

# ASIAN JOURNAL

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## THE MAN WHO COULD BECOME CANADA'S FUTURE PM

By Nadine Yousif

At 20 years old, Pierre Poilievre already had a roadmap for Canada.

Canada's Conservative Party leader - now 45 - laid out a low-tax, small government vision for the country in an essay contest on what he would do as prime minister. "A dollar left in the hands of consumers and investors is more productive than a dollar spent by a politician," he stated.

Poilievre is one step closer to making his vision a reality, and even gave a nod to the essay in a recent interview with conservative psychologist and commentator Jordan Peterson.

For months, Poilievre's Conservatives have enjoyed a large lead over the struggling Liberals in national surveys, suggesting they would win a majority government if an election were held today.

Now Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has announced he's standing down, and with an election likely to be called soon, Poilievre is promising a return to "common sense politics".

For Canadians frustrated with a sluggish economy and a housing and affordability crisis, he is offering an alternative to what he has labelled as Trudeau's "authoritarian socialism".

A win would make him part



of a wave of populist leaders on the right who have toppled incumbent governments in the west.

While it has invited comparisons to Donald Trump - and he has fans like Elon Musk and others in the US president-elect's orbit - Poilievre's story is very much a

Canadian one.

A Calgarian with his eyes set on Ottawa

Poilievre was born in Canada's western province of Alberta to a 16-year-old mother who put him up for adoption. He was taken in by two school teachers, who raised

him in suburban Calgary. "I have always believed that it is voluntary generosity among family and community that are the greatest social safety net that we can ever have," he told Maclean's Magazine in 2022, reflecting on his early life.

"That's kind of my starting point."

As a teenager, Poilievre showed an early interest in politics, and canvassed for local conservatives.

Poilievre was studying international relations at the University of Calgary when he met Stockwell Day, who served as a cabinet minister under former Conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

At the time, Day was seeking the leadership of the Canadian Alliance - a right-wing party with Alberta roots that became part of the modern-day Conservatives in a 2003 merger - and he tapped Poilievre to help with campus outreach.

"He impressed me from the start," Day told the BBC in an interview. "He seemed to be a level-headed guy, but full of energy and able to catch people's attention."

Day's leadership bid was successful, and he set out for Ottawa with Poilievre as his assistant. Some time after, Poilievre walked into his office on a cold winter night to ask his opinion about po-

tentially running for office. Poilievre went on to win a seat in Ottawa in 2004 at the age of 25, making him one of the youngest elected Conservatives at the time. He has held that seat since.

From "Skippy" to party leader

In Ottawa, Poilievre was given the nickname Skippy by peers and foes alike due to his youthful enthusiasm and sharp tongue.

He built a reputation for being "highly combative and partisan", said Randy Besco, an assistant professor of political science at the University of Toronto.

Behind the closed doors of Conservative caucus meetings, Poilievre showed his diplomatic side, Day said.

"Pierre was always good at saying, 'Okay, you know what? I hadn't thought of that,' or he would listen and say: 'Have you thought of this?'" said Day.

Still, confrontational politics became a cornerstone of Poilievre's public persona. After becoming Conservative leader in 2022, he would target Trudeau with biting remarks as a way to connect with disaffected voters.

It has landed him in trouble at times. In April, he was expelled from the House of Commons for calling the prime minister a "wacko".

Poilievre told the Montreal Gazette in June that he is a fan of "straight talk".



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# PREMIER'S STATEMENT ON NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR VICTIMS OF AIR DISASTERS

Premier David Eby has issued the following statement marking the National Day of Remembrance for Victims of Air Disasters:

"Today, we remember the people we have lost in air disasters, and we stand in solidarity with the loved ones they have left behind.

"Five years ago, the winter holidays ended tragically for the 176 people aboard Ukrainian International Airlines Flight 752 and their loved ones. Every passenger and crew member was killed when the Islamic Republic of Iran shot down the plane travelling from Iran to Ukraine.

"The majority of the passengers were bound for connecting flights to Canada. They were families, many with young children, coming home after spending the holidays with relatives. They were in-



ternational students returning to their studies after a much-deserved break and visit home. And they were doctors, dentists and business owners who made incredible contributions to our communities.

"The attack on Flight 752 stole the lives of 55 Canadian citizens, 30 Canadian permanent residents and many others with connections to our country and our province.

This senseless tragedy brought up painful memories of the 1985 Air India bombing, in which 280 Canadians were killed, as well as other air disasters.

"Today, we remember those we have lost in these horrific events. We continue to condemn all acts of terrorism and violence, and we support the federal government's work to hold the Islamic Repub-

lic of Iran accountable for the attack on Flight 752. We will always stand with the families of the victims of Flight 752 as they demand justice for their loved ones.

"To honour the lives lost aboard Flight 752, as well as members of the Iranian diaspora who continue to fight for the rights and freedoms of their people, our government is working with the City of North Vancouver to establish a monument. This will be a place to gather, a place to remember and a place to renew our collective resolve to fighting for justice.

"We will continue working with our partners here and abroad to ensure everyone can safely travel around their communities and around the world."

  
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## WHY THE TRUDEAU ERA HAS COME TO AN END NOW

By Jessica Murphy

For months now, Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has been asked variations of the same question: "Will you step down?"

But though he vowed to stay on as Liberal Party leader - despite deepening frustrations amongst voters and a political rival surging in the polls - even the self-described "fighter" could not withstand the growing chorus of members of his own party calling for him to resign.

"This country deserves a real choice in the next election, and it has become clear to me that if I'm having to fight internal battles, I cannot be the best option in that election," Trudeau conceded on Monday, announcing his resignation in front of Rideau Cottage, his official residence for most of the last decade.

He will stay on as prime minister until a new Liberal Party leader is chosen, at a date yet to be set by the party.

Trudeau asked for parliament to be prorogued - or suspended - until 24 March to give time for the party to find a new leader.

