



# US & CANADA

## *Newsletter*

June 2025

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## US POLITICS

### Executive Overreach, some Judicial Pushback, and a "Beautiful" Bill

Even as [much](#) of the [headlines](#) in May were about President Trump's visit to countries in West Asia in his first trip abroad after taking office, it was business as usual back home. The impact of many executive active actions continued to be held in abeyance by the courts while the Administration enacted fresh actions to counter the judges. The U.S. Court of International Trade [ruled](#) that President Trump overstepped his authority by imposing wide-ranging tariffs under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA). This ruling blocked most of Trump's tariffs, including the so-called "Liberation Day" tariffs and duties on imports from China, Mexico, Canada, and other nations. The court held that IEEPA does not authorize the president to impose tariffs, particularly without congressional approval, invalidating these tariffs as unconstitutional overreach. However, a federal appeals court temporarily [reinstated](#) the tariffs the following day while the administration went into appeal.

Harvard University continued to bear the brunt of Administrative actions with the courts providing only temporary relief. In late May, federal judges in Boston [blocked](#) the Trump administration's efforts to restrict international students from entering the United States to study at Harvard University. The courts issued temporary restraining orders against executive actions that suspended Harvard's Student and Exchange Visitor Program

certification and subsequent proclamations barring foreign nationals from enrolling or continuing studies at Harvard for six months. The courts found these actions likely caused immediate and irreparable injury and questioned the national security justifications provided by the administration.

On the legislative side, the One Big Beautiful Bill, the Republican's attempt to cram Trump's "Make America Great Again" (MAGA) agenda into one [omnibus](#) bill took flight on the 16<sup>th</sup> of May as it was introduced into the House by Texas Congressman Jodey Arrington. It was passed by the House Budget Committee on May 21 by a vote of 8-4 and narrowly passed by the House of Representatives by a 215-214 vote after many Republicans who had opposed the Bill crossed over or abstained. The Bill is estimated to add \$3.5 trillion to the budget deficit, with tax cuts for the wealthy while cuts to Medicaid programs will lead to an estimated eight million people losing health coverage. Representatives have also been facing public [ire](#) at townhalls across the country. The Bill has now moved to the Senate where [Senate](#) Republicans have voiced strong opposition, demanding deeper spending cuts to prevent ballooning debt. Many Republican Congressmen have also [raised](#) objections after they passed the Bill in the House, [saying](#) they did not have time to read all the provisions of the 1000 page bill before it was put to vote. So, it could again face an uphill battle when it comes back to the House for reconciliation, possibly by the end of June 2025. A major provision of this bill that would [impact](#) the diaspora is a 3.5% tax on remittances on

order to garner \$975 million in revenue. According to one [analyst](#), a 10-15% drop in remittances could cost India \$12-18bn a year, tightening dollar supply and putting pressure on the rupee.

## INDIA-US RELATIONS

- Union commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal met with US commerce secretary Howard Lutnick amid talks between India and the United States over a **trade deal**. [Trade negotiations](#) have centred around concessions that each side can give the other. India is seeking duty concessions for labour-intensive sectors like textiles, gems and jewellery, leather goods, garments, plastics, chemicals, shrimp, oil seeds, grapes, and bananas. Meanwhile, the US is looking for concessions for certain industrial goods like automobiles (electric vehicles in particular), wines, petrochemical products, dairy, agriculture items such as apples and tree nuts.

- Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri [visited](#) Washington, D.C., from May 27–29, 2025, engaging in high-level discussions across multiple US departments, including State, Defence, Treasury, and Commerce. Key discussions covered defence cooperation, economic ties, counter-terrorism, and strategic trade regulations, with both sides emphasizing technology, trade, and talent as pillars of their partnership. Misri also engaged with industry and think tank roundtables.

- [Speaking](#) at the Shangri-La Dialogue, US Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth emphasised strengthening military cooperation with India and deepening QUAD ties to counter China's

influence in the Indo-Pacific. He highlighted initiatives such as the Indo-Pacific Logistics Network within the QUAD and Partnership for Indo-Pacific Industrial Resilience (PIPER) to boost regional defence capabilities and supply chains. Hegseth underscored the importance of joint military exercises, including Tiger Triumph and Towson Sabre, reinforcing America's strategic presence. He also framed the Trump administration's foreign policy as pragmatic, urging allies to take greater responsibility for regional security.

- Adding another wrinkle in the relationship, U.S. President Donald Trump has [warned](#) Apple that if it shifts iPhone production to India, it will face a 25% tariff on products sold in the United States. Trump stated that he had an understanding with Apple CEO Tim Cook that iPhones for the U.S. market would be manufactured domestically. He reiterated his stance during a visit to Doha, emphasizing that Apple should build its supply chain in the U.S. rather than India.

