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Headlining This Week's Brief

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Top Stories

France Braces for Fifth Wave of Student Protests With Growing Labor Support Amid Fiscal Crises

Students in France are preparing "Act 5" of their ongoing protest movement over the underfunding of schools, with demonstrations and trade union solidarity strikes scheduled nationwide for Tuesday, 13 October. Paris' seventh and 13th arrondissements will be the primary demonstration hub. Demonstrators will gather at Place d'Italie at 2:00 pm before marching towards Invalides, with another march planned from Hotel de Ville to Matignon. The CGT's website notes approximately 90 demonstrations nationwide. Multiple unions have expanded support for the students. The inter-union education group has called for a solidarity strike, while Solidaires, Sud-Rail, and SUD PTT have announced broader labor actions affecting rail services, La Poste, the Orange telecommunications group, and other sectors. Students have vowed to continue organizing demonstrations in spite of the government's offer to hire 3,000 additional teachers, maintaining demands for a €10 billion investment in education The students' demonstration campaign is taking place amid a broader period of unrest, much of it driven by the Lecornu government's austerity efforts and other economic concerns. Decentralized social media calls referencing the Yellow Vests and the "Block Everything" movement are calling for nationwide demonstrations on Saturday, 17 October to protest the high cost of living and rising fuel prices. While organizers remain loosely coordinated, a website associated with the effort lists more than 400 planned actions as of 12 October. While difficult to gauge turnout at this stage, the overlap of the Saturday actions with the ongoing student movement and broader sentiments of dissatisfaction within French society could lead...

Hurricane Simon Spares Mexico's Major Coastal Cities from Direct Strike

Hurricane Simon's westward deviation from earlier forecasts spared major coastal cities, including Puerto Vallarta and Manzanillo, from a direct strike by its most destructive winds, although significant flooding, evacuations, and infrastructure disruptions have affected portions of southwestern Mexico. Despite weakening to Category 3 strength, Simon continues to pose flooding and coastal hazards, with Puerto Vallarta International Airport expected to remain closed until Tuesday morning. Attention is now shifting north toward Sinaloa, where a potentially weaker Simon could make landfall near Mazatlán Wednesday night, bringing heavy rainfall, flooding, damaging winds, and power outages.

Ukraine Accuses Russia of Expanding Targeting of Civilian Infrastructure as Germany Increases Military Support

Russia's air campaign continues to expand from conventional military targets to include transport, energy, communications, and other infrastructure critical to Ukraine's civilian economy. Kyiv's Dnipro bridges suffered repeated strikes in recent days, disrupting movement between the capital's two banks. Attacks on Odesa and Izmail port infrastructure are threatening Ukraine's export, fuel, and logistics capacity. Kyiv accuses Moscow of implementing a "new doctrine of airstrikes," targeting a widening array of civilian infrastructure in an effort to make major cities increasingly difficult to sustain through winter. In response, Ukraine has said that they will respond with continued attacks on Russian refineries, despite pleas from the Trump administration to tamp down their strikes. The escalation is extending into the Black Sea, with a drone attack on two merchant ships in NATO member Bulgaria's exclusive economic zone. It followed a separate deadly maritime incident off Romania that killed two, raising the risk of the war spilling further into European commercial and maritime space. As Ukraine's economy sputters, Germany has announced €1 billion in new military assistance, alongside €350 million for energy infrastructure. The backing was made even as Germany's intelligence chief warned that Berlin risks entering a violent conflict with Moscow, further escalating the current "shadow war."

Climate and Natural Hazards

- Aftermath of Hurricane Isaias Along the U.S. Gulf Coast: Hurricane Isaias made landfall over the Florida Panhandle on Friday night and caused widespread tropical storm conditions as it continued north into Alabama and Georgia. More than one million people lost power at the height of the storm, and at least four people were killed.
- Hundreds of Homes Damaged Due to 7.7 Magnitude Earthquake in Panama: A 7.7 magnitude earthquake struck southern Panama on Friday afternoon, damaging nearly 900 homes and injuring over two dozen people. Disruptions, including school closures, remain ongoing as Panama deals with hundreds of aftershocks.

