



US & CANADA

Newsletter

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US POLITICS

- From the G7 summit in Evian, France, Trump forced the postponement of an afternoon confirmation [hearing for Jay Clayton](#), his nominee for director of national intelligence, by directing Clayton not to appear. He also threatened not to sign reauthorization of a critical surveillance law unless the Senate passed a sweeping election bill that had already failed repeatedly. The move blindsided and frustrated Senate Republicans and [derailed Majority Leader John Thune's plan](#) to fast-track the nomination to unlock Democratic votes for the now-expired spying program. Asked why Trump pulled the rug out, Thune said simply, "Good question." The episode was part of a [growing pattern of friction](#) between the White House and Senate Republican leadership that deepened through the month, and it left a major intelligence post and a lapsed surveillance authority in limbo.

- President Trump ratcheted up tensions with [Senate Republicans after abruptly cancelling plans](#) to sign a landmark housing affordability bill, while the Democratic Party's progressive wing won a series of high-profile primaries. The bill cancellation was the sharpest escalation yet in the month-long feud between Trump and GOP congressional leaders, following the Clayton hearing debacle and disputes over Iran. Meanwhile, the progressive primary victories- including [Democratic Socialists of America \(DSA\)-backed Palestinian American Aber Kawas winning](#) a New York State Senate primary and, by month's end, a democratic socialist winning

the Democratic primary for a U.S. House seat in Denver - signalled the left's growing strength inside the Democratic coalition heading into November's midterms.

- In back-to-back decisions, the [Court's conservative majority](#) handed the administration sweeping immigration victories. In a 6-3 ruling, the Court allowed the Trump administration to block asylum seekers at the border, reversing lower-court orders halting the practice of "metering." Justice Sonia Sotomayor, dissenting from the bench, warned: "The consequences of today's decision are predictable. [More people will die.](#)" In another 6-3 ruling, the Court allowed the administration to end [Temporary Protected Status](#) for an estimated 350,000 Haitians and 6,000 Syrians, paving the way for mass deportations. Separately, the U.S. announced plans to deport over 500 unaccompanied immigrant children. NPR noted the TPS ruling gives the administration space to strip the status from hundreds of thousands more people.

- For the first time since Trump's controversial deployment of the [National Guard to the capital](#), several Democratic governors sent their own guard members to D.C. ahead of America 250 celebrations - under Title 32 status, meaning federal funding but state command. Friction erupted almost immediately: after video circulated of Michigan guard members [patrolling the Georgetown waterfront](#) - over a mile from any official celebration site-Gov. Gretchen Whitmer sent a strongly worded letter insisting her troops be used only for America 250 operations,

threatening to end Michigan's participation otherwise. Security preparations were unprecedented, with 5,000 guard troops, armoured vehicles, and the July 4 fireworks designated a National Security Special Event for the first time.

- The Supreme Court wrapped its term with a flurry of decisions. On the final day, it upheld birthright [citizenship on constitutional grounds](#)- a landmark defeat for the administration's effort to revoke it - while also weighing a post-Watergate campaign-finance law [limiting individual donations](#) to political parties. Earlier in the week, the Court blocked cancer patients from suing Bayer over its popular weed killer. Alongside the immigration rulings, the term's finale cemented this Court's central role in the [defining fights of 2026-presidential power](#), elections, and immigration- with Colorado holding its Senate, House and gubernatorial primaries the same day, June 30.

- The U.S. House of Representatives approved legislation allocating approximately \$70 billion for [immigration enforcement and border security initiatives](#). The package expanded detention capacity, increased funding for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), strengthened deportation operations, and enhanced surveillance technology along the southern border. Republican lawmakers argued the bill fulfilled President Trump's [campaign promises to tighten immigration enforcement](#), while Democrats criticized its humanitarian implications and questioned its fiscal cost. Debate focused on balancing border security with due process

protections for migrants. The legislation represented one of [the administration's highest domestic priorities](#) and signalled continued congressional support among Republicans for aggressive immigration measures. The Senate had already passed the measure the previous week in a 52-47 vote, and President Trump signed it into law as the Secure America Act on June 10, 2026, locking in funding for ICE and Customs and Border Protection through the end of his term.

INDIA-US RELATIONS

- A [U.S. aircraft fired precision](#) munitions into the engine room of the M/T Settebello as it transited the Sea of Oman laden with Iranian oil, causing a fire and killing three Indian seafarers - the first confirmed deaths in Washington's blockade of Iranian ports. Just a day earlier, [24 Indian sailors had to be rescued](#) from another tanker, the M/T Marivex, also struck by U.S. forces; a third vessel, the M/T Jalveer, carrying Indian crew, was hit days later. The deceased were identified as Aditya Sharma, Shivanand Chaurasiya and Patnala Suresh, and India's External Affairs Ministry declared that "[the targeting of commercial](#) shipping and civilian infrastructure in the region must end."

