

# AFRICA DIGEST

*Monthly Compilation of News Items from Africa*

May 2025



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## Angola's Presidential Visit Marks a New Chapter in India-Angola Relations

Angolan President João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço's recent state [visit](#) to India marks a pivotal moment in the evolving India-Angola relationship, coming after a 38-year gap in VVIP exchanges. The visit, which commemorates 40 years of diplomatic relations and Angola's 50th year of independence, was rich in symbolism and substance.

Held between May 2-4, 2025, the visit included ceremonial welcomes, bilateral talks, and high-level meetings with Indian leadership. During delegation-level talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, both nations expressed strong commitment to advancing cooperation in energy security, defence, agriculture, infrastructure, healthcare, and emerging areas like space and digital public infrastructure.

A notable moment during the visit was Angola's unequivocal condemnation of the recent terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir. President Lourenço expressed solidarity with India, extending condolences to the victims' families and strongly denouncing terrorism in all its forms, including cross-border terrorism. The condemnation, made in both bilateral and African Union contexts given Angola's current [chairmanship](#) of the AU was received as a significant gesture of political alignment and shared global concerns.

[Energy cooperation](#) remains a cornerstone of the bilateral relationship. Angola is India's second-largest oil supplier from Africa, with bilateral trade reaching \$4.2

billion in 2024–25 predominantly dominated by oil and gas exports. Discussions during the visit focused on India's support for Angola's expanding refinery capabilities and potential investments in onshore and offshore exploration. Defence emerged as a major highlight, with India extending a \$200 million lines of credit to Angola. This will support the procurement of Indian defence equipment and capacity-building efforts, especially given Angola's legacy of Soviet-era systems. President Lourenço expressed interest in India's support for overhauls, spare parts, and specialized military training, including counterterrorism and cyber security courses.

Agriculture and food security were central to Angola's priorities. President Lourenço requested India's support in building sustainable agricultural systems, particularly through the supply of tractors, seeds, and agro technology. The possibility of long-term land leasing for Indian farmers was also mentioned, along with broader cooperation to enhance Angola's food self-sufficiency.

Infrastructure collaboration is set to deepen, especially in rail and road development. India's RITES Ltd. is already in dialogue with Angolan authorities to help modernize rail networks, essential for accessing Angola's vast mineral reserves. Healthcare remains another promising area. Angola seeks Indian assistance in expanding hospital infrastructure, sourcing affordable medicines, and deploying Indian doctors and paramedical staff. There was also interest in replicating India's Jan Aushadhi

model and introducing traditional systems like Ayurveda.

Two futuristic domains space and digital public infrastructure (DPI) drew special attention. Angola expressed interest in India's low-cost satellite launches and digital governance models. Collaboration in DPI, particularly digital payments and citizen services, was well received. This landmark visit concluded with the [signing](#) of three MoUs and Angola's submission of its accession to the International Solar Alliance. The visit underscores India's growing strategic footprint in Africa and its intent to foster resilient partnerships in the Global South.

### Africa's Response to the India-Pakistan Conflict

The recent terror attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, on April 22, 2025, which claimed 26 lives mainly tourists sparked a strong response from India through Operation Sindoor and led to a subsequent ceasefire agreement with Pakistan. The developments drew mixed reactions across Africa, ranging from unequivocal support for India to cautious diplomatic messaging, and in some instances, complete silence.

**North Africa** was among the first to respond. Algeria's Foreign Minister Ahmed Attaf personally reached out to both Indian and Pakistani counterparts. While [condemning](#) the Pahalgam attack in his call with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, he also welcomed the ceasefire in his [engagement](#) with Pakistan. Egypt, through [President](#) Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, extended solidarity with India and

emphasized comprehensive counterterrorism cooperation. Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdel Aty followed up by [engaging](#) both India and Pakistan, advocating sustained dialogue and regional stability. [Libya](#) and [Morocco](#) expressed their positions more succinctly. Libya hailed the ceasefire as a step toward peace, while Morocco offered condolences and solidarity via its embassy in New Delhi. These gestures, though symbolic, reflect North Africa's cautious but supportive stance.

In **West Africa**, responses were more direct and empathetic. [Mali](#) condemned the attack and reiterated a regional commitment to global anti-terror efforts, aligning with its membership in the AES Confederation. [Nigeria](#), bearing its own scars from terrorism, condemned the attack strongly, highlighting terrorism as a global menace and calling for international cooperation. [Sierra Leone](#), through Foreign Minister Timothy Musa Kabba, reaffirmed bilateral cooperation and denounced the attack, a sentiment echoed by **Liberia**, whose President Joseph Boakai issued a formal condolence message to Prime Minister Modi, affirming shared grief and a firm stance against terrorism.