Trudeau swept to power nearly a decade ago, heralded as the fresh face of progressive politics.

In 2015, swayed by his youthful charisma and a hopeful political message, voters catapulted the Liberals from a third-place party to holding a majority of seats in parliament - unprecedented in Canadian political history.

Now, he remains the only leader left standing among peers when he came into office, from Barack Obama to Angela Merkel, Shinzo Abe and David Cameron, and at 53 years old, is currently the longest-serving leader in the G7.

But in the years since his ascent to the global stage, and over two general



elections, Trudeau and his brand have become a drag on the party's fortunes. Paul Wells, a Canadian political journalist and the author of Justin Trudeau on the Ropes, recently told the BBC he believes Trudeau will be remembered "as a consequential" prime minister, notably for providing genuine leadership on issues like indigenous reconciliation and, to some extent, climate policy. But he is also one "who felt increasingly out of touch with public opinion and was increasingly unable to adjust to changing times".

On Monday, Trudeau was quick to tout what he was proud of accomplishing in office, including navigating the tumultuous Covid pandemic, renegotiating a free trade deal with the last Trump administration, and implementing a child benefit widely seen as helping alleviate poverty. But a series of ethics scandals early on began to take the sheen off the new government - he was found to have violated federal conflict of interest rules in the handling of a corruption inquiry - the SNC-Lavalin affair - and for luxury trips to the Bahamas.

In 2020, he faced scrutiny for picking a charity with ties to his family to manage a major government programme.

In a general election in 2019, his party was reduced to a minority status, meaning the Liberals had to rely on the support of other parties to stay in power.

A snap election in 2021 did not improve their fortunes.

More recently, Trudeau faced headwinds from cost of living increases and inflation that have contributed to election upsets around the world.

There was also frustration in the country over what was seen as struggles to deliver on big promises - an agenda that was "overfilled, overstuffed", said Mr Wells - and his handling of issues like immigration.

Late last year, the Liberals backtracked on ambitious immigration targets over concerns the issue was mismanaged, significantly cutting back on the number of newcomers allowed in Canada.

He also sometimes handed his opponents easy political wins, including when it came to light that he had worn black and brown face before holding office.

After more than nine years in power, he is among Canada's longest serving prime ministers, and there is a general sense of fatigue and frustration with his government.

So the writing was on the wall. A series of political blows made it clear Trudeau's days were numbered.

Over the summer, voters rejected Liberal candidates in a handful of special elections in once-safe Liberal seats, leading to the beginning of internal party unrest.

He had become an increasingly polarising figure for the electorate - with Trudeau saying on Monday "it's time for a reset" and for the "temperature to come down" in

Canadian politics.

Andrew Perez, a principal at Perez Strategies, said it will be a challenge now for the Liberals to distance themselves from the Trudeau brand.

"That was a major aspect of their success - but that worked until it didn't," the Liberal strategist told the BBC.

Public opinion polls for the Liberals had reached new depths in recent weeks, and attempts to change course with cabinet shuffles and tax breaks failed to make a dent.

A survey conducted over the holidays by the Angus Reid Institute suggested the lowest level of support for the party in their tracking, dating back to 2014.

Polls suggest the Conservatives - led by Pierre Poilievre, a 45-year-old career politician with a talent for a sharp campaign catchphrase - would win an election handily if it were held today.

The next election must be held by October, although both Poilievre and Jagmeet Singh, leader of Canada's New Democratic Party, have said they will seek to send Canadians to the polls as soon as parliament is back in March.

The political instability comes as the country faces a number of challenges - not least the vow by US President-elect Donald Trump, who takes office on 20 January, to impose of 25% tariffs on Canadian goods.

Yet still, up until the very end, Trudeau seemed determined to hang on, citing his desire to face Poilievre - his ideological opposite - in the polls.

But the shock resignation of Trudeau's key deputy, former Finance Minister Chrystia Freeland, in mid-December - where she cited his perceived failure to not take Trump's threats seriously - proved to be the final straw.

Members of his own party began to make it publicly clear they no longer supported his leadership.

And with that, the last domino fell.

## US REPORTS FIRST BIRD FLU RELATED HUMAN DEATH IN LOUISIANA

Louisiana [US]: The US has recorded its first human death from bird flu, according to Louisiana's Department of Health. The patient was aged above 65 years and was reported to have underlying medical conditions. In a statement, Louisiana's Department of Health said, "The Louisiana Department of Health reports the patient who had been hospitalized with the first human case of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), or H5N1, in Louisiana and the US has died."

The patient contracted H5N1 after exposure to a combination of a non-

commercial backyard flock and wild birds. Louisiana's Department of Health's extensive public health investigation has identified no additional H5N1 cases nor evidence of person-to-person transmission. This patient remains the only human case of H5N1 in Louisiana, according to the statement.

The statement said, "The Department expresses its deepest condolences to the patient's family and friends as they mourn the loss of their loved one. Due to patient confidentiality and respect for the family, this will be the final update about the

patient."

According to the statement, the current public health risk for the general public remains low. However, people who work with birds, poultry or cows, or have recreational exposure to them, are at higher risk.

Louisiana's Department of Health noted that the best way to protect yourself and your family from H5N1 is to avoid sources of exposure. It further said, "That means avoiding direct contact with wild birds and other animals infected with or suspected to be infected with bird flu

viruses."

A total of 66 human cases of bird flu have been reported in the US, according to US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Ten states in the US that have reported bird flu cases are - California, Colorado, Iowa, Louisiana, Michigan, Oregon, Missouri, Washington, Wisconsin and Texas. The case reported in Louisiana was the first case of H5N1 bird flu in the US that has been linked to exposure to a backyard flock.

# Surrey Art Gallery's 50th year begins with a journey through Rajni Perera's imagined Futures

Surrey, BC – Surrey Art Gallery is thrilled to kick off their 50th anniversary with the touring exhibition Rajni Perera: Futures at Surrey Art Gallery from January 25 to March 16, 2025. Admission is free.

