



KHALISTAN EXTREMISM MONITOR

NEWSLETTER



Spotlight

Official sources disclosed on April 5 that the Delhi Police and the National Investigation Agency (NIA) arrested approximately 300 gangsters and mid-level criminals over the course of a seven-month crackdown on the gangster-terrorist nexus in North India. During this operation, the Delhi Police's Special Cell and Crime Branch units arrested 51 hardcore operatives of this gangster-terrorist nexus, as well as 217 mid-level criminals, and seized a large quantity of arms and ammunition, including AK-47s, MP-5 rifles, grenade launchers, and hand grenades. Further, at the request of the NIA, the Punjab Government has begun to gather information on the properties of 57 individuals accused of being gangsters, terrorists, and members of the banned organization, Sikhs For Justice (SFJ). The largest number of properties associated with the accused, a total of 12, are located in Ferozepur district, followed by Tarn Taran with 11, and Amritsar with 10. Properties suspected to be linked to the accused are also located in other districts such as Kapurthala, Moga, Mohali, Fazilka, Muktsar, Gurdaspur, and Hoshiarpur.

The month in review

Following a 36-day long 'crackdown' to arrest Amritpal Singh, the self-proclaimed Khalistani preacher and chief of a faction of Waris Punjab De (WPD), the Punjab police finally caught up with him on April 23 at the Sant Khalsa Gurudwara in Rode village, in the Moga district of Punjab. He was then taken under heavy protection to the Air Force Station in Bhatinda and subsequently flown to Assam, to be lodged in Dibrugarh Jail, along with his associates who had been arrested earlier.

Interestingly, just two days prior to his arrest, his wife Kirandeep Kaur, a British citizen, was prevented from boarding a London-bound flight at the Sri Guru Ram Dass Ji International Airport in Amritsar on April 20. Immigration authorities, police, and intelligence officials interrogated her for almost four hours before instructing her to return home with some of her family members, who had accompanied her to the airport. Earlier in the month, Amritpal Singh's close aides, including his 'media adviser' Papalpreet Singh, were arrested from various locations in Punjab, and confined to Dibrugarh Jail in Assam. Punjab police had also announced a reward for anyone who provided information about the then fugitive Khalistani leader.





Soon after Amritpal's arrest, both the Punjab government and state Police promptly proclaimed that his arrest illustrated the state's maturity in dealing with sensitive issues and emphasized that the people of Punjab would not tolerate any form of sacrilege against the Guru Granth Sahib. They were specifically referencing the violent incident that took place on February 23, when Amritpal Singh and his followers stormed the Police Complex in Anjala, Amritsar, while shielding themselves behind a Swaroop of the Guru Granth Sahib. The Punjab Police later clarified that Amritpal Singh's "provocative" speeches on social media and at public gatherings since his arrival in Punjab in August 2022 were the primary grounds for invoking the stringent National Security Act (NSA) against him.

According to intelligence officials who made a statement on April 24, Amritpal Singh aimed to establish a new brand of Khalistani separatism in Punjab by fostering a false sense of alienation and discontentment, particularly among young people. The officials also suspect that Amritpal's arrival in Punjab was part of a broader plan by Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), in collaboration with Khalistani groups in the United Kingdom (UK). Moreover, the investigation into members of Waris Punjab De (WPD) over the past two months has revealed traces of this group's networks in Europe and the United States (US), which were allegedly used as a front by the ISI to propagate false narratives and stoke separatism.

Meanwhile, according to reports released a day after his arrest, it was suspected that Jasbir Singh Rode, the former chief of the Akal Takht and the nephew of slain militant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, played a part in the arrest. Sources have suggested that Jasbir Singh Rode received information that Amritpal Singh intended to surrender and covertly shared this information with the Police, but Rode has denied this claim. Instead, he stated that Amritpal had contacted the Police himself to inform them of his location. However, Jasbir Singh Rode did acknowledge meeting with Amritpal Singh at Sant Khalsa Gurdwara at approximately 04:00 hrs on April 23, when he conversed with him, after which Amritpal addressed a group of people who had congregated at the Gurdwara.

After the arrest of the radical preacher Amritpal Singh, three videos were circulated on social media, in which he expressed his intention to surrender. In one of these videos, recorded just a few hours before his arrest, Amritpal declared that he would surrender at Gurdwara Sant Khalsa, the same gurdwara where he had initiated his journey with the *dastarbandi* (a turban-tying ceremony to signify taking on a responsibility) to 'take over' Waris Punjab De (WPD).

