



Ottawa Falls

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Justin Trudeau's biggest blunder was to rely on ISI, CCP to tie up with anti-India Khalistani extremists; Five Eyes, US deep state purported inputs to make baseless accusations against India

Introduction

"At that point it was primarily intelligence, not hard evidentiary proof," Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau stated during foreign interference inquiry, alluding to the claims he made against India, linking 'Indian agents' to Khalistani Canadian terrorist Hardeep Nijjar's death in a gang war outside the gurdwara in Surrey, Canada.

Trudeau's outright endorsement of Khalistani terrorism has drawn outrage from his own party members and Canadians in general. As CBC News Network reported, Sean Casey, a long-time Liberal Party leader and Charlottetown MP, stated: "The message that I've been getting loud and clear—and more and more strongly as time goes by—is that it is time for [Trudeau] to go. And I also agree." This is not limited to political discourse only, but Canadians are also frustrated by Trudeau's backing of extremists in Canada, which exacerbates national instability and damages Canada's reputation globally.

India and Canada's ongoing diplomatic tensions stem from more than just political differences; Trudeau's recent moves indicate a deeper involvement with forces that are threatening India's sovereignty. The core of this dispute is Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's purported support for terrorism, whether it is Khalistan or Pakistan's ISI-backed and his government's covert cooperation in providing protection to terrorists who have been banned, such as Hardeep Singh Nijjar, whom India has identified as a major national security concern.

Under Trudeau's phoney pretence of defending justice and democracy, it is evident that left-wing New Democratic Party (NDP), commanded by Jagmeet Singh, is an active participant in Khalistan movements and a vocal supporter of them. With the help of the NDP, Trudeau's Liberal Party has governed as a minority since 2021. This political partnership has made it hard for Trudeau to dissociate himself from Khalistani activists in Canada, and it appears that for his political ambitions he is now protecting them, despite India's repeated calls for action against groups threatening its territorial integrity.

Parting of ways by Jagmeet Singh and Justin Trudeau has introduced an element of 'competitive politics' to garner Indian and Sikhs vote in a possible early vote to elect the next Canadian President. Shoot out of Nijjar seems to have come handy to push for Sikhs and Hindus votes by both the leaders. Both NDP and Liberals in Canada drawing daggers at each other also contributed to conspiracy theories though Trudeau admitted to not having 'evidence against India.

Calibrated leaks to Canadian and US newspapers and media by Trudeau's security advisors on purported Indian involvement smacks more of 'perception' and 'psychological' operations rather than providing hard evidence. Questionable role of some top-ranking security officials of US 'deep state' muddied the waters and forced a new low in Indo-Canadian relations that hitherto were robust and stable even at strategic level.

How Trudeau handled Chinese intrusion in Canadian affairs has also been one of the foremost unresolved issues of his leadership. Domestic pressure has pushed Trudeau to adopt a more assertive posture towards Beijing, although his answer has frequently been characterised as unreliable and ineffective.

Legitimacy of Canada as a responsible nation is being questioned as it shows indications of becoming a state that covertly promotes extremist causes. Exploring both Trudeau's contentious foreign policy and the functions of international intelligence alliances such as the Five Eyes, this seeks a thoughtful insight. Investigates the fundamental causes for Canada's current posture as well, viewing it as a case of internal political survival entwined with external meddling from the ISI, CCP, US 'deep state' which aim to undermine and tarnish India's reputation globally.

Chronology of Events

In June 2023, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau made a controversial speech that has caused a significant strain in the diplomatic ties between Canada and India. Speaking in the Canadian Parliament, Trudeau stated that there was solid proof that Indian agents were responsible for the shooting death of Canadian Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Surrey, British Columbia. India vehemently refuted these accusations, stating that Canada's treatment of extremist elements on its territory has long been a source of disagreement, in addition to dismissing the claims as baseless. Also, government of India reaffirmed its position that backing Khalistani terrorists in Canada compromised its national security and sovereignty.

- On June 18, 2023, Canadian Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Nijjar was shot dead in gang warfare outside a Gurudwara in Surrey, British Columbia. Nijjar had long been active in anti-India activities, including supporting the terrorist Khalistan movement, for which India designated him as a terrorist. His assassination sparked

outrage, with Canada depicting him as a Sikh activist and India maintaining he was a terrorist associated with violent acts.

