



US & CANADA

Newsletter

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US POLITICS

“Washington’s Power Playbook”

- On March 28, an estimated 8 to 9 million people participated in the third “[No Kings](#)” National Day of Action across the United States. These rallies, centred at the Minnesota State Capitol, were organized to protest the “imperial presidency” of Donald Trump, specifically targeting his administration’s military actions in Iran, [aggressive ICE operations](#), and perceived democratic backsliding. The name “No Kings” draws inspiration from the American Revolution’s rejection of monarchy, signalling a demand for greater congressional oversight and democratic control.
- President Trump has signed a landmark executive order strictly prohibiting the use of [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#) (DEI) criteria in federal procurement. Fulfilling a core campaign promise to dismantle what he terms “woke” bureaucracy, the order mandates that all federal contracts now be awarded solely on the basis of “colourblind” merit and cost-efficiency. A significant secondary effect of this directive is the immediate restructuring of the Department of Labor’s Office of [Federal Contract Compliance Programs](#) (OFCCP). Historically responsible for diversity auditing, the OFCCP has been repurposed to investigate companies that continue to utilize race-based hiring or training programs. This pivot marks a fundamental change in how the [government interacts](#) with the private sector’s internal policies.
- In a 53–47 vote, the U.S. Senate rejected a [War Powers Resolution](#) designed to curb President Trump’s authority to conduct military operations against Iran. Led by Senator Tim Kaine and other [Democratic lawmakers](#), the measure sought to mandate explicit congressional approval

before the administration could proceed with further military action in the escalating conflict. Most Republicans blocked the resolution, aligning with the White House’s stance that the President holds the constitutional authority as Commander-in-Chief to engage in limited military strikes without prior legislative consent. In a rare break from their respective caucuses, Republican Senator Rand Paul voted in favour of the restrictions, while Democratic Senator John Fetterman [voted against them](#), supporting the administration’s military flexibility.

- The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has reached a historic and “grim” milestone, officially becoming the site of the [longest partial government shutdown](#) in U.S. history. The agency has been without funding for 41 days, surpassing all previous records due to a fierce legislative deadlock over immigration and [law enforcement reforms](#). Senators passed a measure to reopen essential DHS operations, such as FEMA and the Coast Guard. However, this proposal [intentionally excluded](#) funding for ICE and Customs and Border Protection (CBP), a move designed to pressure the administration on enforcement tactics.

INDIA-US RELATIONS

- U.S. [Deputy Secretary of State](#) Christopher Landau led a high-level delegation to New Delhi for the 11th edition of the Raisina Dialogue. In a headline session titled “[Power, Purpose, & Partnerships](#),” Landau articulated the Trump administration’s “America First” vision, pointedly clarifying that it does not mean “America Alone.” He described India as a “[strategic twin](#)” and a nation of “unlimited potential” destined to shape the 21st century. This rhetoric underscores a desire to bolster India as a democratic counterweight in the Indo-Pacific. The

warm diplomatic framing, notwithstanding, Landau issued [a candid warning](#) regarding economic ties. He stated that the U.S. would not repeat “past mistakes made with China” by allowing market development without strict reciprocity and fairness for American workers.

- Elbridge Colby, Under Secretary of War for Policy Under Secretary of War for Policy Elbridge Colby concluded his visit to New Delhi with an address at the Ananta Centre in New Delhi. In his speech, titled [“The Case for Nationalistic Realism,”](#) Colby outlined a pragmatic new blueprint for India-U.S. relations that departs from traditional diplomatic norms. Colby argued that the era of “sentimental diplomacy” has concluded, replaced by “Nationalistic Realism.” Under this framework, Washington and New Delhi are to pursue their own distinct national interests to achieve a singular shared objective: maintaining [a stable balance](#) of power in Asia.
- India has formally joined [the “Pax Silica”](#) initiative, a U.S.-led strategic framework designed to secure the global “silicon stack” and decouple critical technology from adversarial influence. Announced by Ambassador Sergio Gor, the move signals a shift from diplomatic rhetoric to high-stakes industrial implementation. To anchor this partnership, the U.S. State Department launched a \$250 million Pax Silica Fund. Championed by Secretary Marco Rubio and Under Secretary Jacob Helberg, the fund introduces a [“strategic co-investment”](#) paradigm. Its primary goal is to catalyse over \$1 trillion in private and sovereign wealth capital to [develop resilient infrastructure](#) across three pillars: Critical Mineral Extraction: Securing the raw materials necessary for high-tech manufacturing; Semiconductor Logistics:

Stabilizing the global chip supply chain; and AI Infrastructure: Building the hardware foundation for [next-generation computing](#).

