

Int’l student visa cuts trigger Canada’s biggest population drop in 80 years

Decrease between the 2nd & 3rd quarters of 2025 amounted to 76,068 persons

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TORONTO : Between July and September this year, Canada recorded its largest quarterly decline in population in at least 80 years, with the falling population attributed to a decrease in temporary resident numbers, particularly international students.

According to population estimates published by Statistics Canada or StatCan, the country’s data agency, on Wednesday, the decrease between the second and third quarters of 2025 amounted to 76,068 persons, or 0.2%.

Going by StatCan data dating back to 1946, there hasn’t been a sharper decline in the country’s population. The last time Canada’s population fell was during the Covid-19 pandemic,



The last time Canada’s population fell was during the Covid-19 pandemic, when it dropped marginally at just 1,232 people. REUTERS

when it dropped marginally in the last quarter to 2020 over the previous three-month period. That decrease was marginal, at just 1,232 people.

Immigration policies adopted by the government of former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau led to a surge in the numbers of temporary residents. In fact, StatCan pointed out that in the third quarter of 2023, Canada experienced a population increase of 4,18,634 or 1%, mark-

ing the highest quarterly growth in population since the second quarter of 1957, when the number was less than half, at 1,98,000. As a public backlash to the historic intake of newcomers resulted, Ottawa introduced policies to reduce their numbers, especially with regard to temporary residents.

In the third quarter of 2024, the population increased by 2,31,803 people or 0.6%.

“Preliminary estimates show

that the reduction in the number of non-permanent residents in Canada (-176,479) in the third quarter of 2025 was the primary reason for the decrease in Canada’s population over this period,” StatCan noted.

On October 1, 2025, there were 2,847,737 non-permanent residents in Canada (6.8 per cent of the total population), down from 3,024,216 on July 1, 2025 (7.3%).

The drop in their estimated number was the result of “larger, record-high outflows” of non-permanent residents.

As the Hindustan Times reported earlier this month, the number of study permits issued to international students from India dropped by more than half in the third quarter of this year when compared to the same period in 2024.

According to data from Immigration, Refugees and Immigration Canada or IRCC, Indian students accounted for 24,030 permits out of a total of 1,46,505 or 16.4%, between July and September 2025. Last year, they comprised 52,425, or nearly 30% of the overall 1,77,025 study visas

issued during the same period.

In the month of September, the latest for which data is available, Indians were issued 8,400 out of 49,350 visas, as against 14,385 out of 46,230 during the same month in 2024.

The decline follows policies instituted in the last quarter of 2023, as further restrictions were ordered in the months following amid concerns in the country over a surge in temporary immigrants contributing towards a spike in housing affordability and placing pressure on public infrastructure.

In November this year, the Government projected a seven per cent decrease in the total number of international students issued permits next year. IRCC noted that the total number of study permits to be issued in 2026 will be capped at 408,000, including 155,000 visas issued to newly arriving international students plus 253,000 extensions for current and returning students.

“This number is 7% lower than the 2025 issuance target of 4,37,000 and 16% lower than the

2024 issuance target of 4,85,000,” IRCC said.

IRCC said that the cap that was first introduced in 2024 “has been an effective tool in slowing the growth of Canada’s temporary population” as the number of study permit holders has fallen from over a million in January 2024 to about 725,000 by September 2025.

“While this progress is significant, further reductions are needed to meet our commitment of reducing the share of Canada’s temporary population to below 5% of the total population by the end of 2027,” it added.

The immigration levels plan introduced in Parliament earlier this month had Canada sharply reducing its intake of temporary residents, including workers and international students, by nearly 43%.

In its previous levels plan, the Government had looked at admitting 3,05,000 new international students each year. However, the latest plan showed the target at 1,50,000 in 2027 and 2028.

{ IKHLAQ LYNCHING CASE } ON DELAYS IN CASE

At hearing, judge asks: ‘It’s been 10 yrs, how much longer?’

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GREATER NOIDA: A fast-track court in Gautam Budh Nagar on Thursday expressed frustration over prolonged delays on Thursday during a contentious hearing on the Uttar Pradesh government’s application to withdraw the 2015 Mohammad Ikhlq lynching case.

The proceedings, now stretching over a decade, were marked by procedural objections and counter-objections from both sides.

Additional district judge Saurabh Dwivedi was hearing arguments on the Uttar Pradesh government’s request to withdraw the case.

The objection filed by Ikhlq’s family alleges that the state government’s application under Section 321 of the CrPC – which allows a prosecutor to withdraw a case before the judgment is announced with the court’s consent – lacks a “concrete base” and is “the outcome of political overtones.”

The back and forth began when Ikhlq’s lawyer, Yusuf

Saifi, attempted to file an objection in the case.

The defence lawyer Hariraj Singh also intervened to request time to review the victim’s side’s submission.

But the judge commented that this was not a high court where such time could be given. “This case has been going on for 10 years. How much more time will I have to give you in one case?”

