Sikh Disinformation Lab

MISLEADING

Prokerala article on Canadian Sikh rallies and Nijjar killing assessed as Misleading

An IANS article republished by Prokerala asserts that Khalistan-related rallies in Canada are a recurring nuisance and that the assassination of Hardeep Singh Nijjar was a gang dispute. The Lab's review finds the piece combines authentic legal developments with unverified material and omits Canada's own investigative record.

PUBLISHED
3 November 2026

SOURCE POSTED
31 October 2026

NARRATIVES
Portraying Sikh Practices as Incompatible with Society · Portraying Advocacy for Khalistan as Terrorism · Portraying Sikh Protests as Extremist Activity · Labelling Sikhs as “Good” or “Bad” Sikhs · Labelling Sikh Individuals as Terrorists Without Evidence

OUR ASSESSMENT

The Prokerala/IANS article presents a materially misleading account of Sikh political demonstrations in Canada by combining verified criminal proceedings with unsubstantiated allegations and a selective interpretation of the assassination of Hardeep Singh Nijjar. Its framing goes beyond criticism of protest behaviour. It diminishes the wider significance of Nijjar's killing by presenting it primarily as a gang-related criminal dispute, while marginalizing documented Canadian investigations into possible Indian state involvement and the implications for Canadian sovereignty.

The article cites the July 2026 U.S. indictments alleging that Lawrence Bishnoi and Goldy Brar ordered Nijjar's assassination, alongside an unauthenticated recording in which Brar purportedly claims responsibility and attributes the killing to drug-related grievances. Although the criminal proceedings are genuine, neither the indictments nor the recording establishes that the assassination was exclusively a gang dispute or that Indian officials could not have been involved. The recording's authenticity and the allegations about Nijjar remain unverified. Nevertheless, the article uses these developments to portray Sikh protesters who continue demanding accountability from India as unwilling to acknowledge evidence.

This framing is particularly misleading when examined against Canada's official investigative record. On September 18, 2023, then Prime Minister Justin Trudeau informed the House of Commons that Canadian security agencies were investigating credible allegations linking agents of the Government of India to Nijjar's killing. Trudeau described potential foreign involvement in the killing of a Canadian citizen as an unacceptable violation of Canada's sovereignty. The matter was therefore not simply a dispute between political activists and criminal gangs; it concerned the possibility of an extrajudicial killing connected to a foreign government operating on Canadian territory.

More significantly, the Public Inquiry into Foreign Interference, chaired by Justice Marie-Josée Hogue, documented how Canada's understanding of Nijjar's assassination evolved. Its January 2025 Final Report, Volume 4, pages 103–106, explains that the initial intelligence assessment considered the killing gang-or criminal-related. Subsequent intelligence, however, indicated involvement by the Government of India, prompting briefings to senior Canadian officials and the Prime Minister. The report further records Trudeau's assessment that there were clear indications of a violation of Canadian sovereignty. These findings demonstrate why the existence of criminal intermediaries cannot reasonably be presented as evidence excluding potential state involvement.

On October 14, 2024, the RCMP publicly identified links between agents of the Government of India and homicides, violent acts, organized crime and interference in Canadian democratic processes. Canadian authorities also identified the use of criminal networks to target members of the South Asian community, particularly individuals associated with the pro-Khalistan movement. In response, Canada expelled six Indian diplomatic and consular officials. Trudeau subsequently described the reported activities as a serious threat to public safety and an unacceptable intrusion on Canadian sovereignty. The article excludes this substantial investigative and diplomatic history while relying on a narrower statement concerning the absence of evidence linking Indian officials to specific organized-crime charges.

The treatment of the purported Goldy Brar recording is especially consequential. By introducing allegations of drug-related grievances as an explanation for Nijjar's assassination, the article shifts attention from the killing of a Canadian citizen and possible foreign-state involvement toward an unverified account of personal criminal retaliation. This reframing risks normalizing the assassination as another episode of gang violence and implicitly transferring blame toward the victim. The existence of a recording, even if ultimately authenticated, would not

independently establish the truth of the alleged motive or resolve questions about who commissioned, facilitated or benefited from the killing. Its circulation should not be treated as a substitute for judicial findings or a comprehensive criminal investigation.

This distinction is central to understanding the misleading narrative. Nijjar was assassinated outside a Sikh place of worship in Surrey, British Columbia, on June 18, 2023. The circumstances prompted a major Canadian national-security investigation and an unprecedented diplomatic confrontation with India. Reducing the case to a dispute between criminal groups obscures the significance of a targeted killing on Canadian soil, the protection owed to Canadian citizens regardless of their political beliefs, and the continuing obligation to investigate credible allegations of foreign interference. The involvement of organized crime and potential state-linked activity are not inherently mutually exclusive.

The article also portrays Khalistan-related demonstrations as recurring public nuisances that damage the reputation of Canadian Sikhs. It relies on a Khalsa Vox reader submission while providing no independent verification of its principal allegations concerning recent protest-related arrests or protesters' collective rejection of evidence. Its emphasis on demonstrations outside Hindu temples further obscures the context of Indian consular activities that prompted some of the protests. Verified incidents of disorder must be distinguished from lawful political expression, and the actions of particular individuals cannot establish criminality or extremism across an entire political movement.

The article's broader effect is to delegitimize Sikh demands for accountability by presenting continued scrutiny of possible Indian involvement as irrational, disruptive or politically motivated. Its selective reliance on gang-related evidence, omission of Canadian investigative findings and use of an unauthenticated recording produce a misleading understanding of Nijjar's assassination and the surrounding political controversy.

