

Man Charged With Murder Of 21-Year-Old Indian Student In Canada

The man who fired the stray bullet that killed 21-year-old Indian student Harsimrat Randhawa in Canada have been arrested and charged with first-degree murder, an official said.

Hamilton Police, who arrested 32-year-old Jerdaine Foster at Niagara Falls in Ontario on Tuesday, also charged him with three counts of attempted murder, CBC News quoted Acting Det-Sgt Daryl Reid as saying at a news conference.

Randhawa, a second-year student enrolled in a physiotherapy course in Mohawk College, was hit by a stray bullet while standing near a bus stop at the intersection of Upper James Street and South Bend Road on April 17. She succumbed to the injury in the hospital.

The Indian student had reportedly just gotten off the bus and was waiting to cross the street when the bullet struck her.

At least seven people in four cars were involved in a dispute that led up to the shooting. Shots were fired between cars and at least two guns were involved, the report said.

"Harsimrat was an innocent bystander," the report quoted Reid as saying on Thursday, "She was simply trying to make her way home from a local gym when she was struck and killed." No other arrests have been made in the case.

"The investigation is still ongoing, and we will do everything in our power to identify, locate and arrest all these people that are involved in this death," Reid said.

He added that Foster, who has ties to Hamilton, Halton and Niagara regions and lived in short-term rental properties, was previously known to police.

Japanese Warships Dock In New Zealand For First Time Since 1936

Japanese warships docked in New Zealand's capital Friday for the first time in almost 90 years amid efforts by Tokyo to deepen its strategic ties in the South Pacific Ocean.

Two destroyers with more than 500 crew on board sailed into Wellington harbor accompanied by the New Zealand navy ship HMNZS Canterbury. The JS Ise and destroyer JS Suzunami were on an Indo-Pacific deployment and arrived from Sydney, where Japan's military took part this month in war games involving New Zealand, Australia and other countries. The Wellington visit was a ceremonial one, but it came as Japan, whose only treaty ally is the United States, has increasingly sought to deepen bilateral military cooperation amid ongoing regional tensions.

"Our defence force are developing cooperative work, not only with New Zealand and Australia but also many Pacific Island countries," Japan's envoy to Wellington, Makoto Osawa, told reporters Friday. "Our main goal is the free and open Indo-Pacific." The ambassador's remarks followed the announcement Tuesday by Australia's government that Japanese firm Mitsubishi Heavy Industries had won the bid for a contract to build Australian warships, beating out a German firm. While officials in Canberra said the Japanese proposal was the best and cheapest, they also hailed it as the biggest defense industry agreement between the countries. New Zealand too has sought to shore up its strategic and military relations in Asia as part of a foreign policy reset in recent years that the government says has turned more attention to Pacific cooperation and security.

Officials in Wellington announced in July that work had started on a defense logistics agreement with Japan, intended to make it easier for the countries' militaries to work together. Japanese naval vessels do not often make visits so far south in the Pacific Ocean, but the rich and strategically important waters of New Zealand, Australia and smaller Pacific Island countries are increasingly contested by the world's major powers, making it the site of a fierce battle for influence between Beijing and Western nations.

US Penalised India, But Data Shows It Traded More With Russia Than Ukraine



WASHINGTON: While the United States slapped India with the highest rate tier of 50 per cent tariff -- a punitive action against New Delhi's trade with Russia -- a deep dive into US government data exposed Washington's hypocrisy. The US Census Bureau's monthly trade data show that Washington did more trade with Moscow than with its ally Kyiv in nearly four years since Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

The data shows that before the Russia-Ukraine war began in February 2022, Washington's trade with Moscow stood at USD 25.233 billion, while its trade with Ukraine was a mere USD 9.69 billion.

Since the beginning of the war, though trade between the US and Russia has drastically contracted, it has remained significantly higher than US-Ukrainian

trade.

If we merely look at import data for the two nations, since February 2022, the US has imported \$22.55 billion of Russian goods. During the same timeframe, America's trade with Ukraine stood at just \$5 billion.

A Look At Trade Data

In 2022, the US imported goods worth \$14.437 billion from Russia, while its imports from Ukraine stood at \$1.503 billion.

In 2023, the US imported goods worth \$4.570 billion from Russia, while its imports from Ukraine stood at \$1.319 billion.

In 2024, the US imported goods worth \$3,007 billion from Russia, while its imports from Ukraine stood at \$1.179 billion.

In 2025, the US imported goods worth \$2,496 billion from Russia, while its imports from Ukraine stood at \$769 million

US Double Standards

Data shows a clear pattern-- though substantially reduced, the US poured more money into the Russian economy than it did in Ukraine. India has called out these Western double standards after Trump and his aides tried to justify the punitive tariffs by essentially accusing New Delhi of financing Russia's war in Ukraine by purchasing oil from Moscow. New Delhi pointed out that the US and EU themselves import substantial volumes of goods, including energy in the case of Europe, from Russia.

