# Canada’s invite to Modi sparks backlash amid assassination probe and Sikh outrage



In recent weeks, the Canadian Sikh community has expressed profound outrage following Prime Minister Mark Carney's invitation to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to attend the upcoming G7 summit in Kananaskis. This invitation comes in the wake of escalating tensions stemming from the 2023 assassination of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a prominent Sikh-Canadian activist linked to the global movement for an independent Sikh state, Khalistan. Reports suggest that agents of the Indian government orchestrated this brazen act, exacerbating already strained diplomatic relations between Canada and India.

Nijjar's assassination was particularly shocking due to its purported connection to the Indian government, an allegation that has been echoed by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. He asserted that Indian officials were involved in the plot, a claim strongly denied by the Indian government, which has accused Canada of harbouring Sikh separatists. The political climate has been further complicated by recent indictments from the U.S. Department of Justice, which detailed direct communications linking Indian agents to plots targeting Sikh activists in both Canada and the United States.

In light of these developments, Carney's decision to include Modi in such an important international gathering has drawn heavy criticism from members of the Sikh community. Balpreet Singh, legal counsel for the World Sikh Organization of Canada, has been particularly vocal. He lamented that Carney's remarks, which focused on India's role in global supply chains, seem to sideline crucial human rights concerns that should underpin Canadian foreign policy. "It feels like a betrayal to the Canadian Sikh community," Singh noted, emphasising that any realignment in relations must be principled and contingent upon India acknowledging its actions.

Despite the evident discontent, Carney defended his choice during a recent press conference, stating that India occupies a critical position in global economic networks. His comments, however, have been received with scepticism. Critics argue that prioritising economic interests over human rights undermines Canada’s image as a champion of democracy and values rooted in rule of law. There are also concerns that failing to address international accusations against Modi’s government diminishes Canada's moral standing, especially following Trudeau's initial, more assertive stance against what he termed "external interference."

The invitation, announced just ahead of the anniversary of Nijjar's death, seems to contradict previous Canadian efforts to condemn foreign interference, as highlighted by the RCMP’s troubling investigation into India’s covert operations on Canadian soil. An October report by the RCMP identified credible threats to the Sikh community, citing actions orchestrated by agents of the Indian government. The expulsion of diplomats from both nations, a direct consequence of the escalating diplomatic crisis, underscores the deepening rift, with Canada taking a hard line against foreign interference and violence.

In contrast, Modi's acceptance of the G7 invitation has generated mixed reactions. While some view it as a chance for dialogue, others fear it legitimises a government that has been accused of serious human rights violations. Sikh leaders have called for Modi to be held accountable, insisting that his participation should only occur under the condition that he cooperates with ongoing investigations into Nijjar’s assassination and promises not to target Sikh activists in Canada.

The broader implications of this diplomatic realignment extend beyond the Sikh community. Canadian officials are faced with the challenge of balancing national security and human rights with international economic partnerships. As the G7 summit approaches, the critical questions loom: How will Carney reconcile these competing interests, and what will be the ramifications for the communities at stake?

Local politicians have echoed the concerns of the Sikh community, with some Liberal MPs expressing dissatisfaction with Carney’s handling of the situation. Maninder Sidhu, the new Minister of International Trade, acknowledged the division within the community while asserting the need for cooperation to navigate existing tensions.

The spotlight at the G7 summit will not only focus on international economic ties but also on the complex geopolitics entwined with Canada’s commitments to uphold human rights. As the Sikh community prepares to voice their concerns, the upcoming discussions will reveal much about Canada’s future diplomatic stance and how it intends to engage with a country increasingly accused of transnational repression.

