



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
Only IAS Academy by Grandson of "Perunthalaivar Kamarajar"

. A change now – The US seems to be more receptive to India's concerns about Sikh extremism

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Context

In the first acknowledged discussion on the Pannun episode and anti-India activities by pro-Khalistani groups in the U.S. since the Donald Trump administration took office, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh raised the issue in a meeting with U.S. Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard.

He urged the U.S. to designate Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), led by Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, as a foreign terrorist organisation, citing its anti-India activities on American soil and its alleged backing by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).

Founded in 2007 by Pannun, a U.S.-based attorney, the SFJ advocates "self determination" for Sikhs in their "**historic homeland**" of **Punjab**, seeking to establish a **sovereign state of Khalistan**. The Indian government banned the organisation in 2019 under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act for anti-India activities.

The Khalistani insurgency remains a **dark chapter in India's history**, having led to the **assassination of a Prime Minister**. Its resurgence in several western countries has been a **growing concern for India**. Pro-Khalistani protests, often turning aggressive, have become a pattern.

The conference, now in its fourth edition, took place a day before the annual **Raisina Dialogue**, the flagship conference of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), co-organised with the Observer Research Foundation.

Raisina Dialogue

India's flagship international conference on **geopolitics and geo-economics, organized annually**.

Aims to bring together **global leaders, policymakers, academics, and strategic experts**.

Started in: **2016**, as an initiative of the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and Observer Research Foundation (ORF)**.

Ministry Involved: Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

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Kamaraj IAS Academy

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