

American dream fades as 3 mn migrants leave US since Trump’s return

H-1B registrations show a 38% decline under the revised system during the 2027 fiscal

WASHINGTON

THE Trump administration said that more than three million migrants have left the United States since President Donald Trump returned to office, as the White House unveiled a sweeping assessment of its immigration crackdown, including a sharp decline in border crossings, mass deportations and tighter restrictions on legal immigration.

In a statement titled "How President Trump ended the border invasion and restored American sovereignty", the White House claimed that the population of immigrants living illegally in the country had fallen by at least 2.3 million, describing it as the largest sustained reduction in modern American history.

The administration said nearly 1.2 million people had been deported or removed, while immigration authorities had carried out approximately 1.3 million arrests.

The figures were presented as part of the administration's assessment of its immigration policies and were not accompanied by a comprehensive independent audit.

According to the White House, illegal crossings at the southern border fell by 95 per cent from levels recorded during the Biden administration. It said nationwide immigration encounters dropped below 380,000 during fiscal year 2026, compared with approximately 2.7 million annually under Biden.

The administration also claimed that no migrants apprehended by the Border Patrol were released into the United States during the fiscal year, describing it as an unprecedented enforcement



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outcome. The White House said the immigration court backlog had fallen from more than 4.18 million cases to fewer than 3.09 million.

The reduction followed changes in immigration court procedures, enforcement policies and the handling of pending cases.

However, a decline in the backlog does not necessarily indicate that all affected cases were resolved through final decisions on their merits.

The statement also highlighted a sharp fall in asylum approvals, saying the approval rate had declined to approximately seven per cent from more than 50 per cent during the previous administration. The White House attributed the change to tougher eligibility assessments and enforcement measures.

Turning to legal immigration, the administration said it had revoked more than 300,000 visas since Trump returned to office. The revoca-

tions included thousands of student visas and visas linked to suspected misuse of immigration programmes, according to the statement.

The administration also cited new restrictions on H-1B employment visas, a category widely used by Indian technology professionals.

It said a \$100,000 payment requirement had been introduced for certain H-1B petitions, while the previous random selection system had been replaced with a process intended to favour higher-skilled and better-paid workers.

The White House claimed that H-1B registrations for fiscal year 2027 had declined by 38 per cent under the revised system. The administration also highlighted the termination of automatic extensions for certain employment authorisation documents and tighter requirements for foreign students and exchange visitors.

India, Poland to strengthen partnership in defence, space and nuclear energy

NEW DELHI

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday that India and Poland agreed to deepen ties in defence, space and nuclear energy and invited Polish companies to engage with India in co-development and co-production in these sectors.

While addressing a joint press meet with Polish PM Donald Tusk following their talks at Hyderabad House in New Delhi on Thursday, PM Modi recalled how India and Poland elevated ties to the status of Strategic Partnership during his visit to Warsaw in 2024 and noted that the bilateral partnership has gained new momentum over the past two years.

"I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to the Prime Minister of Poland in India. During my visit to Poland in 2024, he had warmly welcomed me and my delegation. During that visit, we elevated our relationship to the status of Strategic Partnership. Building on this strong foundation, our partnership has gained new momentum over the past two years. And today, in our meeting with the Prime Minister, we have taken several significant decisions to further strengthen our strategic partnership," he said.

The Prime Minister said that India and Poland are emerging as important centres of growth, technology and innovation when the world is going through a period of uncertainty and change.

"Today, we have agreed to deepen our ties in the fields of defence, space, and nuclear energy. We invite Polish companies to work with India on co-development and co-production in all these strategic sectors," he stated.

Highlighting the 'Good Mahraja' connect between



India and Poland, PM Modi said, "The friendship between India and Poland is not merely based on diplomatic relations, but on a shared heritage of humanity and compassion. During the Second World War, the royal families of Jamnagar and Kolhapur had provided shelter to thousands of Polish children and families in India. Even today, the people of Poland remember Jam Saheb as Dobry Maharadza (The Good Maharaja)."

The Prime Minister expressed happiness that PM Donald Tusk has travelled to New Delhi with a large business delegation and expressed confidence that companies from India and Poland will work together to develop trusted supply chains for the world and achieve the shared goal of doubling bilateral trade by 2030.

Highlighting the economic growth of India and Poland, PM Modi said, "Last

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I warmly congratulate the Prime Minister on this achievement. India, too, recorded impressive growth of 7.8 per cent in the last quarter. Our growing economic strength has created new opportunities for the India-Poland partnership, and the India-European Union Free Trade Agreement has further expanded these opportunities."

"Once this agreement comes into effect, it will open up new opportunities for the export of machinery, chemicals, plastics, and engineering goods from India to Poland. Furthermore, we will attract new investments from Poland in sectors such as railways, mobility, advanced manufacturing, food processing, and biotech," he added.

year, Poland's GDP crossed the historic \$1 trillion mark.