- Over 70 Flood Deaths in Thailand Since Mid-September: The death toll due to flooding in Thailand since mid-September has climbed to 71. About 21 provinces are still flooded and at risk for worsening conditions this week.
- Nepal Hit by New Himalayan Flood Disaster: Destructive flooding along Nepal's Budhi Gandaki River has swept away homes, bridges, and critical infrastructure, leaving five people missing and more than 100 foreign trekkers stranded. At least 321 people have been rescued as helicopter operations continue amid widespread road disruptions, just six weeks after another catastrophic flood struck the Himalayan region.
- Rachel to Drive Flash Flood Threat for Utah and Arizona After Slamming Southern California and Baja California: After impacting Southern California and the northern Baja California Peninsula, the remnants of Rachel will drive an elevated flash flood threat on Monday across Utah and Arizona. Low-lying and urban areas could observe road closures.
- Severe Storms and Heavy Rain Across Central and Southern Plains: Rain and storms will affect the Central and Southern Plains through midweek. Severe storms are likely on Tuesday, with mainly flooding potential continuing through Thursday.

Worldwide

- Rising Anti-Indian Sentiment Brings Physical, Economic Risks: Anti-Indian rhetoric has increased in recent months, with a growing number of public figures targeting the small but visible minority. Such sentiment has also seen explosive growth online. A recent report from the Center for the Study of Organized Hate found that the number of "hateful" posts against South Asians on social media platform X had increased by 240% between January 2024 and June 2026. Such rising levels of animus have manifested themselves both in physical attacks (an Indian Muslim man was stabbed at a mall in Utah in what is being charged as a hate crime; a Sikh truck driver was stabbed repeatedly at a Wyoming rest stop) and in policy, particularly with respect to the H-1B visa program. The vast majority of H-1B visas had gone to people from India, but changes in visa policy, including most recently the Trump administration's decision to suspend Microsoft and other major tech firms from taking part in a program that allows H-1B visa holders to apply for green cards, is making it increasingly difficult for companies to hire highly-skilled foreign workers. The crackdown comes with implications not only for companies and industries that employ high numbers of foreign-born workers, but also local economies where such employees had chosen to live.
- US and Mexico Increase Security Along Texas Border, Issue Conflicting Statements on Possible Shots Fired: The United States and Mexico have reinforced security along the Texas-Tamaulipas border following a 26 September incident in which US Coast Guard personnel reported receiving gunfire from the Mexican side of the Rio Grande near Garceno, Texas. Coast Guard personnel returned fire, with no injuries or equipment damage reported. Mexican authorities have requested evidence of the shooting and said its security forces detected no cross-border gunfire. The US has repositioned hundreds of Army personnel assigned to Joint Task Force–Southern

Border to the Rio Grande Valley, while Mexico deployed 500 Army and National Guard personnel supported by helicopters, drones, and counter-drone equipment as part of a coordinated "mirroring" operation. The deployments come as US officials report increasing cartel drone activity along the border, estimating that 95%-98% of observed drone operations support human trafficking reconnaissance.

- Ethiopia Accuses Eritrea of Launching Incursion as Fears Grow of Wider War: Ethiopian forces have retaken Mekelle and its airport after reversing rebel gains in Afar, although the conflict appears far from over. Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has reiterated his demand that landlocked Ethiopia have Red Sea access and accused Eritrea of launching incursions into Ethiopian territory. In response, Eritrea claimed that Ethiopia was laying groundwork for an invasion of its own, with the ultimate goal of seizing the port of Assab. Conflict monitor ACLED has also reported that Eritrean forces crossed the border at Zelambesa on 07 October as they made their way along the Adigrat-Idaga Hamus route. As of 07 October, Ethiopian forces had continued to record gains, taking control of Agula. The involvement of Eritrea raises concerns of the current conflict escalating to become a larger, regional war. Ethiopia and Eritrea have already severed diplomatic relations, and Ethiopia has accused Egypt, Sudan, and Eritrea of backing the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF).
- Yemen Government Forces Claim to Retake Bab-Al Mandeb as Houthis Target Airports, Energy Infrastructure: In a major counteroffensive, Saudi-backed Yemeni government forces claimed to have retaken the port city of Mokha and key positions around the Bab el-Mandeb Strait from the Iran-backed Houthis. The Houthis have disputed these claims, and independent verification has been difficult to obtain. The campaign, which was conducted with heavy Saudi air support, prompted the Houthis to retaliate, saying that they launched drone and ballistic missile strikes on Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport, an Aramco refinery in Rabigh, and military sites across southern Saudi Arabia. Saudi authorities said that airports in Jazan and Najran were also targeted.