- Officials said [the U.S.-India trade agreement](#) was in its "last mile," with negotiations expected to conclude within weeks, ahead of the first face-to-face Modi-Trump meeting in 16 months at the G7. The talks were set to focus on advancing the deal, expanding energy imports, and the West Asia conflict, including the volatile Strait of Hormuz. India was keen to

diversify its energy basket, with U.S. oil and gas supplies forming a key pillar of a proposed long-term partnership. At the G7 outreach session, PM Modi delivered a pointed message- “[Trust and verify. Trust is a rare commodity.](#)”

- President Trump and Prime Minister Modi struck an upbeat tone at their first in-person meeting in more than a year, aiming to turn the page on strains caused by trade and other disputes. The two leaders highlighted [their personal rapport and touted progress in negotiations](#), with Trump saying the two countries were “very close” to finalising a long-awaited trade agreement. Trump lavished praise on Modi as “[a very tough negotiator](#),” saying: “He’s the most beautiful-looking man... But actually, he’s as tough as he’s a killer.” The meeting came at a difficult moment in the relationship, in part because of the June 10 deaths of the [three Indian sailors](#) in the Gulf of Oman. The bilateral was widely read as a deliberate reset after a bruising stretch.

- U.S. Trade Representative [Jamieson Greer led an official delegation](#) to New Delhi from June 22–24, marking a key step toward a balanced India–U.S. Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) and finalizing an interim deal in line with the February 7, 2026 joint statement. Greer held multiple rounds of talks with Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, comprehensively [reviewing market access, digital trade, supply chain resilience](#), non-tariff barriers, and strategic-sector cooperation, with both sides noting substantial progress. Goyal indicated the first phase of the BTA could be signed by mid-July, though India pressed for tariff

relief and clarity on the USTR’s Section 301 proposals threatening a 12.5% duty over forced-labour concerns in third-party supply chains.

DIASPORA NEWS

- A striking report captured the diaspora’s biggest structural story. In 2026 alone, 7,300 [Indian tech workers had already returned](#) to India by mid-year, and staffing firm Xfino estimated that for the first time in years, returnees could exceed professionals heading to the U.S. before year’s end - [outbound migration stood at just over 9,100](#) in 2026 versus 21,200 in all of 2025. Drivers included stricter compliance requirements, the proposed \$100,000 sponsorship fee, and the 60-day window laid-off workers have to find a new sponsor. Meanwhile, foreign hiring at Google fell by more than half and Amazon approvals dropped nearly a third - though Nvidia kept recruiting aggressively, offering some senior packages exceeding ₹4.5 crore in base salary.

- Indian-origin [entrepreneurs, executives, investors, academics and innovators featured prominently in Forbes’](#) 2026 ranking of the 250 most successful living immigrants in the United States, released as the country approaches its 250th anniversary. The 26 Indian-origin honourees included Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella, Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai, IBM CEO Arvind Krishna, Adobe CEO Shantanu Narayen, cybersecurity leader Jay Chaudhry, venture capitalist Vinod Khosla, Palo Alto Networks CEO Nikesh Arora, former PepsiCo chief Indra Nooyi, and Nobel Prize-winning economist Abhijit

Banerjee. Forbes said the [ranking celebrates immigrants](#) whose achievements have [driven innovation, economic growth](#), and social impact across the United States. The recognition landed at a pointed moment-celebrating immigrant success even as visa policy made the pathway that produced these leaders markedly harder to travel.

- [U.S. Ambassador to India Sergio Gor](#) said the Trump administration's overhaul of the H-1B visa programme is not targeted at India, seeking to allay concerns in the country most affected by the changes even as both nations moved to finalize their trade agreement. "[None of this is targeted at India necessarily](#)... India has a massive population, so you're impacted by it," Gor said. The remarks addressed fallout from the September 2025 proclamation that made a \$100,000 payment mandatory for most H-1B petitions, citing "systemic abuse" that undermined American workers. Gor [emphasized the relationship remained robust](#): "Our embassy is one of the busiest embassies in the world as it relates to visas... people-to-people ties will continue." Reports also indicated Trump was expected to visit India as the trade pact neared completion.

CANADA POLITICS

- [Jurist Louise Arbour](#), appointed by King Charles III on the recommendation of Prime Minister Mark Carney in May 2026, was sworn in as Governor General of Canada on the morning of June 8, 2026, in a ceremony at the Senate of Canada Building. Arbour - a former Supreme Court of Canada justice, UN High Commissioner

for Human Rights, and chief prosecutor for the international criminal tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia - brought one of the most [distinguished legal résumés in Canadian history](#) to Rideau Hall, succeeding Mary Simon. Her installation came at a delicate constitutional moment for a minority Liberal government navigating trade warfare with the United States. In the same month, Carney also appointed Manitoba judge Glenn Joyal to the Supreme Court of Canada, [reshaping two of the country's highest institutions](#) within weeks.

