



# US & CANADA

## *Newsletter*

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## US POLITICS

- The United States federal government [entered a shutdown](#) on October 1, 2025, after Congress failed to pass necessary funding legislation. The shutdown immediately impacted the federal workforce, with approximately 900,000 workers furloughed and nearly 2 million others required to work without pay.

By October 27, the stoppage had become the second-longest government shutdown in U.S. history. The [prolonged impasse](#) created significant ripple effects across the country. These included potential delays in SNAP food-aid payments for vulnerable Americans, increased wait times for government services, and staffing challenges for aviation security. The shutdown also halted the processing of small-business loans, adding to the widespread disruption.

- The United States Senate delivered a significant legislative rebuke to President Donald Trump, voting 51-47 to nullify his [reciprocal tariffs](#). The tariffs, which had been imposed on over one hundred countries through executive action, were a contentious part of the administration's trade policy. The vote to overturn them was a bipartisan effort, with four Republican senators, Susan Collins of Maine, Mitch McConnell and Rand Paul of Kentucky, and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska crossing the aisle to join their [Democratic colleagues](#). This move by the Senate highlights the ongoing tension between Congress and the White House over trade authority and the broad, global implications of the tariffs.

- Amid the ongoing federal government shutdown, President Trump

signed a presidential memorandum to ensure 1.3 million [active-duty military personnel](#) would receive their pay-checks. The directive authorized the Pentagon to use any available funds to make the payments, a move that raised legal concerns over congressional authority. This action contrasted sharply with the administration's stance on the civilian federal workforce. The White House acknowledged that [“substantial” layoffs](#), or Reductions-in-Force (RIFs), of federal employees had begun. This was seen by critics as a political pressure tactic to force a [resolution to the shutdown](#), creating a stark divide between the treatment of military and civilian government employees.

## INDIA-US RELATIONS

- U.S. Ambassador-designate to India, Sergio Gor, held [a high-level meeting](#) with India's National Security Advisor, Ajit Doval, to discuss the expanding bilateral partnership.

The dialogue centred on key strategic pillars, including deepening defence cooperation, enhancing bilateral trade, and advancing technology-sharing agreements.

According to officials, the discussions were framed within the mutual commitment of both nations to ensure a ["free and open Indo-Pacific."](#) This meeting signals a continued focus on aligning U.S. and Indian interests in regional security and economic stability.

- U.S. Secretary of State [Marco Rubio](#) stated that America's expanding ties with Pakistan "won't come at the cost of" its "historic and important" partnership with India. Rubio acknowledged New Delhi's

concerns over the warming U.S.-Pakistan relationship. He defended the engagement as part of a “[mature, pragmatic foreign policy](#),” noting that the U.S. sees an opportunity to expand its strategic relationship with Pakistan, particularly on counterterrorism.

Rubio emphasized that the U.S. must have relations with many different countries. He added, “I don't think anything we're doing with Pakistan comes at the expense of our relationship or [friendship with India](#), which is deep, historic, and important.”

- The United States has granted India a [six-month exemption](#) from sanctions on its operations at Iran's Chabahar Port, a move confirmed by India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). The new waiver became effective October 29. It reverses a U.S. decision from September that had revoked a [previous 2018 exemption](#), which exposed port operators to sanctions.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal confirmed the six-month exemption at a weekly media briefing. The decision is a significant [diplomatic win for India](#), as the Chabahar Port is crucial for its regional connectivity goals. It provides a [strategic trade route](#) to Afghanistan and Central Asia that bypasses Pakistan.

- The U.S. and India have signed a [10-year defence framework agreement](#), marking a significant deepening of their military and strategic partnership.

The pact underscores both countries' intent to collaborate more closely on defence, including joint exercises, intelligence sharing, logistics support, and co-development of [defence technologies](#). This

long-term agreement reflects India's growing role as a strategic partner in the Indo-Pacific and the U.S.' desire for stronger alliances amid increasing global tensions.

India sees the deal as an affirmation of its importance in [U.S. strategic thinking](#), giving New Delhi greater access to advanced capabilities and aligning with its aspiration to be a major global defence player. For Washington, the agreement helps anchor India more firmly in its [security architecture](#) and send a message of commitment.

