



KHALISTAN EXTREMISM MONITOR

NEWSLETTER



Spotlight

In August, Punjab's law enforcement agencies carried out multiple targeted operations, effectively dismantling various terrorist, gang, and illicit drug trafficking networks operating within the state. According to data compiled by the *Khalistan Extremism Monitor* (KEM), at least 58 individuals were arrested in connection with their involvement with Khalistan terrorist or organized gang networks, while an additional 103 individuals were arrested in connection with drug seizures in the state, through August 2023.

The Inspector General of Police (IGP) Headquarters, Sukhchain Singh Gill, disclosed on August 14 that, over the preceding 13 months, the police had arrested a total of 18,079 drug smugglers, including significant players, and registered 13,458 FIRs, 1,630 of which relate to commercial quantities of drug. Police teams also recovered a total of 1,407 kilograms of heroin, 837.42 kilograms of opium, 951.37 kilograms of Ganja (Marijuana), 404.45 quintals of poppy husk, 8.9 million tablets/capsules/injections/vials of pharmaceutical opioids, and INR 132.9 million in drug money from across the state, during this period.

The month in review

In the midst of ongoing Khalistan-related disturbances in Western nations, there were several Khalistan-related incidents within India in the month of August, which marks India's independence, primarily stemming from the influence of Khalistani propaganda originating abroad.

On August 31, 2023, the Special Cell of the Delhi Police apprehended two Punjabi youth, Preetpal Singh *aka* Kaka, and Rajvinder Singh *aka* Kale, from Faridkot and Bathinda in the state of Punjab, respectively, in connection with their alleged involvement in vandalizing multiple metro stations in Delhi with Khalistani and anti-India slogans. Earlier, on August 27, ahead of the G20 Summit in Delhi, it was discovered that at least seven metro stations in Delhi - Shivaji Park, Madipur, Paschim Vihar, Udyog Nagar, Maharaja Surajmal Stadium, Punjabi Bagh, and Nangloi Metro Stations - as well as a government school, Sarvodaya Bal Vidyalaya, Nangloi, all located in West Delhi, had been defaced with graffiti, such as "Delhi Banega Khalistan" (Delhi will become Khalistan) and "Khalistan Zindabad" (Long Live Khalistan).

Shortly after Delhi police revealed the details of the arrest of Preetpal Singh and Rajvinder Singh, the 'Chief' of the banned pro-Khalistan Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, issued a threat that its operatives would 'storm' Indira Gandhi International (IGI)





Airport in New Delhi with Khalistan flags, to 'avenge' the arrests. He also announced a cash reward of INR 1 lakh for information regarding the families of Delhi Police officers residing in Canada, the UK, Germany, Italy, and Australia.

This was just another example of the pro-Khalistan separatist outfit trying to bribe gullible Punjabi youth to participate in its extremist campaign, in the absence of an ideological support base in India. SFJ has engaged in a continuous drive against the Indian state, which blends conventional tactics and a disinformation campaign in cyberspace.

According to the police, the main accused, Preetpal Singh, a law graduate and holder of a forensic science diploma, initially connected with SFJ and Pannun during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020. He and his family members received INR 5000 in assistance from SFJ at that time. Over time, Pannun maintained communications with him through the *Signal* App and gained his trust by providing INR 90,000 for his uncle's treatment in July 2023. Finally, he assigned Preetpal the task of painting Khalistan and anti-India graffiti and slogans before the G20 summit in Delhi. For this particular task, Pannun promised to provide USD 7,000, of which Preetpal had already received USD 3,500.

SFJ often manipulates Sikh youth sentiments by showing them footage of the 1984 riots and Operation Blue Star, and then lures them to engage in symbolic actions, such as displaying Khalistan flags and painting graffiti, in exchange for a promise of rewards ranging from USD 1000 to 2000. However, most of the youth who have engaged in such activities in the past were not paid as promised, but are now facing legal actions, including, in some cases, charges of waging war against the state.

Pannun and his SFJ are eager to capture the attention of world leaders, particularly as New Delhi prepares to host the G20 summit, where more than 40 global leaders will participate. This has become especially urgent after most Western leaders who recently visited India, pledged their cooperation in fighting Khalistani extremism. This includes the announcement made by the UK's Minister of State for Security, Thomas Georg John Tugendhat, at New Delhi on August 10, allocating GBP 95,000 (approximately INR 1 crore) to counter the threat posed by Khalistani extremism in UK. In response, SFJ has announced their 'battle of G20 Pragati Maidan' to target the G20 summit, which will be held on September 9-10.

As part of their efforts to crack down on the international Gangster-Narco-Terror network connected to Punjab, Indian authorities managed to secure the extradition several criminals from various parts of the world, in August. This included gangster Sachin Bishnoi, who was involved in the murder of Punjabi singer Shubhdeep Singh *aka* Sidhu Moosewala, and was extradited on August 1 from Baku, Azerbaijan.