- President Trump announced on social media that he has [mediated](#) a ceasefire between India and Pakistan. He claimed he averted a '[nuclear disaster](#).' However, India denied any third-party involvement in the negotiations.

- India has [hired](#) Jason Miller, a former senior adviser to US President Donald Trump, as its lobbyist in Washington, DC, to provide strategic counsel, perception management, and lobbying services. His one-year contract, signed on May 21, 2025, includes a \$150,000 monthly retainer.

## DIASPORA NEWS

- US Department of Homeland Security cancelled [Harvard University's](#) certification that allowed it to enrol foreign national students. The decision prevents Harvard from issuing Form I-20 documents, an essential document for getting F-1 and M-1 student visas. 788 students from India are enrolled at Harvard, and are at a risk of losing their legal status in the US.

- The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) [barred](#) Megha Vemuri, the graduating class president, and her family from attending the commencement ceremony after she delivered a pro-Palestine speech at a May 29 event. MIT Chancellor Melissa Nobles stated that Vemuri misled organizers and violated campus expression rules by leading a protest from the stage. Wearing a red keffiyeh, Vemuri criticized Israel's actions in Gaza and MIT's research ties with the Israeli military, urging graduates to take a stand. She also praised students who voted to cut ties with Israel's military and supported a ceasefire in Gaza.

- Indian-American business executive Anjali Sud was [elected](#) to the Board of Overseers at Harvard University, filling the vacancy left by Mark Carney, who resigned on March 9 after becoming leader of the Liberal Party. Her appointment comes at a time when Harvard is facing pressure from the Donald Trump administration over its refusal to share data on international students involved in campus protests and violence.

- According to a report, some Indian parents are leaving their children at US

borders, hoping they will be granted citizenship and later be reunited with their families. This risky strategy involves leaving minors, sometimes as young as six, with minimal information, banking on immigration policies favouring family reunification. This method, often used by undocumented immigrants, has been under increasing scrutiny by the Trump administration. [Data](#) reveals a rise in unaccompanied Indian minors arriving in the US. From October 2024 to February 2025, 77 children were apprehended. Fifty-three were intercepted at the US-Mexico border, twenty-two at the US-Canada border, and a few within the country between 2022 and 2025, a total of 1,656 Indian minors were caught trying to enter the US illegally.

## CANADA POLITICS

### **Carney's cabinet of fresh faces tackles economic headwinds**

The Liberal Party, with 170 seats, won enough seats in the House of Commons to form the government but fell short of a majority by two seats when the final tally came in. Prime Minister Mark Carney announced his cabinet, vowing “[decisive action](#)” on his ambitious economic agenda in the context of a trade conflict with the US. The newly formed cabinet consists of twenty-eight ministers, with twenty-four fresh faces, including thirteen recently elected MPs. It brings together both seasoned politicians and newcomers, creating a team designed for this crucial phase, as Carney described. Among the notable changes, Anita Anand takes over as Minister of Foreign Affairs, replacing Mélanie Joly, who has been appointed

Minister of Industry. Pierre Poilievre, head of the Conservative Party, [contended](#) that the inclusion of Trudeau-era individuals in Carney's cabinet signifies that the Liberals will merely provide "more of the same" for Canadians.

As a first order of business, the new government announced a tax cut, announced a middle-class tax cut, reducing the lowest personal income tax rate from 15% to 14%. This was expected to most benefit Canadians with incomes in the two lowest tax brackets, those with incomes up to \$57,375 and those with incomes up to \$114,750.

## INDIA-CANADA RELATIONS

- India's External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar spoke with Canada's new Foreign Minister Anita Anand. This [conversation](#) marked a significant step towards mending the strained relations, with both sides expressing a desire to reduce tensions, enhance cooperation and boost economic ties.

- The Canadian government announced plans to reduce [immigration targets](#), affecting the influx of newcomers, particularly from India. This decision was part of a broader strategy to manage the country's immigration system amid rising domestic challenges.

## DIASPORA NEWS

- A record 22 [Punjabi-origin candidates](#) were elected to Canada's House of Commons in the 2025 federal election, marking the highest representation ever for the community. This surpassed previous totals of 20 in 2019 and 17 in 2021. The winners were split between 12 Liberals and

10 Conservatives, demonstrating [cross-party appeal](#) within the Punjabi community. Out of 65 Punjabi-origin candidates who contested across Ontario, British Columbia, Alberta, and Manitoba, the successful MPs include six women and six turbaned Sikh men.

- It was reported that Canada has seen a 31% drop in study permits for [Indian students](#), attributed to new immigration rules and stricter financial requirements. This decline could affect the educational aspirations of many Indian students seeking opportunities in Canada.