- President Trump said he was "[not looking to renew](#)" the continental trade pact, indicating the U.S. would blow past the July 1 renewal deadline. "We don't need anything that Canada has, we don't need anything that Mexico has, but they need everything that we have," Trump told reporters, complaining about the trade deficit with Canada- which is driven [by Canadian energy exports](#). While official CUSMA negotiations between Ottawa and Washington had yet to begin, U.S.-Mexico talks had started; Canada-U.S. talks had been frozen since October after Trump was angered by an Ontario-funded ad [quoting Ronald Reagan criticizing tariffs](#), though the relationship had begun to thaw, with Minister Dominic LeBlanc and chief negotiator Janice Charette meeting USTR Jamieson Greer in Washington. The remarks set the tone for a month of trade anxiety.

- The federal government brought in [major changes to pesticide regulation](#), granting cabinet the power to authorize

pesticide use - even pesticides Health Canada has deemed unsafe. Bill C-30 passed both the House and Senate before Parliament rose for the summer. Senator Rosa Galvez called it a “fundamental shift” letting ministers disregard Health Canada’s safety decisions, warning politicians “should be very careful before substituting political judgment for scientific expertise,” and noting scientists and health experts were not given the chance to testify. Green Party Leader Elizabeth May said: “In the 51 years I’ve worked on pesticides in this country, this is the single most regressive proposal I’ve ever seen.” The government said the [powers protect “successful harvests”](#) and “food sovereignty.” C-30 implemented provisions of the spring economic update tabled April 28.

- PM Carney held a press conference following the conclusion of the spring sitting, announcing that nineteen pieces of legislation received Royal Assent in just 14 weeks, with two more to be passed and referred to the Senate - most focused on [“bringing down costs and ensuring your safety.”](#) He highlighted the \$50-billion-plus Build Communities Strong Fund, a new National Food Security Strategy, a crackdown on surveillance pricing, the Team Canada Strong initiative creating up to 100,000 [skilled trades apprenticeships](#), and plans for a first-ever Canada Investment Summit in Toronto in September - declaring the goal of making Canada’s economy “the strongest in the G7.” Conservative Leader Pierre Poilievre countered with his own news conference, [taking aim at the government’s record](#) on CUSMA talks.

CANADA-INDIA RELATIONS

- Meeting on the sidelines of the G7 Summit in Evian, Modi and Carney sought to inject fresh momentum into India-Canada ties, agreeing to accelerate negotiations for the long-pending trade pact and [deepen cooperation in defence and strategic sectors](#). The two leaders reviewed bilateral ties and welcomed the “positive momentum” since Carney’s visit to India in March, reaffirming their commitment to a [“forward-looking strategic partnership.”](#) “In less than a year, it is our fourth meeting, indicating our commitment to strong India-Canada ties,” PM Modi posted on X. Carney wrote: “India is the [fastest-growing major economy in the world](#), and a powerhouse of global commerce and technology... we are working at speed to unleash the potential of new partnerships - in energy, talent, and AI.”

- The two leaders reaffirmed concluding negotiations for a [Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement \(CEPA\)](#) this year, with both sides expressing satisfaction at the progress of talks. The Canadian PMO’s statement noted the leaders reviewed bilateral economic cooperation, including developments in commercial arrangements relating to LNG, LPG and metallurgical coal, and looked forward to a forthcoming Canadian trade mission to India led by [International Trade Minister Maninder Sidhu](#) later in 2026. The leaders also noted Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal’s recent visit to Canada as part of the growing pace of high-level exchanges. The stakes are substantial: the two countries share an

aspiration of expanding bilateral trade to CAD 70 billion by 2030, anchored by the CEPA framework launched during Carney's March visit.

- Perhaps the most striking outcome given the recent history: the two sides agreed to launch negotiations on a [General Security of Information Agreement](#) to deepen defence and security cooperation. The GSOIA would facilitate the exchange and protection of sensitive information between the two governments, alongside upcoming discussions on defence, finance and migration. Analysts noted the agreement is expected to improve intelligence sharing and coordination against transnational threats such as terrorism, cybercrime and organized crime - expanding India's security collaboration with a major G7 nation while giving [Canada stronger mechanisms against cross-border threats](#). That two countries which expelled each other's diplomats over the Nijjar affair are now negotiating a formal intelligence-sharing framework marked the clearest sign yet of how far the reset has travelled.

DIASPORA NEWS

- In June 2026, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) introduced a written cap on authorized leave from studies, setting it at 150 days. This primarily affects international students, heavily impacting Indian applicants who use study permits as a pathway. The 150-day rule penalizes those who attempt to transfer from a public college program to a master's program, significantly raising the compliance risk. It

makes the initial choice of [Designated Learning Institution \(DLI\) critical](#), as unauthorized transfers or long gaps in enrolment could lead to students being deemed non-compliant with their permits.

- Montreal's Old Port hosted [the Flavours & Colours Festival 2026](#), organized by the Indo-Canadian Diaspora of Quebec (ICDQ). The event aimed to bridge Indian and Canadian cultures by merging a vibrant Indian Food Festival with a Holi-inspired celebration. The two-day festival showcased India's culinary heritage through street food and traditional dishes alongside cultural performances, yoga, and an eco-friendly play of colours. The second day leaned into a broader Canadian celebration, featuring DJs from across North America, highlighting the growing integration of Indian culture into wider Canadian society.