Cyber and Regulatory

- Hackers Hijack Domain Registries to Impersonate Google Websites: Hackers compromised the operators of three country-code top-level domains (ccTLDs) associated with Ghana, Sierra Leone, and American Samoa, allowing them to hack domain records and obtain unauthorized HTTPS security certificates for Google and other major organizations. The attackers manipulated authoritative DNS records to redirect domains to infrastructure under their control and obtain legitimate looking certificates, potentially enabling website impersonation and interception of sensitive communications. Google confirmed that its internal systems were not breached and responded by blocking unauthorized certificates through Chrome's CRLSet mechanism while coordinating revocation with certificate authorities. Additional investigations identified several major brands and online services potentially affected by the same attacks. Google warned that not all compromised domains were identified.

- Russian Hacker Group Resumes Hotel Wi-Fi Cyber Campaign: The Russian state-affiliated threat actor Midnight Blizzard has resumed CaptiveCrunch, a previously dormant campaign augmented with artificial intelligence that steals travelers' personal information through infiltrated Wi-Fi networks across multiple hotel chains. Microsoft Threat Intelligence observed the actor reviving the campaign, first discovered in July 2026, and the attacks are continuing despite previous disclosures and public reporting. On compromised Wi-Fi networks, the actor manipulates network traffic to redirect targets to spoofed captive portals and other authentication portals, harvesting Open Authorization (OAuth) tokens or delivering malware. Successful attacks have infected victims with infostealer and remote access malware, including fully featured Windows remote access trojans (RATs) capable of video and audio spying, credential theft, and monitoring of all media. The actor spends significant time identifying smaller entities that can be operationalized to secure far-reaching access, surgically targeting downstream entities once initial access is gained. Traffic from affected entities corresponded to one of three managed service providers, which are preferred providers to seven of the top 10 hotel chains in the US.
- Anthropic Expands Access to Advanced AI Models for Offensive Cyber Testing: Anthropic is expanding access to its most advanced artificial intelligence models, granting a select group of verified organizations the ability to carry out "high risk offensive testing" of the safety systems protecting United States critical infrastructure. The access covers Claude Opus 5.5, Claude Sonnet 5.5, and Claude Mythos 5.1, along with new models moving forward. Capabilities are being evaluated in collaboration with the federal government. The expansion follows a 25 September decision by the US Court of Appeals in Washington upholding the Pentagon's blacklisting of Anthropic from military contracts. In a 2-1 opinion, Judge Gregory Katsas adopted Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth's argument that the company's safety restrictions could compromise military operations, citing the prospect of "overly constrained AI models shutting down unexpectedly and thus causing important military operations to fail." This suggests that the wider release of frontier models for offensive testing is likely to generate additional reports of unauthorized, AI-enabled infiltration attempts as capabilities proliferate and attribution improves.
- South Korean Authorities Investigate Suspected AI-Linked Cyberattacks: South Korean authorities are investigating a series of cyberattacks against businesses and at least two megachurches that are suspected to have been enhanced by, or linked to, artificial intelligence. Yoldo Full Gospel Church says data on 850,000 members may have been compromised, while SaRang Church reports that approximately 90,000 user accounts may be affected. Cybersecurity company Oasis Security located the stolen data on an overseas server and noted references to sub-agents and extensive attack reports that appeared automated, signs that the campaigns drew on AI tooling. The investigation extends to the financial sector, where authorities are examining the suspected use of AI models to target commercial banks and other financial institutions, leading to the breach of nearly 70,000 customers' personal information. Officials suspect that Artex AI, a Chinese AI system, was utilized, and President Lee Jae-myung has said that AI appears to have been used in the bank hacks. This suggests that AI is lowering the cost and complexity of running

intrusion campaigns at scale, placing churches, banks, and other high-trust institutions within reach of AI-assisted attackers.

