



South Korean Democratic Party's presidential candidate Lee Jae-myung waves as he leaves after casting his early vote in Seoul, South Korea



Canada's Prime Minister Mark Carney responds to a question during Question Period, Wednesday, May 28, 2025, in Ottawa, Ontario



Interim U.S. Attorney General for the District of Columbia Jeanine Pirro during her swearing in Oval Office of the White House in Washington



Republican South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster holds a ceremonial bill signing on lawsuit reform in Columbia

allovertheworld



Scarlett Johansson attends Focus Features' "The Phoenician Scheme" New York Premiere at Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York City

Elon Musk parts ways with Trump, criticises 'massive spending bills'

AP, WASHINGTON: Elon Musk is criticising the centrepiece of US President Donald Trump's legislative agenda, a significant fracture in a partnership that was forged during last year's campaign and was poised to reshape American politics and the federal government.

The billionaire entrepreneur, who supported Trump's candidacy with at least USD 250 million and has worked for his administration as a senior advisor, said he was "disappointed" by what the president calls his "big beautiful bill".

The legislation includes a mix of tax cuts and enhanced immigration enforcement.

While speaking to CBS, Musk described it as a "massive spending bill" that



Billionaire Elon Musk on May 28, 2025 said he was leaving his position within the US government after leading the so-called Department of Government Efficiency in a controversial effort to slash federal spending

increases the federal deficit and "undermines the work" of his Department of Government Efficiency, known as DOGE.

"I think a bill can be big or it could be beautiful. But I don't know if it could be

both," Musk said. His CBS interview came out Tuesday night.

Trump, speaking in the Oval Office on Wednesday, defended his agenda by talking about the delicate politics involved with ne-

gotiating the legislation.

"I'm not happy about certain aspects of it, but I'm thrilled by other aspects of it," he said.

Trump also suggested that more changes could be made.

"We're going to see what happens. It's got a way to go," he said.

Republicans recently pushed the measure through the House and are debating it in the Senate.

Musk's concerns are shared by some Republican lawmakers.

"I sympathise with Elon being discouraged," Wisconsin Senator Ron Johnson said.

Speaking at a Milwaukee Press Club event on Wednesday, Johnson added that he was "pretty confident" there was enough opposition "to slow this process down until the president, our leadership, gets serious" about reducing spending. He said there was no amount of pressure Trump could put on him to change his position.

Speaker Mike Johnson has asked senators to make as few changes to the legislation as possible, saying that House Republicans reached a "very delicate balance" that could be upended with major changes.

The narrowly-divided House will have to vote again on final passage once the Senate alters the bill.

On Wednesday, Johnson thanked Musk for his work and promised to pursue more spending cuts in the future, saying "the House is eager and ready to act on DOGE's findings".

The White House is sending some proposed rescissions, a mechanism used to cancel previously authorised spending, to Capitol Hill to solidify some of DOGE's cuts.

Portugal's Chega party becomes main opposition, joins Europe's far-right surge

LISBON: Portugal's anti-immigration Chega party notched another political gain for Europe's far right on Wednesday after it was assigned the second-most seats in Parliament -- meaning it will become the head of the parliamentary opposition to the new government. That shatters the pattern of Portugal's centre-right and centre-left mainstream parties alternating between heading a government or leading the opposition. Chega's strides since the May 18 election coincide with gains elsewhere by far-right forces. In Europe, those include France's National Rally, the Brothers of Italy and Alternative for Germany, which are now in the political mainstream. Leading the opposition is quite an accomplishment for a once-fringe party that competed in its first election six years ago, when it won one seat.

