

# CANADA'S DARKENING HORIZON

RED FLAGS & ALARMING TRENDS



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## **Canada's Darkening Horizon: Red Flags and Alarming Trends**

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## Executive Summary

- Canada, known for its openness to immigrants, faces a significant extremist threat, despite law-abiding nature of most migrants and the Indian diaspora in particular.
- The challenge posed by Khalistani extremism is a prominent example of this threat. These radicalised, violent individuals and organizations have either been supported, nurtured or influenced by Pakistan to destabilise India since the 1970s.
- Over the years, Khalistani extremism has metamorphosed into global menace responsible for some of the most heinous terrorist attacks around the world.
- Canada's relationship with Khalistani elements spans over four decades, characterised by a concerning leniency toward their presence in Canada providing a safe haven to carry out their activities around the world.
- The 1970s and early 1980s witnessed a major influx of Khalistani extremists settling in Canada, coinciding with strained relations between India and Canada since then.
- Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's father, Pierre Trudeau, is believed to have shielded Talwinder Parmar, a terror leader of proscribed Khalistani terrorist outfit Babbar Khalsa responsible for the 1985 terrorist bombing of Air India Flight 182.
- 1985 bombing of Air India Flight 182, Punjab insurgency and terrorism in India (1970-90s) and recent unchecked attacks on India's Consulates, Hindu temples and vandalism of Gandhi statues in Canada suggest that not a lot has changed in the Trudeau family's psyche.
- These historical events coupled with today's challenges continue to cast a shadow on India-Canada relations, with PM Justin Trudeau appearing to follow in his father's legacy, raising concerns about his government's true stance on Khalistani extremism inside Canada.
- This trend has intensified since strict crackdown on extremist ideologies in India since Narendra Modi formed a majority government in 2014 and the formation of Trudeau-led minority government in Canada since 2015.
- Complex web of connections between Khalistani extremists, Pakistan's ISI and various global terrorist networks is well-documented and raises concerns about their collaboration with

foreign agencies and potential for orchestrated attacks undermining Canada's own security, safety and sovereignty.

- Khalistani extremists have adapted over time, portraying themselves as advocates for human rights and freedom of expression crusaders while operating as socio-political lobbyists in Canada, leaving a concerning impact on Canadian society, specifically on a majority of law abiding peaceful Canadians.
- Khalistani extremist connections with criminal syndicates and foreign agencies also highlight the sophisticated dissemination channels for spread of misinformation, capability of planning and coordinating attacks, amplifying the threat of full blown terrorism posed by Khalistani extremists.
- Over the years, Trudeau's visits to India have sparked controversy due to his interactions and associations with Khalistani extremists, inaction against Khalistani extremism and culturally insensitive actions in and beyond Canada.
- During his recent failed visit for the G-20 Summit in September 2023 to India, Trudeau declined presidential suite offered by India's government, appeared isolated at official banquets and faced several travel mishaps.
- Upon return to Canada, Trudeau sparked controversy on September 18, 2023 by making unsubstantiated allegations against India in Canadian Parliament. The allegations without evidence on the Indian government's hand in killing of Canadian Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar has led to strained relations between the two nations.
- Allegations made by Prime Minister Trudeau without providing any crucial evidence in the Canadian parliament have raised questions about his leadership and Canada's credibility on the global stage.
- Hardeep Singh Nijjar was a notorious terrorist on India's most-wanted list involved in several terror related crimes including training terrorists in a small town southeast of Vancouver in Canada.
- Canadian lawmaker and New Democratic Party (NDP) president Jagmeet Singh backed Trudeau by furthering unverified claims thereby deepening the controversy.

- Strained India-Canada relations affect business, education, trade, investment and diplomacy between the two countries, undermining the harmonious relations that the people of Canada and India share.
- Canadian Liberal MP Chandra Arya accused Khalistani extremists of harassing Hindu-Canadians, urged vigilance and reporting of incidents. Arya's strong dissent within Trudeau's own party highlights concerns about the sanctity of the very allegations posted by Trudeau.
- As of September 28, 2023, Canada has not provided any substantial evidence that definitively establishes a causal connection between "Indian agents" and the killing of Canadian Khalistani terrorist, Hardeep Singh Nijjar.
- Allegations from the floor of Parliament without providing evidence raise questions about Trudeau's intentions, influences, diplomatic sensibility, affecting domestic politics and international relations, particularly with India.
- As Trudeau attempts to internationalise the bilateral issue by involving United States (US). While the US has thus far maintained a balancing act, President Biden should reevaluate all aspects of this situation, particularly if prioritising that Indo-Pacific and Global South are integral to his administration's goals before engaging in this discourse.
- Recent years have brought considerable challenges to Canada's political landscape characterised by fluid dynamics of the Canada's Parliament. These shifts, occurring post-elections and in response to evolving political issues, reveal the intricate interplay of party politics, parliamentary procedures and broader political environment, all significantly influencing Justin Trudeau's leadership.
- Trudeau leads a minority government in 44th parliament holding 160 out of 338 seats with the Conservatives securing 119 seats as the primary opposition. Within this minority government, Jagmeet Singh Dhaliwal of NDP and known proponent of Khalistani separatist agenda has become a trojan figure.
- Lack of majority leaves Trudeau dependent on Jagmeet Singh's support to keep his government in the saddle, amplifying concerns about Trudeau's apparent alignment with Khalistani elements for his own political ambitions.