- Indonesia's New Manpower Law Addresses Labor Issues, Raises Employer Concerns: Indonesia's new Manpower Protection Law, passed on 06 October, marks a shift away from the country's pro-business 2020 Job Creation Law by increasing severance benefits, restricting layoffs, and strengthening protections for contract, informal, and platform workers. The reforms are meant to improve the workforce's income security, bargaining power, and workplace fairness, addressing longstanding labor grievances that previously fueled mass protests. Following the law's passage, however, corporations may delay recruitment, limit formal hiring, or reconsider expansion plans to reduce their exposure. The Indonesian Employers Association has also raised concerns that the law could deter investment at a time when rising fuel subsidies and other costly government initiatives are also seen as threats to investor confidence. The final text of the legislation has not yet been released.
- EU Approves Record Russian Sanctions Listing: The European Union is set to adopt 1,646 new designations under the bloc's sanctions for Russia, the largest single expansion since the sanctions were put in place. More than half of the designations target individuals and entities involved in Russia's ballistic missile production chain. The designations, which are expected to be adopted Monday, 12 October, are designed to damage Russia's ability to launch ballistic missile strikes on Ukraine, which have become increasingly deadly amid Kyiv's ongoing shortage of interceptors. Also included in this tranche of designations are lawmakers who took part in State Duma election in Russian-occupied territories of Ukraine, as well as seven North Korean entities believed to be involved in the war effort. The sanctions include a travel ban, asset freeze, and prohibition on funding.
- Class Action Brought Against McDonald's Over AI Pricing System: McDonald's was sued on 02 October in a proposed nationwide class action alleging it conspired with franchisees to fix menu prices through an AI pricing system trained on nonpublic data. The complaint claims the tool has been in use since 2019 and became mandatory in January 2026, while McDonald's calls the claims "speculative and uninformed". The case against McDonald's appears to be the first to argue that franchises operating under the same brand should not have access to shared pricing data, raising a potential point of concern for other businesses that employ a similar franchise model. The suit joins a wave of algorithmic-pricing cases with mixed results. RealPage settled rent-pricing case with the Department of Justice in May 2026 with no admission of wrongdoing, a ban on using competitors' nonpublic data in live pricing, and a three-year monitor. A separate $359.9 million renter class settlement is taking claims until January 2027. In the case of Atlantic City casino-hotels fixing guest-room rates through a common pricing algorithm, the appeals court let the claims proceed, with the split turning on whether competitors' confidential data was pooled.

Infrastructure and Supply Chain

- Saudi Air Travel Threatened by Repeated Houthi Strikes: Sustained Houthi air strikes targeting Saudi Arabian capital Riyadh are driving air transport disruptions across the country, threatening both business and leisure travel. Following repeated rebel attacks originating in Yemen, including consecutive strikes on King Khalid International Airport that killed a total of 14 people on 10-11 October, a string of airlines canceled service to the city. Saudi aviation officials ultimately issued a NOTAM declaring that the airport would remain closed until at least midnight local time on 17-18 October. The airport is the country's second-busiest after Jeddah, though cancelations of flights to other Saudi destinations and foreign government's efforts to discourage citizens from making voluntary Umrah pilgrimages or other travel to the country due to the security situation will likely weigh on air travel to the country more broadly.
- Rising Operating Costs Contribute to Wave of US Trucking Bankruptcies: The high cost of diesel fuel and other rising expenses are contributing to financial strain across the over-the-road transportation sector, with smaller commercial haulers in particular suffering significant enough impacts to threaten business continuity. According to court filings reported between late August and 21 September, at least 16 carriers sought Chapter 7 or Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. The list comprises sole operators with one vehicle to fleets of dozens of trucks and trailers based in states across the US. With millions of drivers and trucks in circulation across the country at any given time, the impacts of any closures or restructurings that result from these proceedings will likely be localized to the areas and clients these operators serve. However, the wave of bankruptcy applications is indicative of the pressure being felt more broadly across the sector, with rising repair costs, tariffs, and other challenges eroding their profitability. If diesel costs remain elevated and other challenges are not addressed, these disruptions could result in further bankruptcy applications that threatens a more significant impact to national supply chains.
- Plans for Starlink Mobile Services in India Could Disrupt Local Telecoms Market, Await Government Approval: US-based tech mogul Elon Musk's vow to offer Starlink mobile data services at "affordable" prices in India, believed to be part of a broader pressure campaign targeting Reliance Jio, could increase access and lower prices for consumers in a country that already enjoys among the lowest data costs in the world. Musk has framed the plan as benefitting consumers, though it would bring Musk's widely-recognized satellite offering into direct competition with Jio and was announced just days before the latter company launches India's largest-ever IPO. Industry observers note that Musk has used a similar pricing strategy to disrupt established telecommunications ecosystems in other developing markets. Whatever the motivation, and regardless of the impact to Jio's IPO, the entry of Starlink into India's mobile services market would likely drive even greater competition among the country's other operators (including Jio), and could result in offerings at lower rates or in areas where service was not previously available. Still, both Starlink and Reliance Jio require further regulatory "security clearance" before providing satellite internet services to the public, which could stall the planned rollout. Musk has suggested

