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## After UK, Trudeau discusses India-Canada row with UAE; What he said?

Earlier, UK PM Rishi Sunak called for de-escalation of the India-Canada row in a call with his Canadian counterpart Justin Trudeau.

The Canadian PM held a telephone conversation with the President of UAE and the two also spoke about the current situation in Israel. The two leaders

"On the phone today, His Highness @MohammedBinZayed and I spoke about the current situation in Israel. We expressed our deep concern and discussed the need to protect civilian life," posted Trudeau on X.

"We also spoke about India and the importance of upholding - and respecting - the rule of law," his post added.

On Sunday, UK PM Rishi Sunak called for de-escalation of the India-Canada row in a call with his Canadian counterpart Justin Trudeau.

According to a Downing Street statement, Sunak spoke to Trudeau on Friday evening during which he was updated on the situation relating to Canadian diplomats in India.

"He (Rishi Sunak) hoped to see a de-escalation in the situation and agreed to remain in contact with Prime Minister Trudeau on the next steps," read the statement.

Sunak also reaffirmed the UK's position that all countries should respect sovereignty and the rule of law, including the principles of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.



Meanwhile, Trudeau updated on the situation relating to Canadian diplomats in India.

The diplomatic ties between India and Canada deteriorated after the Canadian government expelled a senior Indian diplomat accusing India of playing a role in the assassination of a Khalistani separatist leader, Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada.

In the aftermath, India swiftly retaliated by issuing a statement that denied any involvement in the issue and expelled a senior Canadian diplomat.

Moreover, amid escalating tensions, India called for parity in the number of Canadian diplomats in India.

Responding to reports claiming

A growing majority of Canadians believe owning a home has become a privilege that can only be afforded by the rich, a new poll suggests, with nearly three-quarters of those surveyed agreeing.

The Ipsos poll conducted exclusively for Global News and released Friday further suggests two-thirds of Canadians have given up on ever owning a home. That number has also risen since the spring.

"Instead of the dream of homeownership, it is turning into a nightmare for an entire generation of Canadians," said Sean Simpson, Ipsos' vice-president of public affairs.

The poll, which surveyed 1,500 adults last month, also found 71 per cent of respondents live in communities where they say a housing crisis exists.

Simpson said Ipsos surveyed Canadians of all age groups, including those who already own a home.

The results suggest "a pan-Canadian attitude" that home ownership is increasingly unobtainable, he said, and that there is empathy among homeowners towards those who have been unable to break into the market.

"They are recognizing their relative privilege that they do own a home," he said.

"This generation almost always wants the next generation to have at least what they had, if not better. And this is a key piece of the puzzle that seems to be missing, or will be missing for a lot of younger Canadians."

Federal data further suggests younger Canadians may be turning away from the housing market. A

## More Canadians giving up on owning a home, say it's only for the rich: poll



Statistics Canada report released on Thursday found mortgage debt for households younger than 35 years had a steeper drop than the national average. The agency attributed the trend to those households seeking more affordable homes or leaving the market altogether "due to affordability concerns."

The over-increasing cost of owning a home has become the dominant issue plaguing the federal government and legislatures across the country.

The federal Liberals saw their poll numbers drop throughout the summer as the opposition Conservatives hammered them on the growing cost of living, and as inflation and high interest rates persist.

Ottawa has made a series of policy announcements aimed at getting more homes built faster, including waiving the GST from new rental

construction, with promises of more to come. It has also begun rolling out funding to municipalities through the \$4-billion Housing Accelerator Fund, which was first announced last year.

Yet the poll suggests the announcements rolled out so far have not inspired confidence among Canadians. Only 20 per cent of those surveyed believe the federal government is doing enough to address the housing crisis, down seven points from April.

About one-third of respondents said they have confidence in Ottawa and their provincial and municipal governments to get more homes built. By contrast, 44 per cent said they trusted land developers and home builders to lead the way, and nearly 50 per cent backed non-profit agencies that build not-for-profit housing.

"The subtext there is, Government,

cent, also said Canada's immigration targets should be reduced until the housing shortage eases, while 68 per cent said there should be a cap on international students while the crisis is addressed.

Trudeau and Housing Minister Sean Fraser - who previously served as immigration minister - have resisted calls to reduce immigration and international student levels, arguing migrants can help solve the housing crunch by filling construction job vacancies.

"(They're) acknowledging it's a complicated issue, but Canadians want to see action - immediate action - to make sure that there are enough homes in this country for everybody to live in one, and own one should they choose to," Simpson said.

