Sikh Disinformation Lab

MISLEADING

Organiser article ties "Khalistani activists" to a US "wave of Hinduphobia" without evidence

An Organiser commentary published 25 September 2026 asserts that "Khalistani activists" — alongside "Pro-Pakistani Muslim-Americans" and several US Muslim organisations — are contributing to a wave of Hinduphobia in the United States. The Lab's review finds the claim unsupported and the framing misleading.

PUBLISHED
28 September 2026

SOURCE POSTED
25 September 2026

NARRATIVES
Claiming Pakistan Controls Sikh Political Activism · Portraying Advocacy for Khalistan as Terrorism · Claims That Sikhs Are Taking Over Public Institutions · Portraying Sikh Protests as Extremist Activity

OUR ASSESSMENT

-Generalization from one actor to a political category: The article moves from Pannun specifically to the broader plural category “Khalistani activists”, without supplying evidence that Khalistan activists as a class are responsible for anti-Hindu hatred. What the article does not establish is the broader claim that Khalistani activists collectively are driving a “wave” of Hinduphobia.

-Political advocacy is folded into religious hatred: The piece does not distinguish between advocating for Khalistan, membership/support for SFJ, and actual anti-Hindu speech or conduct. Instead, “Khalistani activists” are introduced as contributors to religious hatred. That risks converting a political position into an anti-Hindu religious characteristic. The distinction matters because SFJ openly describes itself as campaigning for Sikh self-determination, while the U.S. has not adopted India’s designation of SFJ as a terrorist organization; India itself sought such a U.S. designation in 2025. Sikhs For Justice

-Guilt-by-association framing: The same sentence places “Khalistani activists like Pannun” alongside “Pro-Pakistani Muslim-Americans” and organizations such as CAIR, ISNA and the Muslim Brotherhood, presenting them collectively as contributors to religious hatred without demonstrating an operational relationship or common campaign.

-No evidence is provided for the causal claim: The article makes the sweeping assertion that these groups are “contributing to this wave” of Hinduphobia, but it gives no data, incidents, study, law-enforcement finding, or other evidence showing how much of the alleged U.S. Hinduphobia is attributable to Khalistan activists.That makes the broader proposition unsupported, even though individual statements by Pannun can legitimately be criticized.

THE CLAIM

India-US Ties Beyond Trump: Civilisational connect, diaspora contributions to the economy & countering Hinduphobia

THE ANALYSIS

What was published

On 25 September 2026, the Indian outlet Organiser (organiser.org) published a commentary titled "India-US Ties Beyond Trump: Civilisational connect, diaspora contributions to the economy & countering Hinduphobia."

The piece surveys the state of India–United States relations and turns, in part, to what it describes as "this pernicious wave of Hinduphobia" in the United States. In the passage flagged for review, the article names "Khalistani activists like Gurpatwant Singh Pannun from the Sikhs for Justice" and "Pro-Pakistani" Muslim-Americans, associated in the same sentence with CAIR, ISNA and the Muslim Brotherhood, as contributors to that alleged wave.

The verdict

The Lab assesses the relevant claims as **disinformation, misleading in nuance**, at severity 3 of 5. The core proposition — that Khalistan activists as a category are driving anti-Hindu hatred in the United States — is unsupported by the article itself.

What the review found

Generalisation from one actor to a political category. The article moves from Pannun specifically to the broader plural category "Khalistani activists," without supplying evidence that Khalistan activists as a class are responsible for anti-Hindu hatred. Individual statements by Pannun can legitimately be criticised; that is a separate matter from the article's much wider assertion about a political constituency.

Political advocacy folded into religious hatred. The piece does not distinguish between advocating for Khalistan, membership in or support for Sikhs For Justice, and actual anti-Hindu speech or conduct. By introducing "Khalistani activists" as contributors to religious hatred, it risks converting a political position into an anti-Hindu religious characteristic. The distinction matters: SFJ openly describes itself as campaigning for Sikh self-determination, and the United States has not adopted India's designation of SFJ as a terrorist organisation. India itself sought such a US designation in 2025.

Guilt-by-association framing. The same sentence places "Khalistani activists like Pannun" alongside "Pro-Pakistani Muslim-Americans" and organisations including CAIR, ISNA and the Muslim Brotherhood, presenting them collectively as contributors to religious hatred. The article does not demonstrate an operational relationship or a common campaign between these very different actors. Placing them in a single list implies a coordination the text never establishes.

No evidence for the causal claim. The article asserts that these groups are "contributing to this wave" of Hinduphobia, but offers no data, documented incidents, study, law-enforcement finding or other evidence indicating how much of the alleged Hinduphobia in the United States is attributable to Khalistan activists. Without that, the broader proposition remains unsupported.

A third claim

The Lab also reviewed the article's characterisation of caste discrimination legislation as a device by "leftist-liberal-democratic socialist politicians" to "hobble this successful model minority." This claim is assessed as misleading. It attributes a single political motive to caste-discrimination protections without supporting evidence.

Why it matters

The pattern identified here — naming one controversial individual, then extending responsibility to an entire political category, and then grouping that category with unrelated organisations under a shared accusation — is a recurring feature of the narrative cluster the Lab tracks as the Claiming Pakistan Controls Sikh Political Activism narrative.

For Sikhs in Canada and the United States, the practical effect of such framing is that ordinary political advocacy on Sikh self-determination is recast as participation in religious hatred. That recasting is not supported by the material the article provides.

The Lab's assessment concerns the content of the article and the evidence it offers. It makes no assertion about the intent of its author or publisher.

CLAIMS ASSESSED

01	The article claims that “Khalistani activists” are contributing to a broader wave of religious hatred and Hinduphobia in the United States, using Gurpatwant Singh Pannun as its example.	UNSUPPORTED
02	Sikh activists and "Pro-Pakistani Muslim-Americans supported by CAIR, ISNA and the Muslim Brotherhood" are jointly fomenting Hinduphobia.	MISLEADING
03	Caste discrimination laws are a device by "leftist-liberal-democratic socialist politicians" to "hobble this successful model minority."	MISLEADING

SOURCES

01 https://organiser.org/2026/09/25/382724/world/india-us-ties-beyond-trump-civilisational-connect-diaspora-contributions-to-the-econ

02 The Lab's analyst review record, flagged item, the Claiming Pakistan Controls Sikh Political Activism narrative (verdict: Disinformation / Misleading, severity 3)

03 Sikhs For Justice, self-description as a campaign for Sikh self-determination (cited in analyst review)

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.

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