that the government's failure to approve Starlink services so far is part of a Modi administration effort to shield Jio from further competition.

- African Credit Rating Agency May Boost Investment in the Continent: The African Union's launch of the Africa Credit Rating Agency (AfCRA) in Mauritius on 07 October marks a potentially significant step towards greater African financial independence. It provides an alternative to the dominant US-based agencies like S&P, Moody's, and Fitch, which African leaders argue insufficiently account for the continent's economic conditions. The agency could improve access to international capital, attract investment, and reduce borrowing costs by offering more context specific assessments, particularly as Africa's external debt servicing costs reached $163 billion in 2024, up from $61 billion in 2010, and boost coverage given that 23 African economies lack ratings from the three major agencies. However, AfCRA will be able to secure cheaper loans if it uses transparent methodologies, reliable data, and remains independent from political pressure. However, undisclosed ownership details and concerns over political interference could undermine investor confidence if AfCRA is perceived as favoring African governments over objective credit assessments.
- Paramount Takes Over Warner Bros, Raising Concerns for Hollywood Jobs, LA Economy: Skydance-owned Paramount closed its $81 billion takeover of Warner Bros. Discovery on 06 October, a deal worth nearly $111 billion including debt. The combined company will operate as Skydance. The merger could result in the loss of 4,500 film and television jobs, according to a report by consultancy CVL Economics for LA County. That reduction would come on top of an estimated 50,000 industry jobs lost since 2022. Such reductions in workforce would have impacts on the wider economic ecosystem operating around the media industry in Los Angeles, including vendors, caterers, and others. While the deal does commit Paramount Skydance to releasing at least 30 films a year for the first five years, it's likely that the number of releases will drop once that period is over. There are also concerns around the ability to enforce that quota.
- Shipping Groups Seek Counter-Drone Protection as Attacks Raise Security Costs and Energy Shipping Costs Remain Uneven: Shipping companies are seeking counter-drone defenses as attacks on commercial vessels in the Black Sea and Middle East raise security and operating costs. Companies are deploying radar, cameras, and jamming systems costing about $500,000 per vessel, in addition to cheaper measures, such as nets. However, the impact on energy shipping is uneven. Europe's strong winter demand and a growing global fleet have caused LNG shipping rates to drop by 80-90% from wartime highs. Meanwhile, freight rates for supertankers carrying Middle East crude to Asia have surged to record levels as regional exports rebounded in September. Despite expanded fleet capacity containing LNG shipping costs, renewed Asian demand or further attacks and logistical disruptions could quickly tighten vessel availability and push rates higher.