No conflict of interests, just mutual trust and shared values, says Polish PM Tusk

NEW DELHI

POLISH Prime Minister Donald Tusk on Thursday said that India and Poland have "no conflict of interest" and both nations are building their friendship based on trust, shared values and ideas.

While addressing a joint press meet with Prime Minister Narendra Modi following their talks at Hyderabad House in New Delhi on Thursday, PM Tusk described his talks with the Indian leader as "fruitful and important." He stated that Poland is inspired by India's tradition and history.

"We have just completed a very important and fruitful discussion with Prime Minister Modi concerning how Poland and India can develop and strengthen their



strategic partnership. The decision to establish that partnership was made together during Prime Minister Modi's visit in Warsaw back in August 2024. Today, with the Prime Minister, we summarised its very first results, and we emphasised the definition of the priorities for the years to come in terms of our cooperation," he said. "Our discussions are very successful, not only because Poland and India are countries that share a lot, but we are di-

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vided by nothing, maybe by geographic distance, and the synergies between Poland and India are quite simple. We have no conflicts of interest. We have no historical issues that divide us. We are building our friendship based on trust, shared values and ideas, such as the idea of non-violence," he added.

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ing it as a "sign of hope in the times of destabilisation, uncertainty, political uncertainty and instability."

"The great Polish revolution of solidarity was based on action without violence, and we were very much inspired by your tradition and your history," he said.

Praising PM Modi, the visiting Prime Minister said, "We value and appreciate the global role that you, the Prime Minister, play in the global context, and this is a sign of hope in the times of destabilisation, uncertainty, political uncertainty and instability. Somebody such as you, the Prime Minister, of such a powerful country such as India, is a beacon of hope for all of us, and I am very, very proud, truly proud, that I can call myself your friend, Prime Minister."

Trump tells tech companies to pay residents for hosting data centres

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump urged technology companies to pay residents \$10,000 to \$15,000 for hosting data centres, combining a pitch for artificial intelligence investment with an appeal to supporters to vote Republican in next month's congressional elections.

Speaking at a rally in Pendleton, South Carolina, on Wednesday, Trump told Governor Henry McMaster that direct payments could help overcome local opposition to the facilities. "Ask for money, Henry, tell them that they have to pay the people \$10,000, \$15,000. They got plenty of money," he said.

Trump presented the idea as a way to make data centres more popular. He did not outline a federal programme, eligibility rules or a mechanism to require companies to make such payments. "Let them pay for it," he said.

The remarks came as Trump promoted his administration's economic record and



urged voters to treat the November 3 midterm elections as a personal referendum on his presidency, even though his name will not appear on the ballot.

"In this election, I'm asking you to pretend I'm on the ballot," he said, arguing that his supporters were more likely to vote when he was personally contesting an election.

He warned that Republican losses could jeopardise his administration's tax and border policies. "And it can go away as fast as it came, so please go out and vote," Trump said.

The President campaigned for Republican Senate candidate Darline Graham and

called for voters to elect a Republican House and Senate. He praised Graham alongside McMaster and Republican senators Tim Scott, John Barasso and Bernie Moreno.

Trump attacked Graham's Democratic opponent, Annie Andrews, over transgender healthcare and gun policy. He also called for her medical licence to be revoked and said she should not be allowed to run for office. The remarks were political attacks; he did not establish grounds for either action. Protesters repeatedly interrupted the speech, prompting Trump to praise law enforcement's response.

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encouraging companies to build factories in the United States. He said domestic production of steel and pharmaceuticals was essential, particularly if overseas supplies became unavailable during a conflict.

He also argued that the United States must maintain its lead over China in artificial intelligence, which he repeatedly described as "super intelligence".

The President cited exam-

ples of payments he said had won support for data centres elsewhere. He did not identify the companies or provide enough details in the remarks to verify those accounts.

Turning to foreign policy, Trump said Iran would never be allowed to obtain a nuclear weapon and predicted that the US military involvement he was discussing would end soon. He offered no timetable.

"We could leave now, but we want to make sure it lasts for a long time," he said, while claiming American operations had destroyed Iran's nuclear enrichment capacity.

US midterm elections take place halfway through a president's four-year term. All 435 seats in the House of Representatives and about one-third of Senate seats are normally contested, making the elections consequential for a president's ability to advance legislation.

South Carolina has been a Republican stronghold in presidential elections. Trump carried the state in 2016, 2020 and 2024.

Over \$17 bn seized during US attack on foreign scam centres, says FBI chief Kash Patel

WASHINGTON

FBI Director Kash Patel said the bureau and its partners have seized more than \$17 billion from overseas scam compounds under Operation Blackout, as the Trump administration launched a government-wide crackdown on call centres and online networks that defraud Americans.

