



US & CANADA

Newsletter

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MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES

मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान

US POLITICS

- Communities nationwide marked Independence Day with major events in Philadelphia, Boston, New York and Washington. Roughly 150 million people were under heat alerts as record temperatures forced cancellation of several outdoor events, and attendees at the [“Salute to America 250”](#) event in Washington were told to evacuate the National Mall because of thunderstorms before being allowed back. The federal program included the [Great American State Fair on the National Mall](#), a presidential address, military flyovers, U.S. Army Band performances and a Guinness World Record fireworks display using more than 850,000 fireworks. The celebration was run through a White House task force rather than solely the congressional America250 commission.

- Leaders of [NATO’s 32 members met in Ankara](#) on July 7–8, with Secretary General Mark Rutte setting three priorities: rising allied defence investment, transatlantic defence-industrial production, and support for Ukraine. Expectations were modest given [transatlantic friction over Greenland](#), Iran and European spending, but allies agreed to a short communiqué that notably did not commit to a summit the following year. In the margins Trump announced the lifting of CAATSA sanctions imposed after Turkey’s S-400 purchase and green-lit delivery of five F-35s Ankara had already paid for, asking rhetorically why the U.S. wouldn’t do so given good relations. Netanyahu had lobbied against the move in a phone call and publicly on Fox News.

- [Sen. Lindsey Graham](#), elected to the Senate in 2002 and a close Trump ally, died Saturday night, July 11, from what his office called a brief and sudden illness. Trump led tributes, calling him one of the greatest people and senators he had known, and said he had [spoken with Graham hours before](#) his death. He died hours after returning from a trip to Ukraine. Preliminary findings from the D.C. medical examiner gave the cause as aortic dissection due to heart disease. Graham was the last surviving member of an influential group of Senate defence hawks and was central to enacting Trump’s policy and staffing priorities after starting out as a fierce critic. He was in the middle of a re-election bid; his funeral was held July 28.

- Trump invoked [Section 338 of the Tariff Act of 1930](#) - a provision not used or threatened for at least 70 years - to impose 50% additional tariffs on certain Canadian goods including USMCA-compliant products, effective August 19. The measures hit roughly [\\$20 billion in annual imports](#). Three proclamations covered products from wine to hockey sticks to cement, framed as a response to Canadian treatment of American cars, alcohol and dairy. Energy, potash, fish and critical minerals were excluded. The White House said Canada and China were the only countries to retaliate against earlier tariffs rather than negotiate, and [the 2020 USMCA pact was not renewed](#), triggering new talks that could run for years.

INDIA-US RELATIONS

- USTR Jamieson Greer had concluded a New Delhi trip in late June,

meeting [Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal](#) as the two sides sought to finalize a trade deal. They had reached a tentative agreement in February before a U.S. Supreme Court decision invalidated Trump's sweeping tariffs that had necessitated the negotiations in the first place. U.S. Ambassador to India Sergio Gor said they were in the final steps of negotiations. Greer's June 22–24 delegation met [Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman](#), Goyal and other senior officials to discuss both an interim agreement and the broader Bilateral Trade Agreement, but officials gave no deadlines for either. The interim deal, first signed in February, had been expected to close by May. July passed without a signature.

- The Trump administration on Friday, July 24, unveiled fresh [duties of between 10% and 12.5% on goods from 60](#) trading partners, including India, alleging those countries had failed to curb imports made with forced labour. India said on Saturday it would continue engaging with the United States to conclude a bilateral trade agreement. The commerce ministry noted the duty on India is lower than the 12.5% proposed in June and [excludes generic pharmaceuticals](#), smartphones, steel, aluminium and auto parts. India had been engaging with Washington on the proposed Section 301 measures throughout; the U.S. was India's second-largest trading partner in 2025–26. Textile and apparel exporters absorbed the sharpest impact.