Moreover, data released by the Indian Embassy in Kyiv show that the percentage of India's trade cooperation with Ukraine in terms of Ukrainian imports has been higher than that of America's, since the beginning of the war.

When the war began during FY 2021-22, India's imports from Ukraine stood at \$ 2.913 billion. Though the trade plummeted by over 77 per cent in the coming years-- due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict disrupting logistics and cargo movement-- it remained a lot more than US imports.

In 2023, India imported goods worth \$650.26 million from Ukraine. The figure was \$539 million in 2024, and it increased to \$1.036 billion in 2025.

US Man Accused Of Stealing Rare Chinese Manuscripts Worth \$216,000

A California library user who allegedly took home rare Chinese manuscripts and returned fake ones in their place has been charged with \$216,000-worth of theft, US officials said Thursday.

Jeffery Ying used a number of aliases to get access to classic works, some over 600 years old, at the library at the University of California, Los Angeles, the Department of Justice said.

Ying, 38, would check the works out and return days later with dummy manuscripts. He would frequently travel to China shortly thereafter, charging documents say. "The library noticed that several rare Chinese manuscripts were missing, and an initial investigation revealed the books were last viewed by a visitor who identified himself as 'Alan Fujimori,'" the DOJ said.

When detectives raided the Los Angeles area hotel where Ying was staying, they found blank manuscripts in the style of the books that had been checked out.

"Law enforcement also found pre-made labels known as asset tags associated with the same manuscripts that could be used to create 'dummy' books to return to the library in place of the original books."

Libraries allow rare, one-of-a-kind works to be examined on site; they are not permitted to be taken home like regular paperbacks.

"Trump Was Directly Involved": US Doubles Down On India-Pak Peace Claims

WASHINGTON: The United States got "directly involved" when India and Pakistan were involved in a military conflict earlier this year, claimed US Secretary of State Marco Rubio. He reiterated America's earlier claim that US President Donald Trump stopped the war between the nuclear-armed South Asian nations.

Speaking during an interview to EWTN's 'The World Over' on Thursday, Rubio said that Trump is committed to peace and being the "president of peace."

"And so, we saw when India and Pakistan went to war, we got involved directly, and the president was able to deliver on that peace," Rubio said.

The US leader listed other conflicts that President Trump has supposedly helped resolve and said Americans were proud of those initiatives.

"Cambodia and Thailand more recently; Azerbaijan and Armenia, hope fully... DRC (Democratic Republic of Congo)-Rwanda - a 30-year war, 7 million people killed - we were able to bring them here to sign it," Rubio said. He added the US is "looking for more - obviously, the big one being in Ukraine and Russia".

India Rejects Trump's Claims

Since May 10, Trump has repeatedly claimed that he



"helped settle" the tensions between India and Pakistan by telling the two neighbours that America will do a "lot of trade" with them if they stop the conflict.

India has denied the claims, maintaining that the ceasefire was achieved through talks between the Indian and Pakistani militaries and not US mediation.

Last month, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh told the Lok Sabha, the lower house of parliament, that it was "completely incorrect and baseless to say that the military action was stopped because of pressure."

"India halted its operation because all the political and military objectives studied before and during the conflict had been fully achieved," he said.

He also claimed the decision was taken after a request from Pakistan's Director General of Military Operations (DGMO), who "pleaded for relief". Is Trump Angry With India?

A South Asia analyst has explained that Trump singled out India for its trade with Russia by imposing hefty penalties because New Delhi refused to let him take credit for the ceasefire.

Michael Kugelman, director of the South Asia Institute at the US-based Wilson Center, spoke to news agency ANI after Trump announced an additional 25 per cent tariffs on Indian exports, taking the total tariff burden to 50 per cent. China has not stood out there and refused to let President Trump take credit for his role in the ceasefire. China has not had its leader have a long conversation with Trump on the phone and essentially dictate to him what's right and what's wrong. These are things that happened with India," he said. New Delhi has maintained that it buys Russian oil to ensure energy security for its people, and has called the US action "unfair, unjustified, and unreasonable".