Experimenting with mediums as varied as painting, sculpture, and photography, Toronto-based artist Rajni Perera expresses her vision of imagined futures in which mutated subjects adapt to exist in dystopian realms through strength and resilience. Perera draws deeply on the artistic traditions of Sri Lanka, her childhood home. Indian miniature painting, medieval armour, South Asian textiles, and science fiction also factor into her body of work that spans feminist and diasporic narratives while contemplating survival in an environmentally degraded future.

Her work responds to existential threats with creativity and invention, offering a vision charged with humour, critique, hope, and dread. Looking to the past and to the future, and endowed with a powerful imagination, Perera is singularly equipped to express the increasingly chaotic, often frightening, and sometimes hopeful world in which we find ourselves



today. Futures includes nearly thirty works from various stages of the artist's career. Through the manifestation of various mediums from functional sculptures to intricate paintings, Perera looks ahead to uncertain times threatened by climate change and looming social inequities. Her future goddesses and inventive armours prevail over dystopic realms, mutating to adapt to challenging environments.

This exhibition is organized and circulated by the McMichael Canadian Art Collection. It is accompanied by an illustrated catalogue featuring an interview with the artist by curator Sarah Milroy, as well as essays by leading international literary figures Fariha Róisín and Britt Wray. Surrey Art Gallery is the only West Coast stop on the tour.

The winter opening and art party on Saturday, January 25 will also celebrate Cheryl Pagurek: Winter Garden—an interactive digital collage developed out of a still life photography series.; Pass the Mic!—a range of artworks curated by the Semiahmoo Arts Society; and Nicolas Sassoon: Liquid Landscapes—a Surrey-inspired series of animations returning on the new UrbanScreen venue at Surrey Civic Plaza. The evening includes artmaking with Claire Cilliers and Gallery art educators, poetry with Heidi Greco, a conversation between guest curator Sarah Milroy and Gallery Curatorial Assistant Zoe Yang, sound installation with Ruby Singh, and much more!

Also in connection to Rajni Perera: Futures is a tour and conversation between the artist and Negarra A. Kudu-

mu on Saturday, March 1 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

About the Artist  
Rajni Perera was born in Sri Lanka in 1985 and lives and works in Toronto. She explores issues of hybridity, futurity, ancestorship, migrant and marginalized identities/cultures, monsters, and dream worlds. These themes come together to fuel explorations within a multimedia practice that includes drawing and painting, clay, wood, lanterns, new media sculpture, textile, and most recently, synthetic taxidermy. Perera seeks to open and reveal the dynamism of the icons, beings, and objects she creates by means of a subversive aesthetic that counteracts antiquated, oppressive discourse and acts as a restorative force. Her work is in the collections of the Art Gallery of Ontario, the National Gallery of Canada, the Sobey Foundation, and the Musée De Beaux Arts De Montréal.

About the Curator  
Sarah Milroy is the Executive Director and Chief Curator of the McMichael Canadian Art Collection in Kleinberg, Ontario, Canada's only museum devoted exclusively to Canadian and Indigenous art. Previously, Milroy served as editor/publisher of Canadian Art

magazine and as lead art critic of the Globe and Mail. Recent projects at the McMichael include Uninvited: Canadian Women Artists in the Modern Moment (2021); Generations: The Sobey Family and Canadian Art (2022); and River of Dreams: Impressionism on the St. Lawrence (2024, co-curated with Anne-Marie Bouchard). In 2020, Milroy was made a Member of the Order of Canada.

About Surrey Art Gallery  
Founded in 1975, Surrey Art Gallery presents contemporary art by local, national, and international artists, including digital and audio art. Recognized for its award-winning programs, the Gallery engages children through to adults in ongoing conversations that affect our lives and provides opportunities to interact with artists and the artistic process. The Gallery is located at 13750 88 Avenue in Surrey on the unceded territories of the Salish Peoples, including the and Semiahma (Semiahmoo) nations. Surrey Art Gallery gratefully acknowledges operating funding from the City of Surrey, Province of BC through BC Arts Council, Canada Council for the Arts, and the Surrey Art Gallery Association.

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## Forty-Five Police Officers Join Surrey Police Service



Surrey Police Service (SPS) has added 45 additional police officers to its ranks this week as Surrey's new police agency continues to grow. This latest group of hires includes 13 recruit officers, who are brand new to policing and 32 experienced officers, who formerly worked at police agencies across Canada. Four new civilian police professionals were also officially welcomed to SPS this week. SPS is now comprised of 487 police officers and 458 civilian support staff, for a total of 945 employees. The recruit officers will head to the Justice Institute of BC (JIBC) next week to begin their police training, while the experienced officers will embark on six weeks

of training to update their provincial policing qualifications and to be familiarized with SPS practices, procedures, and policies. "I welcome this latest group of officers and civilian employees to the SPS family. They are joining Surrey Police Service at an exciting time in our history with the increased responsibility of being the police of jurisdiction for the diverse and growing City of Surrey," said Chief Constable Norm Lipinski. "This large group is demonstrative of the continued interest from police officers with various levels of service, to join SPS." Over the last four months, over 120 police officers have joined SPS.