More Canadians believe the rising cost of housing in Canada is due to increased interest rates and inflation (68 per cent) or a lack of housing supply (63 per cent) than those who pin the blame on increased immigration to Canada (57 per cent), the poll found.

Yet only 56 per cent agreed that increasing housing supply will actually drive prices down for new homes, with the same number agreeing it will lower the cost of rent.

Two-thirds of current homeowners surveyed by Ipsos said they disagree that building more housing will cause their home to be worth less.

"At the end of the day, Canadians are supporting the building of more housing: more high density housing, more affordable housing, just more housing. Get it built," Simpson said.

"There's a growing sense of urgency, and Canadians are thinking outside the box of 'normal' solutions."

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## Canada has relocated some diplomatic staff out of India: sources

As Canada-India bilateral relations spiral, the Canadian government relocated some lower-level diplomatic staff stationed outside of Delhi to Kuala Lumpur and Singapore over the last several weeks, multiple sources tell.

Also confirm that India's government has given Canada until Tuesday to reduce its diplomatic footprint at the High Commission in New Delhi by about 40 people. India's government is threatening to revoke the diplomatic immunity of additional staff who are not gone by the Oct. 10 deadline, sources say.

Canada's decision to relocate diplomatic staff stationed outside of Delhi is not directly related to the demand this week from India for Canada to reduce its diplomatic footprint.

The sources spoke to CBC News on the condition they not be named. This report confirms information reported by the Financial Times and CTV News earlier this week.

Roland Paris, director of the



University of Ottawa's school of public and international relations and a former foreign policy adviser to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, says he hopes India can be persuaded through diplomatic channels not to follow through with its threat to revoke the diplomatic immunity of Canadian staff.

"India wants to strengthen its relations with lots of parts of the

world, including with the Western countries that are now seeking to strengthen their relations with India for economic and strategic reasons," Paris told CBC's Power & Politics, adding that it isn't India's strategic interests to be seen as a nation "that flourishes wistfully."

"I think that India is likely to be mindful of what the international reaction is going to be in this circumstance. Let's just hope that's

true" said Paris.

Canada-India relations soured last month after Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Canada's national security apparatus has reason to believe "agents of the Indian government" were involved in the fatal shooting of Canadian citizen Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

India has denied any role in Nijjar's killing and has called Trudeau's accusation "absurd" and "unsubstantiated."

Nijjar, who was vocal advocate for an independent Sikh homeland in northern India to be called Khalistan, was shot dead in June outside of a gurwara in Surrey, B.C.

The government of India branded Nijjar a terrorist in 2020 and accused him of leading a militant separatist group, an accusation his supporters deny.

Global Affairs Canada says that "due to security and operational considerations," the department is unable to confirm details concerning Canada's move to relocate some diplomatic staff.

Earlier this week, Foreign Affairs Minister Mélanie Joly said it's important for Canada to have a "strong diplomatic footprint in India" during this diplomatic crisis.

## Canada-India dispute likely target for disinformation efforts, U.S. State Department warns

Canada's ongoing diplomatic standoff with India risks making it an even more tempting target for international efforts that use disinformation to reshape global narratives, a senior State Department official says.

Whether it's restive political factions, grassroots public outrage, economic instability or geopolitical disputes, conflict always makes it easier for falsehoods to take root, said Global Engagement Center co-ordinator James Rubin.

"Any time there is an underlying discontent in a country, the manipulators will use that," Rubin told a briefing Thursday about the centre's new report on China's goals for reshaping the information space.

"Unfortunately, they're getting better and better at it." Social media now lays bare the divisions that exist in any given part of the world, "and through artificial intelligence and spending money on it, they can develop tailored narratives," he said.

And while Rubin was quick to note he's seen no evidence of China seeking to exploit the Canada-India dispute, "this is obviously an area that is ripe for information manipulation."

The dispute broke into public view last month when Prime Minister Justin Trudeau revealed "credible allegations" of a link between the Indian government and the shooting death in June of a prominent Sikh leader in B.C.

Hardeep Singh Nijjar, 45, a longtime advocate for the idea of an independent Sikh state in the province of Punjab, was killed while at the wheel of his pickup truck by two masked gunmen outside a temple in Surrey, B.C.

India - where Nijjar had long been branded as a terrorist and was wanted in connection with multiple attacks dating back to 2007 - has strenuously denied any involvement.

Rubin acknowledged Thursday that the dispute is a "sticky subject" in the U.S., which has been working to strengthen its ties with India as part



of a long-term plan to build a geopolitical bulwark against China in the Indo-Pacific.