## DIASPORA NEWS

- Multi-party delegations of [Indian Members of Parliament](#) engaged with the Indian-American diaspora in New York in two separate sessions while in the city to attend the UN General Assembly.

The first delegation, led by BJP MP P.P. Chaudhary, met with around ninety community members. The second group, led by BJP MP Daggubati Purandeswari, held an interactive session with approximately 120 diaspora leaders. Both meetings, hosted by the [Consulate General of India](#), were attended by Indian-American state-level lawmakers. The parliamentary delegations lauded the diaspora's vital role in strengthening the U.S.-India partnership and encouraged them to participate in the “[Viksit Bharat 2047](#)” vision. Diaspora members also discussed issues they face, such as property transactions in India.

- A city council member in Palm Bay, Florida, sparked widespread outrage after posting a series of xenophobic social-media comments [targeting Indian immigrants](#). The

councilman, Chandler Langevin, made posts on X (formerly Twitter) calling for all Indian visas to be revoked and for Indian immigrants to be deported. He claimed they “[drain our pockets](#)” and “[exploit us financially](#).” The remarks drew immediate condemnation from local residents and national Indian-American organizations, including the Asian American Hotel Owners Association and Hindus for Human Rights. The [Palm Bay City Council](#) formally censured Langevin in a 3-2 vote. The censure curbs his council powers, including removing him from committees. The council had previously voted 4-1 to request that the governor suspend him from office.

- A new resolution, [H. Res. 819](#), sponsored by Congressman Thomas Suozzi (D-NY) and co-sponsored by Congresswoman Young Kim (R-CA), was introduced before the U.S. House of Representatives to formally acknowledge the contributions of the [Indian-American community](#). The resolution highlights several key areas, recognizing the significant cultural, economic, and scientific impact that Indian-Americans have had on the United States. Furthermore, [the legislation officially](#) acknowledges the deep people-to-people bond that strengthens the relationship between India and the U.S. A central component of the resolution is its formal [condemnation of discrimination](#) directed against Indian and South Asian communities in the United States. The resolution has been referred to the Committee on House Oversight and Government Reform.

- A rising crescendo of anti-immigrant sentiment in the US, specifically

directed against the Indian diaspora, has resulted in [calls](#) for introspection with experts warning that overconfidence and cultural disregard risk alienating neighbours and weakening the diaspora’s role in U.S.-India relations. Viral social media [posts](#) centred around Diwali and Ganesh Chaturthi [celebrations](#) —have sparked [debates](#) about cultural sensitivity amid [demonstrations](#) targeting the India community. [Counter](#) arguments have noted that such backlash often stems from cultural misunderstandings rather than genuine disruption and that these festivals are expressions of heritage and community bonding.

- There has been a sharp [decline](#) in U.S. student visa approvals, with a 44.5% drop in August 2025 compared to the same period in 2024. This is part of a broader 19.1% reduction in student visas, driven by President Trump’s restrictive immigration policies and increased scrutiny of applicants’ social media and political views. Secretary of State Marco Rubio has revoked thousands of visas, citing legal violations and anti-Israel activism, while also temporarily suspending visa processing to tighten oversight. Despite this, Trump has made contradictory statements about welcoming Chinese students, further complicating the administration’s messaging.

## CANADA POLITICS

- The 2025 [Newfoundland and Labrador general election](#) was held on October 14, resulting in a significant political shift in the province. The Progressive Conservative Party, led by Tony Wakeham, won a majority and

formed the government, ousting the incumbent [Liberal Party](#) after nearly a decade in power. Wakeham will become the province's new premier. The PCs won 21 of the 40 seats in [the House of Assembly](#), the exact number needed for a majority. The Liberal Party, led by outgoing Premier John Hogan, secured fifteen seats. The New Democratic Party (NDP), [under leader Jim Dinn](#), doubled its presence, winning 2 seats, while 2 Independent candidates were also re-elected. The popular vote was extremely close, with the Progressive Conservatives receiving 44.4% and the Liberals 43.4%.