- On July 01, 2023 Khalistani terrorist featured several posters with names of top Indian diplomats in the killing of terrorist Nijjar. In response Ministry of External Affairs has said that it is "unacceptable" and India condemns them in the strongest terms. During a regular press briefing, official spokesperson of MEA, Arindam Bagchi said, "You must have seen posters inciting violence against the Indian diplomats. Our sense is that...these posters inciting violence against our diplomats and our diplomatic premises brought are unacceptable and we condemn them in the strongest terms. With respect to Canada, the matter has been strongly taken with the Canadian authorities, both in New Delhi and in Ottawa."
- On September 16, 2023, Justin Trudeau said in a speech to House of Commons that "Canadian security agencies have been actively pursuing credible allegations of a potential link between agents of the Government of India and the killing of a Canadian citizen, Hardeep Singh Nijjar."¹
- On September 19, 2023, Government of India rejected the allegations saying it absurd and motivated. Further said "Such unsubstantiated allegations seek to shift the focus from Khalistani terrorists and extremists, who have been provided shelter in Canada and continue to threaten India's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The inaction of the Canadian Government on this matter has been a long-standing and continuing concern."²
- On October 20, 2023, in an effort to achieve diplomatic parity between the two nations, India asked Ottawa to scale down its diplomatic representation in India and halted the issuance of new visas for Canadians.³
- On October 20, 2023, withdrawal of 41 Canadian diplomats and their 42 family members from India was announced by Canadian Foreign Minister Melanie Joly and suspended its consulate and visa services in Bengaluru, Mumbai, and Chandigarh.⁴
- On May 3, 2024, three individuals in the Nijjar murder case were charged by Canadian authorities: Karan Brar (22), Kamalpreet Singh (22), and Karanpreet Singh (28).⁵
- On June 15, 2024, after meeting Modi on the sidelines of the G-7 Outreach Summit in Italy, Trudeau stated that India and Canada would "work together" to address some "very important issues."⁶

¹ <https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/trudeau-india-reaction-1.6970767>

² <https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/37125/india+rejects+allegations+by+canada>

³ <https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/37201/parity+in+canadian+diplomatic+presence+in+india>

⁴ <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2023/10/statement-on-expulsion-of-canadian-diplomats-by-the-government-of-india.html>

⁵ <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/what-is-the-status-of-nijjar-killing-case-9624017/>

⁶ <https://www.msn.com/en-in/news/India/committed-to-work-together-canadian-pm-trudeau-on-meeting-with-pm-modi-on-sidelines-of-g7/ar-BB1oivEY>

- On October 13, 2024, Canada sent a diplomatic message to India, indicating that Sanjay Verma, the Indian High Commissioner, and other diplomats were "persons of interest" in a case involving an inquiry in that nation. Although Nijjar was not specifically mentioned, however reference was clear.
- On October 14, 2023, Canadian Khalistani Terror Group SFJ issues fresh threat against Indian High Commissioner to Canada Sanjay Kumar Verma, releases video of his photo being pumped with bullets. Canadian Govt fails to act, refusing to investigate or act against the Khalistani terrorists.⁷
- On October 14, 2024, Canadian Foreign Minister Mélanie Joly said in a press briefing that "everything is on the table," including the possibility of sanctions against India.⁸
- On October 16, 2024, Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau acknowledged in front of foreign interference inquiry that he had only intelligence and no "hard evidentiary proof" when he alleged the involvement of Indian government agents in the killing of Khalistan terrorist Hardeep Nijjar last year.⁹

Canadian Political Dynamics

The leadership of Justin Trudeau is being seen as a national embarrassment by the Canadian citizens. During his tenure, Trudeau has made a number of contentious decisions, especially in the arena of foreign policy, where his choices have become more motivated by domestic political ambitions than by long-term diplomatic objectives. During his time as prime minister, he has been actively incorporating with extremist elements, particularly Khalistan movement, who are well-represented in Canada. Since Jagmeet Singh's New Democratic Party (NDP) is so important to Trudeau's coalition government, retaining this support is primarily essential to his political survival.

His 2018 visit to India, which turned into a diplomatic disaster when convicted Khalistani terrorist Jaspal Atwal was invited to formal functions by Canadian authorities, was one of the most detrimental incidents to Trudeau's reputation abroad. This episode exposed the incapacity—or unwillingness—of Trudeau's administration to take the threat of Khalistani terrorism in Canada seriously. Additionally, it set the stage for India to increasingly distrust Trudeau's leadership because he appeared more focused on advancing his own political agenda at home than on developing sincere bilateral ties with India.