Health

- US Health Department Announces Federal Vaccine Injury Program, Proposes Adding Autism to List of Compensable Vaccine-Related Injuries: The US Department of Health and Human Services announced an agency-wide initiative to identify and evaluate the government's response to "health problems reported following vaccination." As part of the effort, a new research clinic will be established at the National Institutes of Health, and a new billing code will be introduced that will reimburse doctors for reporting serious vaccine side effects. While experts have been broadly supportive of the stated attempt to study vaccine safety, many have pointed to Health Secretary Robert F Kennedy Jr's history of vaccine skepticism and emphasized that a lack of scientific rigor and transparency in the process could lead to further increases in vaccine hesitancy and mistrust. The program could result in changes to the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP), a no-fault system that allows for people to file for compensation for any injury or death experienced upon receiving certain vaccines. While successful VICP claims are extremely rare, the program has seen a surge in applications in recent years. Kennedy has proposed adding autism to the list of covered conditions (despite a lack of scientific evidence that vaccines can cause autism) and broadening the definition of encephalopathy and encephalitis, which would likely result in a further inundation of claims. In addition to creating a backlog, such changes could also bankrupt the program and could lead vaccine makers to pull out of the US market, a concern noted prior to the creation of the VICP.
- Reports of a Possible Second Plague Case in Russia and Lack of Information Prompts Increased Scrutiny: Unconfirmed reports of a second death in Siberia have added to concerns surrounding a possible pneumonic plague case, although Russian authorities have denied there is any epidemic risk. The WHO has requested further information on the cause of the laboratory worker's pneumonia and reports of a second employee with pneumonia of undetermined origin. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is also closely monitoring the case, while US President Donald Trump is expected to discuss the incident with Russian President Vladimir Putin. While the WHO currently assesses the wider public health risk as very low, the emergence of an additional, unreported illness means international scrutiny is likely to continue until Russia clarifies the pathogen involved and rules out occupational exposure or secondary transmission.
- New York Declares Statewide Disaster Emergency Over Measles Outbreak, Expanding Rural Vaccine Access: New York Governor Kathy Hochul has declared a statewide disaster emergency in response to a growing measles outbreak in the state, the first state to make such a declaration since the current surge in cases began in 2025. The declaration will remain in effect through 04 November. New York has recorded 109 cases as of Tuesday, 06 October, with 92 of them reported since July 15. Seven have been in New York City. As part of the state's response, authorities have lowered the qualifications required to administer the measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine, a

move intended to boost immunization efforts in rural communities. Many of the hardest-hit communities border Pennsylvania counties experiencing a fast-spreading outbreak that has killed five people, and confirmed cases in Pennsylvania have surpassed 1,000. Together, the two states account for half of the reported cases across the United States, making the region the focal point of the national outbreak response.

- Africa CDC Deploys Emergency Team to Nairobi Following First Ebola Death From Imported Case: Amid widening concern over cross-border Ebola transmission in East Africa, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) is deploying an emergency response team to Nairobi, Kenya, following the death of the country's first imported case. The patient had been ill for several weeks in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) before he traveled by road to Kampala, Uganda, where he boarded a flight to Nairobi. Kenyan authorities are conducting contact tracing, with 28 contacts identified and another two dozen from his flight pending confirmation. The World Health Organization (WHO) has confirmed more than 8,500 cases, with the death toll climbing above 4,000. Although Uganda declared itself Ebola-free in August, Africa CDC says continued transmission in the DRC means neighboring countries remain at risk of reintroduction, particularly given the region's porous land borders. Officials in Kenya are looking into how the man was able to pass through airport screening while sick. The border between DRC and Uganda has also been closed since May, raising further questions around the effectiveness of current protocols to contain the disease. Uganda had been declared Ebola-free in August after initially reporting 20 cases, and a government spokesperson did not offer further information on the man’s condition while in the country, continuing to insist that “We don’t have Ebola here.”