- Examining Jagmeet Singh's background and actions is essential to understanding his role. In 2013, Singh organised a conference uniting pro-Khalistani groups, tarnishing India's reputation. In 2015, while being a NDP legislator, Jagmeet Singh participated in a pro-Khalistan rally in San Francisco. He openly eulogised Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, an India-designated terrorist.
- Shockingly, in 2016, Jagmeet Singh declared violence as a means to achieve independence from India and backed Pakistani propaganda concerning the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir, shedding light on his motivations and associations.
- The camaraderie between Trudeau and Jagmeet Singh is affecting law-abiding Canadians, challenging core Canadian values like multiculturalism, inclusivity, and integrity. Recent events, including rising Anti-Hindu and Anti-India sentiment and discrimination, particularly against those associated with Indian culture, are eroding Canadian inclusivity.
- The presence of Canadian Khalistani extremist elements within the Punjabi community in Canada advocating for Khalistan undermines Canada's commitment to international law, diplomatic conventions and democratic principles.
- Many of these individuals, originally associated with Punjab's criminal underworld, have shape shifted into dissidents or activists to seek asylum in Canada, often using persecution claims in India to support their asylum applications.
- "Atta Batta" (fraudulent marriages), often forced upon Punjabi women from India, to facilitate illegal immigration and evade legal scrutiny, is a practice associated with Khalistani extremist groups.
- Khalistani extremists are known for engaging in a wide range of criminal activities, including immigration frauds, drug trafficking, human trafficking and exerting influence over various criminal syndicates in Canada.
- The intertwining of fraudulent marriages, immigration frauds, drug and human trafficking, and other criminal activities underscores the complexity of the Khalistani extremist network's presence, operations and influence in Canada.



- External influences, notably from Pakistan but not limited to Pakistan, are suspected of fueling Khalistani extremism and Anti-Hindu/Anti-India sentiment, potentially undermining Canada's sovereignty and interfering in its domestic affairs.
- Under Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's leadership, Canada has witnessed a rise in Anti-Hindu sentiment and Anti-India sentiment. This has become a notable concern, impacting various aspects of Canadian society and international relations.
- The Anti-Hindu and Anti India incidents involve attacks, threats, and hate speech directed at Indian diplomatic missions, Hindu and Sikh temples, and other places of worship. These actions have been orchestrated by Khalistani extremist groups operating within Canada with impunity.
- Trudeau and fellow members of the Liberal Party openly supporting Khalistani groups could incite Quebec activists to question Trudeau's stance on Quebec's secessionist movements.
- There's a looming risk of a Khalistani referendum in Canada, potentially leading to the creation of a separate Khalistani state within Canada.
- Supporting and endorsing violent extremists may be a prelude to terrorism, casting uncertainty over Canada's future under Trudeau's leadership.
- The deteriorating state of India-Canada relations reflects a situation where Canadian interests appear to conflict with the actions and statements of Prime Minister Trudeau. It has become a matter of "Canada vs. Trudeau," emphasizing the need for Canada to reconsider its stance and work toward rebuilding and strengthening diplomatic ties with India for the benefit of both nations and peace loving, law abiding Canadian citizens.
- Western nations, including Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, and Australia, are grappling with the challenge of addressing Khalistani extremism. To combat this growing threat, they must prioritise upholding the rule of law, ensuring security, and fulfilling their diplomatic obligations while preserving human rights and values of all.

# Introduction

In recent years, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's visits to India have come under intense scrutiny owing to controversies surrounding his sojourns. A few years ago, he was seen mingling with Khalistani extremists, an action that drew widespread criticism. Additionally, photographs of Trudeau engaging in Punjabi Bollywood-style dancing while dressed in 'native' Bhartiya attire not only fueled controversy but led many to perceive his actions as culturally insensitive and poorly advised.

During his most recent visit to India for the G-20 Summit in September 2023, Trudeau's actions and decisions once again took center stage. He scripted an unconventional drama by declining the presidential suite offered by India's government in the country's capital, leaving observers puzzled about his motivations. During official G20 banquets, he appeared isolated and on the periphery, indicating a noticeable distancing by the India's government. To compound his visit's challenges, a series of accidental mishaps left Trudeau stranded in Delhi for a couple of days. Technical issues with his official plane delayed his departure and a second plane sent from Canada to retrieve him was unexpectedly diverted to another airport as it too developed snags. Ultimately, when the first plane was repaired, there were more delays and he had to be seen off by a Minister of State from India.

In a preposterous move, Trudeau returned to Canada and stood in its parliament, making allegations regarding involvement of "agents of the India government" in killing of Canadian Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a notorious criminal on India's most-wanted list. Nijjar, who had a significant bounty on his head, was shot dead outside a gurdwara in Canada by unknown assailants, locally rumoured to be a result of criminal syndicate wars that has seen an uptick in recent times. Trudeau's allegations strained diplomatic relations between Canada and India with India's government vehemently rejecting Trudeau's statements and describing them as "absurd and motivated." Recurring controversies and challenges surrounding Justin Trudeau's visits to India have not only raised questions about his diplomatic foresight but have had significant implications for his domestic politics and international relations, particularly between Canada and India.

This report delves further into the background and implications of these incidents, offering a comprehensive analysis of their impact on politics, policies, society, and diplomatic relations and their broader significance on Canadian Society. It sheds light on the multifaceted realm of Khalistani terrorism highlighting its far-reaching consequences with particular focus on its manifestation and the dangers it poses for Western countries, especially Canada, where a dark horizon looms ahead.

## Khalistani Terror Worldwide

Khalistani extremism, backed by Pakistan since partition of erstwhile India occupied by the British aimed to destabilise India by promoting separatism among certain individuals from Punjab in western jurisdictions. The extremism encompasses a multitude of groups and affiliated entities operating on a global scale. These groups find support for their ongoing anti-India and anti-Hindu rhetoric from a range of state and non-state entities. These actors, driven by ideologies or state agendas seek to inflict harm upon India by undermining India's sovereignty and territorial integrity thereby reinforcing the narrative of these groups. In contrast to prevailing beliefs, Khalistani extremism actually finds its roots in Western world. When certain individuals and groups within Punjabi diaspora backed by Pakistan plotted to initiate a horrific terror campaign in India's northern state of Punjab during 1970s and 80s. Over the years, this influence has reverted once more



Khalistani terrorists from the proscribed Babbar Khalsa pictured for propaganda during 1980s.

extending to Western nations such as Canada, United States, United Kingdom, Australia, Italy and Germany among others. In recent times, these countries have witnessed an uptick in the presence and activities of Khalistani extremist groups within their borders, often associated with criminal activities, immigration and asylum frauds amidst allegations of foreign agency interference in these country's domestic affairs. The acceptance and acknowledgment and sometimes shielding of these groups by select governments under labels of freedom of expression, diversity, human rights and western values have resulted in attempts which undermine India's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Over the years, the positions of various governments have fluctuated, but both Canada and the USA have largely refrained from addressing Khalistani extremism for decades. For instance, in the United States, the International Sikh Organization, established in 1984 and self-proclaimed as the first Khalistani organization, emphasised the imperative for "killing all Hindus" to build Khalistan. It was during the 1980s that the most prominent emergence of violent extremism, ultimately leading to terrorism, became palpable. This period witnessed a series of hijackings and assaults, hate speech and violence against larger India diaspora and Hindus in particular.