"The Federal Bureau of Investigation, along with our partners at DOJ and the United States Attorney's offices, have seized over \$17 billion from these scam compound fraud centres," Patel told a White House roundtable on cybercrime and scams chaired by President Donald Trump on Wednesday. "Seized it. That means that's money we got back."

Patel, the first Indian-American to head the FBI, said the operation had "destroyed and demolished over 20 compounds" run by criminal syndicates.

"Scam centres for the American public and the world are literally towns and ecosystems with traffic victims with cities and housing that they built an empire for criminal syndicates to fleece American citizens," he said. "They're in Southeast Asia. They're in Africa. They're in the Middle East."

"They moved to Africa. We got them there, too," Patel said. "Just two weeks ago, we were in Ghana, Nigeria, and we arrested another 300 individuals and seized another \$15 million being fleeced from American senior citizens through these scam centre operations."

Attorney General Todd Blanche said that in April, "FBI and the Dubai Police announced the arrests of at least 276 individuals and



Attorney General Todd Blanche said that in April, "FBI and the Dubai Police announced the arrests of at least 276 individuals and the dismantlement of at least nine scam centres that targeted Americans", while prosecutors "unsealed charges against their managers and their recruiters"

sites, and coordinated with technology companies to disrupt millions and millions of online accounts used by foreign criminals," he said.

He added that authorities had "engaged with international partners to arrest hundreds of foreign scammers of all types, including scam call centres". Blanche said the State Department was now refusing entry to scam operators. "There is no corner of government from which these predators can hide," he said. "HSI and FBI are identifying them. The State Department is denying them visas, and our prosecutors are charging them."

He did not say how many visas had been refused or which nationalities were affected.

He said the Justice Department had set up a "new scam centre cell" with the Homeland Security Task Force so that "every case is built to take down not just one scammer, but the whole network". Its cyber-enabled scam initiative, he said, "deploys dozens of prosecutors across all 94 US attorneys' offices".

He also said the department last month "seized Shinbee Criminal Marketplace and restrained \$52 million on the same day that Treasury sanctioned it".

Patel said technology firms including "Meta, Google, Microsoft, IBM" had "shut down internet trafficking and domain networks", and urged victims to report to the FBI. "No piece of information is too small," he said.

"We are not waiting for the scammers to hit our citizens. We are going out there in full force," Patel said.

Pichai not keen on renaming Atlantic as 'American Ocean': Trump

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has said he spoke to Indian-American Google CEO Sundar Pichai about renaming the Atlantic Ocean on Google Maps, but was told that oceans were different because they "cover a lot of countries", as he riffed at a midterm rally in South Carolina about renaming the Gulf of Mexico and the Strait of Hormuz.

"So we seriously looked at the Atlantic Ocean, and I called Google Maps, who were really great with the lake," Trump told supporters at Clemson on Wednesday evening.

"And I spoke to a brilliant guy, Sundar. He heads all of Google. He's a brilliant guy. Sergei and Sundar, totally brilliant guys," he said, apparently referring to Google co-founder Sergey

Brin. "And, you know, they're still rattled from the Gulf."

"And I said, Sundar, I'm thinking of the Atlantic Ocean. Can you handle it?" Trump said, recounting that Pichai replied: "Ocean's a difference, sir. You know, they cover a lot of... They cover really a lot of countries. Please don't ask us to do that." "So I'll probably pass. Should I pass? I think let's keep it the Atlantic Ocean, right?" Trump said, before turning to the Pacific: "We're going to call it the American Ocean. How do you think Europe would fit?"

Trump said the only oceans he would consider were the Atlantic and the Pacific. "I'm not going to put either Trump or America on any other ocean, but these two," he said.

Minutes earlier, speaking about the war with Iran, Trump said: "We have a



blockade on the Trump Strait. I call it the Trump Strait. How do you think the Arabs would like to be calling it?"

"I mean, we changed the name of the Gulf of Mexico. Why can't we change this..." he said.

The Strait of Hormuz, through which a large share of the world's seaborne oil passes, has been at the centre of US-Iran tensions. Trump told the rally that the US had "obliterated Iran's nuclear enrichment capacity with Operation Midnight Hammer" and "Operation

Epic Fury", and that "Iran will never have a nuclear weapon". He also said oil prices "will soon plummet".

Trump renamed the Gulf of Mexico the Gulf of America by executive order shortly after taking office in January 2025, and Google Maps began displaying the new name for US users weeks later. He told the rally he had also recently renamed a lake "Lake America".

Pichai, born in Chennai, has met Trump several times. He attended Trump's January 2025 inauguration along with other tech leaders and was among the executives at a White House dinner for technology CEOs in September 2025, where he discussed Google's US investments. Trump has also hosted other Indian-American tech chiefs, including Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella, at the White House.