And while he hewed closely to official U.S. talking points, urging the two countries to co-operate on the centre's new report on China's goals for reshaping the information space.

"I meant the word 'murder,'" he said. "It was clearly a murder, it should be investigated in Canada, it's terrible that it happened, but I should have used the word 'murder,' not assassination, because that has political overtones."

A spokesman for the Indian government acknowledged this week that New Delhi wants Canada to shrink its diplomatic presence in the country, but would not confirm reports that 41 of 62 Canadian envoys could be kicked out by Monday.

Ottawa has said the discussions are ongoing, but it needs its emissaries to remain in India while efforts continue to resolve the standoff.

Global Affairs Canada said in a statement late Thursday evening that "due to security and operational considerations," it was unable to provide details about Canada's current diplomatic footprint in India.

The turmoil has proven a resilient topic in both Washington and Ottawa, both of which had been more focused in recent months on how best to address the global threats posed by Russia and China.

The latter country has aggressively deployed its disinformation campaigns in Canada in recent years, with one particular target -

Conservative MP Michael Chong - earning a specific mention in the new State Department report.

Chong, who represents an Ontario riding, testified before a congressional commission last month about his experience, which included a Chinese intimidation plot that targeted the MP and his relatives in Hong Kong in 2021.

Earlier this year, Chong was also at the centre of an effort by Chinese operatives to discredit him with false information, using WeChat, a social media and direct-messaging app popular in the Chinese diaspora.

"The (People's Republic of China) has used WeChat as a channel for disseminating disinformation targeting Chinese-language speakers residing in democracies," he reports.

The network involved accounts linked to state media and China's state apparatus "in opaque ways," and "shared and amplified false and misleading information about Mr. Chong's identity, background, and political views."

Rubin noted with some irony that China for decades was and remains a fierce guardian of its internal domestic affairs even as it engages in efforts to manipulate the narratives in countries around the world.

"There's nothing wrong with people asking hard questions, or even suggesting outrageous things, as long as it's done in an open, transparent manner where you know who's saying what to whom, and why," he said.

"When the provenance of information is not clear, when we don't know that it's the Chinese government or the Russian government doing something, that's when it's information manipulation."

## Montreal man among those killed in Hamas attack on Israel, family says

A Montreal man's family says their son was one of the victims of the surprise attack launched by Hamas against Israel over the weekend.

Alexandre Look, 33, was among thousands in attendance at an outdoor techno music festival near the Gaza-Israel border on Saturday when it was attacked by Hamas gunmen, his father confirmed to CBC News. About 260 bodies were removed from the festival following the ambush.

Look's father said he died trying to protect others.

"Alex was a force of nature, endowed with a unique charisma and unparalleled generosity," Alan Haim Look wrote in a Facebook post announcing his son's death Saturday, accompanied by several photos of the teenager.

"Like a true warrior, he died like a hero, wanting to protect the people he was with."

Devorah Shanowitz, program director and educator at the Chabad of Westmont, said there's "a tremendous sense of shock and a deep sense of grieving" in the Jewish organization, which Look's parents are a part of.

"They're wonderful people, they're kind, generous, positive," he said in a phone interview with CBC News. "I think what made this all the more shocking is that you just wouldn't expect that something would happen like that when a kid is out just travelling, going to a concert... he was just a normal young man trying to enjoy a slice of life in a very normal way."

The Chabad has created a fundraiser for the Look family as well as a campaign to spread acts of kindness in honour of the victim.

"We're encouraging our community to bring light into this world, to fight with light," Shanowitz said. Global Affairs Canada has not confirmed Look's death, but said Sunday it is working to confirm reports of a Canadian who died and two others who are missing following the attacks.

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## Woman in Canada facing terrorism charge: RCMP



The RCMP say a 29-year-old woman in Canada is facing a terrorism-related offence for her alleged participation in the activities of ISIS.

Police say Ammara Amjad returned to Canada from Syria on April 4 and was arrested by way of a terrorism peace bond. She was later

released on bail conditions pending a future court appearance.

The RCMP say Amjad was then arrested this Thursday in Milton, Ont., and charged for her alleged participation in the activities of ISIS. She appeared in two courts and was subsequently released on bail, subject to several conditions that were not disclosed.

Police say Amjad's next court date is scheduled for Nov. 17.