After hearing both sides briefly for nearly 10 minutes, the judge said, “This is one of the old cases in my court. I cannot give much time... You may argue, I would like to listen to the arguments on this. It has been 10 years. It has to be decided as early as possible.”

The next hearing has been set for December 23.

Ikhlq, 55, was lynched by a mob in Bisada village on September 28, 2015, after rumours that his family had stored beef at home.

His son Danish was critically injured while trying to save his father. The attack triggered nationwide outrage over rising intolerance.

Killed by her tenants, Ghaziabad landlady’s body found in suitcase

The tenants had not paid the rent for the last 5 months, probe reveals

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GHAZIABAD: A 48-year-old woman was allegedly murdered by her tenants in a Ghaziabad high-rise on Wednesday night after she went to their flat to collect five months of pending rent, police said on Thursday, adding that her body was found stuffed inside a bag hidden under a bed.

The accused – Jay Gupta (37), a transporter, and his wife Aakriti Gupta (32) – were arrested on Thursday after police recovered the body from their fifth-floor apartment of the Aura Chimera society in Raj Nagar Extension. An FIR has been registered against the couple for murder with common intention and destruction of evidence.

Police identified the deceased as Deepshikha Sharma, who lived in the same housing complex, occupying a first-floor four-bedroom flat in a nearby tower. Her husband, an engineer, works in Faridabad during the week, while their 24-year-old daughter, an MBA graduate, works in Delhi. The victim worked at a college in Greater Noida.

According to investigators, Sharma had rented out her second flat – a fully furnished three-bedroom apartment – to the Gup- tas in February for a monthly rent of ₹18,000. The couple had allegedly failed to pay rent for the past five months, investigators privy with the case details said.

On Wednesday evening, Sharma told her domestic help,

High-rise rent horror

What we know so far about the rent collection visit that turned fatal

What? Body of 48-yr-old Deepshikha Sharma, allegedly killed by her tenants, found stuffed inside a trolley bag under a bed at a high-rise

Why? She went to the flat to collect five months of pending rent

Her house help became suspicious after she did not return and called cops

Accused: Transporter Jay Gupta (37) and his wife Aakriti Gupta (32) have been arrested; FIR has been registered

Minni (single name), that she was going to collect the pending rent from the tenants. Both walked together to their tower at around 8pm, police said. Sharma went up to the fifth floor, while Minni remained downstairs, walking Sharma’s pet dog.

When Sharma did not return, Minni became suspicious and went up to the flat to check. The tenants allegedly gave evasive answers about Sharma’s whereabouts.

Alarmed, Minni contacted Sharma’s husband, who rushed from Faridabad to Ghaziabad. They informed the police around 11.15pm.

A police team from Nandgram police station reached the flat and conducted a search. Officers found a red trolley bag under the bed in which they found Sharma’s blood-stained body.

“During interrogation, the accused confessed to killing the woman following an altercation over unpaid rent,” said Umesh Kumar, station house officer of

Nandgram police station. “The woman had come to demand rent, and an argument escalated. Aakriti allegedly strangled her using a dupatta, while her husband struck her on the head with a pressure cooker.”

Police said the couple then stuffed the body into the trolley bag and hid it under the bed, allegedly planning to dispose of it later. However, suspicion raised by the domestic help and the quick arrival of the victim’s husband thwarted their plans.

In his confession, the man told investigators that his transport business had shut down about six months ago, leaving him unable to pay rent. “The landlady had come several times earlier asking for rent. On Wednesday night, the argument got out of control,” he told police, according to officials familiar with the interrogation.

Deputy commissioner of police (City Zone) Dhawal Jaiswal said preliminary findings suggested strangulation, along with a head injury.

WIPING OUT DRUG MENACE A COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY: GUV KATARIA

FEROZEPUR: The Indian Red Cross Society, in collaboration with the Karan Gilhotra Foundation, organised an awareness programme against drugs in Fazilka on Thursday.

Punjab governor Gulab Chand Kataria, who was to join the campaign in person, couldn’t make it due to the adverse weather conditions but addressed the youngsters virtually. Describing Punjab as the sacred land of Gurus, brave warriors and martyrs, he said the state has always confronted anti-national forces with courage and unity. “Drug abuse is a destructive evil threatening our society. It is not just a law-and-order issue but a social challenge that demands collective responsibility,” said the governor.

MAN BOOKED FOR RAPING COLLEAGUE AFTER SPIKING HER DRINK IN CAPITAL

NEW DELHI: A woman alleged a man, a chartered account who works with her at a private firm, raped her after spiking her soft drink at a restaurant in south Delhi’s Madanpur Khadar near Sarita Vihar and then taking her to a house in May this year, police said. A case has been filed and police are on the lookout for the suspect. The woman alleged that the man also raped her in a hotel in Noida last month and had been harassing her by claiming to have in possession her personal photographs and videos. Police said the two were earlier in a relationship and had planned to get married.

