Sikh Disinformation Lab

MISLEADING

Diwali opinion piece in New India Abroad links Khalistan activism to anti-Hindu hate without evidence

An opinion article published by newindiaabroad.com asserts that anti-Indian and anti-Hindu narratives in the United States were "initially perpetuated by the far left, Islamists, and Khalistanis." The Lab assesses the claim as Misleading: the article documents real discrimination but offers no evidence for the causal link it alleges.

PUBLISHED
10 November 2026

SOURCE POSTED
8 November 2026

NARRATIVES
Portraying Sikh Protests as Extremist Activity · Portraying Advocacy for Khalistan as Terrorism · Labelling Sikhs as “Good” or “Bad” Sikhs

OUR ASSESSMENT

The Sikh Disinformation Lab (SDL) identifies an important information-integrity concern in the article's attempt to associate Khalistan-related activism with the rise of anti-Indian and anti-Hindu hostility in the United States.

The article raises legitimate concerns about racism, religious discrimination and threats against Hindu Americans. However, it moves from documenting these problems to alleging that Khalistanis helped originate rhetoric later adopted by the American far right, without providing evidence to establish that relationship.

This is a significant distinction. The author does not identify which Khalistan-related individuals or organizations allegedly spread these narratives, what statements were involved, or how those messages subsequently entered far-right discourse. The allegation is therefore presented without the evidence necessary to establish its claimed historical or causal connection.

The article also relies on statistics documenting anti-Hindu and anti-South Asian hate. These figures provide important evidence of discrimination but do not identify Khalistan supporters as responsible for the reported trends. In particular, the claim that 23% of California's religiously motivated hate incidents were anti-Hindu refers to a limited set of incidents verified through the state's CA vs Hate reporting program, not all religious hate incidents across California.

The reference to an alleged mass-shooting attempt at a Hindu temple in Illinois further illustrates the problem. According to prosecutors, the suspect expressed white-supremacist and neo-Nazi beliefs. There is no evidence in the reported investigation connecting the alleged attack to Khalistan-related activism. Introducing an unsupported allegation about Khalistanis alongside this incident risks creating an association that the available evidence does not establish.

The broader framing also blurs an important distinction between criticism of the Indian government, support for Khalistan and hostility toward Hindu communities. These are not interchangeable. Individuals may advocate for Sikh political self-determination or criticize Indian state policies without expressing religious hatred. Where particular activists engage in harassment, threats or discriminatory conduct, those actions should be examined individually and supported by evidence.

The contradiction is especially noticeable in the article's appeal for unity. While encouraging Americans to reject prejudice and religious hostility, the author introduces an unsubstantiated accusation against a politically identifiable group. This risks reproducing the kind of collective attribution that the article otherwise condemns.

The central concern is not the recognition of anti-Hindu hate, but the use of genuine incidents of discrimination to advance an unsupported claim about the role of Khalistan-related activism in producing that hostility.The article would require specific evidence of the alleged conduct and its dissemination before such a broad conclusion could be substantiated.

THE CLAIM

America Needs the Universal Message of Diwali Now More Than Ever

THE ANALYSIS

What was published

On 8 November 2026, newindiaabroad.com published an opinion piece titled "America Needs the Universal Message of Diwali Now More Than Ever."

The article argues that "Indians and Hindu Americans more specifically have become political scapegoats and are at the receiving end of an avalanche of hate," and attributes the narratives behind that hostility to groups "that were initially perpetuated by the far left, Islamists, and Khalistanis."

The verdict

The Lab assesses the article as Misleading. It contains inaccuracies and was rated at severity 3.

The concerns the article raises about racism, religious discrimination and threats against Hindu Americans are legitimate. The problem is the step the article takes beyond them: the assertion that Khalistan-related activism helped originate rhetoric later adopted by the American far right is advanced without evidence.

What the review found

The article does not identify which Khalistan-related individuals or organisations allegedly spread the narratives in question, what statements were involved, or how those messages subsequently entered far-right discourse. Without that specificity, the alleged historical or causal connection is asserted rather than established.

The article also draws on statistics documenting anti-Hindu and anti-South Asian hate. Those figures are meaningful evidence of discrimination, but they do not identify Khalistan supporters as responsible for the trends recorded. The Lab notes in particular that the claim that 23 per cent of California's religiously motivated hate incidents were anti-Hindu refers to a limited set of incidents verified through the state's CA vs Hate reporting program, not to all religious hate incidents across California.

The reference to an alleged mass-shooting attempt at a Hindu temple in Illinois illustrates the same difficulty. According to prosecutors, the suspect expressed white-supremacist and neo-Nazi beliefs. Nothing in the reported investigation connects the alleged attack to Khalistan-related activism. Placing an unsupported allegation about Khalistanis alongside that incident risks creating an association the available evidence does not support.

Three distinct things, treated as one

The article's broader framing blurs a distinction that matters: criticism of the Indian government, support for Khalistan and hostility toward Hindu communities are not interchangeable positions. Individuals may advocate for Sikh political self-determination, or criticise Indian state policies, without expressing religious hatred.

Where particular activists engage in harassment, threats or discriminatory conduct, those actions should be examined individually and on the basis of evidence. Collective attribution to a politically identifiable group does not meet that standard.

The tension is most visible in the article's own appeal for unity. While urging Americans to reject prejudice and religious hostility, the piece introduces an unsubstantiated accusation against an identifiable political constituency, reproducing the kind of collective attribution it otherwise condemns.

Context

The Lab's concern here is not with the recognition of anti-Hindu hate. It is with the use of genuine incidents of discrimination to carry an unsupported claim about the role of Khalistan-related activism in producing that hostility.

For such a conclusion to be substantiated, the article would need to present specific evidence of the alleged conduct and of how it was disseminated. It does not do so.

SOURCES

01 https://www.newindiaabroad.com/english/opinion/america-needs-the-universal-message-of-diwali-now-more-than-ever

Sikh Disinformation Lab

About Sikh Disinformation Lab

Sikh Disinformation Lab is an independent, evidence-based programme founded and hosted by the World Sikh Organization of Canada. It monitors, analyses and publicly documents disinformation affecting Sikhs.

The Lab examines claims against evidence, publishes assessments with that evidence attached, and tracks coordinated campaigns over time. Every published assessment names what was claimed, where it appeared, what the review found, and what that assessment rests on. Where an item makes several distinct claims, each is assessed separately.

Assessments are made against the methodology framework in force at the time of publication. That framework is public, versioned, and reviewed at each phase gate; a material change produces a new version rather than a silent edit. The full method is published at sikhdisinfolab.ca/method.

Corrections are dated entries, never silent edits. Where a published assessment is found to be wrong or incomplete, the correction is recorded against it and listed at sikhdisinfolab.ca/corrections. If you believe something published here is inaccurate, write to the programme and it will be reviewed.

Assessments are the responsibility of Sikh Disinformation Lab.

This project has been made possible with support from the Government of Canada.

> This document was generated from the published assessment at sikhdisinfolab.ca. The version of record is the one on the site, which carries any corrections issued after this file was made.