Greece to toughen migration laws: minister

ATHENS, GREECE: Greece plans to eliminate a provision allowing irregular migrants to apply for residency after seven years in the country, the migration minister announced Thursday, saying the rule had been abused. The police last year arrested 74,000 irregular migrants, but could only expel 2,500, Makis Voridis told broadcaster Skai, adding that detainees often claim a false country of origin to avoid deportation, stalling the process for months. "The longer you were (in the country) illegally, the bigger your prize. From now on, whoever is in Greece illegally will never be legalised, will never get a residence permit," he said, pointing out that some 55-65,000 people enter Greece illegally every year, with half granted asylum. "There must be (sanctions) for those who persist in staying even though they are not legally here," he said.

Cholera outbreak in Sudan capital kills 70 in two days

PORT SUDAN, SUDAN: A cholera outbreak in Sudan's war-ravaged capital has claimed 70 lives in two days, health officials said Thursday, as Khartoum faces a mounting health emergency after more than two years of brutal conflict. The health ministry for Khartoum state said it recorded 942 new infections and 25 deaths on Wednesday, following 1,177 cases and 45 deaths on Tuesday. The surge in infections comes weeks after drone strikes blamed on the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) knocked out the water and electricity supply across the capital. The capital has been a battleground throughout two years of war between the Sudanese army and the RSF. The army-backed government announced last week that it had dislodged RSF fighters from their last bases in Khartoum State two months after retaking the heart of the capital from the paramilitaries.

Thai, Cambodian army chiefs to meet over border clash

BANGKOK, THAILAND: The military chiefs of Thailand and Cambodia will meet Thursday, both governments said, after a Cambodian soldier was killed in a border clash. Thailand's Prime Minister Paetongtarn Shinawatra told reporters on Thursday that "both sides should remain calm and discuss to see what we can agree", and called for peaceful discussion. Her Cambodian counterpart Hun Manet wrote on Facebook that he hoped the meeting between the two army commanders "will yield positive results". Thai Defence Minister Phumtham Wechayachai told journalists the talks will be held on Thursday afternoon, adding that there had been a "misunderstanding by both sides".

Slovakia's central bank chief convicted of bribery and fined \$225,000

BRATISLAVA (SLOVAKIA): Slovakia's central bank chief, who is a member of the European Central Bank committee that decides monetary policy for 20 countries, was convicted of bribery and fined 200,000 euros (\$225,000) on Thursday. The verdict against central bank Governor Peter Kazimir was issued by Judge Milan Cisarik at the country's Special Criminal Court in Pezinok. Kazimir's attorneys argued that he should have been acquitted because of the recent changes in Slovakia's penal code, which reduced punishment for corruption and that recently ended a number of corruption cases and trials. Kazimir wasn't present at the court. He said in a

Chinese students anxious, angry after Rubio vows to revoke visas

AP, HONG KONG: Chinese students studying in the US are scrambling to figure out their futures after US Secretary of State Marco Rubio announced Wednesday that some students would have their visas revoked.

The US will begin revoking the visas of some Chinese students, including those studying in "critical fields", and "those with connections to the Chinese Communist Party," according to the announcement.

China is the second-largest country of origin for international students in the United States, behind only India. In the 2023-2024 school year, more than 270,000 international students were from China, making up roughly a quarter of all foreign students in the US.

This is a "new version of Chinese Exclusion Act," said

Linqin, a Chinese student at Johns Hopkins University, who asked to be identified only by his first name out of fear of retaliation. He was referring to a 19th-century law that prohibited Chinese from immigrating to the US and banned Chinese people already in the US from getting citizenship. He said Wednesday was the first time he thought about leaving the US after spending one third of his life here.

Chinese international students are point of tension between US and China. China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Mao Ning, called the US decision unreasonable.

"Such a politicised and discriminatory action lays bare the US lie that it upholds the so-called freedom and openness," she said Thursday, adding that China has lodged

a protest with the US.

The issue of Chinese students studying overseas has long been a point of tension in the bilateral relationship. During Trump's first term, in 2019, China's Ministry of Education warned students about visa issues in the US, with rising rejection rates and shortening of visas.

Last year, the Chinese Foreign Ministry protested that a number of Chinese students have been unfairly interrogated and sent home upon arrival at US airports.

