



# US & CANADA

## *Newsletter*

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## US POLITICS

### Trump's Tariffs impact America

Even as the global economy went into shock with the [imposition](#) of tariffs, the response at home was equally intense. Major business groups warned the tariffs would disrupt supply chains, raise prices, and increase economic uncertainty. Whilst the effects were not immediate, since Trump put on hold most of the tariffs for a period of 90 days, the end of the month brought news that the economy had shrunk and there was increased talk of a recession. Not the best way to mark a [hundred](#) days of the Administration.

Lawmakers from both parties expressed alarm and debated resolutions to terminate Trump's national emergency and tariff authorities since many of these impinged on the powers of Congress. A bipartisan resolution to revoke Trump's global tariffs on April 30 [failed](#) in the Senate with a 49-49 tie, as two Republican senators who supported the bill were absent. Vice President JD Vance broke another tie to block Democrats from forcing another vote on the measure the next week. The Senate did [pass](#) a 51-48 vote in early April that aimed to block the U.S. tariffs on Canada. Several state governments also condemned the tariffs as damaging to local economies and even initiated joint [lawsuits](#) challenging the constitutionality of Trump's actions and the burden imposed on state budgets. The Democratic party was [flayed](#) for being "gutless, clueless and paralysed" when it came to forging an effective opposition to Trump's actions.

National [polls](#) showed widespread public disapproval of President Trump's tariff policies, reflecting growing anxiety about their economic impact. Surveys from various organizations, showed that more than half of Americans disapprove of Trump's handling of key issues such as the economy, immigration, inflation, and tariffs. Trump's approval rating in the key swing [states](#) which won him the presidency showed negative, with Arizona (47%), Georgia (45%), Michigan (46%), Nevada (47%), Pennsylvania (45%), and Wisconsin (46%) showing more disapproval than approval. An early indicator of changing voter preferences was the Wisconsin Supreme Court election, where Democratic-backed judge Susan Crawford [defeated](#) conservative Brad Schimel in a race that drew national attention and became the most expensive judicial race in U.S. history with Elon Musk spending an [estimated](#) \$25 million to support Schimel. With the 2026 mid-term elections due a year and a half from now, Trump will have to get the economy and his ratings back on track or risk becoming a lame-duck President halfway through his term.

The judiciary has put roadblocks in the path of the roll-out of many of the president's executive orders; a federal judge [blocked](#) Donald Trump's executive order requiring proof of citizenship for voter registration, ruling that the president lacks the authority to unilaterally change federal election rules. The order, issued on March 25, 2025, required voters to prove U.S. citizenship and prevented states from counting mail-in ballots received after Election Day. The

order also threatened to withhold federal funding from states that do not comply. The order was challenged by Democrats and civil rights groups, who argued it would disenfranchise millions of voters, particularly those lacking easy access to documents like passports or birth certificates. The Trump Administration has been ignoring many judicial orders, including [that](#) by the Supreme Court

April 2025 also saw a surge in nationwide political protests and public opposition against the Trump administration, marked by the "Hands Off!" movements. The "Hands Off!" [protests](#), organised by a broad coalition of civil rights, labour, and advocacy groups, took place on April 5 with over 1,400 coordinated protests spanning all 50 states, targeting major public spaces, government buildings, Social Security offices, and city centres, as well as cities like London and Paris. The protests were a [response](#) to what organisers called a "hostile takeover" of American democracy.

## INDIA-US RELATIONS

- Vice-President JD Vance visited India for four days, marking the first trip by a sitting US Vice-President to the country in over a [decade](#). Accompanied by his wife and children, Vance met Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his official residence, where they discussed the long-pending bilateral trade agreement and key outcomes from Modi's recent visit to Washington. Discussions focused on advancing a bilateral trade agreement BTA, enhancing defence cooperation and collaborating on clean energy initiatives. The terms of reference for the BTA were [finalised](#) during

the visit. Vance was accompanied by a five-member US delegation from the Pentagon and the State Department. They held talks with senior Indian officials, including External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, to review progress on the India-U.S. Joint Statement and to prepare for the upcoming Quad summit. Vance also gave a [speech](#) in Jaipur at the India-US forum where he outlined a comprehensive vision for strengthening U.S.-India relations across defence, trade, energy, and technology sectors.