The most recent matter of contention in India-Canada ties was the assassination of Canadian terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar. Without providing any concrete proof, Trudeau's

⁷ <https://www.msn.com/en-in/news/India/threat-alert-pro-khalistan-group-sfj-releases-video-of-bullets-fired-at-indian-envoy-to-canadas-photo-watch/ar-AA1seQAq>

⁸ <https://www.businesstoday.in/world/canada/story/everything-is-on-the-table-canada-minister-melanie-joly-on-sanction-amid-escalating-diplomatic-feud-with-india-450026-2024-10-15>

⁹ <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/had-no-evidence-only-intel-before-going-public-with-nijjar-allegations-trudeau-9624102/>

move to openly accuse the Indian government of being involved in Nijjar's murder signalled a risky escalation in international tensions. His claim before the Canadian Parliament that "credible intelligence" correlated the murder to Indian agents was viewed as a rash political attempt to please his supporters at home, especially the Khalistani lobby.

Trudeau's claim was seen as a plan to divert attention away from his own domestic political difficulties and lacked the requisite diplomatic subtlety. It also demonstrated his excessive dependence on Jagmeet Singh's NDP, which has a history of being affiliated with Khalistan extremism. Singh has been an outspoken advocate for the Khalistan movement's concern, often presenting it as a matter of self-determination and human rights rather than recognising its terrorist roots. His influence in Canadian politics and his failure to denounce Khalistani terrorism have given extremists more confidence, which has worsened relations between India and Canada. NDP's withdrawal of support to Trudeau's Liberal party has given a new twist in competitive pitch for Sikhs votes.

Involvement of US 'deep state' and Five Eyes intelligence alliance has turned out to be a big challenge. Trudeau's mention of the intelligence shared by United States federal agencies and this alliance, which includes United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand apart from US has called into question authenticity of his allegations. By referencing US intelligence inputs and Five Eyes without providing solid facts, Trudeau looked to be using international spy networks for domestic political gains. This decision has called into question Canada's legitimacy as a neutral and legitimate state, raising the possibility that intelligence was politicised to fit their narrative.

A close scrutiny of Trudeau's relations with Chinese Communist Party (CCP) is necessary. He is carrying on his father Trudeau's legacy which reflects his love for China. There is strong anti-Beijing sentiment at home. The RCMP accused China of interfering in Canadian internal matters and numerous parliamentarians have proposed harsh actions. Justin Trudeau's soft-spoken stance, however, makes it quite evident that his affection for China will pose a serious threat to his own nation as well as to other neighbouring nations.

Canada's global standing has been harmed by its metamorphosis into what some perceive to be a state that tolerates criminal groups, especially Khalistani terrorists. There's also evidence that ISI of Pakistan has played a significant role in fostering Khalistani terrorism in Canada, despite Trudeau's administration choosing to ignore these events. Canada has established itself as a state that not only harbours terrorists but facilitates their goals by providing sanctuary to extremists like Nijjar and permitting ISI-affiliated agents to radicalise. This has significant consequences for India, which has repeatedly urged Canada to take firm action against these extremists.

Trudeau's handling of the diplomatic challenge between India and Canada has shown how weak his leadership is and how much he is prepared to damage Canada's reputation abroad in order to further his political agenda at home. A wider decline in Canadian foreign policy under his leadership is indicated by his dependence on the Khalistani lobby, his readiness to use intelligence as a weapon, and his inaction in the face of foreign influence from parties like the US deep state, CCP and ISI. India, on the other hand, has categorically refuted Trudeau's charges, calling them absurd and politically driven. The Indian Ministry of External Affairs has urged Canada to take action against the Khalistani extremists operating from its territory and reaffirmed India's commitment to fighting terrorism. The current diplomatic crisis also represents a deeper problem in Canadian government, where political pragmatism has trumped moral leadership.

Canada's Transformation

Years of flawed policy, political expediency, and outside intervention have turned Canada into a criminal state. The most obvious example of this change is Canada's wilful protection of terrorists who have been declared terrorist. Canada's willingness to shield extremists under the pretence of free speech is demonstrated by the fact that Nijjar was permitted to operate freely in Canada under the pretext of political protest even after being labelled a terrorist by India. Instead of working with India to combat the threat of terrorism, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau falsely claimed that India was responsible for Nijjar's death without providing any solid proof. In addition to escalating tensions, this action brought attention to Canada's troubling pattern of shielding terrorists for domestic political advantage.