DIASPORA NEWS

- Congressman Tom Suozzi (D-NY) was appointed as the [Democratic Vice-Chair](#) of the bipartisan Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans. The appointment was announced by the [Caucus Chairman](#), Representative Ro Khanna (D-CA). Suozzi, who represents New York’s 3rd Congressional District covering parts of Long Island and Queens, takes on this leadership role at a time of significant strategic deepening between the two nations. His district is home to one of the most vibrant and dense [Indian American populations](#) in the United States.
- Congressman [Raja Krishnamoorthi](#) has reached a major turning point in his political career following the Illinois primary on March 17, 2026. After a high-profile campaign for the U.S. Senate seat being vacated by Dick Durbin, Krishnamoorthi officially conceded the Democratic nomination [to Lieutenant Governor Juliana Stratton](#). Krishnamoorthi was unable to overcome Stratton’s surging momentum in the final weeks. His defeat marks a significant shift in Illinois politics, as he will not be moving to the upper chamber in 2027. In his concession speech, he emphasized party unity and his continued [commitment to public service](#). While he is leaving the Senate race, Krishnamoorthi remains the Representative for Illinois’ 8th District through January 3, 2027. However, he has already begun stepping back from major leadership roles; earlier this year, he announced he [would step down](#) as the Ranking Member of the House Select Committee on the Strategic

Competition between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party.

- The Indian American community and high-tech workforce hit a critical breaking point as the [H-1B visa stamping crisis](#) reached its peak. For the first time in history, by late March, data from the U.S. Consulates in India showed zero available visa stamping slots for the remainder of 2026 across major processing hubs like New Delhi, Mumbai, and Bengaluru. The backlog has been attributed to a perfect storm of policy shifts and administrative delays. While the U.S. implemented a new wage-based H-1B selection process earlier in the year- prioritizing higher-salaried professionals- the [physical infrastructure](#) for processing renewals has not kept pace. This has left thousands of Indian professionals currently in the U.S. effectively “grounded,” unable to travel home for family emergencies or weddings because they cannot secure a mandatory re-entry stamp.

CANADA POLITICS

“The Quiet Power North”

- The centre-left [New Democratic Party](#) (NDP) officially entered a new era as activist and filmmaker Avi Lewis was elected the party's permanent leader. Lewis secured a decisive first-ballot victory at the Winnipeg convention, earning 56% of the vote (39,734 ballots). He defeated his closest rival, Alberta MP Heather McPherson, who garnered 29%. Lewis, a “proud eco-socialist,” ran on a platform of radical economic and environmental reform, including a [“Green New Deal,”](#) public housing expansion, and a moratorium on AI data centre construction. His win signals a significant shift toward the party’s socialist roots following the leadership of Jagmeet Singh.

However, the month was also marked by internal instability. Nunavut MP Lori Idlout shocked the [party by crossing the floor](#) to join Prime Minister Mark Carney’s Liberal caucus. Idlout stated she felt she was “betraying” her constituents by remaining in an NDP caucus that had lost official party status. Her defection left the NDP with only six seats, while pushing the Liberals within two seats of a [formal majority](#). As Lewis takes the helm, he faces the dual challenge of uniting a fractured caucus and rebuilding the party’s relevance in a Liberal-dominated Parliament.

- Prime Minister Mark Carney travelled to Yellowknife to unveil [“Look North,”](#) a sweeping \$40 billion strategic plan designed to “defend, build, and transform” Canada’s Arctic and Northern regions. The initiative marks a definitive pivot toward Canadian self-reliance and Arctic sovereignty amidst intensifying global geopolitical competition. The centrepiece of the strategy is a [\\$32 billion investment](#) in military infrastructure over the next decade. Key components include: Base Upgrades: [Modernizing Forward Operating Locations](#) in Yellowknife, Inuvik, and Iqaluit to support F-35 fighter jets; Advanced Tech: Installation of sophisticated over-the-horizon radar systems, new ammunition compounds, and fuel facilities; Support Hubs: The creation of four new Northern Operational Support Hubs in Whitehorse and Resolute to ensure a rapid, year-round military response.

- Prime Minister Mark Carney announced the [“Force of Nature”](#) strategy, a \$3.8 billion federal investment aimed at fulfilling Canada’s global pledge to protect 30% of its land and water by 2030. The cornerstone of the announcement includes the creation of 10 new national parks and 14 new marine protected areas (MPAs), spanning the Arctic to the Atlantic. This

expansion significantly bolsters Canada's conservation footprint, prioritizing [Indigenous-led conservation](#) and biodiversity hotspots currently under threat from climate change and industrial expansion. Beyond traditional conservation, the strategy introduces a revolutionary shift in governance: Natural Capital Accounting. This framework integrates the economic value of ecosystem services- such as carbon sequestration, water filtration, and flood protection- directly into the national balance sheet. Prime Minister Carney emphasized that by treating the environment as a measurable asset, the government aims to ensure that environmental preservation is a core metric of economic health rather than a trade-off.

- In a historic summit in Oslo, Prime Minister Mark Carney and the leaders of the five Nordic nations- Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, and Iceland- issued a joint statement pledging to establish a "[Northern Axis](#)" for NATO and Arctic security. Held during the massive Exercise Cold Response, the summit served as a defiant signal against Russian aggression and a firm reassertion of Arctic sovereignty.