- India and the US made significant progress in their quest for a bilateral trade agreement, locking in terms of reference and actively engaging in high-level negotiations aimed at finalizing the first phase of a comprehensive deal by the fall (September-October) of 2025. The ToRs [encompass](#) approximately 19 chapters, covering areas such as tariffs, goods, non-tariff barriers, customs facilitation, rules of origin, and regulatory matters. They established the structure and main issues for the negotiations, paving the way for focused discussions in the months ahead. Subsequently, officials from both [countries](#) met in Washington, D.C., between April 23 and 25 to discuss tariff and non-tariff issues, with plans for in-person sectoral engagements starting in late May.

- The fourth edition of India-US Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise, Tiger Triumph 2025, was [held](#) in Visakhapatnam in two phases in April. The harbour phase, taking place from April 1 to 7, focused on planning

and training, including special operations, emergency medical response, and multi-domain operations across air, maritime, cyber, and space domains. The sea phase, held from April 8 to 12, featured joint maritime and amphibious training between the Indian Navy, Army, Air Force, US Navy, Army, and Marine Corps, including standoff and hard beaching, slithering operations from helicopters, and integrated air operations. The Indian Navy participated with INS Jalashwa, INS Mumbai, INS Gharial, INS Shakti, and various aircraft, while the Indian Army deployed an infantry battalion group with mechanised forces. U.S. Navy [units](#) including the landing ship dock USS Comstock (LSD 45), with U.S. Marines from the 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, and Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS Ralph Johnson (DDG 114) participated in the exercise. Additional U.S. forces participating in the exercise included Navy P-8A Poseidon and Air Force C-130J aircraft, as well as an Army platoon, medical platoon, Civil-Military Operations Centre, and Multi-Domain Task Force Combined Information Effects Fusion Cell.

## DIASPORA NEWS

- A US federal judge in Georgia has [ordered](#) the temporary restoration of the records of 133 international students, mainly from India, who faced visa cancellations and termination of their Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) records. The "Catch and Revoke" program, launched by the US government, has revoked over 4,736 SEVIS

records since January 2025, with over 50% of the targeted students being Indian. According to a [report](#), even students who had been exonerated by the courts of cases related to identity theft, minor traffic violations, and dismissed domestic violence charges were being forced to self-deport. Once a Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) record is terminated, students must leave within 15 days or take legal action to restore their status.

- The recent crackdown by the U.S. government on international students has disproportionately affected Indian students, with about half of the 327 recent student visa revocations belonging to Indian nationals, [according](#) to the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA). The U.S. authorities have been screening foreign students' data for months, including their activism, and there are concerns that artificial intelligence may have been used for surveillance, potentially leading to inaccurate targeting. The "Catch and Revoke" program aims to identify visa holders based on their social media activity, looking particularly for signs of anti-Semitism or support for Palestinians. The situation has drawn attention from India's Ministry of External Affairs, which has acknowledged the issue and stated that they are in contact with affected students.

- Harpreet Singh, an Indian man [accused](#) of orchestrating [terror attacks](#) in Punjab, has been arrested in the US. The FBI alleges Singh is linked to two [international terrorist](#) groups, entered the US illegally, and used [burner phones](#) to

evade arrest. Singh is wanted in connection with a grenade attack on a house in Chandigarh in 2024.