**Central Africa** was represented by [Angola](#), whose President João Lourenço visited India shortly after the incident. As Chair of the African Union, Lourenço's condemnation of the attack and commitment to joint counterterrorism measures with India gave the message added diplomatic gravitas. In **East Africa**, [Kenya's](#) Foreign Minister Musalia Mudavadi condemned the attack and

affirmed solidarity with India. [Mauritius](#) Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam extended condolences via a phone call, underscoring the island nation's close strategic ties with India. From **Southern Africa**, **South Africa** struck a [balanced tone](#) strongly condemning the attack while also calling for restraint and de-escalation. [Minister](#) of International Relations and Cooperation Ronald Lamola emphasized the need to protect civilian lives and supported peaceful conflict resolution.

While many African nations responded with solidarity, the silence of several others reveals underlying diplomatic hesitations. Nonetheless, the strong support from key African nations reflects India's growing political and strategic engagement across the continent, particularly in counterterrorism and peacebuilding cooperation.

### **U.S.–South Africa Tensions over White Genocide Allegations**

Relations between the United States and South Africa have encountered renewed friction, driven by longstanding U.S. allegations of a so-called “White Genocide” in South Africa. Tensions escalated following a high-profile meeting between U.S. President Donald Trump and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa at the White House on 21 May 2025. During the meeting, President Trump raised concerns about the targeted killings of white farmers and the expropriation of their lands. He reinforced these claims by presenting videos and images he asserted were evidence of racially motivated violence. President Ramaphosa acknowledged the

challenge of violent crimes against farmers in South Africa but firmly refuted the notion that such attacks disproportionately target white individuals. He stressed that farm attacks affect all racial groups and rejected the characterization of the situation as genocide.

The roots of this [dispute](#) trace back to President Trump's first term, particularly in 2018, when his administration, including then-Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, began monitoring the security situation of South African farmers especially white landowners. Despite the recurring claims, the South African government has consistently rejected the allegations, emphasising that the issue is complex and multi-racial in impact. In the recent meeting, Ramaphosa urged President Trump to “listen to the voices of South Africans” to foster mutual understanding and trust.

Controversy reemerged in early 2025 following the enactment of South Africa's **Expropriation Act of 2024** on 23 January. Designed to address enduring land ownership disparities, the Act permits the state to acquire land at zero or nominal compensation. This provision has drawn criticism from several quarters including within the U.S. for allegedly violating property rights and disproportionately affecting the white minority. In response, President Trump issued an [executive order](#) in February 2025, suspending all U.S. foreign aid to South Africa. The situation further deteriorated in March when U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio [expelled](#) South African Ambassador Ebrahim

Rasool, following Rasool's public remarks critical of President Trump and U.S. policies. Tensions were also inflamed by President Trump's recent meeting with 50 Afrikaners white South Africans of European descent whom he described as victims of unjust racial discrimination.

These developments culminated in the tense White House meeting, which, while diplomatically civil on the surface, exposed the widening gulf in perspectives between the two nations. President Trump maintained the U.S. position, citing visual evidence, while the South African delegation categorically denied the existence of racially targeted killings against Afrikaners. Although President Ramaphosa stated that the dialogue was productive, uncertainty remains over the trajectory of bilateral relations especially amid speculation about President Trump's attendance at the upcoming G20 summit. Nevertheless, South Africa remains a strategic partner for the United States. Trade discussions during the meeting hinted at continued economic engagement, even as political trust appears fragile.

### **Dr S Jaishankar addresses Africa Day celebrations**

As the 2025 Africa Day celebrations came to an end, India's External Affairs Minister (EAM) Dr S Jaishankar made his [remarks](#) on the auspicious day. The event was not only a celebration of Africa, but also a reaffirmation of the strong India-Africa relations. EAM started his remarks by expressing his happiness in being part of the celebrations and went on to address the India-Africa ties as "truly special" in

association with the historical ties, shared values, and the ambition for development, prosperity, and progress.

Dr Jaishankar iterated the importance India gives to Africa by conveying that on matters of primary importance, such as food, health and energy security, while India is concerned about its national interests, it is not limited to it, rather it acknowledges the challenges faced by Africa and attempts to find solutions through international partnerships. The EAM went on to address the challenges that Africa has faced in recent years due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects on the continent, which have hindered the realization of most Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). While mentioning the challenges endured, Dr Jaishankar pointed out that the difficult situation calls for an even more collaborative effort and cooperation from both India and Africa, thus reaffirming the commitments to the continent. This commitment, the EAM expressed, has been maintained by India through its push for the African Union to be a full member of the G20 during its presidency, understanding the African cause and the necessity of Africa having its required role in international platforms. Dr Jaishankar stated that "India has always been and will always be with Africa".