The historical context of Canada's relationship with Khalistani elements spans over four decades and is marked by a concerning leniency towards their presence. The 1970s and early 1980s saw an influx of Khalistani supporters settling in Canada, coinciding with strained relations between Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau and India's Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. In 1971, a Canadian citizen Dr. Jagjit Singh Chauhan, declared himself the president of Khalistan through an advertisement in The New York Times. In 1982, the then Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi voiced concerns about Canada's weak response to the Khalistani threat. She was mercilessly murdered by Khalistani supporters on October 31, 2023. Tragically, in June 1985, the Khalistani terror organization Babbar Khalsa carried out the Air India Kanishka bombing, resulting in the deaths of 329 people, primarily Canadians. Shockingly, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's father Pierre Trudeau is believed to have shielded Talwinder Parmar, a leader of Babbar Khalsa, responsible for the dreaded terrorist act, further straining relations between India and Canada. These events continue to cast a shadow, with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau seemingly following his father's legacy, raising concerns about Canada's genuine stance on Khalistani extremism. In contrast, and more recently realising and acknowledging the extent of the threat posed by Khalistani extremism, the United Kingdom (UK) proscribed groups like Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) since March 2001 and provided assistance and cooperated with India in addressing the issue of Khalistani extremism. Indicating a proactive and informed approach, with its government report highlighting threat posed by Khalistani extremism and subsequently an announcement of allocation of funds to tackle 'pro-Khalistan' extremism.



Certainly, whether it's the US, Canada, or the UK, Pakistan's undeniable involvement in supporting Khalistani groups by providing them with financial, logistical, and terrorist training in Pakistan constitutes a significant part of its broader geopolitical strategy on a global state. This strategy is designed to destabilise India and promote separatist sentiments within the Punjabi community, both domestically and foreign soils. This has been meticulously documented in several academic and scholarly publications over time highlighting a general consensus regarding Pakistan's role in bolstering Khalistani groups against India in the Western world. Furthermore, global media outlets have played a pivotal role in periodically shedding light on the criminal activities of Khalistani groups on an international scale. These reports not only offer insights into their presence and actions but also raise public and governmental awareness concerning potential security implications. The intricate and multifaceted nature of the pro-Khalistan movement, coupled with external influences and varying levels of government tolerance, underscores the necessity for global collaboration and vigilance in addressing potential security concerns—a hindrance to the values of democracy, pluralism, and multiculturalism worldwide. This extensive extremist network includes various criminal syndicates, immigration fraudsters, and propaganda organizations disguising themselves as associations and activist networks. They are involved, both covertly and overtly, in endeavour's to subvert the prevailing sentiments in their host countries, fuel religious divisions, spread anti-Hindu and anti-India sentiments, all while attempting to challenge India's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Some of such organisations are highlighted in the preceding infographic;



Khalistani extremists protesting outside the Indian consulate in London, UK | Pic courtesy: Rahul



## United States of America and Canada

### **Babbar Khalsa International (BKI)**

Listed as terror entity in India, US, Canada

### **International Sikh Organization**

First Khalistani organization in the US

### **Kashmir Khalistan Referendum Front (KKRF)**

Based in Washington

### **Khalistan Affairs Center (KAC)**

Based in Washington, D.C., United States, banned in India, under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA)

### **Sikhs for Justice**

Founder under legal scrutiny in India

### **Global Sikh Affairs Media (TV84)**

Khalistan Propaganda Channel

### **Sikh Youth of America**

The International Sikh Youth Federation (ISYF) is organizationally the overseas arm of the Sikh Student Federation; In the US the related group is named the Sikh Youth of America (SYA). Both ISYF Canada and SYA are openly Khalistani organizations.

### **Dal Khalsa USA**

Dal Khalsa is an extremist Khalistani organisation

### **International Sikh Youth Federation (ISYF)**

Listed as terror entity in Canada

### **American Sikh Congressional Caucus**

The American Sikh Congressional Caucus launched on April 24, 2013, Representatives of nearly all U.S. national Sikh organizations - including United Sikhs, the Sikh Coalition, the Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund, and Sikhs For Justice - gathered with lawmakers April 24 on Capitol Hill for the launch of the American Sikh Congressional Caucus.

### **World Sikh Parliament**

The World Sikh Parliament, also known as the World Sikh Organization (WSO), The organization has two branches, WSO-Canada and WSO-America, with headquarters in Ottawa and New York.

### **Sikh Coordination Committee East Coast**

The Sikh Coordination Committee East Coast (SCCEC) based in the United States, specifically in East Elmhurst, New York.

### **American Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee**

The American Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (AGPC) based in the United States.

## Separatist Outfits with Alleged Bases in Canada possibly Supporting Terror Groups

### **World Sikh Organization (WSO)**

based in Canada, Support for Khalistani separatism, National Council of Canadian Muslims (NCCM) along with World Sikh Organisation (WSO) has demanded that Canada cut all its ties with India and ban RSS

### **Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF)**

'Terrorist Organization' 'Terrorist' under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA), The Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF) is a terrorist organization, primarily active in the Khalistan movement. The Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF) is primarily based in Pakistan, with its supporters located in various countries, including France, Canada, and Spain.

