



US & CANADA

Newsletter

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US POLITICS

Trump at Tariffs, again!

- As an alarming development on the [international trade](#) scene, the Trump government has declared that on early August 2025, all goods imported into America will be subjected to a 25 percent tariff imposed by it on imported Indian goods. The penalties that concern the Indian purchase of [Russian oil](#) are also present in the executive order that was signed. This is another move in a broader [tariff approach](#) that saw a change in importation taxes on various other countries among which it saw a lower 15 percent tariff on South Korean goods.

- President Donald J. Trump signed into law a bill titled [One Big Beautiful Bill Act](#) which is an omnibus bill that makes sweeping changes to the tax code of the country, healthcare as well as immigration enforcement. Congress narrowly [approved](#) the bill on partisan lines, and the massive amount of the tax cut that it proposes is mainly aimed at the middle and working class of Americans, including zero-rating on tips and overtime or social security benefits to many. The act is also meant to stimulate the domestic industry by the deduction of an interest on loans to purchase [automobiles](#) which are manufactured in America.

- The foreign ministers of the [Quadrilateral Security Dialogue](#) (Quad) met in Washington D.C. The high-level meeting was aimed at the improvement of cooperation in Indo-Pacific region to create a free, open, and secure maritime domain. The summit resulted in the announcement

of maritime law enforcement cooperation, a pact to increase cooperation across the Indo Pacific region and the [Quad Critical Minerals Initiative](#) to diversify and secure global supply chains of strategic resources. The talks also discussed the plans to recalculate the assistance of the U.S. to foreign countries with more focus on any program that addresses the interests of U.S directly. The meeting reiterated the unity of the Quad in adherence to international law and free movement of ships at a time when geopolitical rivalry is increasing in the region.

- The [Federal Open Market Committee](#) (FOMC) of the Federal Reserve has announced that it has decided to leave the target range of federal funds rate unchanged. The rate charged on the reserve balances was maintained at [4.4 percent](#). The move is consistent with the evaluation made by the central bank regarding the economy of the U.S., including the inflation, and the jobs reports. The FOMC statement which accompanied it showed that the committee would remain vigilant on the economic conditions and keep changing its monetary policy stance as it sees fit to meet its dual mandate of gaining maximum employment and price stability.

- President Donald Trump connected with the Florida governor Ron DeSantis on a visit to a new, controversial temporary immigration detention centre in Florida Everglades known as [Alligator Alcatraz](#). Situated in a distance of 50 miles west of Miami at the Dade-Collier Training and Transition Airport, the location was also settled at as a remote and dangerous land, which the officials themselves are selling as

a major security asset. The official aim of the facility that can accommodate several thousands of people is to intercept, process, and speed up deportation of illegal immigrants. The visit served as a way of sending a message of deterrence by both DeSantis and Noem that those individuals who are in the U.S. illegally should self-deport so that they are not sent to the centre. President Trump described the makeshift site as professional and said other states could follow in its foot print.

- President Trump has signed the set of sweeping [executive orders](#). The instructions focus on three main areas, including addressing the perceived ideological confusion in AI systems, speeding up development of necessary digital infrastructure, and increasing export of [American AI technology](#). The most controversial one is the administration of prevention to what has been termed as the 'woke AI'. In this directive, federal agencies are told to audit their activities involving artificial intelligence tools and to create new guidelines that guarantee the [impartiality](#) and non-partisan what-if with AI-based decision-making and content creation.

A second priority entails ensuring an efficient process of [constructing the data centres](#) where energy-intensive AI and the digital economy run. Claimed to be driven by national security and economic competitiveness concerns, the order is aimed at accelerating federal permitting procedures and environmental compulsions of new data centre development. The administration argues that the U.S. is showing [bureaucratic foot-dragging](#) that are

preventing the country in the race to become an AI superpower.

- A [federal judge](#) has delivered a significant legal blow to the Trump administration, issuing a nationwide injunction that blocks a controversial executive order seeking to end birthright citizenship. The President's order aimed to reinterpret the 14th Amendment of the Constitution to deny automatic citizenship to children born in the United States to parents who are not U.S. citizens. The ruling marks the first major court victory for opponents of the policy and sets the stage for a protracted [legal battle](#) that is likely to reach the Supreme Court.

- On [Independence Day](#), a wave of coordinated demonstrations under the banner of "[Free America Weekend](#)" took place in approximately 300 cities nationwide, signalling a significant and widespread protest movement. Instead of traditional holiday celebrations, tens of thousands of participants gathered to express dissent on issues reportedly related to individual liberties and government policy. The largest of these rallies occurred in Los Angeles, where organizers estimated that a crowd of over 25,000 people gathered, marching through downtown streets. Other major urban centres also saw substantial turnouts, with notable [demonstrations](#) held in Seattle, Washington, and Columbus, Ohio. The geographical spread of the events, from the West Coast to the Midwest, highlights the movement's extensive organizational network and its ability to mobilize supporters across the country.

- Responding to devastating [flooding data](#) that have been ravaging the communities in the Central parts of Texas, President Trump has declared a major disaster in the region. The relocation comes after several days of heavy rain that resulted in more rivers breaching their banks, flooding vast areas, evacuation of residents, and severe property damage and destruction of infrastructure.