On August 3, Punjab Police arrested Harjeet Singh, an Indian national based in Spain, at the Indira Gandhi International Airport, as he was trying to leave for Spain after a visit to India, on charges of financing terrorism and facilitating 'target killings' in Punjab. Furthermore, on August 11, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) arrested two close associates of Khalistani terrorist Arshdeep Singh Dala *aka* Arsh Dala, identified as Manpreet Singh *aka* Peeta and Mandeep Singh, after their arrival from Manila, Philippines, at the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport. In addition, Indian authorities collaborated with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in the United States (US) to extradite Dharmanjot Singh Kahlon, an international arms dealer and a close associate of gangsters Goldy Brar and Lawrence Bishnoi, who had been detained in California, US, on August 10.

Two separate incidents involving petty crimes by Khalistani activists were recorded during the month. On August 30, a former Khalistan Commando Force (KCF) militant, Gursewak Singh *aka* Babla, was arrested for allegedly stealing two-wheelers within the jurisdictions of the Doraha and Payal police stations in the Ludhiana district of Punjab. Babla has a history of 65 First Information Reports (FIRs), primarily from the 1983-84 Punjab militancy era. Earlier, on August 24, the police arrested a Khalistani arms supplier, Rajendra Singh Baranwala, along with four accomplices, in connection with a series of thefts in different areas of Indore in Madhya Pradesh.





TOP NEWS



NIA raids 31 locations in Punjab and Haryana in connection with the UK mission attack

On August 1, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) conducted raids at 31 locations in Punjab and Haryana, to uncover the conspiracy behind the attack on the Indian High Commission in London on March 19, and seized incriminating digital data, documents, and other evidence. The attack occurred during a pro-Khalistan protest, where around 50 individuals committed trespass, injured officials, and damaged public property. The NIA's searches targeted the office of the United Kingdom (UK) based NGO Khalsa Aid, and the residence of its Managing Director (MD) Amarpreet Singh, in Patiala, Punjab, as well as the residence of Paramjit Singh Pamma, a wanted Khalistan Terrorist Force (KTF) militant, in Mohali, Punjab.

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Punjab couple with alleged Khalistan links denied refugee status in Canada

A couple from Punjab, Rajvinder Kaur and Randhir Singh, based in Montreal, Canada, who claimed to be at risk due to alleged links to the Khalistan movement, were denied refugee status by the Canadian authorities. Their lawyer stated that their only hope now lies in an intervention by Canada's Immigration Minister, Marc Miller. Similar cases involving potential deportation to India and claims related to Khalistan have been seen in the past, with a significant number of such refugee claims not being accepted. In the first quarter of 2023, the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada accepted 833 claims and rejected 722, continuing the trend of increasing rejection numbers in recent years

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'Reverse Drone' operations by smugglers on the India-Pakistan border

Security agencies express concern over 'Reverse Drone' activity in Punjab

According to senior officials, security agencies are concerned about 'reverse drone' operations by smugglers on the India-Pakistan border, especially in the Punjab region. Senior officials disclosed that forensic analysis of downed drones revealed that some originated from the Indian side, particularly in Punjab, indicating a trend that could increase. Smugglers dispatch drones from India to Pakistan, where they are loaded with drugs and weapons, before being called back to India, diminishing the risk of detection while dropping items in Indian territory. Anti-drone systems have been installed at the border to address the issue.

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Delhi residents receive pre-recorded threat calls from SFJ regarding disruption of August 15 event

Several Delhi residents received pre-recorded threat calls from the banned Khalistani organization, Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), asking people to steer clear of the Red Fort on August 15 and warning of a potential terrorist attack during Independence Day celebrations. Following the initial report from Rohini, Delhi Police lodged a First Information Report (FIR) at Budh Vihar police station in North West Delhi district. Many individuals, including government and media figures, subsequently received similar messages from overseas numbers. No untoward incident occurred at the Red Fort during the Independence Day celebrations.

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Khalistani supporter beaten by Indian youths in Australia for insulting Hindus and their Gods

On August 8, a video circulated on social media showed Laddi Lahoria, a Khalistan supporter, being beaten with sticks inside his car, by three unidentified youths. The incident occurred after Lahoria made derogatory remarks against Hindus in Australia. The attack took place in an underground parking lot where Lahoria was sitting in his car

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Khalistani supporter beaten by Indian youths in Australia for insulting Hindus and their Gods

SFJ issues USD 10,000 reward for information of Indian diplomats in Canada

On August 9, Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) offered a USD 10,000 reward for details about the Consul General of India in Toronto, Apoorva Srivastava; the High Commissioner of India to Canada, Sanjay Kumar Verma; and the Consul General of India in Vancouver, Manish. A poster released by SFJ, titled 'Assassination of Shaheed Jathedar Hardeep Singh Nijjar', stated that SFJ would initiate a criminal prosecution for 'Nijjar's killers' in Canada. The poster also included images of the Indian diplomats.