Demonstrations and Industrial Action

- No Kings Coalition to Host Thousands of Voter Awareness Events, Rallies on 17 October: More than 2,000 demonstrations are expected across the US on 17 October, when the No Kings Coalition will host "Vote Early" demonstrations and other events to mark National Voter Education Week. The organizers, which include 50501, Indivisible, Public Citizen, and other civic organizations, will encourage eligible voters to vote early and seek to increase voter participation ahead of the 03 November midterm elections. Organizers describe the events as nonpartisan, and have emphasized a commitment to peaceful, lawful demonstrations, while discouraging civil disobedience and prohibiting weapons at events. Demonstrations are planned in hundreds of cities nationwide, including major gatherings in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, New York City, San Francisco, Seattle, and Washington DC. Localized traffic disruptions and increased security measures are likely near demonstration sites throughout the day. Previous "No Kings" campaigns and related demonstrations attracted millions of participants nationwide, with around 5 million people estimated participants in June 2025 and at least 8 million participants across more than 3,300 events worldwide in March 2026.
- Spain Faces Concurrent Crises Over Housing, Education, Agriculture, and Migration: Spain will see a litany of demonstrations, strikes, and politically sensitive events take place in the coming days. Demonstrations over housing, which have drawn hundreds of thousands of people to the streets since late September, are expected to continue in the lead-up to a general strike planned for Wednesday, 11 November. Starting this Wednesday, 14 October, public schools in the Community of Madrid will face disruptions due to an indefinite teachers' strike. Minimum services will be in effect, limiting the strike's impact, but the catalysts for the strike–low salaries, poor conditions in schools–are likely to resonate with and augment the ongoing nationwide mobilization over housing issues. Student-led groups, which have been actively involved in housing demonstrations, are also calling for students to strike on Wednesday, likely inspired by their cohorts in France, who are in the midst of one of the most disruptive student protest movements in recent history. In Barcelona, farmers are organizing a tractor protest on Wednesday, 14 October, that threatens to disrupt traffic on roads leading into the Catalonian capital. Later this month on 28 October, farmers will converge by tractor in Madrid. Meanwhile, Spain continues to face security challenges in Ceuta, the country's North African exclave that experienced a border crisis in late July. Spanish King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia plan to visit Ceuta on 13 October and Melilla, Spain's other exclave that borders Morocco, on 14 October. The royal visit, while welcomed by local Spanish authorities and symbolically planned around Día de la Hispanidad…
- Further Anti-Immigration Demonstrations Planned in South Africa as Violence Increases Following Change in Asylum Policy: Anti-immigration group March and March Movement has called for another set of nationwide demonstrations on 15 October, ahead of the country's municipal

elections on 04 November. A poster purporting to be from the March and March Movement is circulating online, calling for a nationwide 'shutdown' action on election day; however, the group has denied making the poster. The calls for fresh demonstrations come as the Department of Home Affairs resumes the processing of asylum applications following a Constitutional Court ruling. The decision has led to further protests and attacks targeting foreign nationals at Home Affairs offices in Durban and Gqeberha on Wednesday, 07 October and Thursday, 08 October. The change in policy and resurgence of attacks could result in increased turnout at the 15 October demonstrations. A nationwide day of action on 30 September had seen decreased turnout from an initial mass action held on 30 June.

- Pakistan Opposition March Approaches Islamabad, Risking Confrontation With Authorities: The Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's long march, demanding former Prime Minister Imran Khan's release, will move through Peshawar on 07 October before supporters converge at Khairabad on 08 October. Party leaders will then announce the route and timing of the "decisive" phase toward Islamabad. The Punjab government has imposed Section 144 restrictions through 15 October, prohibiting public gatherings, while federal officials have warned that the convoy will not be permitted beyond Attock. Roadblocks and short-notice closures are increasingly likely along the M-1, N-5, Attock crossings, and approaches to Rawalpindi and Islamabad. Confrontation risks will rise if protesters attempt to breach security cordons, particularly from 09 October onward.

Upcoming Events

- Upcoming Events - Week of 12 October: AlertMedia is tracking a series of demonstrations, holidays, labor actions, and other events scheduled to take place over the coming weeks. 12 October: Columbus Day/Indigenous Peoples' Day (United States) 12-18 October: World Bank Annual Meetings (Bangkok, Thailand) 14 October: International AI Summit (Dublin, Ireland) 20 October: Dussehra (India) 24 October: EU-GCC Summit (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia) 25 October: 'Retrocession Day' Public Holiday (Taiwan) 25 October: Runoff Election (Brazil) 25 October: Presidential Election (Bulgaria) 25 October: Parliamentary Elections (Serbia) 25-27 October: Thadingyut Festival (Myanmar) 27 October: Legislative Elections (Israel) 29-30 October: EU-Canada Summit (Montreal, Canada) 30-31 October: G20 Foreign Ministers Meeting (Atlanta, United States) 01 November: New York City Marathon (New York City, United States) 01 November: All Saints Day (Global) 03 November: Midterm Elections (United States) 04 November: Municipal Elections (South Africa) 07 November: General Election (New Zealand) 08 November: Diwali (India) 09-20 November: COP 31 UN Climate Change Conference (Antalya, Türkiye) 16 November: Revolution Day (Mexico) 18-19 November: Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum (Shenzhen, China) 25 November: International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (Global) 26 November: Thanksgiving Day (United States) 29 November: International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People (Global)