## Vancouver kicks-off development on FIFA World Cup 26 Vancouver training site at Killarney Park

Beginning in January 2025, the Vancouver Park Board, in partnership with the City of Vancouver, will begin construction to transform Killarney Park into a Venue-Specific Training Site (VSTS) for the FIFA World Cup 26 Vancouver™. Construction is expected to be completed by December 2025. To support its use during the tournament and facilitate post-event restorations, the site will remain closed to the public until fall 2026. A requirement for all 16 host cities, the VSTS will support international teams with world-class fields as they prepare for their matches at BC Place Vancouver. The Killarney Park training site will include grass soccer pitches, field lights, team facilities such as locker rooms, provisions for privacy and a press conference room. The upgrades planned for Killarney Park will have lasting positive impacts for the community once re-opened to the public, including enhanced grass sports fields,



improved ground conditions, drainage and irrigation, new utilities and modern field lighting. Additionally, during the closure the Park Board will be progressing their track and field renewal project, upgrading and expanding the running track into a comprehensive track and field facility. The Park Board and City of Vancouver are working with various sport, education and community groups to identify alternative locations to support their needs during the closure. To accommodate

school and casual community use, staff will open a temporary grass field in the park's southwest area in spring 2025. The dog off-leash area will be relocated to the north portion of west Killarney and remain open throughout the project. The park's north sports fields (all weather and grass soft ball diamonds) will be closed through fall 2026. More information on the construction timelines for Vancouver's second training site at Memorial South Park will be shared when available.

### Learn the signs of stroke

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- A** **rms** can you raise both?
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- F** **ace** ਚਿਹਰਾ: ਕੀ ਚਿਹਰਾ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਢਿਲਕ ਰਿਹਾ ਹੈ?
- A** **rms** ਬਾਹਵਾਂ: ਕੀ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਆਪਣੀਆਂ ਬਾਹਵਾਂ ਉੱਪਰ ਨੂੰ ਚੁੱਕ ਸਕਦੇ ਹੋ?
- S** **peech** ਗੱਲ-ਬਾਤ: ਕੀ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਗੱਲ-ਬਾਤ ਅਸਪਸ਼ਟ ਹੋ ਰਹੀ ਹੈ?
- T** **ime** ਸਮੇਂ: ਸਮੇਂ ਦੀ ਅਹਿਮੀਅਤ ਸਮਝੋ - ਝਟਪਟ 9-1-1 'ਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।

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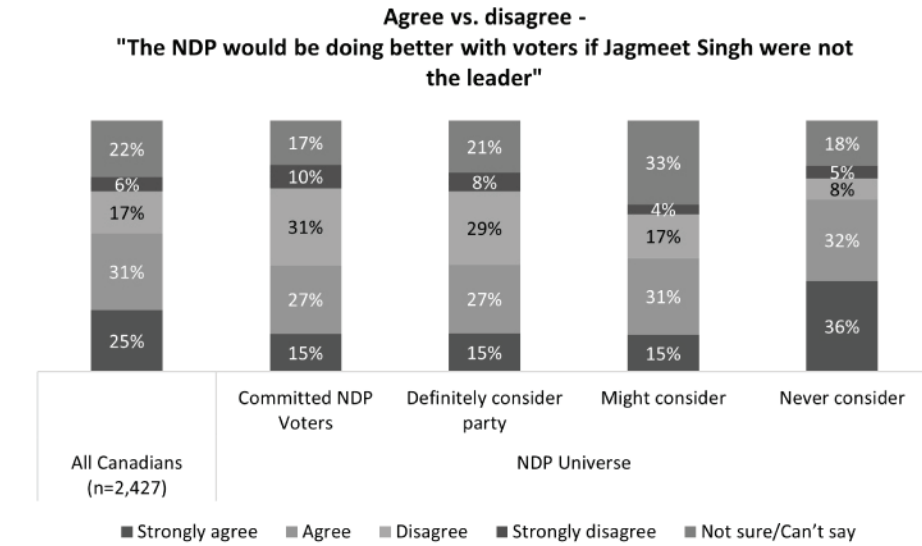
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# The NDP stands to gain after Trudeau's departure; but is Jagmeet Singh the right leader to get it done?

January 9, 2025 – Prime Minister Justin Trudeau confirmed earlier this week that he will step down as Liberal leader, proroguing parliament in the process while his party elects a successor. A spring election is all but guaranteed when the House of Commons next sits, as all federal leaders – including the NDP's Jagmeet Singh – have now committed to voting against confidence in the government. Singh's own future, however, is far from certain when Canadians head to the polls again.

The NDP took second place in the non-profit Angus Reid Institute's most recent vote intention survey but sits on a base of tenuous support. As was the case in the early days of ARI, which celebrated its 10th anniversary recently, left of



centre support is again fluid between the Liberals and New Democrats. Much of this small surge in vote intention appears to be contingent on Trudeau as prime minister, which will no longer be the case. In a situation where, for example, Chrystia Freeland supplants Trudeau

as Liberal leader, it's back to third place for the NDP. That is not to say the NDP doesn't have room to grow. According to these latest data from ARI, one-quarter of Canadians could be considered the NDP's potential core. This is made up of one-in-five who already

say they would support the party in an election (19%) and six per cent who say they would defi-

nitely consider the NDP candidate in their riding. An even larger portion (29%) say that they wouldn't rule it out. If the New Democrats are to capitalize on the moment and match the heights they enjoyed under Jack Layton as official opposition, the party's leader must play a key role. His public opinion profile, however, has been diminished during the NDP's recently ended cooperation with the Liberals through a Supply and Confidence Agreement. Singh's favourability dropped 11 points (from 44% to 33%) in 2024. This

is an 18-point reduction since January 2022, shortly before the agreement was signed. More problematically, current NDP voters are equally likely to agree (42%) and disagree (41%) that the party would be better off without him. That sentiment is felt even more strongly among those who won't rule out the party in the future. Among this group that "might consider" the NDP candidate in their riding in a future election, 46 per cent say the NDP would be performing better under a different leader, while 21 per cent disagree.

## Singh statement on the resignation of Trudeau



Toronto—Leader of Canada's NDP Jagmeet Singh issued the following statement in response to Justin Trudeau's resignation:  
"Justin Trudeau's Liberals let down Canadians. They let you down on home prices. They let you down on health care. They let you down by allowing corporate greed to run wild. Even with the country facing another serious blow to Canadian jobs and our cost of living – this time from Donald Trump – they're still focused only on themselves and their political fate. The problem is not just Justin Trudeau.