In April, a woman with the same name was transported to Canada from the Al-Hoj camp, an open-air prison in northeast Syria where some wives and widows of ISIS fighters are detained, and arrested upon arrival at a Montreal airport. She was

eventually released on strict bail conditions (opens in a new tab).

As previously reported by CTV News, the woman was eventually released on strict bail conditions, including having to wear a GPS ankle monitor and limited access to cellphones and computers. She was also prohibited from driving, had to surrender her passport and was mandated to attend de-radicalization counselling.

CTVNews.ca has reached out to the RCMP to confirm if that was the same woman who was arrested and released on bail again this week.

In April, the U.S. Department of State said 14 women and children from "displaced persons camps" in northeast Syria were repatriated to Canada. It estimated that some 10,000 foreign nationals from 60 different countries remain in the camps, most of them women and children.

Another 10,000 men, who are suspected ISIS fighters, are being held in prisons, the department said.

People are encouraged to report any information on terrorism or related suspicious activity to the National Security Information Network by calling 1-800-424-5805 or to their local police detachment.

## Economy adds 64K jobs in September, unemployment rate holds steady at 5.5%

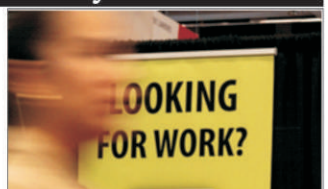
The Canadian economy added more jobs than expected last month, but with the gains driven by a seasonal spike in education employment and an increase in part-time work, economists say the job market is weaker than it looks.

Statistics Canada released its September labour force survey Friday morning, which shows employment rose by 64,000 jobs.

The unemployment rate continued to hold steady at 5.5 per cent for the third month in a row.

"While the headline figures will be grabbing most of the attention, we'd caution on getting too excited. Almost all the gains were in the historically volatile education sector," said TD director of economics James Orlando in a client note.

"Furthermore, most of the job gains were in part-time employment, causing the number of hours worked to decline. These details should throw some cold water on a



seemingly hot jobs report."

More people were working in educational services and transportation and warehousing while jobs were shed in finance, insurance, real estate rental and leasing, information and recreation, and construction.

Canada's labour market has cooled over the last year as interest rates have risen: job vacancies have fallen and

the unemployment rate has edged up.

Still, economists say the job market has held out better than expected.

Even with the recent rise in the unemployment rate, it remains below pre-pandemic levels. The unemployment rate averaged 5.7 per cent in 2019, the year before COVID-19 upended economic trends.

Wage growth has also remained

relatively strong as workers demand raises to compensate for the rise in cost-of-living.

Average hourly wages in September were up five per cent from a year ago.

"The takeaway that is that even with a little bit of softening around the edges, the job market is still quite tight," said Douglas Porter, BMO's chief economist.

Strong population growth has also been supporting larger monthly job gains, as more people enter the labour force.

"The Bank of Canada has been keeping an eye on the labour market to gauge whether the economy is cooling enough to bring inflation back to its two per cent target."

While the central bank's rate hikes are starting to be felt in the economy, both Orlando and Porter say the labour market has not loosened enough to suggest the Bank of Canada's job is done.

"We haven't seen any trends that are obviously screaming at us saying, 'the economy is moving in the direction the Bank of Canada needs to get inflation back down,'" Orlando said in an interview.

## Global Affairs says it is aware of reports of Canadian killed amid conflict in Israel and Gaza Strip

Global Affairs Canada says it is aware of reports that one Canadian has died and two others are missing in the wake of an attack on Israel by Hamas forces, marking the latest escalation in the decades-long conflict.

In an update shared Sunday afternoon, the agency said Canadian officials in Israel are in contact with local authorities in an effort to confirm those reports and gather more information.

"Global Affairs Canada says there are currently 1,419 registered Canadians in Israel and 492 in the Palestinian territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, but cautioned that such registration is voluntary and provides an incomplete picture of Canadians abroad."

The agency did not specify whether the reported death and the two Canadians believed to be missing had been registered in Israel or the Palestinian territories.

On Saturday morning, Hamas fighters launched an attack that has left at least 700 people dead including 44 soldiers, officials say. The attack has also included the abduction of soldiers and civilians.

Israel retaliated by intensifying its bombardment of the Gaza Strip, striking more than 800 targets including residential buildings.

More than 400 people have been killed in Gaza, the Gaza Health Ministry said, including 78 children and 41 women. Thousands have been injured on both sides.

Israel officials said security forces have killed 400 militants and captured dozens more.

Hamas says the attack is in response to Palestinian suffering under Israel's occupation and aggression against those living in the Gaza Strip.