### **Sikhs for Justice (SFJ)**

Based in US, Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) terrorist organisation banned in India on July 10, 2019, by the Government of India under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

### **Babbar Khalsa International (BKI)**

Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) oldest Khalistan terrorist groups, with its origins tracing back to the Babbar Akali Movement of 1920. BKI is officially banned and designated as a terrorist entity by countries such as India and Canada. headquarters in Lahore, Pakistan.

### **Dashmesh Regiment of Khalistan**

Involvement in Khalistan movement and terrorist bombings, Dashmesh Regiment, along with the Babbar Khalsa active overseas, particularly in Canada and West Germany.

### **Babbar Khalsa International**

BKI is officially banned and designated as a terrorist organization by various countries, including Canada, headquarters in Lahore, Pakistan, BKI operates in various countries, including the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Belgium, Norway, Switzerland, and Pakistan, organization is known for its armed attacks, assassinations, and bombings primarily against Indian targets.

### **International Sikh Youth Federation**

ISYF is banned as a terrorist organization under Australian, European Union, Japanese, Indian, Canadian, and American counter-terrorism legislation. The Government of India has also declared it a terrorist organization.

### **Khalistan Commando Force**

KCF officially listed as a terrorist organization by the Government of India. The group's activities and objectives were considered a grave national security threat, leading to its ban and designation as a terrorist entity.

### **Khalistan Zindabad Force**

The KZF has been involved in various attacks, including the Vienna temple attack, KZF is currently active. It is designated as a terrorist organization by India and the European Union. KZF's sources of funding include the Sikh diaspora in the United Kingdom, Canada, Malaysia, Pakistan, and Spain.

### **Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF)**

Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF) Khalistani terrorist organization. KLF has been tasked by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) for terrorist activities. In 2023, Punjab Police arrested five foreign-based KLF operatives, foiling a conspiracy by Pakistan's ISI.

### **Khalistan Liberation Army (KLA)**

Khalistan Liberation Army (KLA) is a terrorist group that is part of the Khalistan movement, the KLF received funding from the United Kingdom, Malaysia, Spain, and Canada.

### **All India Sikh Students Federation (AISSF)**

Listed as terror entity in Canada, International Sikh Youth Federation (ISYF) was founded in 1984 in the United Kingdom as an international branch of the All India Sikh Students' Federation (AISSF), with centres in several countries, including Canada. ISYF collaborates and/or associates with a number of Sikh terrorist organizations, including Babbar Khalsa International.

### **Bhindranwale Tiger Force (BTF)**

Bhindranwale Tiger Force of Khalistan (BTfK), also known as the Bhindranwale Tiger Force (BTF), Khalistani terrorist group involved in the Khalistan movement.

## **New Generation of radicalized Sikh Organizations**

### **United Sikhs**

### **Poetic Justice Foundation**

### **Sikh Coalition**

### **Khalistan Food For All (KFFA)**

Khalistan Food For All (KFFA) Based in Washington, D.C. KFFA associated with the banned Khalistani terrorist group Sikhs For Justice (SFJ).

### **The Jakarta Movement**

### **The Sikh Research Institute**

### **The Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund**

### **Khalsa Aid**

Front for Babbar Khalsa International according to India's National Investigation Agency (NIA)

## **United Kingdom**

### **Babbar Khalsa International (BKI)**

Proscribed since Mar 2001

### **Dal Khalsa UK**

Indian government banned both the Dal Khalsa UK and the National Council of Khalistan, A member of Dal Khalsa UK, Gurcharan Singh, was identified as the person who verbally abused a Gujarati Hindu man in London.

### **Sikh Federation UK (SFUK)**

Sikh Federation UK (SFUK) Based in UK the Sikh Federation UK (SFUK), ISYF, after being outlawed, created a successor organisation called Sikh Federation UK (SFUK).

### **International Sikh Youth Federation (ISYF)**

Removed from proscribed list in Mar 2016

### **Federation of Sikh Organization (FSO)**

The FSO is a Khalistani umbrella organization based in the United Kingdom. FSO has links with various Khalistani organizations, including the Sikh Federation (UK), All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for British Sikhs, Young Sikhs (UK), Sikh Secretariat, and Khalsa Human Rights.

### **World Sikh Parliament**

World Sikh Parliament associated with banned terrorist Khalistani organization International Sikh Youth Federation (ISYF).

Reflecting on the extensive network and sheer numbers involved, it becomes clear that Khalistani groups pose a threat not only to India but also to nations globally that either support them or adopt an aloof or indifferent stance. This underscores the critical importance of upholding the rule of law and ensuring security. The violent actions carried out by factions within this movement, as exemplified by banned Khalistani organizations such as BKI, KZF, and KCF, have raised serious concerns regarding their impact on security, human rights, and community relations. Historical events, including the 1985 Air India bombing, murder of Indian PM and recent attacks on India's Consulates and Hindu Temples in the US and Canada, provide concrete evidence of these concerns.

## Khalistani Extremism in Canada

Vast majority of Canadian migrants and members of the diaspora are law-abiding citizens who embrace Canadian laws and cultural heritage. Canada, a constitutional monarchy under reign of King Charles III (UK) is known for its openness to immigrants and currently grapples with a significant extremist threat. Over time, the periodic influx of immigrants, particularly those originating from colonially wronged regions, exposes them to the danger of extremist indoctrination and recruitment. As a consequence, a small minority among them, driven by extremist ideologies, events in their countries of origin, global developments, and foreign influences actively seeks to endorse and participate in violent and extremist activities to further their objectives in Canada and abroad. The challenge posed by Khalistani extremists involving individuals from Punjab in India and Pakistan is something that Canada must confront. Khalistani outfits, once relegated to regional concerns, have now become synonymous with dread, with their fingerprints evident in some of the most harrowing terrorist attacks witnessed in the Western world. The tragic 1985 bombing of Montreal–Bombay Air India Flight 182, which claimed the lives of 329 individuals, stands as a haunting testament to the devastating impact of foreign-influenced extremism in Canada. This horrific tragedy ranks among the deadliest aviation attacks in history and was perpetrated by Khalistani terrorist Talwinder Singh Parmar, a prominent member of Babbar Khalsa, a banned Khalistani terrorist organization with established links to Pakistan.