It's every minister that's been calling the shots. It's every Liberal MP that looked down their nose at Canadians who are worried about high costs or crumbling health care. The Liberals do not deserve another chance, no matter who is the leader. Canada's middle class families have the biggest fight just ahead. Pierre Poilievre's Conservatives will cut from people to give more to CEOs. They will cut health care, pensions, dental care and more. I've been a fighter my whole life. This time, a working-class movement of fighters is growing all around me. People who oppose callous Conservative cuts to health care, and everyone who opposes the rich getting richer while everyone else falls further behind, I'm asking them all to stand together this time to stop the Conservatives and build Canada's first government for working people."

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South Asian  
**CHOICE**

**HENLEY PASSPORT INDEX 2025:  
PAKISTAN AMONG WORLD'S  
WEAKEST, RANKS 103RD;  
FALLS BEHIND SOMALIA AND  
BANGLADESH**



Islamabad [Pakistan]: Pakistan's passport has been ranked among the weakest in the world, securing the 103rd spot in the Henley Passport Index 2025, a significant drop from its position in the previous year, as reported by The News International.

This year, Pakistan shared the same rank as Yemen, offering visa-free access to only 33 countries--starkly contrasting the leading passports globally. The Henley Index, which ranks the passports of 199 countries based on their visa-free travel accessibility, relies on exclusive data from the International Air Transport Association (IATA), The News International reported.

According to The News International, the passport ranking highlights a concerning reality for Pakistani citizens, with Pakistan now falling behind other nations in terms of global mobility. In comparison, Singapore holds the top spot, with its passport granting visa-free access to 195 countries. Following closely behind are Japan and several European nations, including France, Germany, Italy, and Spain, which now rank third with access to 192 destinations. Countries like Finland and South Korea, once higher on the list, also dropped a place in the past year.

**WHO IS ANITA ANAND? INDIAN-ORIGIN  
MP AMONG FRONT RUNNERS TO REPLACE  
JUSTIN TRUDEAU AS CANADA PM**

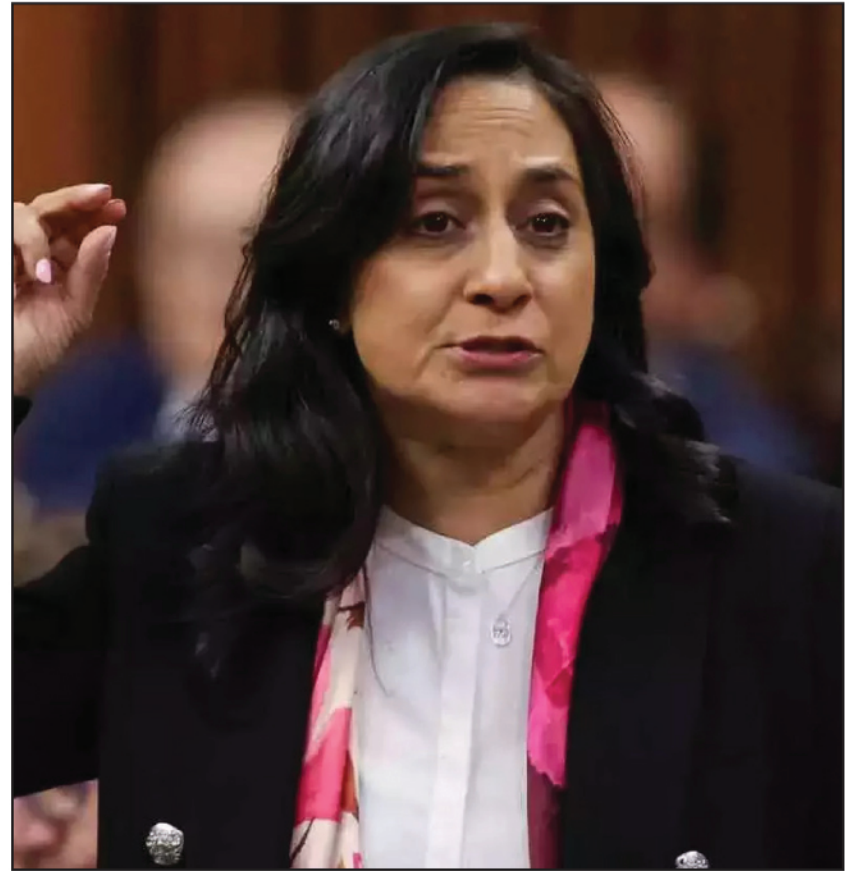
Justin Trudeau announced his resignation as Prime Minister of Canada and leader of the ruling Liberal Party on Monday, ahead of the country's upcoming general election. Trudeau stated that his decision was made in the best interest of the Canadian people.

Trudeau's tenure has been marked by controversies that strained Canada's international relations, particularly with India. His decision to include members of the banned Khalistan organisation in his cabinet and the fallout from the assassination of Khalistan leader Hardeep Singh Nijjar in June 2023 caused major tensions.

Later, Trudeau's visa restrictions on Indian students drew backlash, not only from the public but also from within his party. Over 20 Liberal Party members openly demanded his resignation, ultimately leading to his decision to step down.

Following his announcement, Trudeau requested the Governor General to adjourn Parliament until March 24 to allow the Liberal Party time to elect a new leader. While the race to succeed Trudeau has begun, uncertainty looms over Canada's next Prime Minister. Of the eight contenders, two are of Indian origin, including Anita Anand, Canada's current Transport Minister, who is considered a frontrunner.

Anita Anand, originally from Tamil Nadu, has emerged as one of the most prominent candidates to lead the Liberal Party. The 57-year-old has held several critical roles in Canadian politics since being elected as an MP in 2019, representing Oakville,



a suburb of Toronto. Anand has previously served as Canada's Minister of Defence and Minister of Public Services and Procurement, earning praise for her work during the COVID-19 pandemic and her efforts to secure vaccines for the nation. Anand holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Queen's University, a Law degree from Oxford University, another Law degree from Dalhousie University, and a Master of Laws from the University of Toronto, as reported by the Hindustan Times.