The [EAM said](#) that "Africa's goals and agendas are India's priority", pointing out the various cooperative ventures carried out to aid Africa's development. India has been a key player in providing capacity-building and training to Africans, with almost 40,000 Africans trained in India under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation



(ITEC) programme. Education has also been a cornerstone of the ties with institutions like the Indian Institute of Technology in Zanzibar (Tanzania), the National Forensic Science University in Uganda, and the Entrepreneurship Development Centres in Rwanda, focusing on enhancing education and knowledge sharing.

Cooperation in terms of economy and security has also witnessed progress, with bilateral trade reaching new heights as India became Africa's [fourth-largest](#) trading partner, with overall bilateral trade nearing \$100 billion, and investments increasing and diversifying. In the domain of security, the transition of SAGAR into MAHASAGAR and the Africa India Key Maritime Engagement (AIKEYME) 2025 are efforts made at enhancing security in the Indian Ocean and protecting its sea lines of communication (SLOCs).

India-Africa relations have evolved over time, shaped by similar history, values, and collaborative engagements that are mutually beneficial. Africa, with its young demography, makes the continent's possibilities for the future exciting, and India, with its commitment to aid Africa in its path to development through capacity-building and other initiatives, joins hands in this progress and toward playing a key role in the Global South.

### **Sudan Faces International Pressure Over Chemical Weapons and ICJ Ruling**

As Sudan's civil war continues to inflict devastating human and economic tolls, the country now finds itself under increasing

scrutiny and pressure from the international community. The United States has announced new sanctions on Sudan for the alleged use of chemical weapons during the early stages of the conflict, while the International Court of Justice (ICJ) has dismissed Sudan's case against the United Arab Emirates (UAE), which accused Abu Dhabi of complicity in genocide.

The U.S. [sanctions](#), expected to take effect around 6 June 2025, were announced after Washington determined that Sudan had violated the **Chemical and Biological Weapons Control and Warfare Elimination Act of 1991 (CBW Act)**. According to U.S. State Department spokesperson Tammy Bruce, the measures will include restrictions on U.S. exports and a suspension of Sudan's access to American lines of credit. The U.S. cited the Sudanese government's alleged use of chemical weapons in 2024, although specific details regarding the type of weapon, location, or incident remain undisclosed. Sudan has categorically [denied](#) the accusations. Government spokesperson Khalid al-Eisir rejected the U.S. allegations, claiming that Washington has "lost its credibility and all influence" in Sudan. Despite this denial, Sudanese Army Chief and Chairman of the Sovereignty Council, General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, has formed a committee to investigate the claims.

Moreover, Sudan recently filed a case at the [ICJ](#), accusing the UAE of aiding and abetting genocide in Sudan's ongoing conflict by allegedly supplying arms to the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) paramilitary faction involved in the civil war. However, the ICJ dismissed Sudan's case in a decisive

ruling, citing a lack of jurisdiction. The Court noted that when the UAE ratified the Genocide Convention in 2005, it included a reservation to Article IX, explicitly excluding ICJ [jurisdiction](#) over disputes regarding the Convention's interpretation or application. In a 14–2 vote, the ICJ judges ruled that the case could not proceed.

The UAE welcomed the verdict. Reem Ketait, Deputy Assistant Minister for Political Affairs at the UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs, stated that the ruling was “clear and decisive,” and that the allegations were “baseless.” Sudan, however, responded by emphasizing that the ICJ's decision was based solely on procedural grounds not on the substance of its claims and vowed to pursue other international legal avenues to prove the UAE's alleged involvement.

The developments mark a significant diplomatic blow to Sudan. On one hand, the U.S. sanctions could further isolate the country economically especially considering that Washington has provided over \$2.3 billion in [humanitarian aid](#) to Sudan since the onset of the war. On the other hand, the ICJ ruling denies Sudan the opportunity to hold the UAE legally accountable in an international forum, despite mounting human rights reports supporting the allegations of foreign complicity in Sudan's civil conflict. As the war grinds on, Sudan's leadership finds itself increasingly cornered facing external sanctions, diplomatic rebuffs, and a growing legitimacy crisis, both at home and abroad.