Instead of confronting the problem, Trudeau's administration downplayed it, further solidifying Canada's position as a terrorist safe haven. With the Canadian government implicitly endorsing public demonstrations that glorify individuals like Bhindranwale and demands for the dissolution of India, Canada has turned into a centre for anti-Indian activity. There is a troubling contradiction in Trudeau's defence of these actions under the guise of "freedom of expression." Even though Canada says it supports democracy and openness, its actions betray this, as it continues to support terrorist movements that incite violence and compromise international security initiatives. This inconsistency is made worse by Canada's inaction against those who are openly encouraging violence against India, which calls into doubt the country's commitment to fighting terrorism.

ISI-backed Khalistani extremists have found a home in Canada because of its liberal policies and unrestricted immigration. The Canadian government has turned a blind eye to these operations, allowing this proxy war against India, which is financed and supported by the ISI, to continue. Similarly, accusations of Chinese influence in Canadian politics and Trudeau's close ties with the CCP have sparked worries about Canada's diminished sovereignty. Because of the CCP's strategic interest in undermining India, Canada is a desirable location for Chinese and Pakistani meddling in South Asian politics.

Canada has shown that it is prepared to endanger international relations in order to safeguard its own political objectives by criminalising diplomacy and making unfounded accusations. Trudeau's actions undermine Canada's reputation internationally by indicating that the country is more concerned with protecting banned terrorists than maintaining diplomatic standards. This decline into criminality is not an isolated instance; rather, it is a part of a larger trend in which Canada puts its domestic politics and foreign meddling ahead of its counterterrorism and international cooperation initiatives.

The implications of this criminal state transformation are extensive, affecting not only India but also international diplomacy and counterterrorism efforts. Once a peaceful, democratic country, it is now state-tainted by external objectives and its own political miscalculations, threatening to destabilise both its own society and international ties.

Recommendations

For Canada

1. In terms of Indian diaspora politics, Canada needs to reevaluate its domestic political approach. Maintaining long-term bilateral relations may be compromised by supporting separatist groups such as the Khalistan movement that has very little or no following among Sikhs. Regarding India's domestic affairs, Ottawa needs to take a non-interventionist stance, making sure that its actions uphold India's sovereignty and are consistent with Canada's democratic ideals.
2. In order to address India's security concerns about extremist and terrorist elements within Canada, Canada ought to suggest the creation of a bilateral counterterrorism task force. This program would address India's concerns regarding cross-border terrorism support while showcasing Canada's dedication to international security.
3. Canada needs to protect its trade interests rather than letting political issues spill over into its dealings with other countries. A high-level economic discussion centered on areas such as technology, agriculture, and green energy might help both countries pursue shared objectives even in the face of political difficulties.
4. Canada must take care to prevent radical groups and individuals from dictating its foreign policy. Canada can manage the diversity of its Indian diaspora while reducing extremist effects by supporting cultural, educational, and nonpolitical exchange initiatives.
5. Canada needs to improve its public relations approach. By doing this, Canada will be able to avoid its policies being misrepresented and make sure that it is viewed as a positive actor in international diplomacy as opposed to meddling in the internal affairs of other countries.

For India

1. India should concentrate on pursuing track II diplomacy, which entails connections between significant individuals or groups from both countries that are non-governmental, informal, and unofficial. This may reduce tensions by decreasing media sensationalism and maintaining official diplomatic channels available for higher-level negotiation.
2. India has to strategically make its counterterrorism stance known by using a forum such as the United Nations, G20, and BRICS. Without resorting to direct conflict, it can diplomatically isolate Canada's contentious backing for Khalistani separatists by uniting with other countries that are dealing with the same challenges due to outside meddling.
3. India would need to initiate focused outreach initiatives with an emphasis on non-political grassroots participation and cultural diplomacy. This would support a genuine perception of India's pluralistic democracy and refute Khalistani propaganda.
4. India should advocate for the investigation of the funding and operational networks of Canada-based Khalistani groups by international organisations like the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) or the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee.
5. India should diplomatically draw attention to the ways that extremists are using Canada's immigration and asylum laws as a means of obtaining refuge and carrying out anti-Indian activities. There are such instances, like Hardeep Nijjar, who was a known extremist and Canada gave him citizenship.

External Actors

1. Curbing non-state actors like ISI, CCP operations in Canada is something that the country should work towards and not compromise on its core values.
2. Intelligence sharing among members of Five Eyes to protect interests of participating countries legitimately is fine. But, Five Eyes and US deep state purported inputs cannot be the basis for unsubstantiated charges on long term strategic allies like India.
3. Mechanitions of lawful and non-state actors will have to be recognized by Canada before finally ending its ties with India.

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