



Decoding the Ramifications of Nosediving Relationship Between India and Canada in Current Scenario

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ABSTRACT

India and Canada have been at loggerheads in recent times concerning the issue of Sikh separatists. While Canada accuse Indian authorities of targeting her citizens on Canada's soil, the Indian side refute the allegations and assert that they are not provided with any substantial evidence and furthermore accused Canada of Harboursing radical sikh extremists that are a threat to Indian national security. As the diplomatic row lingers, the question is about the implications of this stand-off between these two members of G-20. This article examines the multifaceted implications of strategic nature that might unfold with the hostilities rising between the two Nations.

Where did it all begin?

Things haven't been smooth sailing lately between India and Canada. The issue? Sikh separatists. Canada accuses India of targeting its citizens on Canadian soil, while India denies it all and points the finger back, saying Canada harbors extremists who threaten India's security. This diplomatic spat has everyone wondering: what's the big deal . It is not the first time that these two countries' ties hit the rock button.

Significant strategic ramifications for both countries, as well as for larger regional and global geopolitics, stem from the recent escalation of the diplomatic breach between Canada and India. This ongoing struggle is changing not only bilateral relations but also international alliances, trade partnerships, and security dynamics. It is marked by increased tensions, diplomatic expulsions, and differing stances on terrorism, human rights, and political activism.

In fact ,tensions between India and Canada stem from long-standing disagreements over matters including Kashmir's status, Canada's handling of Sikh separatist organisations, and worries over the

country's sizable Sikh expat population. The situation worsened in 2023, namely after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau publicly claimed that Indian government operatives were responsible for the death of famous Sikh activist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia. India quickly refuted the allegations and denounced the charge, calling it "absurd" and accusing Canada of sanctuary for terrorist forces. The two countries' mistrust was exacerbated by this public debate over the assassination. India's response to Canada's position is indicative of its larger worries about domestic secessionist movements. One of the main points of concern is the emergence of Khalistani sentiments within certain Sikh communities overseas, especially in Canada. While Ottawa has frequently adopted a more forgiving attitude towards support for Sikh self-determination, New Delhi sees these separatist efforts as a direct challenge to its sovereignty and national unity.

Money matters: Effect on economic relations and bilateral trade:

Canada, a country rich in natural resources, and India, a growing economic powerhouse, have maintained close business ties for a long time. India and Canada's diplomatic rift has important economic ramifications from a strategic standpoint. Canada has been keen to do business with India, a rising economic superpower, as a result of their deteriorating relationship. However, those ambitions may be derailed by this diplomatic scuffle. Canadian investments and exports in sectors including technology, education, and resources could suffer if India restricts access to its market. In the event that India finds other partners, Canada's intentions to increase commerce in the Indo-Pacific may be shelved. Canada's investments and exports in vital sectors including technology, education, and natural resources would be affected if India restricted access to its sizeable market. Canada has specifically stated its intention to increase commerce with India, which is regarded as an important partner in the Indo-Pacific area due to its sizable and expanding economy. However, as a growing world power, India has been looking more and more at markets in Africa, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia. Trade has been increasing significantly between the two nations, especially in fields like education, technology, energy, and agriculture. Concerns have been voiced, meanwhile, over the future of these commercial exchanges due to the worsening political environment. Canada's influence in the Indo-Pacific may be diminished by this diversification plan, even though India may look for other trading partners as a result of the strained diplomatic ties.

What it holds for the security scenario in the current geopolitical landscape:

The geopolitical fallout of the strained India-Canada relations has consequences for broader global alliances. There are strategic security ramifications to the hostilities between Canada and India. A growing force in the Indo-Pacific, India is actively involved in issues pertaining to regional security, especially those involving China and Pakistan. Canada participates in global institutions like the UN and NATO even if it is not a direct security player in the area. On the other hand, Canada may find itself navigating the complexities of its foreign policy toward India, especially given the increasing

importance of Asia in global geopolitics. India believes that its counterterrorism operations are undermined by Canada's alleged tolerance of Sikh separatists. Any kind of foreign legitimacy or support given to organisations like the Khalistani movement, which it views as a terrorist organisation, is especially sensitive to India's security apparatus. India has sought to strengthen its strategic partnerships with the U.S. and other Western nations, particularly in the face of China's growing influence.

Impact on South Asian and regional geopolitics:

There is no denying the fact that there are important regional ramifications for South Asia and the larger Indo-Pacific from the current conflict between India and Canada. Relationships between India and its diaspora countries, such as Canada, could worsen the already unstable situation in South Asia, which is plagued by terrorism and territorial issues. The India-Canada conflict has regional consequences too. A shaky relationship between India and its diaspora communities, like the one in Canada, could worsen the already tense situation in South Asia, a region grappling with terrorism and territorial disputes. Canada's estrangement from India could also affect its involvement in regional security dialogues like the Quad.

The diaspora Discord:

Diaspora plays a critical role in affecting foreign relations. In that regard, the issue of Sikh separatism isn't just a Canada-India problem. It has the potential to stir up ethnic and religious tensions in other countries with large South Asian populations, like Australia, the US, and Britain. These divisions within diasporic communities can have negative impacts on both their adopted homes and their countries of origin.

The road ahead:

The world is watching closely to see how Canada and India navigate this sensitive issue and what the long-term consequences will be for their diplomatic, economic, and security strategies. The current confrontation between India and Canada has far-reaching geopolitical implications. It could be more challenging for both countries to cooperate on crucial international problems including trade, regional security; particularly counterterrorism as a result of this diplomatic split, given their strategic interests in the region. This diplomatic split makes it harder for both countries to cooperate on important international issues like trade and regional security, especially counterterrorism. The current conflict has deep roots in political, cultural, and security differences. It threatens not only the relationship between these two nations but also the broader stability of South Asia and the Indo-Pacific. The difficulties stem from deep political, cultural, and security gaps and threaten the stability of bilateral relations as well as the broader geopolitical landscape in South Asia and the Indo-Pacific. As the scenario unfolds, the entire

community will be closely watching to see how Canada and India respond to this sensitive and complex issue and what the long-term implications will be for their diplomatic, economic, and security strategies.

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