Irish sailors on June 29, 1985, unloading debris of Air India Flight 182, which had crashed off the coast of Ireland on June 23. The Boeing 747 was bombed by Khalistani terrorists at an altitude of 31,000 feet (9,400 meters), claiming 329 lives. (AFP)



Khalistani extremism finds its origins in a complex web spun by Pakistan's notorious foreign intelligence and spy agency the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), further bolstered by the support of its military apparatus. The primary objective is to sow discord and instability within India by cultivating and endorsing extremist separatism among a specific segment of the population hailing from Punjab, India, and the Punjabi diaspora scattered across the globe. In its ostensibly stated goals, this Pakistan army backed movement aspires to carve out an independent state within India, a vision that intentionally excludes the historical pre-partition boundaries of Punjab now under Pakistan's administration. Over the years, this extremist ideology has undergone significant transformation, masquerading into a movement advocating for human rights and freedom of expression. It has strategically positioned itself as a group of lobbyists, leaving a troubling imprint on Canadian society. These individuals, initially associated with Punjab's criminal underworld, have adeptly assumed the guise of dissidents or transformed themselves into activists, primarily for the



Khalistani gangs and criminal syndicates operate with impunity in Canada.

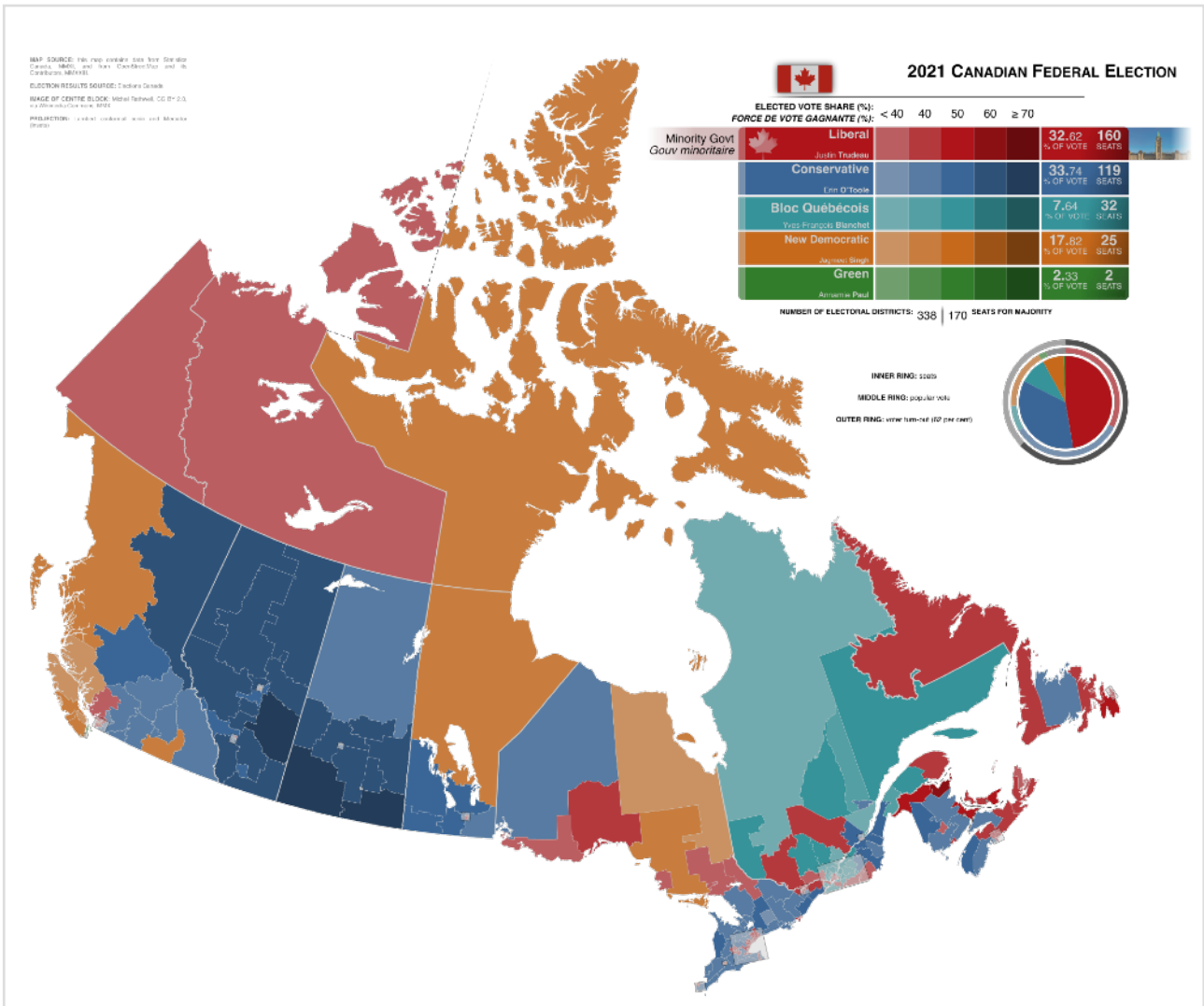
purpose of seeking asylum in Canada. Often, facilitating their asylum claims by providing letters that assert they face persecution in India due to their ideological beliefs. The motivations behind their asylum-seeking endeavours are multi-faceted, often intertwined with illicit activities that yield substantial profits. These activities encompass drug trafficking, where the vast financial gains serve as a driving force. Additionally, Khalistani elements from both Canada and Punjab have gradually taken control of other crime syndicates in Canada, exerting their influence over criminal enterprises in both regions. Moreover, the music and film industry of Punjab have also become entangled with these activities, serving as both a vehicle for cultural expression and a channel for financial transactions related to criminal undertakings. Recent attacks on India Consulates, Hindu and Sikh temples and sacred sites on Canadian soil showcase the broader proliferation of such extreme ideologies and organised extremist groups in Canada. This trend has become more pronounced,

especially since stringent crackdown on such extremist ideologies following ascendance of the Narendra Modi-led government in India in 2014 and formation of a stumbling Trudeau-led dependent coalition government in Canada since 2015. One particularly distressing facet of this nexus involves human trafficking, with Punjabi women being victimised through illegal routes and fraudulent marriages known as "Atta Batta." Atta Batta, a term used to describe a fraudulent marriage practice that has been associated with Khalistani extremists and criminal activities. In this practice, Indian women are victimised through illegal means and forced into marriages with individuals involved in criminal or extremist activities. These marriages are often conducted for the purpose of facilitating immigration or evading legal scrutiny, allowing individuals associated with extremist groups to exploit legal loopholes and gain entry into other countries, particularly Canada. This disturbing practice compounds the intricate web of criminal activities associated with this group and underscores the complexity of their presence in both Canada and Punjab.

