Sikh Disinformation Lab

MISLEADING

Top Indian News report on India's e-visa resumption labels Nijjar a "terrorist" without attribution

A report published by topindiannews.com accurately records the restoration of e-visa services for Canadians, but describes Hardeep Singh Nijjar as a "Khalistani terrorist" in the publication's own voice. The Lab assesses that framing as Misleading.

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10 November 2026

SOURCE POSTED
7 November 2026

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

OUR ASSESSMENT

The Sikh Disinformation Lab (SDL) identifies a specific framing concern in the article's description of Hardeep Singh Nijjar, although its central reporting about the restoration of visa services is factually accurate.

The article refers to Bhai Nijjar as a "Khalistani terrorist" while explaining the diplomatic dispute between Canada and India. Bhai Nijjar had been designated a terrorist by India under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in 2020. However, this was an Indian government designation, not an established finding by Canadian authorities. By presenting the label without attribution, the publication adopts India's characterization as an uncontested fact.

This distinction is particularly important because the diplomatic dispute concerned the assassination of a Canadian citizen on Canadian soil. In September 2023, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau informed Parliament that Canadian security agencies were investigating credible allegations of a potential connection between Indian government agents and Bhai Nijjar's killing.

The article accurately reports the visa restoration but provides limited attention to the seriousness of those allegations and their implications for Canadian sovereignty. It also interprets the resumption of visa services as a sign of improving relations without clarifying that the underlying investigation remained unresolved.

The concern is not the reporting of India's designation or its diplomatic position, both of which are relevant. Rather, it is the presentation of a disputed national-security label in the publication's own voice, without explaining whose assessment it represents.

SDL therefore considers the article's primary news reporting substantially accurate, while identifying misleading attribution and incomplete context in its discussion of Bhai Nijjar's assassination.

THE CLAIM

Easing Diplomatic Tensions? India Resumes E-visa Services For Canadians

THE ANALYSIS

What was published

On 7 November 2026, topindiannews.com published a report headlined "Easing Diplomatic Tensions? India Resumes E-visa Services For Canadians." The article discusses India's restoration of e-visa services for Canadian nationals, which took effect on 22 November 2023, presenting the move as a positive development in diplomatic relations between Canada and India.

In explaining the dispute, the article refers to allegations of Indian government involvement in the killing of "Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar." This description is particularly significant because Bhai Hardeep Singh Nijjar was a Canadian citizen, a Sikh community leader and an advocate for Khalistan who was assassinated outside a gurdwara in Surrey, British Columbia, on June 18, 2023.

The Lab's assessment

The Sikh Disinformation Lab (SDL) identifies a significant framing concern in the article's treatment of Bhai Hardeep Singh Nijjar's assassination and the diplomatic dispute that followed.

Claim: Hardeep Singh Nijjar was a Khalistani terrorist. Verdict: Misleading.

The article conveniently adopts India's designation of Bhai Nijjar as a terrorist without explaining that this characterization originated with the Indian government under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in July 2020. It presents the designation as an established fact rather than a disputed classification made by the same government whose agents were subsequently accused of involvement in his assassination.

This framing shifts attention from the killing of a Canadian Sikh political leader to the allegations made against him by India. Bhai Nijjar's advocacy for Khalistan was a central part of his political identity, but support for Sikh self-determination does not, by itself, establish involvement in terrorism or violence.

By repeatedly identifying him through India's security designation, rather than acknowledging his role as a Sikh political and community leader, such reporting risks reducing the significance of his assassination and reinforcing the suggestion that his political beliefs made him a legitimate security target.

Why the attribution matters

The distinction becomes especially important when considering the circumstances of Bhai Nijjar's assassination and the subsequent allegations of transnational repression.

On September 18, 2023, then Prime Minister Justin Trudeau informed the Canadian Parliament that security agencies were investigating credible allegations linking agents of the Government of India to Bhai Nijjar's killing. Trudeau emphasized that the involvement of a foreign government in the killing of a Canadian citizen on Canadian soil would constitute an unacceptable violation of Canada's sovereignty.

These concerns extended beyond a diplomatic disagreement. In October 2024, the RCMP publicly identified links between agents of the Government of India and violent criminal activity in Canada, including homicides, intimidation, organized crime and threats against members of the South Asian community, particularly individuals associated with the pro-Khalistan movement.

Against this background, the article's use of India's terrorist designation is not a neutral description. It foregrounds allegations against the person who was killed while giving considerably less attention to the Canadian investigation into possible foreign-state involvement in his assassination.

For Canadian Sikhs, the issue is not simply how Bhai Nijjar is described. It is how the political identity of a Canadian citizen who was assassinated can become the focus of reporting, while the serious questions surrounding foreign interference, transnational repression and accountability receive comparatively limited attention.

The scope of the concern

The article also presents the restoration of visa services as an indication of improving diplomatic relations without adequately distinguishing diplomatic engagement from accountability for Bhai Nijjar's assassination.

India's decision to resume e-visa services did not establish that the allegations concerning its agents had been disproven, nor did it represent a withdrawal of Canada's concerns. The restoration of a consular service and the investigation of a Canadian citizen's assassination are separate matters.

The broader concern is how diplomatic normalization can be framed as though the underlying dispute has been settled. Improved bilateral relations do not erase the allegations raised by Canadian authorities or diminish the seriousness of potential foreign involvement in violence against Sikh Canadians.

The article's framing risks creating precisely that impression by presenting a diplomatic development alongside an unqualified terrorist label, without adequately addressing the unresolved questions of responsibility and accountability.

Assessment

The Lab assesses the article as **Misleading, with a severity rating of 2**, based on its treatment of Bhai Hardeep Singh Nijjar and the selective context surrounding his assassination.

The central concern is the normalization of India's terrorist designation as an unquestioned description of a Sikh political leader who was assassinated on Canadian soil, at a time when Canadian authorities had raised serious allegations concerning Indian government involvement.

The article also presents the restoration of visa services as a positive diplomatic development without adequately explaining that diplomatic engagement does not resolve allegations of transnational repression or the responsibility for Bhai Nijjar's killing.

The wider information-integrity concern is how a Sikh political leader's identity can be reduced to a disputed security designation, shifting scrutiny away from the assassination itself and toward the political beliefs of the person who was killed. Such framing risks diminishing public understanding of the seriousness of transnational repression allegations and the protection owed to Canadian citizens, regardless of their political views.

CLAIMS ASSESSED

01	Hardeep Singh Nijjar was a Khalistani terrorist	MISLEADING

SOURCES

01 https://www.topindiannews.com/international/easing-diplomatic-tensions-india-resumes-e-visa-services-for-canadians-mkir-news-762

02 Sikh Disinformation Lab analyst review of the above item (verdict: Misleading; severity 2)

03 Government of India designation of Hardeep Singh Nijjar under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, July 2020

04 Statement by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to the House of Commons, September 2023, on credible allegations of a potential link between agents of the Government of India and the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar

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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