US Secret Service Raised Ohio River For JD Vance's Birthday Kayaking Trip

Vice President JD Vance's security detail had an Ohio river's water level raised last weekend to accommodate a kayaking trip he and his family took to celebrate his 41st birthday. The US Secret Service said it requested the increased waterflow for the Little Miami River, first reported by The Guardian, to ensure motorised watercraft and emergency personnel "could operate safely" while protecting the Republican vice president, whose home is in Cincinnati. But critics immediately blasted the action as a sign of the vice president's entitlement, particularly given the Trump administration's focus on slashing government spending. Richard W. Painter, who served as chief White House ethics lawyer under President George W. Bush, said on X that "it's outrageous for the Army corps of engineers to spend taxpayer money to increase water flow in a river so @VP can go canoeing when budget cuts to the National Park Service have severely



impacted family vacations for everyone else." The Corps of Engineers declined to address any financial impact of raising the river. Spokesman Gene Pawlik said the agency's Louisville District temporarily increased outflows from the Caesar Creek Lake in southwest Ohio into the Little Miami "to support safe navigation of US Secret Service personnel." He said the move met operational criteria and fell within normal practice.

"It was determined that the operations would not adversely affect downstream or upstream water levels," he said in a statement. "Downstream stakeholders were notified in

advance of the slight outflow increase, which occurred August 1, 2025." Vance's birthday was on August 2.

Vance spokesman Taylor Van Kirk said the vice president was unaware the river had been raised.

"The Secret Service often employs protective measures without the knowledge of the Vice President or his staff, as was the case last weekend," she said via text.

The sprawling 2,830-acre Caesar Creek Lake has an unlimited horsepower designation and five launch ramps, according to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources website. A marina, campground and lodge are also located on

site. The department provided two natural resources officers to assist the Secret Service with the Vance event, spokesperson Karina Cheung said.

The Vance family has already become accustomed to certain accommodations being made as they move about the world. During a recent trip to Italy, the Roman Colosseum was closed to the public so that his wife, Usha, and their children could take a tour, sparking anger among some tourists. The Taj Mahal also was closed to visitors during the Vance family's visit to India.

Such special treatment isn't reserved for one political party.

When Democratic Vice President Al Gore, then a presidential candidate, paddled down the Connecticut River for a photo opportunity in 1999, utility officials had opened a dam and released 4 billion gallons of water to raise the river's level. That request, too, came after a review of the area by the Secret Service - and Gore also experienced political pushback.

"Hogs Get Slaughtered": US Tech CEO Receives Severed Pig's Head And Threatening Letter In Mail

A US tech CEO was left shocked after receiving a severed pig's head and a threatening letter in the mail, believed to stem from his company's use of artificial intelligence. According to a report by KLAS 8 News Now, Blake Owens, founder and CEO of Las Vegas-based company Agrippa, said he received the bizarre package following his interview about using AI for a real estate deal. In the handwritten note, the person criticised Mr Owens' use of AI and included personal insults, calling him a "Clark Kent knockoff". The letter ended ominously, reading, "Don't get greedy because pigs get fat and hogs get slaughtered".

The letter was signed off simply with 'M'. The package was mailed to Mr Owens' family home on July 29.

"A simple Google search goes a long way these days, especially in Vegas. saw your marcus video, what a joke. 'ai' is not going to replace brokers. clearly you don't understand real estate wasn't built by developers or investors," the letter read, per the outlet.

"And it sure as hell wasn't built by tech guys in lululemon. It was built by brokers. We did it the hard way. No shortcuts, no tech, just people. so enjoy your moment while it lasts. and don't get greedy because pigs get fat and hogs get slaughtered," it continued.

Mr Owens said he was not expecting someone to mail him a dead animal. "Perhaps this person watched too much of The Godfather," he said. "Needless to say, I



still take it very seriously, but don't feel like I'm being truly threatened. It was a message," he added.

According to the CEO, the box was probably sent by someone worried about losing their job to AI. "I understand this person is probably just frustrated that business isn't going well for them, and then they see AI replacement stories on top of that," he said.

Mr Owens said he does not plan to press charges if the sender is eventually identified. "I don't want to punch down on this person; they may be in a tough spot in life. I do see this as an opportunity to show people you don't become a better person by making another man a lesser person," he said.

The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department confirmed it is investigating the incident. A suspect has yet to be identified.

All You Need To Know About Netanyahu's Plan To Retake Gaza City

Israel announced early Friday that it plans to take over Gaza City, the largest urban area in the territory and one that has already suffered extensive devastation in repeated Israeli raids.

Another major ground operation in one of the few areas of Gaza not already under evacuation orders would likely spark even more mass displacement and further disrupt efforts to deliver desperately needed food in the territory, where experts have warned that famine is unfolding.

Israel has faced mounting calls from many of its closest allies to end the war, and the plan faces opposition within Israel from families of the remaining 20 or so living hostages held by Hamas and members of the security establishment who say there is little to gain militarily at this point.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says more military pressure is needed to achieve Israel's goals of returning the hostages and destroying Hamas. Israel has repeatedly bombed Gaza City and launched major ground operations there within weeks of Hamas' October 7, 2023 attack

that triggered the war. Several neighbourhoods and key infrastructure have been almost completely destroyed.

