Sikh Disinformation Lab

MISLEADING

Organiser recasts questions about the Pannun murder-for-hire plot as “Khalistani propaganda”

An Organiser report on External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's exchange with a Pakistani journalist at the UN General Assembly frames the episode as “Pakistan sponsored … Khalistani propaganda.” The Lab assesses the framing as misleading: it omits the journalist's separate question about the attempted assassination of Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, a matter substantiated by ongoing U.S. criminal proceedings.

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28 September 2026

SOURCE POSTED
26 September 2026

NARRATIVES
Claiming Pakistan Controls Sikh Political Activism · Labelling Sikh Individuals as Terrorists Without Evidence · Portraying Advocacy for Khalistan as Terrorism

OUR ASSESSMENT

Organiser accurately reports that External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar rejected a Pakistani journalist's allegation that India sponsors terrorism in Pakistan. However, the article's accompanying framing describes the exchange as "Pakistan sponsored … Khalistani propaganda" while omitting the journalist's separate question concerning the attempted assassination of Sikh separatist activist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun in New York. The existence of the Pannun assassination conspiracy is supported by U.S. criminal proceedings. In February 2026, Nikhil Gupta pleaded guilty to murder-for-hire and related conspiracy charges in connection with the plot. U.S. prosecutors also charge that Vikash Yadav, who was an Indian government employee at the relevant time, directed the operation; those allegations against Yadav remain before the courts. Characterizing the subject itself as "Khalistani propaganda" therefore obscures established evidence while also implying a Pakistan–Khalistan coordination for which the article provides no supporting evidence.

THE CLAIM

"A terrorist country asking me"? EAM Jaishankar exposes Pakistani reporter's propaganda & state-sponsored terrorism

THE ANALYSIS

Verdict

Misleading. The Lab assesses the Organiser item as disinformation by framing, with a severity rating of 4 of 5. The underlying report of the exchange is accurate, but the framing applied to it recharacterizes a documented criminal matter as propaganda, and attributes it to Pakistan without evidence.

What was published

On 26 September 2026, Organiser (organiser.org), published in India, carried a report headlined "'A terrorist country asking me'? EAM Jaishankar exposes Pakistani reporter's propaganda & state-sponsored terrorism."

The article reports that, on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly session, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar responded to a question from a Pakistani journalist. The item states that Jaishankar "outrightly destroyed the propaganda question of Pakistani journalist." Accompanying material carried in the piece asserts that Jaishankar "blasts Pakistan sponsored juvenile theatrics and Khalistani propaganda at the @UN."

“A terrorist country asking me”? EAM Jaishankar exposes Pakistani reporter’s propaganda & state-sponsored terrorism

On the sidelines of the UNGA session, EAM Jaishankar outrightly destroyed the propaganda question of Pakistani journalist, thus exposed how Islamabad runs terrorism as a state-sponsored policy & provides safe-haven to terror outfits

Organiser frames a Pakistani journalist’s question at the UN General Assembly as “propaganda” and links the exchange to state-sponsored terrorism, setting the tone for a broader narrative that also dismisses scrutiny of the Pannun assassination plot as Pakistan-linked “Khalistani propaganda.” — Source: Organizer

What the review found

The Lab's analyst confirms that Organiser accurately reports the substance of one part of the exchange: Jaishankar rejected the Pakistani journalist's allegation that India sponsors terrorism in Pakistan.

The difficulty lies in what the framing does with the rest of the exchange. The journalist also put a separate question concerning the attempted assassination of Sikh separatist activist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun in New York. The Organiser item does not acknowledge that question, while the framing applied to the encounter characterizes the exchange as “Pakistan sponsored … Khalistani propaganda.”

That characterization is misleading on two counts.

First, the existence of the plot against Pannun is not a matter of allegation alone. It is supported by criminal proceedings in the United States. In February 2026, Nikhil Gupta pleaded guilty to murder-for-hire and related conspiracy charges in connection with the plot. U.S. prosecutors further charge that Vikash Yadav, who was an Indian government employee at the relevant time, directed the operation. The allegations against Yadav remain before the courts and have not been determined. Describing questions about that subject as “Khalistani propaganda” obscures the evidentiary record established through those proceedings.

Second, the framing implies coordination between Pakistan and Khalistan-related advocacy — that the question about Pannun was itself “Pakistan sponsored.” The article provides no supporting evidence for that implication. The Lab assesses the claim that Pakistan was behind the Pannun question as unsupported.

Claims assessed

- That the Pannun question constituted “Khalistani propaganda” — **misleading**, as it disregards the U.S. criminal proceedings substantiating the existence of the murder-for-hire conspiracy.
- That Pakistan was behind the Pannun or Khalistan-related question — **unsupported**; no evidence is offered in the item.
- That framing questions about the attempted assassination of Gurpatwant Singh Pannun as “Pakistan sponsored … Khalistani propaganda,” without acknowledging the related U.S. proceedings, fairly represents the exchange — **misleading**.

Context

The technique at issue here is not fabrication. The reported exchange occurred, and Jaishankar's rejection of the terrorism-sponsorship allegation is reported accurately. What the Lab flags is selective omission combined with a label: a documented legal matter is left out of the account, and the journalist's line of questioning is collectively relabelled as adversarial propaganda originating with a foreign state.

The practical effect is to treat scrutiny of an alleged transnational plot against a Sikh activist as an artefact of Pakistani information operations rather than as a subject with a record before the U.S. courts. The Lab tracks this pattern under the Claiming Pakistan Controls Sikh Political Activism narrative.

Readers encountering coverage of the Pannun matter should note the distinction between the guilty plea already entered by Nikhil Gupta and the charges against Vikash Yadav, which remain unproven and before the courts.

CLAIMS ASSESSED

01	The Pannun question was “Khalistani propaganda”	MISLEADING
02	Pakistan was behind the Pannun/Khalistan question	UNSUPPORTED
03	The article frames questioning about the attempted assassination of Gurpatwant Singh Pannun as “Pakistan sponsored … Khalistani propaganda,” without acknowledging the U.S. criminal proceedings that substantiate the existence of the murder-for-hire conspiracy.	MISLEADING

SOURCES

01 https://organiser.org/2026/09/26/382831/world/a-terrorist-country-asking-me-eam-jaishankar-exposes-pakistani-reporters-propagan

02 The Lab's analyst review of the flagged item (verdict: Disinformation / Misleading; severity 4; the Claiming Pakistan Controls Sikh Political Activism narrative)

03 U.S. criminal proceedings: guilty plea of Nikhil Gupta to murder-for-hire and related conspiracy charges, February 2026, as cited in the Lab's review

04 U.S. prosecutors' charges against Vikash Yadav in connection with the alleged plot, as cited in the Lab's review (allegations remain before the courts)

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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