Intricate network of connections between Khalistani extremists, Pakistan's foreign intelligence agency, Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and various transnational terrorist and extremist networks is not unknown. This has been meticulously documented in several publications over time, such as "Khalistan: A Project of Pakistan" by senior journalist Terry Milewski. Additionally, it has been presented in a Hudson Institute special publication by its study group on Kashmir and Khalistani movements, titled "Pakistan's Destabilization Playbook: Khalistan Separatist Activism Within the US." The persistent associations with these entities give rise to apprehensions regarding the group's capacity for collaboration with foreign agencies, as well as with other extremist organizations, including those engaged in Jihad against India in Jammu and Kashmir region including those facilitating and operating terrorist training camps in Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK). These affiliations raise significant concerns about their ability to disseminate persuasive misinformation and to strategically plan, organise, and coordinate synchronised attacks in the west. This amplifies the threat they present, which extends beyond India, placing Canada in an urgent and pressing position of vulnerability and insecurity.

# Canada's volatile Political Landscape

Canada's political landscape has encountered unprecedented challenges in recent years with the dynamics in Parliament proving to be fluid and susceptible to change following each election and in response to evolving political issues and public sentiment. The intricate interplay between party politics, parliamentary procedures and the broader political landscape influences the direction and effectiveness of the Trudeau lead Canadian government.



2021 Canadian Federal Election results | Sources: Statistics Canada, OpenStreetMap. Election data from Elections Canada

Trudeau heads a minority government in the 44<sup>th</sup> parliament of Canada. This also means that decision-making authority is not solely vested in him and needs external support or from friendly political formations. Trudeau's Liberal Party secured 160 seats out of 338 while the primary opposition party, the Conservatives, secured 119 seats. Given the minority status of Trudeau government, Jagmeet Singh Dhaliwal, leader of Canada's New Democratic Party (NDP) and a vocal Khalistani sympathiser has emerged as a trojan figure. Prime Minister Trudeau relies heavily on Singh to sustain his government. Apart from domestic political compulsions, Justin Trudeau's explicit backing of violent Khalistani elements follows previously set pattern of providing refuge to individuals and organizations known for their anti-India activities.

Trudeau's efforts to court and appease Khalistani elements became more pronounced with emergence of a competing contender for Khalistani votes with Jagmeet Singh assuming NDP leadership in 2017. In the current scenario, Prime Minister Trudeau's soft handed approach vis-a-vis Khalistanis has shaped his policies towards India and her diaspora that exceed 750,000. Primarily, Jagmeet Singh and his Khalistani network has overbearing influence on Trudeau's policy formulation in relation to both domestic and external sectors. Individuals and organizations that form part of Jagmeet's traditional vote bank allows Trudeau to cling to power.



Trudeau - Jagmeet camaraderie is the cumbersome of unchecked Khalistani extremism in Canada and disrupted relations with India.

One needs to comprehend the role played by Jagmeet Singh also known as Jimmy and delving into his background and activities will help unravel the Canadian political landscape. In 2013, Singh organised a conference in Ontario that brought together all pro-Khalistani terror groups with the intention of tarnishing India's standing on international stage. In 2015, while serving as a member of NDP legislature, Singh participated in a pro-Khalistan rally in San Francisco. Here, he praised Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, a terrorist designated by India that was killed in during Operation Blue Star, a retaliatory military exercise sanctioned by then India Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. This operation undertaken at Golden Temple in 1984 was primarily in response to Pakistan-backed terrorism in the India state of Punjab. Apart from Bhindranwale's killing, scores of arms wielding terrorists were neutralised during this operation.

Shockingly enough, Jagmeet in 2016 endorsed violence as a legitimate means to achieve independent Khalistani homeland separate from India. Following the India government's decision to amend Article 370 of the India Constitution, Singh expressed his support for pro-Pakistan propaganda on Jammu and Kashmir. These instances shed considerable light on Singh's motivations. In February 2016, Jagmeet Singh was invited by National Sikh Youth Federation (NSYF) to speak as a guest in Southall in UK. Notably, he did not challenge or reject Shamsher Singh's endorsement of violence as a means to attain sovereignty. He remained unapologetic about involvement with Pakistan backed individuals and Khalistan separatist groups.

Trudeau - Jagmeet camaraderie has adversely impacted law abiding peaceful Canadians and key values that deeply reflect Canada's national identity: multiculturalism, inclusivity and integrity are being compromised by the very institution that's assigned the primary responsibility to uphold them. Multiculturalism is a fundamental Canadian principle that celebrates diverse cultural backgrounds and ethnicities of its citizens. It emphasises the importance of inclusivity, tolerance, and respect for all individuals, regardless of their cultural or ethnic background. This principle has long been a source of pride for Canada, as it encourages coexistence of communities and fosters sense of unity within diversity. Recent events in Canada have however tested these core values.

With rise of anti-Hindu sentiment where individuals of Hindu descent or those associated with Hindu culture are facing discrimination, prejudice, and hostility due to their faith and identity. This challenges the inclusivity aspect of Canadian identity. It suggests that some segments of society are experiencing exclusion or bias. Presence of fringe but vocal extremist elements within Punjabi community in Canada that advocate Khalistan undermines the country's commitment to International law and principles of democratic structures that behave in a civilised world order. This extremism and ill positioned foreign policy not only threatens social harmony but also challenges multiculturalism principle by potentially sowing division within the diverse Canadian society.