- Indian Navy's P-8I Long Range Maritime Reconnaissance and Anti-Submarine Warfare aircraft [joined](#)

RIMPAC 2026, the world's largest maritime exercise, in Hawaii. US Ambassador Sergio Gor welcomed India's participation, highlighting the shared commitment to strengthening bilateral defence ties. The Indian Navy is serving as Deputy Commander Task Force for theatre-level anti-submarine warfare for the first time,, reflecting India's expanding operational role and growing interoperability with partner navies. RIMPAC 2026 is the 30th in the series, which began in 1971, with thirty nations, over 30 surface ships, five submarines, 15 national land forces, more than 206 aircraft and 30,000 personnel involved.

DIASPORA NEWS

- More than 500 people attended the America 250 Indian American Commemorative Celebration in Washington, D.C. Organizers said it was a chance for Indian Americans to renew their [commitment to America's democracy](#) while highlighting the traditions and religions they share. Held at DAR Constitution Hall, it is believed to be one of the first major [Indian-American community-led events](#) in the capital marking the semiquincentennial, with more than 40 Indian-American organizations participating under a single platform. Kapur announced plans to engage a professional PR firm to promote community contributions.

- Reps. Shri Thanedar and Raja Krishnamoorthi vowed at the celebration to fight back against anti-India hatred and urged the diaspora into civic life. Thanedar said hate seen across America [against](#)

[immigrants must not be tolerated](#) and that immigrants' contributions must be honoured. Krishnamoorthi, recalling an incident where he faced calls for his deportation to India, said Indian Americans are here to stay and part of the fabric of the country, pledging to fight anti-Indian and anti-Hindu hatred and all forms of prejudice. He noted Indian Americans are among the best-educated and most prosperous communities, constituting 10 [per cent of U.S. doctors and owning](#) 60 per cent of hotels and motels, and urged runs for office from city council upward. Krishnamoorthi was primaried out of his bid for the Illinois Democratic Senate primary in March and Thanedar was also primaried out of re-election to the US House Of Representatives from Michigan in August.

- The Ministry of External Affairs said on July 31 that 2,273 Indian nationals had been deported from the United States to India so far in 2026, and that 3,567 were deported during 2025. The spokesperson said [India continues to work with several foreign](#) governments on deportation issues, conducts due diligence to confirm the nationality of anyone referred for deportation, and facilitates travel or return only once fully satisfied the person is an Indian national. He added that the government remains committed to [promoting legal pathways for migration](#). Separate reporting citing MEA figures put the January- July total lower and said more than 60 per cent returned on commercial flights, with 37.6 per cent on U.S. government charter flights.

CANADA POLITICS

- Canada's expanding NATO role this month included its landmark decision to [select](#) a German-Norwegian bid to build up to 12 advanced Type 212CD submarines, a move aimed at reducing military dependence on the United States and accelerating Arctic capability. The procurement fits Prime Minister Mark Carney's push to raise defence spending toward NATO's new 5% target and secure major industrial benefits, with the program projected to create 100,000 Canadian jobs. Canada also accelerated its defence and industrial strategy in July, with Prime Minister Mark Carney announcing technical negotiations to join the NATO Innovation Sub-Fund and confirming that Canada will host the [2027 NATO Industry Forum](#). He met NATO's Secretary General and leaders from 16 nations to discuss allied capabilities, Ukraine's self-defence, and securing shipping through the Strait of Hormuz. Ottawa also tightened procurement for the Light Utility Vehicle project, restricting bids to Canadian suppliers, and unveiled a nearly \$2 billion partnership with General Dynamics to build 190 [armoured vehicles](#)—advancing a strategy to expand domestic production and rapidly increase defence spending.

- Prime Minister Mark Carney [announced](#) a new Alberta-to-west-coast oil pipeline to expand exports to Asia and reduce reliance on the United States amid rising trade tensions. Speaking in Calgary, he framed the multibillion-dollar project as part of a broader strategy to strengthen

Canada's economy and diversify global partnerships.

- Carney said Trump's new [50% tariffs on a range of Canadian](#) goods like wine, dairy, cement, furniture and ice hockey gear among them were the latest in a series of actions violating the North American trade pact, while saying Canada was ready to engage intensively to address outstanding issues and modernize CUSMA. He stopped short of threatening retaliatory tariffs. [Ontario Premier Doug Ford](#) said Canada should respond tariff for tariff, dollar for dollar. USTR Greer said Canada, unlike other partners, continues to retaliate against U.S. efforts to rebalance trade. The measures fall under Section 338 of the Tariff Act of 1930 and take effect 30 days after signing, on August 19.