The centrepiece of the communiqué is the launch of "[Arctic Sentry](#)," a new NATO initiative designed to synchronize military surveillance and presence across the High North. This framework aims to ensure that the alliance maintains a persistent and coordinated eyes-on-target capability in increasingly contested polar waters. With increased military spending, Canada has finally [hit](#) NATO's target of 2% of GDP which includes 20% on buying new weaponry.

INDIA-CANADA RELATIONS

- Prime Minister Mark Carney and Prime Minister Narendra Modi concluded a historic bilateral summit at Hyderabad

House, signalling an end to years of "diplomatic frost." The meeting, marking Carney's first state visit to India, transitioned the relationship from crisis management toward a "[structured expansion](#)" grounded in mutual respect. The core of the summit was a commitment to Diplomatic Parity. Following the "[visa wars](#)" and staff expulsions of 2023-24, both nations agreed to restore diplomatic staffing to pre-2023 levels. This move is expected to clear massive visa backlogs and revitalize the [people-to-people ties](#) that form the bedrock of the relationship.

The leaders upgraded ties to a renewed Strategic Partnership, focusing on: Energy & Minerals: A landmark \$2.6 billion uranium deal underscores Canada's role as a reliable energy partner; Technology & Security: Joint focus on "[trusted technology](#)" ecosystems, critical minerals, and maritime security; Defence Dialogue: The summit laid the groundwork for a formal [Canada-India Defence Dialogue](#), aligning interests in Indo-Pacific security and Arctic research. Carney emphasized that both nations are moving past previous frictions to build a partnership defined by economic complementarity and shared geopolitical goals.

- In a boost to India's clean energy ambitions, Canadian uranium giant Cameco has [signed a massive \\$2.6 billion CAD](#) (approx. ₹16,000 crore) supply agreement with India's Department of Atomic Energy. The nine-year contract facilitates the export of 22 million pounds of uranium concentrate to India, marking the most significant energy partnership between the two nations in over a decade. The deal serves as a cornerstone of the broader "[strategic reset](#)" initiated by Prime Minister Mark Carney and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. By securing a steady, long-term supply of high-grade Canadian fuel, India

aims to accelerate its transition [toward Net Zero emissions](#).

- Canada and India have officially launched the Canada-India Talent and Innovation Strategy, a landmark initiative aimed at building a [“trusted technology” ecosystem](#). Announced by Foreign Minister Anita Anand and Indian Education Minister Jayant Chaudhary, the strategy focuses on deepening cooperation in high-value research and skilled labour mobility. The initiative is structured around four key goals: Sector Integration: Embedding Canadian expertise into India’s priority industries; Economic Translation: Turning academic research into tangible economic outcomes; Talent Rebalancing: Shifting migration and mobility [toward high-tech fields](#); Accelerated Delivery: Streamlining the implementation of joint innovation projects.

- Canada’s Minister of International Trade, Maninder Sidhu, and India’s Commerce Minister, Piyush Goyal, held a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the [WTO 14th Ministerial Conference](#) (MC14) in Yaoundé, Cameroon. This meeting served as a critical follow-up to the “strategic reset” initiated by Prime Ministers Carney and Modi earlier this month.

The ministers officially reviewed the progress of the [Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement](#) (CEPA), welcoming the successful conclusion of the first round of negotiations. Both sides reaffirmed an ambitious timeline to finalize the pact by the end of 2026. Beyond traditional trade, the discussion expanded into a [“diversified sectoral engagement strategy,”](#) specifically targeting collaboration in: High-tech Aerospace and Defence, Pharmaceuticals and Green Energy.

DIASPORA NEWS

- The University of Toronto announced a landmark \$25 million CAD (approx. ₹ 170 crore) scholarship fund dedicated to supporting [Indian international students](#). This initiative was unveiled following the high-level summit between Prime Ministers Mark Carney and Narendra Modi in New Delhi. The fund is designed to provide [fully funded scholarships](#) for 220 Indian students, primarily targeting Master’s and PhD candidates in STEM fields, Artificial Intelligence, and healthcare. Additionally, the university committed to creating 300 new funded research positions for Indian students, facilitating [deeper academic exchange](#) and collaborative R&D.

- The Canadian government officially unveiled a one-time permanent residency (PR) pathway targeting 33,000 temporary residents already contributing to the national economy. This [“TR-to-PR”](#) style initiative is a cornerstone of Prime Minister Mark Carney’s strategy to stabilize the [immigration system](#) by prioritizing “in-land” talent over new arrivals. The program specifically targets workers in sectors facing acute labour shortages, including healthcare, skilled trades, and agriculture. While the policy is country-agnostic, Indian nationals- who hold approximately 20% of Canada’s [temporary work permits](#)- are expected to be the primary beneficiaries. Eligible applicants must hold a valid work permit, demonstrate [current employment](#), and provide proof of community integration through tax filings. With over 300,000 work permits set to expire in early 2026, experts warn that the 33,000-seat cap could be reached within days of the official portal launch in April.