- Across the country, [Step of John Lewis](#), a civil rights legend who died last month, an estimated tens of thousands turned for massive demonstrations held in every single state, plus Puerto Rico, in a nationwide tribute to the late civil rights icon. In a reference to the famous speech where Lewis calls to cause only [good trouble](#), necessary trouble, the rallies celebrated his legacy as well as made sure that the present Trump administration still bears serious criticism.

INDIA-US RELATIONS

- In a major decision that would affect the [Indo-US relations](#), the Trump administration announced the introduction of a hefty 25% duty on all items that are imported into the United States originating in India and the same would appear in the first week of August 2025. According to the executive order, the move was necessitated by the unfair trade practices and high Indian tariffs levelled against U.S. goods. It is the latest unilateral move in the government policy that prioritizes the domestic industries with the use of creative tariffs to support and advance American industries. This is a major increase in trade friction between the two strategic allies and throws

a dark cloud over the rest of the relationship that is otherwise being cooperative including in [defence and technology matters](#).

- The [NISAR](#) (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) satellite was launched on July 30, 2025, marking a significant achievement in international collaboration in space. NISAR, an initiative by [NASA and ISRO](#), will enable enhanced monitoring of Earth's environment by meticulously tracking the planet's dynamic land and ice regions. The 2,393 kg observatory was launched with ISRO's [Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle](#) (GSLV-F16) and was placed in a Sun-synchronous polar orbit. This remarkable mission epitomizes a decade-long collaboration between the two space agencies, illustrating their joint [technological ingenuity](#).

DIASPORA NEWS

- Indian-born orthopedic surgeon [Dr Anjani Sinha](#), a nominee of President Donald Trump as the U.S Ambassador to Singapore had to undergo a gnashing confirmation hearing by Senate Foreign Relation Committee. Being inexperienced in the diplomacy field, Sinha was taken through a series of hard-hitting questions and especially by Senator Tammy [Duckworth](#) that cast much doubt on whether he was qualified to hold such an important diplomat position.

At the hearing, Sinha was not in a position to respond to some basic questions concerning the U.S.-Singapore relationship. He gave the wrong amount of U.S. trade surplus with Singapore the first

amount he gave was \$80 billion and then a second amount of \$18 billion which is a long way off the real amount of 2.8 billion dollars. He also could not provide the year that Singapore will be launching the [ASEAN regional forum](#) chair or even identify the U.S. naval bases within the country.

- A New England gathering of civic leaders and scholars of Indian-American heritage sought to address political issues to catalyze educational reform in India. The “[One Tablet: Infinite Futures](#)” leadership gala offered yet another chance for diaspora leaders to advocate for technology-enabled opportunities for the millions of school-aged children in India. This non-governmental initiative was organized by Vidya Bharati USA and its affiliates to make use of the Indian-American community's skill sets and resources.

CANADA POLITICS

- The [New Democratic Party](#) (NDP) says it is now in the process of rebuilding, with the party officially announcing that it would commence an autopsy of its devastating 2025 election bid and establish a schedule of when the next leadership challenge will take place. The party said it is launching an internal review of its [campaign](#); a move needed after a spring election blow in which its seat total imploded and its leader Jagmeet Singh not only lost his own riding but resigned. It was announced that Ottawa lawyer and former NDP candidate Emilie Taman would lead this review and renewal process which will include [wide-ranging consultations](#) with

riding associations, candidates, and party members during the summer.

- Canada has suspended plans to charge new [retaliatory tariffs](#) on United States steel and aluminium in a step to ease a brewing trade row. This ruling was made after the Trump administration had postponed a deadline that was set on continued trade talks between the two countries. The government had been ready to add much more tariffs to counter the U.S. metals, yet has now decided to wait a bit more round in case of getting a deal. The present [25 percent counter-tariff](#) on the American steel and [aluminium](#) will therefore continue to be in force throughout this duration.

- Canada has stated that it intends to formally [recognize Palestinian](#) statehood in a move that marks a major change in its [foreign policy](#) to be in line with major European allies of the country. Nevertheless, the [recognition](#) comes with [conditions](#) and introducing another layer of tension to an already tense trade talks with the United States.

- Patty Hajdu, a Minister of [Indigenous Services in Canada](#), represented the nation in the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development convened at the United Nations Headquarters. At the forum, Minister Hajdu delivered the second Voluntary National Review to show the progress made by Canada in the realization of the 2030 Agenda of achieving the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs). A priority was the role of Canada in building a more sustainable, growing more peaceful and prosperous world.

INDIA-CANADA RELATIONS

- Jeff David was made the new [Consul General of Canada](#) in Mumbai replacing Diedrah Kelly. This is an important step because it will be the first such new Canadian diplomatic assignment to this country since the drastic diplomatic row that took place in 2023. The appointment was a cross-listing and signalled a possible normalisation of relationships. It has also been reported that the two nations have agreed to restore their high commissioners which is a significant move in restoring diplomatic relations between them.

DIASPORA NEWS

- The alleged Khalistani gunman [opened fire](#) at a new eatery in Surrey, B.C., called Kapil (a.k.a. Kapil Cafe), named after the Bollywood actor Kapil Sharma, apparently a proprietor of the restaurant. Although no one was hurt during the attack, the event resulted in great damages to property. [Shooting](#) received an immediate critical reaction on the part of Indian officials who were deeply concerned about the targeting of persons of Indian origins and origin-oriented businesses in Canada. The incident has subjected concerns over extremist violence and separatist group activities in other countries to increased anxieties. The incident has been [investigated](#) by the Canadian law enforcement who are currently analyzing the case as a possibility of a politically charged extremist act.