Sikh Disinformation Lab

MISLEADING

Firstpost report on Modi's Canada visit conflates diplomatic reset with closure of RCMP findings

A Firstpost article on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's expected December visit to Canada frames restored India–Canada ties as a resolution of earlier Canadian allegations. The Lab assesses the item as misleading: diplomatic normalization does not establish that the RCMP's October 2024 investigative findings were withdrawn or disproved.

PUBLISHED
19 October 2026

SOURCE POSTED
16 October 2026

NARRATIVES
Portraying Advocacy for Khalistan as Terrorism · Portraying Foreign Governments as Safe Havens for Sikh Activists

OUR ASSESSMENT

The report's diplomatic-reset framing is consistent with documented developments, including restored high-level engagement, renewed security cooperation and ongoing trade negotiations. However, diplomatic normalization should not be confused with the legal resolution of Canada's earlier allegations concerning Indian government-linked criminal activity.

On October 14, 2024, the RCMP publicly reported evidence connecting agents of the Government of India to violent criminal activity, organized crime and threats affecting Canadian residents, including members of the pro-Khalistan community. India has denied those allegations. The subsequent resumption of diplomatic and economic cooperation does not independently establish that the original investigative findings were withdrawn or disproved.

THE CLAIM

PM Modi to visit Canada on December 11 & 12, Carney confirms as New Delhi, Ottawa reset ties

THE ANALYSIS

What was published

On 16 October 2026, the India-based outlet Firstpost published a report headlined "PM Modi to visit Canada on December 11 & 12, Carney confirms as New Delhi, Ottawa reset ties."

The article states that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to visit Canada on 11 and 12 December, and reports that Prime Minister Mark Carney confirmed the visit. It situates the trip within a broader normalization of relations between New Delhi and Ottawa.

Verdict

The Lab assesses the item as **misleading** and containing inaccuracies. Severity is rated 2 of 5.

The assessment is not directed at the reporting of the visit itself. The report's diplomatic-reset framing is consistent with documented developments, including restored high-level engagement, renewed security cooperation and ongoing trade negotiations.

The problem lies in what that framing is made to imply about the unresolved law-enforcement matters between the two countries.

What the review found

The article's narrative treats the restoration of relations as if it settles the substance of Canada's earlier allegations regarding criminal activity linked to the Government of India. Diplomatic normalization and the legal resolution of those allegations are distinct matters, and should not be conflated.

On 14 October 2024, the RCMP publicly reported evidence connecting agents of the Government of India to violent criminal activity, organized crime and threats affecting Canadian residents, including members of the pro-Khalistan community. India has denied those allegations.

The subsequent resumption of diplomatic and economic cooperation between Ottawa and New Delhi does not, on its own, establish that those investigative findings were withdrawn, retracted or disproved. No such withdrawal is demonstrated by the fact of renewed engagement, and the Firstpost report presents no evidence that one occurred.

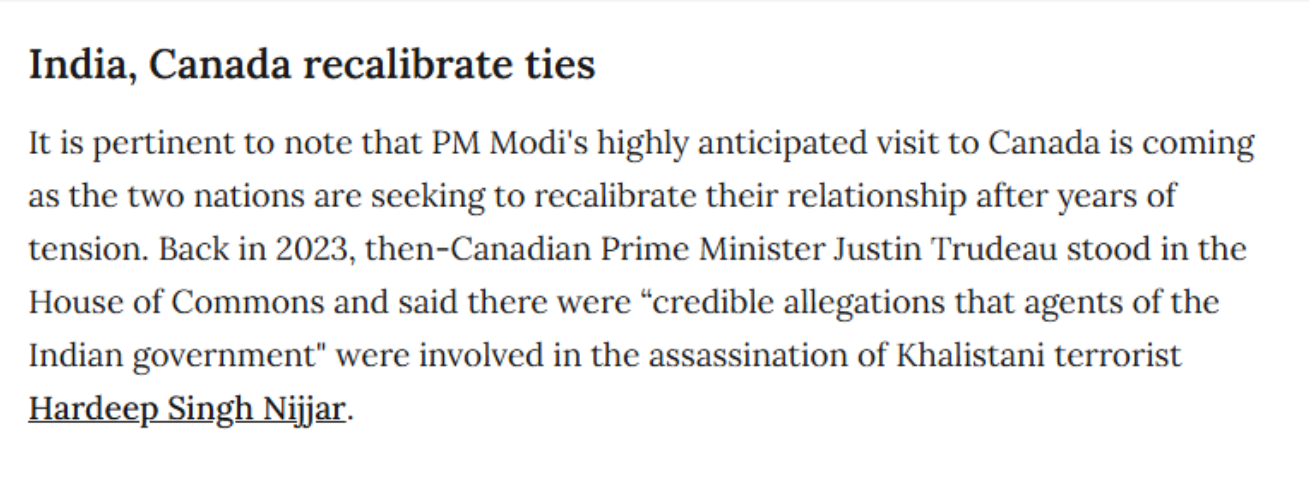
The captured text also refers to the 2023 killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar using the descriptor "Khalistani terrorist." That characterization is the outlet's, not a finding of Canadian authorities, and readers should treat it as the publisher's framing rather than as established fact.

Why the distinction matters

The practical effect of the article's framing is to invite readers to conclude that a diplomatic thaw amounts to an admission that Canada's original allegations were unfounded. That inference is not supported.

States routinely restore ambassadorial relations, resume trade talks and schedule leader-level visits while significant disputes, investigations or prosecutions remain open. The decisions are made by different institutions, on different timelines, and for different reasons. A foreign ministry's decision to re-engage does not dispose of a police force's evidentiary findings.

For the communities most directly affected in this case Canadian residents identified by the RCMP as targets of threats the difference between "the governments are talking again" and "the allegations were resolved" is substantial. Blurring the two can leave the public with the impression that a matter of domestic public safety has been closed when the record does not show that.



India, Canada recalibrate ties

It is pertinent to note that PM Modi's highly anticipated visit to Canada is coming as the two nations are seeking to recalibrate their relationship after years of tension. Back in 2023, then-Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau stood in the House of Commons and said there were “credible allegations that agents of the Indian government" were involved in the assassination of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

Source: Firstpost.com

Scope of this assessment

The Lab makes no finding on the accuracy of the reported visit dates or on Prime Minister Carney's confirmation of the visit, which the review treats as consistent with documented developments. The finding of misleading content concerns the article's treatment of the diplomatic reset as bearing on the status of the RCMP's October 2024 findings.

The Lab also makes no finding on the underlying allegations themselves. The RCMP reported evidence publicly; the Government of India has denied the allegations; that dispute remains unresolved in the public record, and nothing in this assessment resolves it.

This item has been logged under the Portraying Advocacy for Khalistan as Terrorism narrative, which tracks content presenting the normalization of India–Canada relations as retroactive vindication regarding allegations of Indian state-linked criminal activity in Canada.

SOURCES

01 https://www.firstpost.com/world/pm-modi-to-visit-canada-on-december-11-12-carney-confirms-as-new-delhi-ottawa-reset-ties-14053

02 Royal Canadian Mounted Police, public statement on evidence connecting agents of the Government of India to violent criminal activity, organized crime and threats to Canadian residents, 14 October 2024

03 The Lab's analyst review record, the Portraying Advocacy for Khalistan as Terrorism narrative

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.