sanctions on Brazilian Justice.

Eduardo Bolsonaro said he will urge the United States to reinstate sanctions against Brazilian Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes under the Global Magnitsky Act during a Washington visit. Bolsonaro has campaigned against Moraes over his role in the case against his father, Jair Bolsonaro. The U.S. previously sanctioned Moraes, but those measures were later lifted following diplomatic efforts by Brazil.

23 September (BBC): Trump Meets U.S.-Backed Venezuelan President.

President Donald Trump met Venezuela's U.S.-backed president for the first time since Nicolás Maduro was removed from power, according to the BBC. The meeting focused on Venezuela's political transition and U.S.-Venezuela relations. The encounter comes as Washington deepens its involvement in Venezuela following Maduro's departure, with the two governments discussing political, economic and security issues during the meeting.

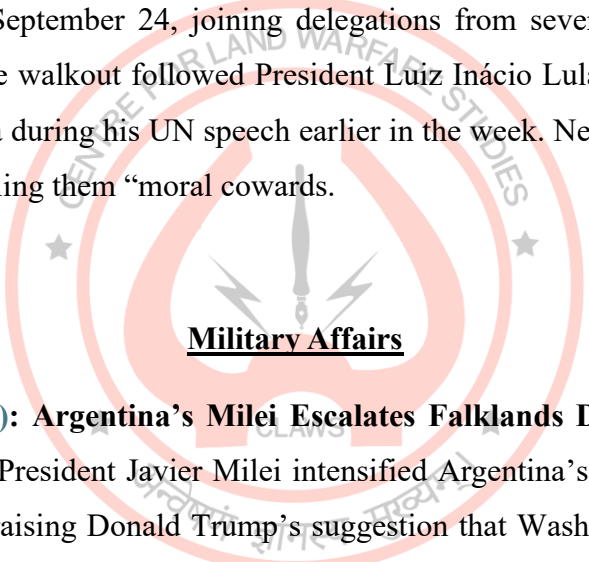
24 September (BBC): Venezuela's Interim President Promises Elections After Maduro's Ouster.

Venezuela's interim President Delcy Rodríguez has promised elections as part of a transition to "full democracy," but gave no timetable. The opposition criticized the lack of a tentative date. Rodríguez said Caracas and Washington are pursuing dialogue on energy,

security, crime and economic cooperation. U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said a political transition and institutional rebuilding must precede free and fair elections.

24 September (Reuters): Costa Rica Dismisses Foreign Minister After Trump Security Meeting. Costa Rican President Laura Fernández dismissed Foreign Minister Manuel Tovar after he attended a high-level security meeting led by U.S. President Donald Trump without informing her. The government said his actions prevented Fernández from participating and caused significant strategic damage. The meeting involved the U.S.-led “Shield of the Americas” coalition focused on combating drug trafficking and organized crime. Indiana Trejos was named acting foreign minister.

24 September (BBC): Brazil Walks Out During Netanyahu’s UN Speech. Brazil’s delegation left the UN General Assembly hall as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu began his address on September 24, joining delegations from several other countries in a coordinated protest. The walkout followed President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva’s criticism of Israel’s conduct in Gaza during his UN speech earlier in the week. Netanyahu condemned the departing delegates, calling them “moral cowards.”



Military Affairs

4 September (Reuters): Argentina’s Milei Escalates Falklands Dispute, Citing Trump Comments. Argentine President Javier Milei intensified Argentina’s sovereignty claim over the Falkland Islands, praising Donald Trump’s suggestion that Washington could reconsider its longstanding neutral position. Milei also announced tougher measures against companies involved in offshore oil exploration near the British-controlled islands and proposed greater military funding for Argentina’s southern region. Britain reaffirmed its sovereignty and commitment to the islanders’ right to self-determination.

10 September (Reuters): Rubio Hails Ecuador as Key U.S. Partner in Counterdrug Campaign. U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio praised Ecuadorian President Daniel Noboa for deepening cooperation with Washington against drug trafficking. Rubio said U.S. and Ecuadorian forces are conducting joint operations and announced plans to seek \$45 million from Congress to support efforts against criminal groups. The U.S. is also shifting toward operations coordinated with regional allies and their laws, while retaining military strikes when deemed necessary.

10 September (Reuters): Peru Joins U.S.-Led “Shield of the Americas” Security Alliance. Peru has joined the U.S.-led “Shield of the Americas,” a regional security framework focused on intelligence-sharing and military cooperation against drug cartels and organized crime. President Keiko Fujimori announced the decision after meeting U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio in Lima. Washington is seeking closer security ties across Latin America, while the initiative has raised concerns among some critics about increased U.S. military influence in the region.

