



US & CANADA

Newsletter

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US POLITICS - EXTENDED EDITION

Trump triumphs- and how!

October recap- Much of October saw the two Presidential candidates stumping their way through the US heartland, with Trump focusing on economic issues, immigration and border security, and trade and tariffs. Many visits were made to key battleground states, and outreach through new age platforms such as podcasts. He also focused on male Black and Hispanic voters. His campaign culminated with a rally in New York's Madison Square Garden on 27 October that was not without controversy with speakers indulging in crude and racist insults with one [speaker](#) describing Puerto Rico as a floating island of garbage.

Harris, on her part, focussed on those issues that had led to Democrat successes in the previous mid-terms, including reproductive rights, democracy and election integrity, and healthcare, while making targeted appeals to key demographic groups and battleground states. Her tally of celebrity endorsements continued with pop star Beyoncé endorsing her at a rally in Texas on 25 October. Other endorsement [concerts](#) included those featuring Katy Perry, Lady Gaga, Christina Aguilera, Eva Longoria, Ricky Martin, and Fantasia in crucial battleground states.

All through the month, opinion polls showed a tied and closely contested race, especially in the battleground states. Even with over 83 million Americans voting early upto November 5, Election Day, the polls still could not show a clear picture and predicted a [toss-up](#) for the Presidency and the House races, with the Republicans winning the House. Such an outcome would

have resulted in complete chaos in the weeks after Election Day.

The outcome

In the event, Trump won both the electoral vote and the electoral [college](#) convincingly, 312 to Harris' 226, with 270 necessary for a win. He won all seven swing states, with the margin of victory, ranging from more than 189,000 votes in North Carolina to 30,000 votes in Wisconsin, according to unofficial vote tallies. The Republicans also regained control of the Senate where thirty-four seats were up for grabs, going past the majority mark of fifty-one by flipping 3 seats. The party was also within striking distance of the majority mark in the House of Representatives, at 214 seats where 218 was required for control. Sixteen seats remain to be decided. Given the razor-tight predictions of the opinion polls, this was a landslide victory for Trump.

With analysis of the results still a work in progress, the exit polls [provide](#) a few reasons for the Trump victory. These include a pro-Trump shift among Latino males and younger voters, and pro-abortion female voters not voting for Harris, even as abortion-related ballots passed in many states during this round of voting.

INDIA-US RELATIONS

- The 6th ministerial level meeting of the U.S.-India Commercial Dialogue, convened by U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo and Indian Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal [was](#) held in Washington on October 3rd. The [meeting](#) highlighted achievements in various areas such as semiconductor supply chains, innovation ecosystems, and clean energy partnerships. It also outlined new

initiatives and priorities for future collaboration, including critical minerals supply chains, startup innovation, support for women-owned and small businesses, expansion of U.S. commercial presence in India, and cooperation in travel, tourism, and healthcare sectors.

The two principals also co-chaired the second in-person meeting of the US-India CEO [Forum](#) the previous day. The forum, comprising of 22 U.S. companies and 25 Indian companies, aims to expand trade and investment between India and the United States. Mr. James Taiclet, President and Chief Executive Officer, Lockheed Martin, and Mr. N. Chandrasekaran, Chairman, Tata Sons, were the Private Sector Co-Chairs from 2023–2024.

At an [event](#) in New Delhi following the visit, Minister Goyal highlighted the various achievements of the visit, including the signing of various Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs), underscoring the commitment to deepening business ties. Goyal described this visit as different from previous trips, noting that there were no "negative agendas" on the table, reflecting a more positive outlook towards Indo-US relations.

- National Security Advisor Ajit Doval had a telephonic [conversation](#) with US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan on October 30, 2024. According to a US government press [release](#), they discussed regional security developments and emphasized the need for stability in the Indo-Pacific region. They also welcomed progress in their bilateral partnership, particularly through the Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET) Intersessional and Indian Ocean Dialogue.

Additionally, they explored opportunities for closer collaboration in areas such as clean energy supply chains and defence cooperation.

- The United States said it has [imposed](#) sanctions on 19 Indian firms and two Indian nationals for allegedly aiding Russia's war efforts in Ukraine. The US State Department highlighted that these Indian firms were involved in supplying microelectronics, aircraft components, and other high-priority items to Russia-based companies. An initial assessment by the [Hindu](#) newspaper revealed that nearly all the Indian entities on the list are well-established companies in their respective domains, with many having been active for decades. A report by the [Economic Times](#) indicated that Indian firms may have largely procured items manufactured in the West and from the open markets.

The Ministry of External Affairs [responded](#) by stating that these entities were not in violation of Indian laws. However, India is working with relevant departments to ensure compliance with export control provisions and new measures that could impact Indian companies.

DIASPORA NEWS

- A flight carrying over 100 Indians [deported](#) from the United States landed in Punjab on October 22, 2024. This deportation was part of a larger effort by the US Department of Homeland Security, which deported around 1,100 Indian nationals in the 2023-24 financial year. Despite a slight decrease from the previous year, the number of Indians attempting to enter the US irregularly remains high, with over 90,000 individuals apprehended in fiscal year 2024. In an online [briefing](#) to

Indian journalists, Assistant Secretary Royce Murray of the Department of Homeland Security noted that the US government has been working closely with Indian authorities to facilitate these repatriations.

CANADA POLITICS

Trudeau's leadership on life-support

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau lurched from one crisis to another both within his party and the supporting parties, NDP and the Bloc Québécois. A group of at least 20 [Liberal](#) MPs within his party issued a letter calling for him to step down, following recent by-election losses for the Liberal Party in Montreal and Toronto. However, the number of dissenting MPs may not be enough to force a change in leadership, as the Liberal Party holds 153 seats in the House of Commons. In September, the NDP had ended their supply and confidence agreement with the Liberals with support for the government to be on a case-by-case basis. The Bloc Québécois also issued the Liberals an end-of-October ultimatum to support a pension bill. With no such assurance forthcoming, the Bloc Québécois leader [announced](#) that he was working with the Conservative opposition to topple the government. However, the NDP leader Jagmeet Singh said he would continue to [support](#) the government. The New Democratic Party (NDP) has, twice in the last five weeks, backed Trudeau in confidence votes. Both the NDP and the Liberal party have been steadily losing popular support.

INDIA-CANADA RELATIONS

- India-Canada relations nose-dived further as Canada continued with its accusatory [campaign](#), culminating in the tit-for-tat expulsion of six diplomats on each side, including the respective High Commissioners. The official response from the Ministry of External Affairs criticised Canada's [accusations](#) as part of Prime Minister Trudeau's political agenda and said his government had not provided any substantial evidence to support the allegations.

DIASPORA NEWS

- The expulsion of diplomats and continuing threats to the remaining staff has affected consular activities, ranging from establishing and renewing passports and other official documents, helping citizens in distress or emergencies, issuing visas, and providing consular assistance in a wide range of activities, such as such as witnessing and authenticating documents, and assisting with deaths of relatives overseas. With some Khalistan groups [agitating](#) outside consulates for their complete closure, this is creating further problems for the 2-million strong Indian diaspora in Canada.