Sikh Disinformation Lab

MISLEADING

Punjab Kesari report on CSIS and Khalistani extremism omits report's findings on Indian interference

An English-language Punjab Kesari article frames a CSIS assessment as Canada designating "Khalistani extremists" a national security risk in order to repair relations with India. The Lab assessed the item as misleading: it omits the same report's findings on Indian foreign interference in Canada, which other Indian outlets reported.

> No mention anywhere that the same CSIS report criticises Indian foreign interference in Canada. Deccan Herald carried that. and this one is not mentioning it at all.

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28 August 2026

SOURCE POSTED
4 May 2026

NARRATIVES
Claims That Sikhs Are Taking Over Public Institutions

THE CLAIM

Canada Names Khalistani Extremists a 'National Security Risk' to Rebuild India Ties

THE ANALYSIS

What was published

On 4 May 2026, the English-language edition of Punjab Kesari published an article headlined "Canada Names Khalistani Extremists a 'National Security Risk' to Rebuild India Ties." The piece presents a Canadian Security Intelligence Service assessment as evidence that Ottawa has identified Khalistani extremism as a threat, and links that identification to an effort to rebuild ties with India.

In the portion captured by the Lab, the article asserts that "these individuals have successfully integrated themselves into various Canadian institutions, using them as platforms to promote radical ideologies."

The verdict

The Lab has assessed the item as **disinformation, misleading in nuance**, with a severity rating of 3 out of 5 and a finding that it contains inaccuracies.

The basis for that assessment is omission. The CSIS reporting the article draws on also contains findings critical of Indian foreign interference in Canada. The Punjab Kesari article makes no mention of that element anywhere in the text. Readers are presented with one half of a two-sided assessment, and the half that is presented is then framed as the report's purpose.

This is not a case in which the underlying source document is contested. Other Indian outlets covering the same material reported the interference findings. Deccan Herald carried that component. The selective presentation is therefore specific to this item rather than a reflection of limited information available to Indian newsrooms at the time of publication.

Why the omission matters

The headline does more than summarise; it supplies a motive. It states that Canada "names" Khalistani extremists a national security risk "to rebuild India ties" — presenting the security assessment as a diplomatic concession rather than an intelligence finding. That framing is difficult to sustain if the same assessment also documents Indian foreign interference in Canada, which is a finding adverse to the Indian government rather than accommodating of it.

The effect on readers is to convert a document that addresses multiple threat vectors into a document about one. Where a security assessment identifies concerns on more than one front, reporting that presents only one front — and then attributes a geopolitical purpose to the report on that basis — misrepresents the source material even where individual sentences drawn from it are accurate.

The Lab notes separately the characterisation, asserted in the article, that individuals have "successfully integrated themselves into various Canadian institutions, using them as platforms to promote radical ideologies."

This is presented in the article as description rather than as a sourced finding attributed to a named authority. The Lab records it as the publisher's assertion.

Context

The Lab has catalogued this item under the Claims That Sikhs Are Taking Over Public Institutions narrative. Framing of the type identified here — foregrounding Canadian security references to Khalistani extremism while suppressing the same documents' findings on Indian state activity in Canada — is a recurring pattern in the material the Lab monitors. The pattern is significant because it uses genuine Canadian government sourcing, which lends the resulting account credibility that a fabricated claim would not carry.

The Lab makes no finding as to why this article omitted the interference findings, and no finding of coordination. The assessment addresses the content of the published item and its fidelity to the source material it invokes.

Readers encountering coverage of Canadian security assessments are advised to check whether reporting accounts for the full range of threats identified in the underlying document, and to compare coverage across outlets where a summary appears to attribute a diplomatic motive to an intelligence product.

SOURCES

01 https://english.punjabkesari.com/world/canada-csis-khalistani-extremists-national-security-threat-2026/

02 The Lab's analyst review record (verdict: Disinformation / Misleading; severity 3; the Claims That Sikhs Are Taking Over Public Institutions narrative)

03 Deccan Herald coverage of the same CSIS report, cited in the analyst review as carrying the report's findings on Indian foreign interference in Canada

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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