Born in Kentville, Nova Scotia, Anand's parents, Saroj D. Ram and S.V. Anand, are both doc-

tors. She has two sisters, Geeta and Sonia Anand. Throughout her political career, Anand has been recognised for her contributions, particularly during her tenure as Defence Minister, where she supported Ukraine during the Russia-Ukraine war and addressed challenges within the Canadian Armed Forces. Despite being moved to the Treasury Board during a controversial cabinet reshuffle, Anand's appointment as Transport Minister in December 2024 solidified her as a key figure in Trudeau's government. She remains a top contender to lead Canada into its next chapter.

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<p>Name: GIRITEKA, Alex</p> <p>Age: 34 Height: 5'10" ft Weight: 139lbs Hair: Black Eyes: Brown Wanted: Fail to Comply with Probation and Mischief Warrant in effect: November 18, 2024 Parole Jurisdiction: Chilliwack, BC</p> 	<p>Name: WESSEL, Kaiya Marie</p> <p>Age: 32 Height: 4'9" ft Weight: 98lbs Hair: Blonde Eyes: Green Wanted: Possession of Stolen Property, Breach of Release Order, and Fail to Comply with Probation Warrant in effect: April 12, 2024 Parole Jurisdiction: BC Wide</p> 	<p>Name: DIABLO, Ryan</p> <p>Age: 34 Height: 5'10" ft Weight: 170 lbs Hair: Brown Eyes: Brown Wanted: Discharge Firearm with Intent and Aggravated Assault Warrant in effect: November 18, 2024 Parole Jurisdiction: Chilliwack, BC</p> 
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# 2025 Land Rover Defender 110 P300 Review. Superb All the Way!

By Veeno Dewan

The 2025 all-new Land Rover Defender is back with big improvements more comfort, technology and of course with its legendary off-road capability. The design still showcases that classic Defender trope; the upright, squared-off boxy shape, and classic profile. There are some hints of its military roots. It looks expensive and premium focused.

For 2025, the Defender is offered in variety of configurations. There is the Defender 90 two-door version (Also available with a powerful V8 engine.), or a four-door two-row seat model Defender 110 (As tested) and the long-wheelbase three-row seat Defender 130. Canadian pricing ranges from \$72,700 to \$191,000 MSRP depending on model and options selected. For 2025 there is newly available scratch-resistant and self-healing; matte paint protective film and new Resist and Resolve Interior with faux-leather and woven textile upholstery.

Engine choices include a base 2.0-liter turbocharged I-4 unit with 296 horsepower and 295 lb-ft of torque for the Defender P90 and P110. There's also an available 395-hp 3.0-liter



inline-six with an electric supercharger, a turbocharger, and a 48-volt hybrid system. Real performance fans can opt for a supercharged 5.0-liter V8 engine with a mighty 518 horsepower in both the 90, 110, 130 and a forthcoming high performance Octa version. Transmission is an eight-speed ZF automatic and two-speed transfer case that provides locking differentials ideal for towing or off-roading when finesse is required. The Defender has 11.5 inches of ground clearance and the amazing ability to wade through 35 inches of water! Optional off-road equipment is excellent and includes Dynamic Stability Control (DSC), Hill Launch Assist, Hill Descent Control (HDC), Low Traction Launch, Cornering Brake Control (CBC), Electronic Traction Control (ETC), Roll Stabil-

ity Control (RSC), Electronic air suspension, and the aforementioned Twin-Speed Transfer Box (High/Low Range). The Defender 110 has air suspension as standard along with coil springs. An available tow package allows the Defender to tow 8,200 pounds.

Interior wise, the quasi-military style means exposed rivets in the door panels and a cool magnesium beam that runs the full width of the dashboard that's also a structural detail. Materials, fit, and finish are top notch, and interior room and comfort is exceptional. It is great mix of luxury, utility, and comfort. The white seats and trim in our tester looked superb.

The Defender's dashboard has a 10-inch touchscreen infotainment system that runs a new Land Rover Pivi Pro system; a larger 11.4-inch display is optional. Both 10- and

14-speaker Meridian stereo systems are optional also and top-flight Defenders receive a digital gauge cluster and a head-up display. Apple CarPlay and Android Auto are both standard, as is an in-dash navigation system, a six-speaker stereo, and an onboard Wi-Fi hotspot.

In terms of interior space, the center console can be flipped back to create a jump seat between the driver and passenger, on some models allowing for a three-across bench seat. The rear seats can be folded to open up a much larger cargo bay.

All Defender models come with driver assist and active safety features including front automatic emergency braking, rear cross-traffic alert, blind-spot monitoring, lane keep assist, and adaptive cruise control. An array of sensors and cameras around the vehicle make it easier to maneuver through tight trails or parking lots.

On the road, the Defender 90's engine is inherently smooth and urgent with a nice turn of speed, taking about six seconds to hit 100 km/h. Steering, ride, and handling will be familiar to those who own Land Rovers - a little body

roll, but not too intrusive. This is a vehicle that manages itself with aplomb, whether on the highway, the urban jungle and of course in its element while off-roading or trail hopping - nothing can phase it. The short overhangs help off-road with impressive approach and departure angles (38 and 40 degrees respectively for the 110). Fuel efficiency is rated at km/100 - 13.2 city, 11.9 highway, and 12.6 combined.

To sum up, the off-road capabilities are off the chart and you can customize it with numerous options. The downsides are few, the rear hatch door is heavy and with its spare wheel carrier opens toward the curb. Saying that, Land Rover have knocked one out the park with the Defender 110. It can end up very expensive when fully optioned, but worth it for a true off-roader wrapped up in luxury and class. Nice work Land Rover! 2025 Land Rover Defender 110 P300 S. Pricing starts at \$74,400.