- The Bank of Canada's Monetary Policy [Report](#) in October 2025 highlighted that Canadian economic growth had slowed due to disruptive U.S. tariffs and a decline in population growth. Exports and business investment also experienced a slump. The report noted that the ongoing trade conflict with the U.S. was fundamentally reshaping Canada's economy and was expected to have a lasting negative impact on economic activity, while also putting upward pressure on costs

- Tensions between the U.S. and Canada escalated dramatically after the government of Ontario launched a [television ad campaign](#) in the U.S. that criticised American trade tariffs. The ad, which began airing in mid-October, used excerpts from a 1987 speech by former U.S. [President Ronald Reagan](#) in which he warned that "trade barriers hurt every American worker." U.S. President Donald Trump called the ad "fraudulent" and "FAKE" in a social media post, accusing Canada of "[egregious behaviour](#)." As direct retaliation, he announced the immediate

termination of "all trade negotiations" with Canada. The following day, he announced an [additional 10% tariff on Canadian goods](#). In response, Ontario Premier Doug Ford agreed to pause the ad campaign to allow diplomatic talks to resume.

## INDIA-CANADA RELATIONS

- Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand visited New Delhi [to rebuild and strengthen bilateral relations](#). During the high-profile visit, Anand held delegation-level talks with her counterpart, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar. The leaders agreed on a joint work plan to "[elevate the relationship](#)," including relaunching a ministerial-level energy dialogue and advancing cooperation on trade, technology, and security. Minister Anand also met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who welcomed the visit as an opportunity to "infuse fresh momentum" into the partnership. Additionally, Anand held meeting with Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal to discuss [economic cooperation](#) and trade diversification. The visit, Anand's first to India as foreign minister, signalled a significant re-engagement between the two countries.

- India and Canada issued a joint statement, "[Renewing momentum towards a stronger partnership](#)," following foreign affairs ministers meeting in New Delhi. The statement outlines a comprehensive [roadmap to restore](#) and strengthen the bilateral relationship based on shared democratic values and mutual respect. Key agreements include the re-establishment of several high-level mechanisms, notably the [Canada-India Ministerial Energy Dialogue \(CIMED\)](#) and the Joint Science and

Technology Cooperation Committee. Both nations pledged [to deepen cooperation on clean energy](#), green hydrogen, civil nuclear power, and critical minerals. Economically, the Canada-India CEO Forum will be resumed to bolster bilateral trade, which reached \$23.66 billion in 2024. The [agreement also aims](#) to strengthen collaboration in higher education, research, and emerging technologies like AI, signalling a significant reset in diplomatic engagement.

## DIASPORA NEWS

- According to a [report](#), data from the Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) show a sharp increase in deportation of Indian nationals in 2025, with 1,891 removals already recorded by July — nearly matching the 2024 total of 1,997. As of mid-2025, Indian nationals also make up the largest group in Canada's inventory of pending deportations, with 6,837 cases currently in progress. This figure surpasses that of Mexicans (5,170) and U.S. citizens (1,734). The Canadian government, under Prime Minister Mark Carney, plans to accelerate deportation processes as part of broader immigration reforms.

- Comedian Kapil Sharma's Kap's Café in Surrey, British Columbia, was [attacked for the third](#) time in four months, as unidentified assailants opened fire at the premises. No injuries were reported, but the repeated assaults have sparked serious concerns over [Indian diaspora security](#) in Canada. A group claiming links to the Lawrence Bishnoi gang recently designated a terrorist organization by Canadian authorities claimed responsibility, alleging extortion motives and [threatening other](#)

[Indian celebrities](#) such as Salman Khan. Canadian police are investigating the incident as part of a wider probe into organized crime networks operating between India and Canada. The attacks have intensified debate about [transnational gang activity](#), law-enforcement gaps, and the safety of Indian-origin business owners in Canada. The case also adds a sensitive layer to already strained India-Canada relations, highlighting how [diaspora communities](#) are becoming caught in cross-border criminal and political tensions.

- Thakur Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, delivered a special video address to the [Himachali Canadian diaspora](#) during a Kullu Dussehra celebration held at Parliament Hill in Ottawa. In his message, Sukhu extended warm greetings to the community and called them the "[true brand ambassadors](#)" of the state. He encouraged them to maintain a strong connection with their cultural heritage by visiting Himachal Pradesh. Furthermore, the Chief Minister extended a formal invitation for the diaspora to explore investment opportunities within the state. The address was a key part of an event organized by the [Himachali Pravasi Global Association \(HPGA\)](#) and hosted by Canadian Member of Parliament Marie-France Lalonde, aimed at promoting Himachali culture and strengthening ties with the overseas community.