Chinese state media has long hyped gun violence in the US and violent protests during the pandemic, and portrayed the US as a dangerous place that wasn't safe for its citizens.

The tense bilateral relationship has also meant that some Chinese students are opting to study in the UK or other countries over

the US after the pandemic.

Zou Renge, a 27-year-old public policy master's student at the University of Chicago, said she had planned to take some time off and work in humanitarian aid programmes abroad after graduating at the end of this year.

But now, she will refrain from leaving the US and will look for jobs in the meantime. "In a very uncertain environment, I'll try my best to find myself a solution," she said.

Hong Kong seeks to draw in talent amid uncertainty

Some were eager to capitalise on the uncertainty facing international students in the US. Hong Kong's leader John Lee told lawmakers on Thursday that the city would welcome any students who have been discriminated against by American policies to study in the city.

South Korean navy patrol plane crashes, killing 4

AP, SEOUL: A South Korean navy plane crashed during a training flight on Thursday, killing all four crew members on board, the navy said.

MYSTERY CRASH

The P-3 patrol plane took off from its base in the southeastern city of Pohang at 1:43 pm and crashed due to unknown reasons, the navy said in a statement.

It said it had identified the bodies of the four crew members and was in the process of recovering them.

There were no immediate reports of civilian casualties on the ground. The navy set up a task force to investigate the crash and temporarily grounded its P-3s.

An emergency office in Pohang said that rescuers and fire trucks were dispatched to the site after receiving reports from residents that an aircraft crashed on a hill near an apartment complex and caused a fire.

Photos showed fire-fighters and emergency vehicles near the crash site with flames flickering as a smoke engulfed trees. Fire crews sprayed water on what appeared to be the aircraft debris.

In December, a Jeju Air passenger plane crashed at Muan International Airport in southern South Korea, killing all but two of the 181 people on board.

It was one of the deadliest disasters in South Korea's aviation history.

FROM PAGE 1

RAILWAY MAY SHIFT ORE HANDLING AWAY FROM WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Environmental experts, including Dr Pronoy Baidhya and Sujit Dongre, cautioned that ore handling near protected areas could pose serious threats to local ecosystems. They warned of disturbances to wildlife habitats and contamination of vital watersheds. Sediment-laden runoff, they noted, could carry debris downstream and disrupt forest ecosystems.

Both experts called for the formation of an independent panel of specialists to assess the potential environmental impact and recommend mitigation measures. They stressed the need for ecological safeguards to be prioritised before any clearance is granted.

Environmental groups have strongly opposed the project, citing the sanctuary's ecological significance. Part of the Western Ghats — a UNESCO-recognised biodiversity hotspot — the sanctuary is home to an estimated 16,000 species, many of them rare, endemic, or ecologically critical. Activists warn that introducing industrial activities such as ore handling could cause irreversible damage, disrupting habitat corridors and leading to noise, air, and water pollution.

Conservationists argue that such operations are fundamentally incompatible with the principles of environmental protection and would undermine decades of conservation efforts in Goa's largest and oldest protected area. They have urged authorities to uphold strict environmental safeguards and prohibit industrial activity in ecologically sensitive forest zones.

BJP SUMMONS STATE CHIEF TO DELHI TO DECIDE GAUDE'S FATE

Speculation is rife that Gaudé may be dropped from the Cabinet, with a reshuffle reportedly in the works. Speaker Ramesh Tawadkar is being tipped as a likely replacement in the cabinet.

While Gaudé continued to evade questions from the press, he was seen meeting several prominent Scheduled Tribes (ST) leaders at Kala Academy. Sources also revealed that Gaudé's supporters have called for a meeting at Farmagudi at 4 pm on Friday, apparently to rally grassroots support for the embattled minister.

CHRONIC DELAYS PLAGUE DEFENCE PROJECTS: IAF CHIEF

"Timelines is a big issue; that is where the 'vachan' (commitment) part comes in. Once a timeline is given.. not a sin-

gle project that I can think of, has been completed on time," he said.