Notably, while denouncing the arrest and police actions against Amritpal, various Sikh religious authorities, including the Shri Akal Takht Sahib, the highest Sikh temporal authority, were cautious about not giving him undue significance in religious matters or Sikh *panth*. According to reports, they were also dissatisfied with the way Amritpal Singh tried to enforce his demands on the *Jathedar* (chief) of Shri Akal Takht Sahib.

However, various Sikh religious organizations characterized the actions taken against Amritpal and his eventual arrest as an attack on the Sikh community, while opposition political leaders deemed it a political manoeuvre aimed at gaining electoral advantages in the upcoming by-polls in Punjab. The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) offered all the legal assistance to Amritpal Singh and his aides who had been arrested by the Punjab police.

Despite facing criticism from various sources for their delay in arresting Amritpal, the Punjab police have played a crucial role in managing the post-arrest situation in the state. The police will now need to decide how to proceed with Amritpal Singh's cases, as he is likely to portray himself as a victim and as 'Bhindranwale 2.0', fighting for the Sikh cause.

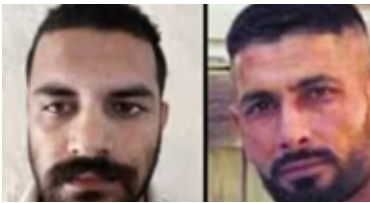




Amid the ongoing Amritpal saga in Punjab, western countries reportedly took action against Khalistanis. On April 19, a multi-agency operation against Sikh violence led to the apprehension of 17 individuals in California, including individuals wanted for murders in India. The operation was related to 11 shootings, including one at a Gurdwara in Sacramento. The Punjab Police have initiated extradition proceedings for Pavitar Singh and Husandeeep, two fugitive gangsters from Gurdaspur and Batala, respectively, who were among those arrested by US Police. Additionally, Baltej Singh, a pro-Khalistan activist and the nephew of Satwant Singh, who assassinated former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, was arrested by the Auckland Police in New Zealand in connection with the seizure of 328 kg of methamphetamine.

Significantly, in April, the Punjab police achieved success in dismantling various groups involved in terrorism, gang-related activities, and drug smuggling. Partial data compiled by the Khalistan Extremism Monitor (KEM) shows that around 20 individuals were arrested in April for their involvement in the Khalistani terrorism or gang networks, while another 44 were arrested in connection with narcotic seizures in Punjab.

TOP NEWS



Prominent gangsters currently located abroad

India's most wanted gangsters taking shelter abroad, says UMHA

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (UMHA) has compiled a list of infamous gangsters who are currently situated in foreign nations. The list includes 28 wanted criminals who are charged with offenses such as murder and extortion. At the top of the UMHA's list is Satinderjit Singh *alias* Goldy Brar. He is believed to be located in the United States (US) and, alongside Lawrence Bishnoi, is thought to have orchestrated the assassination of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala in 2022. According to the NIA, he is directly linked with Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) operative Lakhbir Singh *alias* Landa, who is an accused in the RPG attacks in Mohali and Tarn Taran

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Threat from Khalistani outfit to Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa

On April 2, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma reportedly received a threat in the form of an audio message from the banned Khalistani outfit Sikhs for Justice (SFJ). In the audio clip, the SFJ chief, Gurpatwan Singh Pannun, threatened the CM "on various counts relating to the Sikh community in Assam". Pannun declared, "This message is for Assam CM Himanta Sarma. Your government is harassing and torturing pro-Khalistan Sikhs in Assam. And also torturing those who are in jail. Listen carefully CM Sarma, the fight is between pro-Khalistan Sikhs and Indian regime. Sarma you do not fall prey to this violence. We are seeking liberation of Punjab from Indian occupation through a peaceful democratic process of Khalistan referendum. Sarma, if your government is going to torture and harass Sikhs, you will be held accountable."

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Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma





Violent incident at the Indian High Commission in London on 19th March 2023

March 19 London High Commission protest face Khanda is also KLF terror chief, says report

According to reports, Avtar Singh Khanda, who is believed to have orchestrated the violent incident at the Indian High Commission in London on March 19, leads a dual life in the United Kingdom (UK). There is evidence to suggest that Avtar Singh Khanda *alias* Azaad, who is seeking political asylum in the UK, is actually Ranjodh Singh, the self-proclaimed leader of the designated terrorist group Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF). It is worth noting that Khanda's father, Kulwant Singh Khukrana, was a KLF terrorist who was killed by security forces in 1991. Reports from both London and New Delhi indicate that it is likely that Khanda, using the *alias* Ranjodh Singh, is responsible for issuing KLF press statements that accuse the Indian government of committing acts of violence against the Sikh community worldwide

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Jaishankar warns Khalistan supporters, says India won't accept its national flag being pulled down

On April 3, External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar warned the supporters of Khalistan, emphasizing that India would not tolerate any act of disrespect towards its national flag. He conveyed that India was a responsible and firm nation, unwilling to tolerate any such activities. Jaishankar specifically cited the recent incident in London where protestors pulled down the Indian flag, displayed Khalistani flags, and chanted pro-Khalistani slogans.