It was Gaza's most populous city on the eve of the war, home to some 700,000 people, about the population of Washington, DC. Hundreds of thousands fled under Israeli evacuation orders at the start of the war but many returned during a ceasefire earlier this year.

Israel already controls and has largely destroyed around 75% of Gaza, with most of the population of some 2 million Palestinians now sheltering in Gaza City, the central city of Deir al-Balah and the sprawling displacement camps in the Muwasi area along the coast.

Israel's offensive has already killed over 61,000 Palestinians, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not say how many were fighters or civilians. The ministry is part of the Hamas-run government and staffed by medical professionals. The UN and independent experts view its figures as the most reliable estimate of war casualties. Israel disputes them but has not provided its own.

2 Killed In Helicopter Crash While Working On Power Lines Near Mississippi River



Two people working on powerlines near the Mississippi River died Thursday when their helicopter hit the lines, crashed into a barge and sparked a fire that belched plumes of black smoke, officials said.

The helicopter crew was near East Alton, Illinois, about 20 miles (32 kilometers) north of St. Louis, when it careened into the barge on the Missouri side of the river. Authorities said no other injuries were reported. Adam Briggs was fishing on the shore that morning, watching the helicopter zig-zag across the river and eventually pick up a worker with a marker ball to add to a line.

After a brief glance at his phone, Briggs looked

back up to see pieces of the helicopter plunging toward the barge, then he heard a bang and saw smoke.

"I was in shock and awe of what I was actually seeing, just disbelief," Briggs told The Associated Press. The veteran and former aircraft firefighter called 911 then started filming and frantically describing the crash.

"There was a pilot, there was a worker, the helicopter blew up and fell and crashed in that barge and it's exploding right now," he says in the video. Explosions continued for several minutes. "They're dead. They have to be dead." A spokesperson for the power company Ameren said a contractor and subcontractor had been repairing and replac-

ing tower lighting and marker balls on lines. "Our thoughts and heartfelt condolences are with the victims' families and colleagues," Ameren said in a statement.

The names of the workers who were killed have not been released.

Aviation experts say this type of work is common for utility companies, but fatal crashes are rare.

Hassan Shahidi, president and CEO of Flight Safety Foundation, said the pilot must be able to keep the helicopter hovering steadily in place and that investigators will consider if wind or a sudden change in the atmosphere played a role in the crash.

Briggs said he felt a breeze but that it didn't appear very windy.

Power lines are a key hazard for any helicopter pilot because they can be difficult to see, said Thomas Anthony, director of USC's Aviation Safety and Security Program.

Anthony recalled an attendee at an aviation conference who approached him after Anthony gave a lecture and asked if he'd ever heard about "the dream."

Australian Mushroom Killer Tried To Poison Husband With Chicken Curry, Pasta, And Wrap

An Australian woman who murdered three of her in-laws with a meal of toxic mushrooms also allegedly tried to murder her husband using poisoned pasta, a chicken curry and a sandwich wrap, evidence showed on Friday after a judge allowed its disclosure.

A jury last month found Erin Patterson lured her mother-in-law Gail Patterson, father-in-law Donald Patterson and Gail's sister, Heather Wilkinson, to lunch at her home and poisoned them with servings of Beef Wellington that contained death cap mushrooms.

They also found the 50-year-old guilty of the attempted murder of Ian Wilkinson, Heather's husband, who survived the 2023 meal at Erin Patterson's home in Leongatha, a town of about 6,000 people some 135 km (84 miles) southeast of Melbourne.

Patterson was initially charged with three counts of murder and five counts of attempted murder in 2023, with the four additional counts relating to her estranged husband, Simon Patterson.

Justice Christopher Beale previously ruled the charges should be split

into two separate trials, before the prosecution dropped the attempted murder charges relating to Simon Patterson on the eve of the first trial.

That meant details of the alleged attempts on her husband's life in 2021 and 2022 were never heard by the jury.

"After the first time I got sick, I had the idea I got sick from Erin's food," Simon Patterson told a pre-trial hearing in Melbourne in October 2024. He eventually began keeping a spreadsheet of his illnesses that the court heard all happened after eating his estranged wife's cooking, including a penne bolognese, a chicken curry and a sandwich wrap.

The alleged poisonings left him close to death, and he became so ill he was temporarily paralysed and had part of his bowel removed, the court heard at the time.

Evidence from a computer seized from Patterson's home showing searches for other kinds of poisons was also excluded from the trial.

Patterson maintained her innocence throughout the case that has gripped Australia, with her defence calling the deaths a "terrible accident".