"So, this is something where we have to look in, why should we promise something which cannot be achieved."

"While signing the contract itself, sometimes, we are sure that it is not going to come up. But, we just sign the contract and see what can be done after that. obviously then the process gets vitiated," he said.

On Operation Sindoor, Air Chief Marshal Singh said "this war was won by a whole-of-nation approach", and the same approach needs to continue while talking about empowering the defence forces.

"Actually, it is not just a whole-of-nation approach, we have to be in a whole-of-nation mission mode, if I can call it, to make sure that we accelerate and produce results," he said, in an apparent reference to military modernisation.

Air Chief Marshal Singh began his address by terming the Operation Sindoor a "national victory".

"We were taking the path of truth, I think, God was with us also in this," he said.

"I am sure, every Indian contributed towards this victory. Like it has been said again and again that this was an operation which was executed in a very professional manner by everybody -- all the agencies, all the forces, we all came together..and when truth is with you, then everything happens on its own," he said.

"We were taking the path of truth, I think, God was with us also in this," he added.

Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi also addressed the gathering.

"This Operation Sindoor, as told by the Navy chief that the character of war is changing, every day we find new technologies coming in, technologies coming in a big way in warfare.

"And, Operation Sindoor has again given us a clear idea of where we are headed and what we need in future. So, a lot of work needs to be done, realigning our own thought processes also, which is also going on," he said.

The IAF chief also spoke of the recent clearance given by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to the "execution model" to design and produce India's ambitious fifth-generation stealth fighter jet -- the advanced medium combat aircraft (AMCA).

The "execution model" approach provides equal opportunities to both private and public sectors on a competitive basis, the ministry said on May 27.

"The fact that AMCA - Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft, I am not calling it what generation, because finally when it comes out, it should be of contemporary generation, but AMCA has been cleared for participation even by

the private industry, which is a very big step."

"And, that is the kind of confidence, I think, the nation has in private industry too. And, I am sure this is going to pave our way to bigger things coming in the future," the IAF chief said.

Air Chief Marshal Singh, without going into numbers, said his force is trying its best to do the maximum possible as far as the 'Make in India' initiative is concerned.

While talking about restraint, he said "even defence forces have been keeping this restraint of not calling 'a black sheep a black sheep'. He, however, did not elaborate.

"Some of the rules that the government made.. I am not saying that we would have come on this path on our own. There were times, when we were always doubting the Indian industry that it can give us the kind of return that we want, it cannot give us the product that we want, and we were looking outward," he said.

"But, over the last decade plus, things have changed quite a bit, a rap on our knuckle, has made us think inward, look inward, and then we realised that yes, there are a lot of opportunities that we have, within India," the IAF chief said.

He emphasised that the current situation in the world has "made us realise that Atmanirbharta is the only solution".

"But, we have to be ready now to be future-ready," the IAF chief asserted.

"So that is the concern, that yes I can look at the next 10 years, we can have certain more output from the industry.. the DRDO, but what is required today is required today. So, we need to quickly get our act together-- maybe get into some quick Make in India programmes, so we can achieve that now ready part of it, while design in India continues to produce results in the near future or maybe later," he said.

The IAF chief pitched for boosting trust between the armed forces and the industry.

"We need to have the communication continued, to be open with each other, we need to be very open and forthright with each other, so this relationship doesn't break down anywhere," he said.

"Trust for defence forces, it is intrinsic, our default setting is trust.. When we join any force, any group of people, any squadron, it (trust) is not built over a period of time, it comes in the first sortie, the very first mission that you fly, you have to trust each other.. one mistake can cause a failure.

In the context of a nation, he likened the armed forces, the industry, the DRDO and other stakeholders as "links" in a "bigger chain", and said, each one will "have to ensure that we are not a weak link, because of which this chain will break".