Furthermore, external influences in Canadian society and politics, particularly from Pakistan which are believed to contribute to the rise of Khalistani extremism, anti-Hindu and anti-India sentiment undermines the sovereignty of Canada, independence and integrity of the Canadian parliament. This further suggests that foreign elements may be interfering in Canada's domestic affairs and potentially stoking tensions within Canadian society.

Canadian Prime Minister and his colleagues in the Liberal Party openly supporting Khalistani groups could potentially incite Quebec activists to question Trudeau's stance on secessionist movements closer to home. There is also a risk that Canada may face a Khalistani referendum leading to creation of a separate Khalistani state within the country. This trajectory represents a concerning path that camaraderie of convenience between Trudeau and Jagmeet Singh is leading to. Some argue that supporting and endorsing violent extremist's marks seeding terrorism. While this assertion remains foreseeable, the future appears riddled with red flags and uncertain under Trudeau's leadership.

## Trudeau's allegations on India

On September 18, 2023, after returning from his failed G20 outreach in New Delhi, Trudeau got embroiled in yet another controversy by making unsubstantiated allegations against India without providing evidence on the floor of the Canadian Parliament.



Trudeau unfounded allegations against India without evidence lead to a diplomatic fallout between India and Canada.



The accusations pertained to Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a deceased Canadian Khalistani terrorist wanted for heinous crimes including his involvement in killing of Punjab's ex-chief minister Beant Singh. Known for deep ties with Khalistani terrorists and extremist activities, Nijjar's death in June 2023 outside a Gurudwara in Canada's Surrey had attracted attention from Khalistani extremist groups. Trudeau's remarks drew widespread condemnation, both domestically and internationally due to their vague nature and potential implications on diplomatic relations with India.

The situation was exacerbated by vocal support of his fellow Canadian lawmaker Jagmeet Singh who not only endorsed Trudeau's allegations but pledged an unyielding commitment to seek justice for the killed terrorist Nijjar. The fallout from Trudeau's accusations was profound. It resulted in an unprecedented strain on India - Canada relations, sending shockwaves across sectors. Business, education, and diplomacy have all been affected, casting a cloud of uncertainty over future of this bilateral partnership.



Canadian MP Chandra Arya From Trudeau Liberal Party voiced that Khalistan elements 'attacking and threatening' Hindu

During diplomatic standoff between India and Canada, Canadian Member of Parliament Chandra Arya accused Khalistani extremist elements of "harassing" and "intimidating" Hindu-Canadians, urging them to return to India. He called on all Hindu-Canadians in the country to remain composed, vigilant, and promptly report any troubling incidents to law enforcement agencies. Chandra Arya is a prominent Indo-Canadian politician affiliated with the Liberal Party of Canada, the same political party as Justin Trudeau. His strong statements further reflect that Trudeau allegations have not gone down well within his own party, with several members other than Arya voicing concerns over callous allegations made against India.

As Trudeau attempts to internationalise the bilateral issue by involving USA, both Canada, a NATO ally of the United States, and India, an increasingly vital American partner in the Indo-Pacific, the situation escalated beyond mere verbal exchanges. Following Trudeau's assertions, the Canadian government expelled Indian diplomats, prompting the Indian government to reciprocate by expelling their Canadian counterparts in New Delhi. Both nations also issued travel advisories. Trudeau, basing its claims on information from the Five Eyes alliance, while India reiterated that it had not been provided any specific intelligence. Consequently, the bilateral relationship has taken a nosedive. While the United States has thus far maintained a balancing act, President Biden should reevaluate all aspects of this situation, particularly if prioritising the Indo-Pacific and Global South are integral to his administration's goals.

As of the September 28, 2023, Canada has failed to present substantive evidence that establishes a causal link between "Indian agents" and the killing of the Canadian Khalistani terrorist, Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

## Canada - India ties on downward spiral

Repeated assaults, attacks and hate speech against India diplomatic missions, Hindu and Sikh temples orchestrated by radical Khalistani groups have far-reaching implications. These incidents not only jeopardise safety and security of citizens, especially Hindus and Sikhs and others of India descent but also undermine democracy, rule of law, and regional stability. To combat escalating dangers associated with Khalistani extremism affected Western nations like Canada, United States of America, United Kingdom, Germany, Italy and Australia must prioritise upholding rule of law, ensuring security, and fulfilling diplomatic obligations. By addressing Khalistani extremism comprehensively, Western countries can truly safeguard safety and security of their citizens while upholding values that define their societies.



Defacement and vandalism of Hindu temples by Khalistani elements in Canada.

On September 12, 2023, Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), a highly radicalised Khalistani extremist group conducted a so-called "Referendum" at a gurdwara in Surrey, British Columbia, despite India's serious concerns, univocally raised with the Canadian government. To make matters worse, Gurpatwant Singh Pannu, a designated terrorist, and SFJ mouthpiece was present at the event, while Canadian law enforcement agencies appeared to turn a blind eye. On September 7, 2023, the Shri Mata Bhameshwari Durga temple in Surrey, BC, was defaced with anti-India and pro-Khalistan graffiti. The very next day, SFJ issued a threat to "lock down" India's Consulate in Vancouver. Earlier, on August 13, 2023, the Lakshmi Narayan Mandir in BC was desecrated with displays of anti-India and pro-Khalistan posters. Khalistani terrorists in Canada escalated their "WANTED" poster campaign on July 31, 2023, openly issuing death threats against India's senior diplomats in British Columbia. These posters explicitly mentioned the murder of Hardeep Singh Nijjar. On July 9, 2023, during a rally in Vancouver, Khalistani supporters went as far as burning the India's tricolour flag, while local law enforcement failed to intervene. Shockingly, they also assaulted a group of individuals attempting to protect the dignity of India's national flag. In earlier incidents, Khalistan supporters beheaded a statue of Mahatma Gandhi at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia on March 28, 2023. On March 23, 2023, fringe protests outside India's consulate in