- A Canadian intern at NATO's military headquarters in Belgium was [arrested](#) on suspicion of spying for a foreign country. Belgian prosecutors said the woman, "of Chinese origin," was detained after searches of her home and workplace. NATO stated there was no impact on operational readiness. . Former CSIS officer Dan Stanton warned that intern roles can be an "Achilles heel" for NATO, offering easy access to sensitive conversations rather than files

- Prime Minister Carney's first picks for appointment to the Senate included Tom Pitfield, who served on his 2025 campaign team and became principal secretary in the PMO, [and sitting Conservative MP Richard Martel](#) - a move that sent shockwaves through the chamber and signalled a step back from Justin

Trudeau's decade-long practice of appointing almost exclusively non-partisan figures. Martel, a Quebec Conservative MP since 2018, was the fifth MP Poilievre had lost in nine months. Also appointed were New Brunswick's Dr. [Rodney Ouellette](#) and Manitoba's [Geeta Tucker](#); all four sit as independents. Carney had already built his majority with the help of four former Conservatives who crossed the floor.

INDIA- CANADA RELATIONS

- India and Canada concluded the third round of negotiations for the proposed [Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement](#) in Ottawa on July 10, as the two sides looked to wind up talks within the year. The issues covered in the five-day round included trade in goods, services, intellectual property, rules of origin, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, and technical barriers to trade. India's Department of Commerce said the discussions witnessed positive progress across multiple negotiating tracks, reaffirming the shared commitment to conclude negotiations in 2026 in line with the leaders' vision. For India, a deal with Canada would add to [recent agreements with the UAE](#), Australia and the EFTA bloc; for Canada, India is its 10th-largest trading partner. Specific chapters agreed were not disclosed.

- The Royal Canadian Mounted Police indicated on Tuesday, July 7, that authorities found [no evidence linking Indian government](#) officials to the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar. It was the first time the RCMP explicitly stated there are

no links between the Indian government and the killing, through its investigation into [the Bishnoi gang's operations across Canada](#). The same day, the U.S. Department of Justice unveiled an indictment against three transnational criminal gangs- the Bishnoi gang, the Jaggu Bhagwanpuria cartel, and a syndicate led by Ravinder Singh Dhanda- charging 24 individuals. The announcement accompanied Operation Hard Ball, a coordinated RCMP-FBI investigation.

- High Commissioner Christopher Cooter and India's Chief Economic Adviser, Dr. V. Anantha Nageswaran held discussions on unlocking opportunities through CEPA, deepening trade and [investment, and driving sustainable growth](#). The meeting followed the conclusion of the third negotiating round in Ottawa from July 6-10, after which both sides reaffirmed their commitment to conclude the agreement within the scheduled timeline. This kind of working-level engagement- an envoy meeting a senior economic official rather than a minister- was characteristic of the month: the relationship was in technical consolidation mode after the March reset, not generating headline announcements.

DIASPORA NEWS

- India's High Commission noted that with more than 1.8 million Indo-Canadians and an estimated 1 million non-resident Indians, [Canada hosts one of the largest Indian diasporas abroad](#), and that the community has contributed significantly to the Canadian economy and

society. An MoU signed between India's Ministry of Culture and Canadian Heritage aims to deepen people-to-people ties through arts, heritage, audiovisual media, music and creative industries, and the India-[Canada Consular Dialogue](#) last met in Ottawa on 26-27 May 2026. Against that, the Carney administration has tightened scrutiny of asylum and student visa applications, with international student numbers in Canadian institutions falling 26 per cent in 2025-26.

- The Indian Summer Festival, one of Canada's leading multicultural arts celebrations and the country's largest South Asian arts celebration, was [held](#) across Metro Vancouver from July 9-19. Guided by the curatorial theme "Ragas for a Ruptured World," the festival brought together over 90 acclaimed musicians, comedians, authors, visual artists, filmmakers, and cultural innovators for eleven days of performances, conversations, exhibitions, and community events. The festival began in 2011, making the 2026 edition its 15th year.