Total Price as tested \$93,005. Including Options (\$16,605) and Destination \$2,100. [www.landrover.ca](http://www.landrover.ca)



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## Indian Real Estate Attracts USD 11.4 Billion in Equity Investments in 2024

New Delhi, Jan 10 (PTI) Indian real estate attracted equity investments of USD 11.4 billion last year, up 54 per cent annually, mainly from developers and institutional investors, according to CBRE.

The growth in equity investments was made in land acquisitions as well as developments across all asset classes of real estate, real estate consultant CBRE said in a report released on Friday.

Domestic investments remained the primary driver, with around 70 per cent share in total equity investments in 2024 calendar year. Singapore, the US, and Canada cumulatively contributed more than 25 per cent of the total equity investments in Indian real estate

in 2024. Developers led the way in capital inflows, capturing around 44 per cent of the total equity investments in 2024, followed by institutional players at 36 per cent, corporations at 11 per cent, REITs at 4 per cent, and other categories comprising around 5 per cent.

Anshuman Magazine, Chairman & CEO - India, South-East Asia, Middle East & Africa, CBRE, said, "We expect to see sustained momentum in investment activity, particularly in built-up office assets and residential development sites. The increasing focus on e-commerce and quick commerce is set to drive robust growth in the logistics and warehousing sector, creating new opportunities for

both developers and investors."


In terms of asset classes, equity investments in 2024 were majorly driven by land/development sites, which accounted for 39 per cent of the total share.

This was followed by the office sector at 32 per cent, retail at 9 per cent, residential at 8 per cent, industrial and logistics (I&L) at 6 per cent, hotels at 2 per cent, and other segments making up more than 4 per cent. Sunil Pareek, Executive Director at Assetz Property Group, said this reflects the sector's remarkable transformation, driven by reforms.

"Post-COVID resilience and premiumisation trend, with luxury and premium properties leading

growth in the residential segment, have also enhanced global investor confidence. This overall effect and drawing of investments across commercial, warehousing, residential, data centres and emerging asset classes is reinforcing India's position as a dynamic and trustworthy real estate market," Pareek said.

Angad Bedi, CMD of real estate and construction firm BCD Group, said the Indian real estate industry has been witnessing rapid growth on account of growing disposable incomes, growing importance of housing as an asset post the pandemic and the rise of the millionaire founders and employees among a host of other factors.



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<p><b>\$1,785,000</b></p> <p><b>SOLD</b></p> <p><b>RICHMOND</b> 3440 Trumond Ave</p> <p>This property is located at 3440 Trumond Avenue, Richmond, BC, in the neighbourhood of Seafair. The current median list price for similar homes for sale in the vicinity is \$1,910,000.</p>	<p><b>\$1,450,000</b></p> <p><b>SOLD</b></p> <p><b>RICHMOND</b> 10320 Railway Ave</p> <p>This property is located at 10320 Railway Avenue, Richmond, BC, in the neighbourhood of Steveston North.</p>	<p><b>\$2,365,000</b></p> <p><b>SOLD</b></p> <p><b>RICHMOND</b> 10226 Railway Ave</p> <p>This property is located at 10226 Railway Avenue, Richmond, BC, in the neighborhood of Steveston North.</p>	<p><b>\$2,365,000</b></p> <p><b>SOLD</b></p> <p><b>RICHMOND</b> 10220 Railway Ave</p> <p>This property is located at 10220 Railway Avenue, Richmond, BC, in the neighbourhood of Steveston North.</p>	<p><b>\$2,800,000</b></p> <p><b>SOLD</b></p> <p><b>RICHMOND</b> 8811 Saunders Rd</p> <p>Prime Location! Well kept 2 story house good size nice lot 6,000 sq. ft in a desirable neighborhood in North Delta. This house offers 3 beds and 1.5 baths on main floor.</p>

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**Asking \$869K**

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**SOLD**

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### 314-7445 120 Street



**SOLD**  
**NEW LISTING**

Apartment 1 bed 1 bath, 650 sf ,  
 Asking: 489K



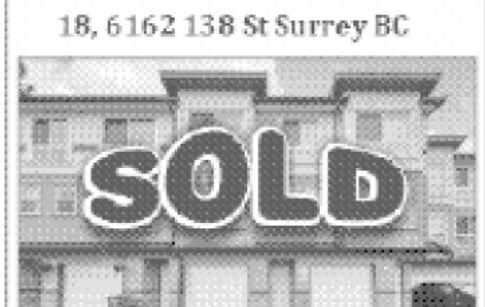
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**Asking Price 769K.**

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**SOLD**

### #22 12730 66 AVE SURREY



**SOLD**

### 6139 142 ST SURREY



**SOLD**

### #201 13893 74 AVE SURREY



**SOLD**

### 14071 59A AVE, SURREY



**SOLD**

### 14948 62 AVE SURREY



**SOLD**

### 11700 85B AVE DELTA



**SOLD**

### #34 9088 HOLT RD, SURREY



**SOLD**

### 11826 87 AVE, DELTA



**SOLD**

### #202 7445 120 ST, DELTA



**SOLD**

### #138 13898 64 AVE SURREY



**SOLD**

### 13343 STAMFORD PLACE SURREY



**SOLD**

### 10014 120 ST SURREY



**SOLD**

### #100 5888 144 ST SURREY



**SOLD**

### #71 13706 74 AVE SURREY



**SOLD**



(PG) \*\*\*\*

## Last Rites!

Death is hard. No one likes to die or be sick. Feel the pain of a person in pain in *The Room Next Door*. Settle in for quite the ride as Sony Pictures Classics and Mongrel Media present a serious look at a serious subject that sooner or later everyone faces. Check in to see this first class drama at select Cineplex Cinemas and Landmark Theatres across B.C. Friends matter. So does family. When your family deserts you or you never were close to your clan then your pals take on greater relevance. This at least is the dilemma facing elderly Martha. Accomplished actress Tilda Swinton rises to the occasion and then some as a woman with major health concerns. Not happy with the results of her cancer diagnosis and given some unhealthy choices to get better she seeks out advice from her friends. Thanks to a chance encounter old time pal Ingrid reappears from out of no-