Economy & Trade

1 September (AP News): Trump Administration Expands US Stake in Venezuela’s Oil Reserves. The Trump administration is partnering with North American Blue Energy Partners (NABEP) to develop 17 Venezuelan oil fields with about 65 billion barrels of proven reserves. The deal gives the Pentagon a 35% stake in the new company, while the U.S. government receives rights to purchase part of its oil output at cost. The arrangement is intended to expand U.S. access to Venezuela’s energy resources.

4 September (Reuters): US Sanctions Deepen Cuba’s Economic and Energy Crisis. The United States imposed new sanctions on Cuban entities, including an oil-import company responsible for equipment and spare parts for the island’s aging power grid. The measures come as Cuba faces worsening fuel shortages, inflation and increasingly prolonged blackouts. Cuban officials accuse Washington of worsening the humanitarian situation, while U.S. officials say the sanctions target members of the government and networks benefiting from sanctions evasion.

9 September (Reuters): Mexico Projects Up to 2.5% Economic Growth in 2027. Mexico’s Finance Ministry projects economic growth of 1.5% to 2.5% in 2027, according to a draft budget submitted to Congress. The government also expects the broader public-sector deficit to narrow to 3.9% of GDP, from an estimated 4.1% in 2026. The budget forecasts stronger consumption and investment, alongside improved trade conditions and continued efforts to strengthen tax collection.

9 September (Reuters): Rubio Says U.S. Seeks Trade Deals With Colombia, Peru and Ecuador. U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio said Washington hopes to conclude trade agreements with Colombia, Peru and Ecuador soon as he toured the three countries. Colombia

is seeking relief from a 12.5% U.S. tariff introduced in July. Rubio's visit also focused on strengthening security cooperation, combating drug trafficking and expanding economic ties with governments aligned with Washington.

10 September (Reuters): Mexico and U.S. Race Toward Bilateral Trade Deal. Mexico and the United States are accelerating negotiations on an interim bilateral trade agreement ahead of the November 3 U.S. midterm elections. Mexico is seeking relief from U.S. tariffs, while Washington wants concessions on automotive content and Chinese investment. Key obstacles include 50% tariffs on Mexican steel and aluminum and 25% duties on vehicles. The talks follow the collapse of U.S.-Canada negotiations.

18 September (Reuters): Venezuela and Opposition Weigh \$4 Billion Gold Transfer to US. Venezuela's government and an opposition faction are reportedly nearing a deal to move about \$4 billion in gold held by the Bank of England to the United States. The proposed arrangement could place the gold under U.S. oversight and allow it to serve as collateral for borrowing, including earthquake reconstruction. Talks also cover political reforms, economic reopening, oil deals and debt restructuring.

21 September (Reuters): Mexico Plans to Boost U.S. Imports Ahead of USMCA Review. Mexico plans to increase purchases of U.S. goods and reduce imports from other countries as part of the review of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade agreement, President Claudia Sheinbaum said. She said Washington wants to reduce its trade deficit with Mexico. The move comes as Mexico and the United States negotiate trade issues ahead of the USMCA review, including tariffs and market access.

Science & Technology

7 September (Reuters): Tech Firms Eye Argentina's Patagonia for Massive Data Centre. Argentina's Patagonia is attracting technology companies and investors seeking locations for large data centres, drawn by its cool climate, abundant renewable energy, shale gas and available land. Projects are being considered in Neuquén, Chubut and Buenos Aires province, including facilities ranging from 30 MW to potentially 3,000 MW. However, limited infrastructure, connectivity, financing needs and uncertainty ahead of Argentina's 2027 election remain obstacles.

21 September (Reuters): AI Could Boost LatAm Economy, But Wages Face Risks. AI adoption could raise economic output across Latin America and the Caribbean by 5.1% over the next decade, according to forthcoming Inter-American Development Bank research. Limited adoption could deliver only a 0.3% gain. Worker wages may rise 2.3%-5.3% if employees move into expanding sectors, but could fall 13.5%-20.9% without such transitions. IDB President Ilan Goldfajn also urged stronger financing and safeguards for critical-minerals supply chains.



About the Author

Khushboo Sen Dhuruv is currently serving as Research Assistant at the Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS), New Delhi. She completed her Ph.D. and M.Phil. from the Centre for European Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. She also holds a Master's degree in Politics (specialization in International Relations), JNU, and a Bachelor's degree in Political Science, University of Delhi. Her academic and research interests focus on Europe, EU Foreign, Security and Defence Policy, Russia, Transatlantic Partnership, and India-EU relations. Through her work, she engages with contemporary geopolitical and strategic issues shaping European and global affairs.

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