



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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Tepid relief

Published On: 15-11-2025

The ending of the shutdown in the U.S. does not preclude other crises.

President Donald Trump has garnered the dubious honour of presiding over the longest federal government shutdown in U.S. history, a 43-day spiral of economic uncertainty and gloom that was finally terminated this week. Mr. Trump and his Republican colleagues in Congress appeared to prevail over the hopes of Democrats to extend health insurance subsidies for low-income Americans, set to expire at the end of 2025.

This will serve as a de facto referendum on the Trump administration's job performance and will principally include within its purview economic policy issues impacting ordinary Americans, such as jobs, as well as questions on health care, education and immigration. Unless Republicans give some quarter to their liberal and progressive colleagues across the aisle, they face the risk of alienating a sizeable cohort of voters in the months ahead.

Is the shutdown over?

Yes, it is.

The Republican-controlled House on Wednesday - day 43 of the shutdown - approved a new funding bill with a vote of 222 to 209. Six Democrats joined Republicans to vote yes.

The package passed the Senate two days earlier by a vote of 60-40, after seven Democrats and one independent senator sided with Republicans to approve it.

President Donald Trump signed it into law within hours, declaring, "It's a great day".

But it may still take a few days, or even weeks, to fully reopen the government and restart some vital programmes.

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