where. Over 40 dynamo Julianne Moore (*Boogie Nights*) does her best to soothe Ingrid's pain but not before long she must face some demons her own. *The Room Next Door* is all about friendship. And the fine line between living and dying. Trust notable Spanish director Pedro Almodovar to again take on a harsh subject and embrace all sides of the issue. Above all else casting matters immensely with this sort of story. It's hard to think of any two actors who could connect as well with each other and audiences. Both Tilda Swinton and Julianne Moore pull off tremendous performances that are heartfelt and sincere. And highly relevant. Impressive on all counts Almodóvar again delivers another tour de force movie. Oh, and the icing is on the cake comes with the inclusion of John Turturro as a go-between friend.

## The Room Next Door



## EVENTS

**South Asian Adults & Seniors - Bingo on the House for members & In Person Yoga Classes at Shanti Niketan hall for members, Bingo on June 2nd 2024 (Sunday), from 2.00 pm to 3.30pm at Shanti Niketan hall. In Person Yoga classes for members only, Every Monday & Every Thursday from 10.00 am to 11.15 am. Pure Vegetarian Lunch on Thursdays after the Yoga session.**

**Vedic Seniors Parivar Centre of Vedic Hindu Cultural Society of BC invites South Asian Adults and Senior members only to join and play Bingo on the House on June 2nd 2024 (Sunday) from 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm at Shanti Niketan hall. Please bring only 2 dollars with you for 2 games, don't worry if you do not know how to play, members seating next to you will explain the game to you just for the sake of fun. Please keep the social distance while seating for personal & other's safety. Tea and light snacks will be served after the two games are over. In Person Yoga classes for members only, on Every Monday & Every Thursday will continue by Mr. Ashwani Bansal expert Yoga Instructor from 10.00 am to 11.15 am & will help to observe & guide the seniors to do correct yoga. Pure Vegetarian lunch will be served in the dining hall at 11.30 am to all the senior members who attend yoga class on Thursdays. Project funded by Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program for Hindi speaking seniors. In case you are eligible to file Income Tax returns Free of cost, Please contact Surendra Handa Coordinator, Vedic Seniors Parivar Centre, & Coordinator - APNI South Asian Community Response Networks, Lakshmi Narayan Temple, 8321 - 140th street Surrey V3W5K9, BC Tel. 604 - 507 - 9945 or email: surendra\_handa@hotmail.com, for registration & for appointment for Tax filing.**



The news of Pacific Palisades wildfire has left the residents of Los Angeles in jeopardy with many celebrities taking to social media to confess about losing their homes to the disaster. The latest name to join the list is Nora Fatehi who shared the impact of the wildfire further revealing that she is currently in the city and that she is also expected to catch a flight. The dancer-actress took to her social media handle on Instagram to share a video on her story, wherein she opened up about the Pacific Palisades wildfire and said, "I am in LA and the wildfires are crazy. I have never seen anything like that." Also, speaking about the evacuation, she continued, "This is insane, we just

got an evacuation order five minutes ago. So I quickly packed all my stuff and I am evacuating out of here. I am gonna go near the airport and chill there because I have a flight today and I really hope I can catch it." "I hope it doesn't get cancelled because this s\*\*t is scary. I am going to keep you guys updated. I hope people are safe, I have never seen anything before like this," she concluded as she signed off. In a separate story, the actress also provided a glimpse of LA which is currently under Emergency owing to the situation. In the note, Nora wrote, "The LA fires are crazy right now... hope everyone is okay".

## Employment Opportunity

### Media Relations Coordinators [NOC 11202]

Thind Motion Films Pvt. Ltd., located at 700-4211 Kingsway, Burnaby, B.C. V5H 1Z6, Canada, is seeking a Full Time Position for two [2] Media Relations Coordinators [NOC 11202] .

This is a permanent, full-time position which offers various shifts with 40 hours' work per week depending on schedule.

Location of work: Primary work location will be at 700-4211 Kingsway, Burnaby, B.C. V5H 1Z6, Canada.

The positions are available immediately.

### Job Description

- Strategize marketing and promotion for motion films and other projects based on project;
- Develop marketing plans and content for online [digital] marketing and offline media campaigns;
- Develop, handle and monitor social media accounts for promotion of project and prepare reports based on audience response;
- Maintain long term relations with media channels and to negotiate competitive deals for promotional activities;
- Development and management of organizations advertising and promotion budget for projects;
- Arrange press conferences and briefings and to be the organization's media liaison and formal spokesperson.

### Employment Requirements

- Formal education: post-secondary education is required;
- Serve as the organization's media liaison and formal spokesperson.
- Previous experience in project promotions;
- Critical thinker with strong conceptual and research skills.
- Ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Excellent interpersonal, verbal and writing skills.
- Meticulous, dependable and possess team motivational skills.

### Location of work:



The primary work location will be at 700-4211 Kingsway, Burnaby, B.C. V5H 1Z6, Canada.

The positions are available immediately.

**Please email resumes to [thind10084@gmail.com](mailto:thind10084@gmail.com) and qualified candidates will be contacted.**

This position is open to Newcomers to Canada, Visible Minorities and Indigenous Persons.

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This is a permanent, full-time position that offers various shifts with 40 hours of work per week depending on schedule.

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## Eligibility Requirements

Age 16-29 | Permanent Resident, Canadian Citizen, Refugee Status



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SALES DATES: Fri. January 10, 2025 - Wed. January 15, 2025



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