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External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar



Hindu Temple Vandalised in Ontario, Canada

Another Hindu temple vandalised in Canada's Ontario province

A Hindu temple, the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Windsor town, Ontario, Canada, was vandalized and desecrated with spray-painted anti-India and anti-Modi graffiti in the night of April 4. A spokesperson for the BAPS organization said that they were "very shocked by the anti-Indian graffiti on our mandir walls."

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After issuing threat to Assam Chief Minister, SFJ offers to support rebel group ULFA-I

On April 4, the banned pro-Khalistan group, Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) offered support to the United Liberation Front of Asom-Independent (ULFA-I), which has been leading an armed campaign since 1979, to establish a sovereign Assam. This came a day after ULFA-I urged the SFJ not to make any unwarranted comments about Assam. SFJ leader Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, in an open letter addressed to ULFA-I leader Paresh Baruah, expressed SFJ's willingness to extend legal assistance and logistical support for an "Assam Independence Referendum."

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Amritpal Singh underwent eye surgery in Georgia to look like Bhindranwale before entering India, says report

According to a report published on April 7, Amritpal Singh, the leader of Waris Punjab De (WPD) underwent eye surgery in Georgia to resemble the slain Khalistani militant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, before returning to India in 2022. Intelligence sources were cited in the report, which also mentioned that Amritpal Singh's associates, who are presently incarcerated in Dibrugarh jail in Assam, disclosed this information. According to Amritpal Singh's associates, he had stayed in Georgia for two months (from June 20, 2022, to August 19, 2022) to undergo eye surgery.

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Amrit Pal Singh



Supporters of Indian separatists using Twitter bots to promote violence, says study

According to a study by the Network Contagion Research Institute, some Khalistan supporters are using automated Twitter accounts to encourage violence and promote acts of vandalism around the world, amid allegedly rising hostilities between the Indian government and followers of the Sikh religion. The report reveals that these individuals employ elusive strategies, such as deleting tweets afterwards and sidestepping suspensions by praising the placement of a "device" rather than a bomb and urging the "political assassination" of Indian officials. Furthermore, a number of Khalistani supporters are using interconnected networks of accounts to simultaneously disseminate videos and calls to action, outrunning Twitter's limited safety personnel.

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Khalistani group offers \$100,000 to throw shoe at PM Narendra Modi in Assam

On April 10, Gurpatwan Singh Pannun, the head of the banned pro-Khalistan group Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), announced a reward of INR 100,000 for anyone who would throw a shoe at Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi during his visit to Assam on April 14 for Bihu celebrations. Pannun sent a pre-recorded message to various journalists in Assam, in which he accused PM Modi of being accountable for the deaths of individuals in Assam and pro-Khalistan Sikhs in Punjab.

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi





Bhatinda Military Station

SFJ-KTF claim responsibility for attack on Bathinda military station in which 4 soldiers killed

The head of Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, has claimed responsibility for the shooting and killing of four soldiers at Bathinda Military Station on April 12. In a video, he demanded the creation of Khalistan as a separate nation, to prevent such attacks in future, and 'warned' Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. The Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF) has also claimed responsibility for the incident at the Bathinda Army Cantonment. Ajit Singh, a KTF member, issued a letter on the group's letterhead, alleging that the Indian Army was responsible for killing Sikhs during their attack on the Golden Temple in 1984, and this attack on the Indian Army was an act of vengeance.

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NIA to take over probe into attack on Indian mission in London in March

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on April 17 took over the investigation into the violent protest by pro-Khalistan protesters outside the Indian high commission in London on March 19. According to sources, the NIA plans to send a team to the area very soon to investigate a wider conspiracy by pro-Khalistan elements. The Delhi Police, which registered a case under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), are currently investigation the case.