The appropriate verdict is - Misleading. The article contains authentic legal developments but uses them to advance conclusions that exceed the available evidence. Its central distortion is not the reporting of organized-crime allegations, but the suggestion that those allegations diminish the importance of possible foreign-state involvement in a Canadian citizen's assassination or invalidate the community's continuing demands for a transparent investigation.

THE CLAIM

Canada: Khalistani rallies become recurring nuisance, tarnish Sikh community's reputation

THE ANALYSIS

What was published

On October 31, 2026, Prokerala.com published an India-datelined article headlined "Canada: Khalistani rallies become recurring nuisance, tarnish Sikh community's reputation." The piece opens by asserting that "the Khalistani extremist network's dismissal of gang indictments and court charges as 'irrelevant propaganda'" does little to address criminal proceedings in North America.

The Lab assesses the article as **Misleading**.

What the review found

The article cites July 2026 United States indictments alleging that Lawrence Bishnoi and Goldy Brar ordered Nijjar's assassination, together with an unauthenticated recording in which Brar purportedly claims responsibility and attributes the killing to drug-related grievances. The criminal proceedings themselves are genuine. Neither the indictments nor the recording establishes that the assassination was exclusively a gang dispute, or that Indian officials could not have been involved.

That framing is misleading when set against Canada's official record. On September 18, 2023, then Prime Minister Justin Trudeau told the House of Commons that Canadian security agencies were investigating credible allegations linking agents of the Government of India to Nijjar's killing, and described potential foreign involvement in the killing of a Canadian citizen as an unacceptable violation of Canadian sovereignty.

The Public Inquiry into Foreign Interference, chaired by Justice Marie-Josée Hogue, documented how that understanding evolved. Its January 2025 Final Report, Volume 4, pages 103 to 106, records that the initial intelligence assessment treated the killing as gang-or criminal-related, and that subsequent intelligence indicated involvement by the Government of India, prompting briefings to senior officials and the Prime Minister.

On October 14, 2024, the RCMP publicly identified links between agents of the Government of India and homicides, violent acts, organized crime and interference in Canadian democratic processes, including the use of criminal networks to target members of the South Asian community, particularly individuals associated with the pro-Khalistan movement. Canada expelled six Indian diplomatic and consular officials. The article excludes this history while relying on a narrower statement about the absence of evidence tying Indian officials to specific organized-crime charges.

Nijjar was assassinated outside a Sikh place of worship in Surrey, British Columbia, on June 18, 2023. The involvement of organized crime and potential state-linked activity are not mutually exclusive.

The article also relies on a Khalsa Vox reader submission without independent verification of its principal allegations, and its emphasis on demonstrations outside Hindu temples obscures the context of Indian consular activities that prompted some of those protests.

The claims, one by one

"A recent Surrey protest became disorderly and arrests were made": Unsupported. A rally was advertised for October 25, 2026, but no corresponding police arrest record was independently located. The confirmed three-arrest incident dates from November 2024.

"No evidence links Indian officials to the Nijjar killing": Misleading. The assertion is misleading when generalized. A narrower July 2026 RCMP statement concerning the organized-crime investigation does not negate earlier Canadian findings about Indian government agents.

"A leaked recording establishes a drug-related motive for Nijjar's killing": Unsupported. The recording circulated in August 2026. Its authenticity and the allegations within it remain unverified. Even if authenticated, a recording would not independently establish the alleged motive or resolve who commissioned, facilitated or benefited from the killing.

"Protesters rejected the indictments as propaganda and refused to consider evidence": Unsupported. No identified protester, interview, statement, recording or organizational document establishes this collective characterization.

"Khalistan demonstrations tarnish the reputation of Canadian Sikhs": False. A subjective reputational judgment is presented as a general community-wide consequence without supporting research or representative testimony.

Context

The article's central distortion is not that it reports organized-crime allegations. It is the suggestion that those allegations diminish the importance of possible foreign-state involvement in a Canadian citizen's assassination, or invalidate continuing demands for a transparent investigation. Verified incidents of disorder must be distinguished from lawful political expression, and the conduct of particular individuals cannot establish criminality or extremism across an entire political movement.

CLAIMS ASSESSED

01	Recent Surrey protest became disorderly and arrests were made.	UNSUPPORTED
02	No evidence links Indian officials to the Nijjar killing.	MISLEADING
03	A leaked recording establishes a drug-related motive for Nijjar's killing.	UNSUPPORTED
04	Protesters rejected the indictments as propaganda and refused to consider evidence.	UNSUPPORTED
05	Khalistan demonstrations tarnish the reputation of Canadian Sikhs.	FALSE

SOURCES

01 https://www.prokerala.com/news/articles/a1831260.html

02 Public Inquiry into Foreign Interference, Final Report, January 2025, Volume 4, pages 103-106

03 Statement of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to the House of Commons, September 18, 2023

04 RCMP public statement on links between agents of the Government of India and criminal activity in Canada, October 14, 2024

05 Establishes the RCMP's publicly reported findings concerning homicides, organized crime, threats to pro-Khalistan individuals and alleged involvement of Indian government agents. *Archive snapshot · Retrieved 2026-11-03.*

06 Trudeau stated: "We will never tolerate the involvement of a foreign government in threatening and killing Canadian citizens on Canadian soil". The statement also explains the basis for Canada's response to Indian diplomatic officials. *Archive snapshot · Retrieved 2026-11-03.*

07 Particularly important because the report documents the evolution from an initial gang-related assessment to intelligence indicating Indian government involvement. It also discusses disinformation targeting Trudeau, Canadian institutions and the Sikh diaspora. *Archive snapshot · Retrieved 2026-11-03.*

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.