Sikh Disinformation Lab

MISLEADING

News18 report on Carney–Modi meeting labels Hardeep Singh Nijjar a "terrorist" without attribution

A 23 September 2026 News18 article on Canada–India trade talks describes Hardeep Singh Nijjar as a "Khalistani terrorist." The Lab assesses the report as misleading: Nijjar was a Canadian citizen designated a terrorist by the Government of India, never charged or convicted in Canada, and the article omits the RCMP's public accusations and the murder charges laid in the case.

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24 September 2026

SOURCE POSTED
23 September 2026

NARRATIVES
Labelling Sikh Individuals as Terrorists Without Evidence · Portraying Advocacy for Khalistan as Terrorism

OUR ASSESSMENT

The article describes Hardeep Singh Nijjar as a "Khalistani terrorist." He was designated a terrorist by the Government of India under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in 2020. He was a Canadian citizen and was never charged or convicted of any offence in Canada. The accurate formulation is that he was designated a terrorist by India.

The article describes the diplomatic dispute as an allegation by former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, denied by India. It does not mention that the RCMP publicly stated that agents of the Government of India were linked to homicides, extortion and violent activity in Canada, or that four individuals face first-degree murder charges in connection with Nijjar's killing.

The CBC's report on the same press conference referred to the RCMP accusations directly. The ANI-sourced version carried by The Tribune also included them. The article is correct that Justin Trudeau publicly raised potential links between Indian government agents and Nijjar's killing in 2023. However, the public record later expanded beyond Trudeau's statement: CSIS reported that RCMP investigations found evidence linking Government of India agents to criminal networks and violent activity in Canada, and CSIS subsequently referred to links between the Government of India and the Nijjar murder.

THE CLAIM

Carney Looks Forward To Hosting PM Modi In December; Says India, Canada Aim To Wrap Trade Talks By G20

THE ANALYSIS

What was published

On 23 September 2026, the Indian outlet News18 published an article headlined "Carney Looks Forward To Hosting PM Modi In December; Says India, Canada Aim To Wrap Trade Talks By G20." The report covers remarks by Prime Minister Mark Carney indicating that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to visit Canada in December, and that the two countries aim to conclude trade negotiations around the G20 Summit.

In describing the diplomatic background, the article refers to "the 2023 killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia."

Verdict

The Lab assesses the item as **misleading**, containing inaccuracies, with a severity rating of 3 out of 5.

The assessment concerns two elements: the unattributed characterisation of Nijjar, and the omission of material developments in the public record on the Canadian side.

The "terrorist" designation

Hardeep Singh Nijjar was designated a terrorist by the Government of India under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in 2020. He was a Canadian citizen and was never charged with, or convicted of, any offence in Canada.

The article presents the designation as a settled descriptor rather than as the act of a particular government. The accurate formulation is that Nijjar was designated a terrorist by India. Stating the label without attribution presents one state's determination as an established fact about a Canadian citizen who faced no charges in his own country.

What the article omits

The article frames the diplomatic dispute as an allegation made by former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and denied by India. That framing is accurate as far as it goes: Trudeau did publicly raise potential links between agents of the Government of India and Nijjar's killing in 2023.

The public record has since expanded beyond that statement. The RCMP publicly stated that agents of the Government of India were linked to homicides, extortion and violent activity in Canada. Four individuals face first-degree murder charges in connection with Nijjar's killing. CSIS reported that RCMP investigations found evidence linking Government of India agents to criminal networks and violent activity in Canada, and subsequently referred to links between the Government of India and the Nijjar murder.

None of this appears in the News18 report. The effect of the omission is to reduce a matter involving a national police force's public accusations and pending first-degree murder prosecutions to a personal allegation by a former prime minister that India rejects.

> Trade engagement gained momentum again in 2025, followed by the launch of a fresh CEPA process. Goyal and Sidhu signed the Terms of Reference for the negotiations on March 2, 2026, during Carney’s visit to India.
>
> The renewed engagement followed a major diplomatic dispute between the two countries over the 2023 killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in British Columbia.
>
> Former Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau had alleged links between Indian government agents and Nijjar’s killing, a charge denied by India.
>
> The dispute led to a deterioration in diplomatic ties, including the expulsion of diplomats by both countries. Carney, who became Canada’s Prime Minister in March 2025, has since pursued a reset in relations with India.

News18 describes Hardeep Singh Nijjar as a “Khalistani terrorist” without attributing that designation to the Government of India, while presenting Canadian concerns over possible Indian government involvement in his killing as allegations made by former prime minister Justin Trudeau. — Source: News18

Comparison with other coverage

Other reporting on the same press conference did include this material. The CBC's report referred to the RCMP accusations directly. The ANI-sourced version of the story carried by The Tribune also included them.

That comparison is relevant because it establishes that the omitted information was available to outlets covering the same event on the same day, and was in fact carried by an Indian news agency's version of the story.

Context

The descriptor "Khalistani terrorist" applied without attribution to Canadian Sikhs who have not been charged in Canada is a recurring feature of coverage the Lab monitors. Where an Indian designation is presented as a neutral fact rather than as the position of a specific government, readers are given no basis on which to weigh it.

The Lab's assessment is limited to the accuracy and completeness of the published text. It makes no assertion about the intent behind the article or about its author.

This item is tracked under the Labelling Sikh Individuals as Terrorists Without Evidence narrative.

CLAIMS ASSESSED

01	Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar	FALSE

SOURCES

01 https://www.news18.com/india/pm-modi-canada-visit-december-mark-carney-india-canada-trade-talks-ws-bl-10347533.html

02 The Lab's analyst review of the above item (status: Disinformation; nuance: Misleading; severity 3; factual accuracy: contains inaccuracies)

03 CBC report on the same press conference (cited in the analyst review as referring to the RCMP accusations directly)

04 The Tribune, ANI-sourced report on the same press conference (cited in the analyst review as including the RCMP accusations)

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.

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