

India using tech to target dissidents 'abroad', Canada says

A Canadian spy agency has accused India of conducting threatening cyber activity against the North American nation and its citizens as the fallout from the assassination of a Sikh

separatist leader continues to worsen bilateral relations. The Communications Security Establishment said India is using technology to track and spy on activists and dissidents “living abroad”. Caroline Xavier, head of the agency said New Delhi is stepping up cyberattacks against Canadian government networks.

The statement comes after deputy foreign minister David Morrison reiterated that the Indian home minister Amit Shah sanctioned a wave of violence targeting Sikh separatists in Canada. Mr Shah, prime minister Narendra Modi’s chief lieutenant, was identified as the “senior official in India” who “authorised the intelligence-gathering missions and attacks”. India-Canada relations have been bad since Ottawa accused top diplomats of being directly involved in the assassination of Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

The 45-year-old Sikh activist was shot dead by masked gunmen in Surrey outside Vancouver in June 2023. He was a face of the Khalistan movement, which seeks to carve out an independent Sikh homeland in western India.