## CANADA POLITICS

### Carney powers the Liberal Party to victory

The federal parliamentary election held on April 28 was conducted under the first-past-the-post system with 343 ridings nationwide. The final [tally](#) showed the Liberal Party at 169, winning 43% of the vote, the Conservative Party at 143, with 41% and the smaller parties, Bloc Quebecois, and the New Democrat Party (NDP) winning 23 and 7 seats respectively. The NDP was the big loser, dropping seat count from 24 to just 7 and losing national party status. The Bloc Quebecois also lost 11 seats. Canada's Liberal Party, led by Prime Minister Mark Carney, bucked anti-incumbency, in no small part, thanks to President Trump's rhetoric and actions against Canada over the course of the previous three months. While it is 3 seats short of a majority, there are multiple ways in [which](#) it could form the government. Both Pierre Poilievre and Jagmeet Singh, leaders of the Conservative Party and the NDP, respectively, lost their seats.

Carney, a former central banker, faces the challenge of [steering Canada](#) through US President Donald Trump's tariffs. He promised to chart a new path forward in a world hostile to free trade. Carney, who [replaced](#) Justin Trudeau as prime minister, won his first parliamentary seat and was the first person to become Canadian prime minister without having experience as a [legislator](#) or cabinet member.

The campaign was [dominated](#) by debates over rising costs of living, housing, healthcare, and—most notably—how best to respond to escalating threats and tariffs from President Trump. Both parties advocated immigration curbs, with Carney suggesting a temporary cap and Poilievre arguing for levels that align with housing, jobs, and healthcare availability. Trump's influence on Canada, particularly in trade, was also a key topic. Carney emphasized the importance of dealing with Trump strategically, while Poilievre pushed for expanding Canada's energy exports, particularly to India. The debate also touched on global issues like Gaza and Ukraine, with leaders clashing over economic policies and international affairs.

## INDIA-CANADA RELATIONS

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi [congratulated](#) Mark Carney on his election as Prime Minister of Canada and the Liberal Party's victory and expressed his hope for stronger partnership and increased opportunities for India and Canada. Carney had expressed interest in strengthening the Canada-India relationship during his campaign, acknowledging past tensions but [proposing](#) a path forward with mutual respect.

## DIASPORA NEWS

- Thousands of migrants in Canada, including Indians, are [losing their](#) work permits due to long delays in the paperwork [renewal process](#). Growing backlogs and changing rules hinder efforts to maintain legal status, causing migrants to be unable to work legally or access medical care. The labour market [impact](#) assessment

processing time for temporary workers hoping to become [permanent residents](#) in Canada has almost tripled since at least fall 2022. Experts say changing rules and more applicants may be contributing to the growing backlog. Canada's Liberal government pledged to give undocumented people status but then [backtracked](#) and said it would provide it on a small scale for certain sectors.

- Canada has raised the federal [minimum wage](#) by 2.4%, benefiting thousands of Indian students and professionals working in [federally regulated](#) sectors like banking, interprovincial transportation, and telecommunications. The move is part of Canada's annual Consumer Price Index, which adjusts the federal minimum wage rate annually. The increase is applicable to Canadian citizens and immigrants, and employers must update their [payroll systems](#) to reflect the new rate.

- Indian student [Harsimrat Kaur Randhawa](#) was killed by a [stray bullet](#) when she was waiting at a bus stop in Ontario, Canada. The incident occurred during a [clash between](#) two groups in Hamilton, Ontario. The Indian Consulate General in Toronto expressed condolences and confirmed coordination with Canadian authorities. Her family has appealed to the Canadian government to return her body.

- Indian student Vanshika Saini, who had been missing in Ottawa, Canada, for four days, was [found](#) dead under mysterious circumstances. Vanshika went missing on April 25 after leaving home to view a rental room, sparking concern among her family

and community. Her phone was switched off that night, and she missed an important exam, which was out of character for her. The Indian High Commission in Ottawa acknowledged the tragedy and is in contact with her family and local authorities. Investigations are ongoing to determine the circumstances surrounding her death.

- A Hindu temple in Surrey, Canada, was defaced with [pro-Khalistan graffiti](#), marking another attack on religious institutions in the North American nation. The incident, which took place on April 19, is a chilling reminder of the growing influence of Khalistani extremism. Indian-origin Canadian Member of Parliament [Chandra Arya](#) condemned the incident, [calling for unity](#) among the Hindu and Sikh communities in Canada and demanding immediate action from authorities.