

India's remaining diplomats 'clearly on notice' not to.: Canada foreign minister



Canada's foreign minister Mélanie Joly on Friday said the remaining Indian diplomats in Canada are "clearly on notice" not to endanger Canadian lives, as tensions between the two nations escalate over allegations of Indian involvement in the assassination of a Sikh separatist. The diplomatic standoff erupted earlier this week after Canada expelled India's high commissioner and five other diplomats, accusing them of being linked to a campaign of violence and intimidation against Sikh separatists in Canada. "We've never seen that in our history. That level of transnational repression cannot happen on Canadian soil. We've seen it elsewhere in Europe. Russia has done that in Germany and the UK and we needed to stand firm on this issue," Joly said. What Canada foreign minister said on Indian diplomats Asked if other Indian diplomats will be expelled, Joly said: "They are clearly on notice. Six of them have been expelled including the high commissioner in Ottawa. Others were mainly from Toronto and Vancouver and clearly we won't tolerate any diplomats that are in contravention of the Vienna convention." Joly's remarks come amid allegations by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) that Indian diplomats had allegedly been involved in actions leading to the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a Sikh separatist and a designated terrorist in India gunned down last year in British Columbia. The RCMP alleges that Indian diplomats operating in Canada have shared information about Sikh activists with Indian authorities, who have then passed it along to organized crime groups. These groups, according to Canadian officials, have been linked to extortion, drive-by shootings, and the assassination of pro-Khalistan activists, including Nijjar. India has vehemently denied the accusations, calling them "absurd" and retaliating by expelling six Canadian diplomats, including the acting high commissioner in New Delhi. The ministry of external affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal dismissed the claims and accused Canada of sheltering individuals wanted for terrorism-related charges in India. "It is strange that the very people we've asked Canada to extradite are now being accused of crimes in Canada,"

Jaiswal said, pointing to 26 extradition requests India has filed, some pending for over a decade. He also suggested that Canada had not acted on provisional arrest requests for several individuals linked to terrorism. The diplomatic row has heightened tensions that

were already strained following Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's statement in September 2023, when he suggested that Indian agents were potentially involved in Nijjar's murder. India had declared Nijjar a terrorist, and his killing outside a gurdwara in Surrey re-

mains a flashpoint in the relationship. New Delhi has long accused Ottawa of turning a blind eye to the activities of Khalistani separatists. India claims that these activists operate freely in Canada, despite being implicated in terrorism-related cases in India.

J&K Opposition slams Omar Abdullah for statehood-only resolution



Political parties in Jammu and Kashmir have criticised the Omar Abdullah-led Cabinet's resolution that sought the restoration of statehood but omitted any mention of Article 370. Various parties, including the People's Democratic Party (PDP), People's Conference (PC), and Awami Ittehad Party (AIP), labelled the move as a betrayal of the National Conference's (NC) pre-election promises to restore both statehood

and Article 370. The Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, passed the resolution requesting statehood restoration, which was later sent to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for approval, news agency PTI reported. The decision sparked outrage amongst Opposition leaders, who reminded the NC of its manifesto commitment to challenge the Centre's 2019 decision that revoked Jammu and Kashmir's special status and downgraded it to a Union Territory. PDP leader Iltija Mufti criticised the resolution, calling it an "utter surrender" and accusing the NC of legitimising the Centre's disempowerment of Jammu and Kashmir. PDP Youth President Waheed Para echoed this sentiment, stating that scaling back the demand to just statehood was a "huge setback" for the region. Baramulla MP Sheikh Abdul

Rashid expressed disappointment, saying the resolution was a "departure" from the NC's principled stand. He questioned why Abdullah would request statehood when the BJP had already promised its restoration, suggesting that the omission of Article 370 showed the NC was playing into the BJP's hands. People's Conference chief Sajad Lone also expressed confusion over the secrecy surrounding the resolution and argued that such decisions should be debated in the Assembly, not just in the Cabinet. He urged the NC to fulfill its election promises and bring the matter of statehood and Article 370 to the Assembly for a proper vote. The resolution has stirred political tensions in the region, with parties continuing to demand the full restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's special status as per their pre-election commitments.

Mahayuti finalises seat-sharing, BJP likely to contest on 156

New Delhi: The ruling Mahayuti alliance in Maharashtra appears to have reached a seat-sharing agreement for the upcoming assembly elections after Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and his two deputies Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar met Amit Shah in Delhi on Friday evening. The meeting of the top leaders of the gathered with BJP strategist Amit Shah as the seat-sharing discussions among the ruling parties reached a critical stage. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the Shinde-led Shiv Sena, and the Ajit Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) are aiming to retain power in the upcoming state Assembly elections on November 20.

Mahayuti alliance seat-sharing formula



Sources said after the meeting with Shah, the alliance has almost finalised the seat-sharing deal with the BJP getting the major chunk out of the total 288. The BJP will contest 156 seats while the Shinde's Sena has gotten 78 and Ajit Pawar's NCP faction will field candidates on 54 seats. According to sources, the BJP will allocate some of the seats from

its quota to smaller parties, and in cases where a party lacks a strong candidate, there may be a plus-minus adjustment of up to five seats. Disputes regarding certain seats will be resolved at the state level following Amit Shah's directives. Further, a decision has been made to swap some seats between the BJP, NCP, and Shiv Sena, particularly where the sitting MLAs are facing anti-incumbency sentiment. A joint statement from the Mahayuti coalition regarding seat-sharing could be issued today. Amit Shah has urged all parties to immediately engage in campaigning for the polls. The assembly election in Maharashtra will be held in a single phase on November 20 and the counting of votes will take place on November 23.

India's longest Vande Bharat train service covering a distance of 994 km will run from Delhi to..

For this year's Diwali and Chhath festivals, India will witness the launch of its longest-ever Vande Bharat Express, which will cover 994 kilometers in just 11.5 hours, running between Delhi and Patna. Specially introduced for the festive season, the train will feature chair car seating instead of sleeper berths and will operate over eight trips during the season. The service is set to begin on October 30 from Delhi. Until now, the longest Vande Bharat route was the New Delhi-Varanasi service, which spans 771 kilometers and has been operational since 2019. The first Vande Bharat Express, was kicked off on February 15, 2019, with a ceremonial launch by Prime Minister Narendra

Modi on the New Delhi-Varanasi route.

Longest Vande Bharat Express Dates, timings and fare

The Vande Bharat Express will run between Delhi and Patna on November 1, 3, and 6, with return services from Patna to Delhi on October 31, and November 2, 4, and 7. Departing from Delhi at 8:25 am, it will reach Patna by 8 pm. From Patna, the train will depart at 7:30 am and arrive in Delhi at 7 pm. Key stops along the route include Kanpur Central, Prayagraj, Buxar, and Arrah. According to reports, the fare for the SC chair car on the Delhi-Patna Vande Bharat (train number 002252) will be Rs 2,575, while the AC executive chair car will cost Rs 4,655, with



meals and tea included in the fare. The Vande Bharat trains are intended to replace older Shatabdi train services, providing faster and more efficient travel options. With the addition of sleeper coaches in the near future, the service aims to enhance comfort for long-distance travellers.