The Israeli government has stated that it is at war, giving the green light for "significant military steps."

As of Sunday, Global Affairs Canada said it has responded to 429 inquiries since the beginning of the conflict related to travel advice and advisories for Israel and Gaza, the status of the airport and flights, the overall security situation and options for leaving the country.



Canadian officials have decried the attack by Hamas, with Prime Minister Trudeau Sunday that "Canada unequivocally condemns

these terrible attacks in the strongest possible terms and reaffirms its support for Israel's right to defend itself, in accordance with international law."

"We call for the immediate release of those being held hostage and demand they be treated in accordance with international law. We will continue to monitor the situation closely, and we are in touch with our international partners to restore peace and security in the region. We must all work to protect civilian life."

Clips posted on social media in the wake of the attack showed unidentified hostages being paraded through Gaza in pickup trucks and cars.

Among the hostages, identified by friends and colleagues, is believed to be Vivian Silver, a Canadian Israeli peace activist.

She was reportedly taken as Hamas militants entered the community Be'er on Israel's border with Gaza. Silver, who is originally from Winnipeg, has worked closely with Palestinians and Israelis for years. She helped create an organization called Women Wage Peace, which aims to bring together Palestinian and Israeli women to advocate for a mutually binding non-violent agreement to end the conflict.

"I hope that both sides realize that nothing will come out of war, other than continued destruction," Silver was quoted as saying in "And that if our leaders care about their people, then they're going to have to change the paradigm."

Hamas leaders claim that they have taken hostage more than 120 people from inside Israel, and that these hostages are intended to be traded for the release of thousands of Palestinians imprisoned by Israel, The Associated Press reports. The Israeli military has not confirmed this

exact number, but said the number of captives is "significant."

A B.C. man, Ben Mizrahi, has also been in Israel.

There are reports of several international captives from Brazil and Mexico. American and British authorities are also investigating claims.

One former Canadian government hostage negotiator says the prisoners of war will become a sensitive and high-risk issue in this conflict going forward.

"Because of the human element and the emotions that it brings to it, in terms of fear of torture, the fear of uncertainty, family engagement and how they can be used and manipulated in the course of negotiation processes. So I think the hostage situation is one of the main concerns we have right now," Calvin Chansted told CTV National News.

In a series of posts on X, Foreign Affairs Minister Melanie Joly stated that she had spoken with counterparts in Israel, Jordan and Egypt, as well as with the Palestinian Authority, with the goal of co-ordinating de-escalation.

"Spoke with Dr. Riad Malki of the Palestinian Authority. I expressed condolences for the death of Palestinian civilians and reiterated our condemnation of Hamas' terror attack on Israel. The violence must stop and the protection of civilians is paramount."

On Sunday, funerals were held in Gaza for children killed in an Israeli airstrike. As the conflict escalates, and children are added to the list of victims, aid groups are demanding both sides must follow the rules of war.

"We cannot stress this point enough - civilians are not part of this fight," Sarah Davies, with the International Committee of the Red Cross.

## Canada visa freeze clouds Indian tourism sector in peak season

Statistics provided by the Ministry of Tourism show that December is the peak tourist season, while summer is lean. According to 2021 data by the ministry, over 24 per cent of total Canadian tourists who visited India came in December, while less than one per cent travelled between May.

The Union government's move to suspend visas for citizens of Canada - a huge source market for India - may affect peak tourism season, with in-bound travel operators bracing for large-scale cancellations and facing a spill-over effect on overall sentiment.

Statistics provided by the Ministry of Tourism show that December is the peak tourist season, while summer is lean. According to 2021 data by the ministry, over 24 per cent of total Canadian tourists who visited India came in December, while less than one per cent travelled between May.

Association of Tour Operators (ATO), said Canada is a huge source market for India. "We have tourists, people of Indian origin travelling to India to meet their friends and relatives and this was expected to be a normal year after 2019-20. So it has a huge impact."

In the wake of Hardeep Singh Nijjar's killing and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's remarks linking India to the murder, diplomatic relations between Canada and India have taken a hit. India also suspended visa services for Canadians last month.

IATO predicts this will lead to a fall of 30-40 per cent from what they were expecting in this financial year. "Those who were planning to travel from December onwards will likely be impacted," says Mehra, adding that all segments in the hospitality sector - be it hotels, event planners, marriage planners (Canadian citizens of origin often solemnize marriages here in India where they spend lavishly), luxury car rental companies will likely take a hit.





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