Sikh Disinformation Lab

FALSE

Syndicated Indian report misstates Trudeau's departure and calls Nijjar allegations "unsubstantiated"

A report carried on MSN about a possible Modi visit for the G20 summit asserts that Canada's allegations regarding the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar were "unsubstantiated" and that Justin Trudeau was "subsequently removed from power in previous elections." The Lab assesses both claims as false.

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24 September 2026

SOURCE POSTED
22 September 2026

NARRATIVES
Portraying Foreign Governments as Safe Havens for Sikh Activists · Portraying Advocacy for Khalistan as Terrorism · Claiming Authorities Shield Sikh Activists from Prosecution

OUR ASSESSMENT

A syndicated report published 23 September 2026 on the G20 summit and a possible Modi visit to Canada states that the diplomatic breakdown between the two countries arose from Canada's "soft approach towards Khalistani extremist elements" and "unsubstantiated allegations" made by former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, "who was subsequently removed from power in previous elections."

Justin Trudeau was not removed from power in an election. He resigned as Liberal leader in January 2025 and left office in March 2025 following a leadership contest won by Mark Carney. He did not lead his party into an election after making the statement referred to.

The allegations are not unsubstantiated. Four individuals face first-degree murder and conspiracy charges in Canada in connection with the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar. The charges are before the courts. The Government of Canada has stated that agents of the Government of India were involved, and Canada's Foreign Interference Commission found that agents of the Government of India target Sikhs in Canada.

This is the third occasion since 22 August on which an Indian outlet has reported that Canada withdrew or failed to substantiate its position. None has attributed the claim to any named official, date or document.

THE CLAIM

PM Modi may visit US for G20 summit, bilateral with Trump on cards

THE ANALYSIS

What was published

On 22 September 2026, MSN carried a syndicated report headlined "PM Modi may visit US for G20 summit, bilateral with Trump on cards." The item, originating in India and published in English, reports that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will travel to the United States, Canada and Europe in December for what it describes as a four-nation tour for "key strategic" engagements.

In characterizing the state of India–Canada relations, the report attributes the diplomatic breakdown to the Canadian government's "soft approach towards Khalistani extremist elements" and to "unsubstantiated allegations against India." The report further describes those allegations as having been made by former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, "who was subsequently removed from power in previous elections."

Verdict

The Lab assesses the relevant passages as **disinformation — false**, with severity rated 3 of 5. The report contains factual inaccuracies on two distinct points.

Trudeau was not voted out

The assertion that Justin Trudeau was "removed from power in previous elections" is inaccurate. Trudeau resigned as leader of the Liberal Party in January 2025 and left office in March 2025, following a leadership contest won by Mark Carney. He did not lead his party into a general election after making the statement to which the report refers.

The distinction is not cosmetic. The report presents an electoral defeat as an implied public repudiation of the allegations Trudeau made in the House of Commons. No such electoral event occurred.

> A CEPA between India and Canada could be a major milestone in the relationship, which has seen troublesome time in the last few years due to the Canadian government's soft approach towards Khalistani extremist elements and unsubstantiated allegations against India inside the Canadian Parliament by former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who was subsequently removed from power in previous elections. The pragmatic approach of Prime Minister Mark Carney, appreciated by diplomats in New Delhi, has put the relationship into a new phase of warmth and mutual respect.

The excerpt inaccurately states that former prime minister Justin Trudeau was “removed from power” in an election. Trudeau announced his resignation in January 2025 and remained prime minister until Mark Carney was sworn in on March 14, 2025; he was not defeated or removed from office through a general election. — Source: MSN

The allegations are before the courts

The report's description of the allegations as "unsubstantiated" is also inaccurate.

Four individuals face charges of first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder in Canada in connection with the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar. Those charges are currently before the courts and have not been tested at trial.

Separately, the Government of Canada has stated that agents of the Government of India were involved. Canada's Foreign Interference Commission found that agents of the Government of India target Sikhs in Canada.

A matter that has produced criminal charges before Canadian courts, a stated position of the Government of Canada, and a finding by a federal commission of inquiry cannot accurately be described as unsubstantiated. Whether the criminal allegations are ultimately proven is a question for the courts; the characterization in the report pre-empts that process in the opposite direction.

A recurring pattern

This is the third occasion since 22 August on which an Indian outlet has reported that Canada withdrew its position or failed to substantiate it. In none of the three instances has the claim been attributed to a named official, a specific date, or an identifiable document.

The absence of sourcing is the central weakness. A retraction or withdrawal by a government is an event that leaves a record — a statement, a transcript, a filing. Reports asserting that such a withdrawal occurred, without pointing to any of these, provide readers with no means of verification.

The Lab makes no assertion here about how or why the claim came to be repeated across outlets. The finding is confined to the accuracy of the published text.

Why it matters

The passages in question appear incidentally, in a report whose main subject is scheduling and summit diplomacy. Claims embedded in routine coverage are less likely to be scrutinized than claims presented as headline assertions, and syndication through a large aggregator such as MSN extends their reach well beyond the originating outlet's readership.

The framing also carries a specific implication for Sikhs in Canada. By pairing an inaccurate description of the Nijjar allegations with a reference to a "soft approach towards Khalistani extremist elements," the report presents Canadian law enforcement and judicial processes as a matter of political indulgence rather than of evidence.

The Lab notes that this item falls within the Portraying Foreign Governments as Safe Havens for Sikh Activists narrative, which tracks claims that Canada has retreated from or failed to support its stated position regarding the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

The Lab has not identified any correction or clarification appended to the report as captured.

SOURCES

01 https://www.msn.com/en-in/news/other/pm-modi-may-visit-us-for-g20-summit-bilateral-with-trump-on-cards/ar-AA2cNGwE

02 The Lab's analyst review, the Portraying Foreign Governments as Safe Havens for Sikh Activists narrative (verdict: Disinformation / False; severity 3)

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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