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Pro Khalistani Supporters at Indian Mission



Kirandeep Kaur, wife of Khalistani radical Amritpal Singh

Amritpal Singh's wife Kirandeep Kaur not allowed to board flight to London

Kirandeep Kaur, the wife of pro-Khalistani fugitive Amritpal Singh, was prevented from boarding a London-bound flight at the Sri Guru Ram Dass Ji International Airport in Amritsar on April 20. Immigration authorities, police, and intelligence officials interrogated her for almost four hours before instructing her to return home with some of her family members who had accompanied her to the airport. Kirandeep, who is a British citizen, married Amritpal in his native village of Jallupur Khera in February 2023. Police had previously interrogated her regarding alleged foreign funding for the Waris Punjab De (WPD) faction led by Amritpal Singh.

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Amritpal Singh, arrested at Sant Khalsa Gurudwara in Rode village in Moga district.

Khalistani radical Amritpal Singh arrested from Moga, taken to Assam jail

On April 23, the radical Khalistani preacher and head of a faction of Waris Punjab De (WPD), Amritpal Singh, was arrested at Sant Khalsa Gurudwara in Rode village in Moga district. The Police transported him under heavy protection to the Air Force Station in Bhatinda, from where he was flown to Assam. According to the Police, he would be lodged in Dibrugarh jail in Assam. Later, the Punjab Police confirmed via Twitter that they had arrested Amritpal Singh, who had been on the run, in Moga. They also appealed to the public to ensure peace and harmony.

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Punjab is on high alert as Canada-based Khalistani terrorist Lakhbir Singh allegedly planning to attack jail

The Intelligence Wing of the Punjab Police has issued a warning to the Jail Department, cautioning them of a potential armed attack by notorious gangster and Khalistani terrorist, Lakhbir Singh *alias* Landa, who is suspected to be in Canada, to secure the release of his accomplices. The Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) (Jails), Arun Pal Singh, has communicated with authorities at various jail in Punjab, including the Amritsar Central Jail, to make the necessary arrangements to prevent any untoward incidents. Surinder Singh, the Superintendent of Amritsar Central Jail, declined to comment on the matter.

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Lakhbir Singh *alias* Landa

HATE SPEECH TRACKER

Date	Incidents
02 April 23	Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma gets threat from Sikhs for Justice (SFJ)
03 April 23	Sikh BJP leader Impreet Singh Bakshi gets threat call from pro Khalistani radical, Amritpal Singh
05 April 23	Indo-Canadian receives death threats from Khalistani radicals for organising reception to honour Indian envoy
10 April 23	SFJ offers INR 100,000 to throw shoe at PM Narendra Modi in Assam

Click here to access the full list at www.khalistanextremismmonitor.org





COMPOSITE SEIZURES IN PUNJAB

Date	No. of Incidents	No. of Arrests	Items
-	-	-	-
Total	0	0	NA

ARMS & AMMUNITION SEIZURES IN PUNJAB

Date	No. of Incidents	No. of Arrests	Items
06 April 23	1	1	2 pistols and 10 live cartridges
10 April 23	1	4	2 pistols
22 April 23	1	2	6 pistols and 25 live cartridges
27 April 23	1	3	3 pistols, 2 magazines and live cartridges
Total	4	10	Pistols – 13, Live Cartridges – 36, Magazines – 2.

DRUG SEIZURES IN PUNJAB

Date	No. of Incidents	No. of Arrests	Items
02 April 23	6	12	560 gm heroin, 18 kg puppy husk, 700 gm opium, 240 sedative pills
04 April 23	1	0	9.5 kg of heroin
05 April 23	1	0	2.683 kg heroin
07 April 23	1	3	75 gm of intoxicant powder
09 April 23	1	2	350 kg puppy husk
10 April 23	1	0	1.6 kg narcotics
12 April 23	3	8	76.14 kg heroin
14 April 23	1	2	4 gm heroin





KHALISTAN EXTREMISM MONITOR

April 2023

15 April 23	2	3	15.2kg heroin
16 April 23	1	0	2 kg heroin
18 April 23	1	2	18 kg of opium
20 April 23	1	3	1200 kg Poppy husk
21 April 23	1	0	4kg heroin
22 April 23	1	0	5 kg narcotics
23 April 23	1	0	2 kg narcotics
24 April 23	1	2	70 gm heroin
25 April 23	3	4	1 kg 25 gm heroin
27 April 23	1	0	2 kg heroin, 170 gm opium
28 April 23	1	0	8 kg narcotics
29 April 23	2	3	1.5 kg heroin
30 April 23	1	0	1 kg heroin
Total	32	44	Heroin – 115.51 kg, Opium – 18.87 Kg, Poppy Husk – 1,568 kg, Sedative pills – 240, Intoxicant powder – 75 gm, Other Narcotics- 16.6 Kg