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* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://thepointer.com/article/2025-06-14/carney-s-g7-invitation-to-modi-draws-outrage-from-sikhs-after-evidence-of-india-s-role-in-assassination-of-canadian-in-bc), [[3]](https://apnews.com/article/a4f39d9ecc86611168e15be040a8a3cd), [[4]](https://www.lemonde.fr/international/article/2024/10/16/le-canada-accuse-l-inde-d-etre-au-c-ur-d-activites-criminelles-sur-son-sol_6353565_3210.html)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://thepointer.com/article/2025-06-14/carney-s-g7-invitation-to-modi-draws-outrage-from-sikhs-after-evidence-of-india-s-role-in-assassination-of-canadian-in-bc), [[5]](https://elpais.com/internacional/2024-10-16/canada-expulsa-al-embajador-y-otros-cinco-diplomaticos-de-la-india-tras-vincularlos-con-homicidios-extorsion-y-actos-violentos.html), [[6]](https://www.ft.com/content/78cf640b-4fe2-4eb3-b85e-1b2596519cc1)
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* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://thepointer.com/article/2025-06-14/carney-s-g7-invitation-to-modi-draws-outrage-from-sikhs-after-evidence-of-india-s-role-in-assassination-of-canadian-in-bc), [[2]](https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/canadas-sikhs-voice-outrage-over-modi-g7-invitation-2025-06-14/)
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## Bibliography