Ggm police busts int’l opium smuggling gang, arrests Punjab-based handler

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GURUGRAM: Gurugram police claimed to have busted an international drug trafficking gang that smuggled opium to the United States through courier services and arrested a Punjab-based member of the gang, officials said on Thursday.

According to police, the gang used to import drugs from Pakistan through drones and sent them abroad by hiding them in food boxes through courier services. In return for sending each parcel, the arrested accused would get ₹2 to ₹5 lakh.

The arrested accused, Lakhbir

Singh, 23, a school dropout from Kot Data village in Tarn Taran district, was carrying a reward of ₹5,000. Police said suspicious transactions amounting to ₹66 lakh were detected in his bank account within a year.

His details have been shared with the Punjab police’s Anti-Narcotics Department and the Intelligence Bureau, officials said.

According to police, on May 25, 2023, the Haryana State Narcotics Control Board received information from a courier firm in Udyog Vihar about a suspicious international parcel. On inspection, two packets of opium weighing 842 grams were found

concealed inside jars of chawanprash.

The parcel, which also contained clothes and shoes, was sent by Singh and was addressed to a recipient in California, US, they said.

An FIR was registered in the matter at the Udyog Vihar police station.

Singh had been absconding since the seizure and was declared a proclaimed offender by a court in February 2025. A reward of ₹5,000 was announced on his arrest by the Haryana director general of police (DGP).

A crime unit team arrested the accused from Punjab on

Tuesday. He was produced before the city court and remanded to three days’ police custody, officials said.

“During interrogation, the accused revealed that he had been associated with the organised international drug trafficking gang since 2022. The gang members used to import illegal drugs into India from Pakistan,” a Gurugram police spokesperson said. He confessed that narcotics were packed in boxes of food items like chawanprash, laddoo, etc, and the parcels were sent to fake addresses of people, who had gone abroad (USA) through the donkey route, the spokesperson added.

Classifieds

CHANGE OF NAME

I BIKAS Chhotray s/o Kalish Chander HNo.634 Gas Colony Village Daria Chandigarh I changed my name Bikas Chhotray to Vikas Chander

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank

Recovery & Legal Section, Circle Office, 2nd Floor, Sector 34-A, Chandigarh

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE WITHDRAWAL

This has reference to the E-Auction Sale Notice published in Hindustan Times & Dainik Saveria newspaper dated 05.12.2025 for auction on 24.12.2025. **Borrower(s) - Mr. Gursagar Singh Isher S/o Sh. Sohan Singh Isher of SARM Ludhiana Branch has been WITHDRAWN** due to administrative reasons. **DATE: 18.12.2025** **AUTHORISED OFFICER** Place: Chandigarh

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GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI LAND & BUILDING DEPARTMENT (Real Estate Regulatory Authority) B-Block, Vikas Bhawan, New Delhi-110002

No. F.39(27)/2025/L&B/RERA/03/7477-78 **Date: 9.12.25**

Selection to the post of a Member in the Real Estate Regulatory Authority For NCT of Delhi and UT of Chandigarh

Applications are invited from eligible persons for selection to the post of Member in the Real Estate Regulatory Authority for NCT of Delhi and UT of Chandigarh under the provisions of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 and rules framed thereunder. The terms and conditions, proforma of application and other connected details are available at the website <https://land.delhi.gov.in/> of the Land & Building Department, GNCT of Delhi.

Eligible persons may submit their applications in the prescribed proforma of application to email ID p.tanwar32@delhi.gov.in OR through postal address to Joint Secretary (RERA), Land & Building Department, GNCTD, Ground Floor, B-Block, Vikas Bhawan, I.P. Estate, New Delhi-110002. **The closing date and time for submission of the application is upto 5.00 PM on 26.12.2025.** No application shall be entertained after the due date and time. Clarifications, if any, may be obtained from office of Joint Secretary (RERA), Land & Building Department, GNCTD (Phone **011-23379697**).

(SANJAY SONDHI)
JOINT SECRETARY (RERA)

DIP/Shabdarth/Classified/0366/25-26

GOVERNMENT OF NCT OF DELHI LAND & BUILDING DEPARTMENT (Real Estate Regulatory Authority) B-Block, Vikas Bhawan, New Delhi-110002

No. F.39(26)/2025/L&B/RERA/02/7479-80 **Date: 9.12.2025**

Selection to the post of a Member (Judicial) in the Real Estate Appellate Tribunal For NCT of Delhi and UT of Chandigarh

Applications are invited from eligible persons for selection to the post of Member (Judicial) in the Real Estate Appellate Tribunal for NCT of Delhi and UT of Chandigarh under the provisions of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 and rules framed thereunder. The terms and conditions, proforma of application and other connected details are available at the website <https://land.delhi.gov.in/> of the Land & Building Department, GNCT of Delhi.

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JOINT SECRETARY (RERA)

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