Vancouver posed a serious threat to the safety and well-being of the diplomats stationed there. In February 15, 2023, offensive anti-India graffiti bearing slogans such as "Declare Modi Terrorist," "Bhindrawala Martyr," and "Hindustan Murdabad" (death to India) were maliciously sprayed on the walls of Ram Mandir in Mississauga, Canada. On January 31, 2023, Khalistani extremists allegedly linked to the banned group Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) vandalised the Gauri Shankar Mandir in Brampton, Ontario, Canada, with anti-India graffiti. The hateful slogan 'Khalistan Zindabad, Hindustan Murdabad' was spray-painted on the temple's outer wall. Going back further to September 2022, Khalistani terrorists vandalised Toronto's BAPS Swaminarayan Temple with anti-India slogans, captured in viral social media videos featuring 'Khalistan Zindabad, Hindustan Murdabad' painted on its walls. These incidents collectively underscore the serious challenges posed by Khalistani extremism in Canada and its detrimental impact on bilateral relations.



Khalistani extremists caught on CCTV cameras vandalising a Hindu temple in Canada.

India made continuous efforts to address Khalistani extremism through diplomatic channels engaging in discussions and dialogues with Canadian authorities, including engagements with the Prime Minister of Canada. These diplomatic approaches are essential part of maintaining healthy international relations and addressing concerns regarding security and stability. However, it is disconcerting that despite India's persistent efforts, including several official communications and over 20 requests for extradition of Khalistani terrorists in Canada. Khalistani entities and individuals appear to be allowed to operate with impunity in Canada. This raises serious questions about effectiveness of international cooperation in combating such extremism, as well as commitment of host nations to address security threats.

While Canadian government prioritises addressing acts of terrorism and violence as evident from their response to terrorist-murder incidents, other instances have raised concerns. The case of Karima Baloch, a Baluchistan activist who was found dead in Toronto after living in exile due to terrorism charges in Pakistan is one of many instances where Trudeau or Jimmy failed to find a voice. Karima advocacy for the Baluchistan human rights cause notwithstanding, Canadian government did not ever address her murder with same level of concern.



Anti-India graffiti outside a Hindu temple in Surrey, Canada.

Serious discrepancy in responding to different forms of extremism and acts of violence underscores double standards of current Canadian Government in honestly addressing the complexities surrounding terrorism and separatism as in the case of Khalistani Extremism as well as varying degrees of attention it receives from different governments and groups. Emphasis should be on the need for a consistent and coordinated international effort to address extremism in all forms, ensure safety and security of individuals living in Canada. Moreover, by allowing Khalistani extremists to publicly threaten serving Indian diplomats in Canada, Canada not only violated but also undermined its international legal and diplomatic commitments to the Geneva and Vienna conventions.

Unsubstantiated and baseless allegations made by Prime Minister Trudeau on floor of Canadian parliament, despite repeated requests for evidence, not only demonstrate diplomatic imprudence but also expose a potential bias against India and Hindus. Trudeau's performance as a global leader including his underwhelming presence at G20 summit in India and his reliance on Khalistani extremist support have led to this extraordinary situation. This is unparalleled in which no other national leader has made such a significant diplomatic blunder. Consequently, this not only jeopardises his own credibility but also places thousands of Canadians at risk. Deteriorating state of India - Canada relations is emblematic of a situation where Canada's interests seem to clash with actions and statements of Prime Minister Trudeau. In essence, the situation has evolved into "Canada versus Trudeau." Canada may have to reevaluate its stance and work toward rebuilding and strengthening diplomatic ties with India to ensure best interests of both nations and their citizens are protected.

## Concluding Observations

In summary, Canada, known for its openness to immigrants, faces a significant extremist threat despite the law-abiding nature of most migrants and the diaspora. Khalistani extremism, primarily supported by Pakistan to destabilise India, has evolved into a global menace responsible for heinous terrorist attacks worldwide.

This trend has intensified since the strict crackdown on extremist ideologies in India since 2014 and the Trudeau-led government's formation in Canada since 2015. Trudeau's visits to India have sparked controversy due to his inaction and interactions with Khalistani extremists. His recent G20 Summit visit to India in September 2023 further strained relations, marked by travel mishaps and unsubstantiated allegations against India in the Canadian Parliament, causing diplomatic fallout.

These incidents have raised questions about Trudeau family legacy of shielding Khalistani extremists, Justin Trudeau's leadership, Justin Trudeau-Jagmeet camaraderie, influence, and diplomatic understand, impacting domestic politics and international relations, particularly with India.

The rise of Khalistani criminal syndicates and gangs in Canada, affecting affairs in India, the persistent upsurge in Anti-Hindu sentiment and Anti-India sentiment under Trudeau's leadership is a significant concern. Further eroding India-Canada relationship basis the downfall in respect of core Canadian stated values of multiculturalism, inclusivity, and integrity. The presence of Khalistani extremism in Canada threatens social harmony, challenges multiculturalism, and raises suspicions of external influences, particularly but not limited to influence from Pakistan casting down about Canada's seriousness about its own sovereignty and independence.

Trudeau's soft-handed approach toward Khalistani elements and open support for Khalistani groups could lead to secessionist movements like Quebec gaining grounds and a potential Khalistani referendum within Canada to form a Khalistani state within Canada, casting uncertainty over the nation's future under Trudeau's leadership. The deteriorating state of India-Canada relations reflects a situation where Canadian interests appear to conflict with the actions and statements of Prime Minister Trudeau, creating a divide of "Canada vs. Trudeau." It's imperative for Canada to reconsider its stance, rebuild diplomatic ties with India, and prioritise the well-being of peace-loving, law-abiding citizens.

In this global context, Western nations, including Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, and Australia, must confront the challenge of Khalistani extremism while upholding the rule of law, ensuring security, and fulfilling diplomatic obligations while preserving human rights and values. The choices made in addressing these challenges will shape the future of nations and their place on the global stage.

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