1. <https://thepointer.com/article/2025-06-14/carney-s-g7-invitation-to-modi-draws-outrage-from-sikhs-after-evidence-of-india-s-role-in-assassination-of-canadian-in-bc> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/canadas-sikhs-voice-outrage-over-modi-g7-invitation-2025-06-14/> - Canada's Sikh community has expressed outrage over Prime Minister Mark Carney's invitation to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to attend the upcoming G7 summit in Alberta. Modi's presence marks his first visit to Canada in a decade and comes amid heightened tensions between the two countries. Relations soured following allegations in 2023 by then-Prime Minister Justin Trudeau accusing the Indian government of involvement in the assassination of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a Sikh separatist leader. While India denies the allegations and accuses Canada of harbouring Sikh separatists, members of Canada's Sikh community, some of whom have faced death threats, are angered by what they perceive as Ottawa prioritising economic interests over human rights. Sikh activist Moninder Singh criticised the invitation and announced plans for protests. Sikh leaders argue that Modi should have been invited only under the condition of accepting responsibility for alleged actions and cooperating with investigations. Carney has defended the invitation, citing India's strategic role in global supply chains. Meanwhile, law enforcement cooperation between the two countries is set to continue. Critics accuse Carney of sidelining human rights concerns, while others see his decision as pragmatic diplomacy. ([reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/canadas-sikhs-voice-outrage-over-modi-g7-invitation-2025-06-14/?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://apnews.com/article/a4f39d9ecc86611168e15be040a8a3cd> - Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney has invited Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the G7 summit in Alberta, scheduled for June 15–17, 2025, despite ongoing tensions between the two nations. The invitation follows a period of strained diplomatic relations triggered by the 2023 assassination of Canadian Sikh activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, reportedly linked to Indian government agents. This led both countries to expel each other's top diplomats. Four Indian nationals residing in Canada have been charged in Nijjar's killing. Carney emphasised India's global economic importance and noted some diplomatic progress, including renewed law enforcement dialogue. However, Sikh advocacy groups, including the World Sikh Organization of Canada, condemned the invitation, calling it a betrayal of Canadian values, especially since the summit dates coincide with the anniversary of Nijjar’s death. Modi accepted the invitation and expressed hope for renewed cooperation between the two democracies. Adding to the wider context, the U.S. also accused an Indian official of plotting to assassinate a Sikh separatist in New York in 2023. Carney declined to comment on Modi's potential involvement in Nijjar’s assassination due to ongoing legal proceedings. ([apnews.com](https://apnews.com/article/a4f39d9ecc86611168e15be040a8a3cd?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.lemonde.fr/international/article/2024/10/16/le-canada-accuse-l-inde-d-etre-au-c-ur-d-activites-criminelles-sur-son-sol_6353565_3210.html> - La crise diplomatique entre le Canada et l'Inde s'aggrave avec l'expulsion mutuelle de hauts diplomates, survenue après que la police canadienne a révélé détenir des preuves crédibles de l'implication d'agents indiens dans des activités criminelles au Canada, telles que la collecte de renseignements et l'ingérence dans les processus démocratiques. Mélanie Joly, ministre canadienne des affaires étrangères, a demandé à l'Inde de lever l'immunité diplomatique de six agents, y compris l'ambassadeur, en raison de nombreux incidents violents contre la communauté sud-asiatique, notamment les Sikhs. L'Inde a refusé et rappelé les diplomates visés. Cette situation suit l'assassinat en juin 2023 d'un dirigeant séparatiste sikh, Hardeep Singh Nijjar, à Surrey. Le Premier ministre canadien, Justin Trudeau, a accusé l'Inde d'utiliser des diplomates et le crime organisé pour des attaques au Canada, accusations que New Delhi qualifie de grotesques et diffamatoires. Cette crise est exacerbée par le long contentieux entre les deux pays concernant le mouvement séparatiste sikh pour le Khalistan. Les États-Unis ont également demandé à l'Inde de coopérer avec les enquêtes canadiennes. ([lemonde.fr](https://www.lemonde.fr/international/article/2024/10/16/le-canada-accuse-l-inde-d-etre-au-c-ur-d-activites-criminelles-sur-son-sol_6353565_3210.html?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://elpais.com/internacional/2024-10-16/canada-expulsa-al-embajador-y-otros-cinco-diplomaticos-de-la-india-tras-vincularlos-con-homicidios-extorsion-y-actos-violentos.html> - Las relaciones entre Canadá y la India siguen deteriorándose después de que Canadá expulsara al embajador indio y otros cinco diplomáticos, acusándolos de estar vinculados con homicidios, extorsión y actos violentos. Esto ocurrió tras el asesinato de Hardeep Singh Nijjar en Columbia Británica en 2023, un defensor de la independencia del Punjab. El primer ministro canadiense, Justin Trudeau, afirmó tener evidencia de la implicación del Gobierno de Modi en el asesinato, lo cual la India negó categóricamente. Como respuesta, India expulsó al embajador canadiense y a cinco diplomáticos. La Real Policía Montada de Canadá está investigando más delitos dirigidos a la comunidad sij en Canadá y señala que diplomáticos indios fueron cruciales en estos crímenes. La ministra de Exteriores de Canadá, Mélanie Joly, destacó que la decisión se basó en pruebas tangibles y enfatizó la seguridad de sus ciudadanos. Trudeau también lamentó la falta de cooperación de las autoridades indias y aseguró que no tolerarán amenazas extranjeras en su territorio. ([elpais.com](https://elpais.com/internacional/2024-10-16/canada-expulsa-al-embajador-y-otros-cinco-diplomaticos-de-la-india-tras-vincularlos-con-homicidios-extorsion-y-actos-violentos.html?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.ft.com/content/78cf640b-4fe2-4eb3-b85e-1b2596519cc1> - Inderjeet Singh Gosal, the new leader of the Khalistan movement advocating for an independent Sikh homeland in India's Punjab region, remains undeterred despite the assassination of his predecessor, Hardeep Singh Nijjar. This event has heightened tensions between Canada and India, resulting in mutual expulsions of diplomats. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau condemned the assassination, asserting it was a violation of Canada's sovereignty, while India accused Canada of harbouring Sikh extremists. The Khalistan movement, rooted in historical violence against Sikhs in India, has significantly impacted Canada, home to the largest Sikh community outside India. The political and diplomatic strain is further complicated by allegations of Indian interference in Canadian internal affairs, including suspected criminal activities and election meddling. Despite this, Gosal continues his efforts, undaunted by threats or attempts on his life. ([ft.com](https://www.ft.com/content/78cf640b-4fe2-4eb3-b85e-1b2596519cc1?utm_source=openai))