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Minister of State for Security, United Kingdom Thomas Georg John Tugendhat with India's External Affairs Minister, S Jaishankar

UK allocates funds to tackle 'Pro-Khalistan' extremism following MEA's security concerns

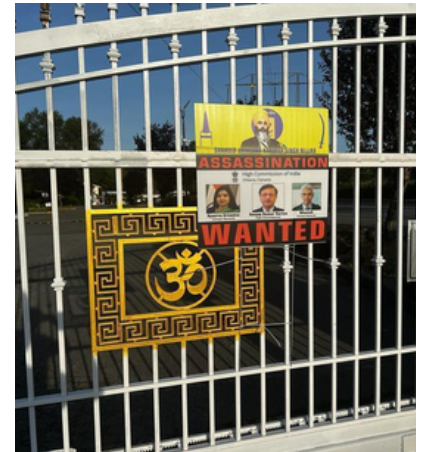
On August 10, the Minister of State for Security, United Kingdom (UK), Thomas Georg John Tugendhat, announced an investment of £95,000 (approximately INR 1 crore) to counter the threat posed by pro-Khalistan extremism, during a meeting with India's External Affairs Minister (EAM), S Jaishankar, in New Delhi. He also met with National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval. The UK and India are already collaborating through the Joint Extremism Task Force (JETF) to combat extremism, emphasizing actions against those promoting violent extremism and its financing.

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Temple in Canada vandalised with anti-India, pro-Khalistan posters

On August 12, the Lakshmi Narayan Mandir (a Hindu temple) in Surrey, Canada, was vandalized by Khalistani separatists, who pasted anti-India and pro-Khalistan posters at various places. A poster on the front door, featured the word "Wanted" beneath photographs of India's top diplomats in Canada – the High Commissioner to Ottawa, Mr. Sanjay Kumar Verma, and the Consuls General in Vancouver and Toronto, Mr. Manish and Mr. Siddhartha Nath, respectively. On the rear doors, another poster urged Canada to investigate India's alleged involvement in the June 18 'assassination' of Khalistani terrorist, Hardeep Singh Nijjar. The temple's president, Satish Kumar, reported the incident and provided CCTV footage capturing two masked individuals, to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP).

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Laxmi Narayan Mandir vandalised with anti-India, pro-Khalistan posters

SFJ seeks Arunachal annexation, Khalistan Referendum support from China Italy

In a video released on August 19, the banned Khalistani outfit, Sikhs for Justice (SFJ), declared that it had reached out to Chinese President Xi Jinping via a letter, advocating the annexation of the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh and seeking support for a Khalistan Referendum for an independent Sikh nation. In the letter, SFJ drew parallels between Punjab's 'occupation' by India, as perceived by SFJ, and Arunachal Pradesh's territorial dispute with China. The letter suggested that China should pursue a secessionist referendum for Arunachal Pradesh.

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August 19, 2023

Honorable Xi Jinping
President of the Peoples Republic of China
The State Council General Office 2
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Re: 2023 BRICS Summit In South Africa

Sub: Annex Arunachal Pradesh – Support Khalistan Referendum

"Sikhs For Justice" (SFJ) is a sovereignist group which is holding first ever global (www.punjabreferendumcommission.org) on the question "Should Indian Punjab Be An Independent Country?".

Mr. President, first of all, as a Sikh human rights group with several million followers in Punjab including thousands of Sikh soldiers of Indian Army, we would like you to know that Sikhs around the world consider their homeland Punjab as "Indian Occupied". In the same spirit, Sikhs consider Arunachal Pradesh as Chinese territories occupied by India.





Punjab 'smugglers' detained by Pakistan Army

Six Punjab 'smugglers' detained by Rangers, says Pakistan Army

On August 22, Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR), the media wing of the Pakistan Army, stated that the Pakistan Rangers had arrested six alleged Indian smugglers, identified as Gurmeej, Shinder Singh, Juginder Singh, Vishal, Rattan Pal Singh and Garvender Singh, between July 29 and August 3, for allegedly trying to smuggle "narcotics, weapons and ammunition" into Pakistan. There has been no immediate response from Indian authorities regarding this incident.

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NIA court issues proclamation notice against KZF chief Ranjit Singh Neeta

On August 24, a special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court at Mohali, Punjab, issued a proclamation notice against Ranjit Singh Neeta, the 'chief' of the Khalistan Zindabad Force (KZF), currently believed to be residing in Pakistan, giving him 30 days to surrender. Neeta is wanted for his alleged involvement in multiple acts of terrorism, including bombings and attacks in India. The notice cites various incidents of Neeta's alleged involvement in various bombings, including those on trains, including the Shalimar Express and Sealdah Express, as well as terrorist attacks, including one at the Kailash Guest House in Delhi

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Ranjit Singh Neeta



National Investigation Agency (NIA)

NIA court orders confiscation of property of absconding Khalistan terrorist Landa

On August 25, a National Investigation Agency (NIA) special court in New Delhi ordered the confiscation of property belonging to Khalistani terrorist Lakhbir Singh Sandhu aka Landa, at his ancestral village of Kirian in the Tarn Taran district of Punjab. Landa, a gangster-turned-terrorist, has been residing in Canada since 2017. He has been affiliated with the Khalistani terror outfit Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) and its prominent member, Harwinder Singh Sandhu aka Rinda, who is a terrorist operative based in Pakistan. Landa is the mastermind behind several terrorist attacks in India, including the 2022 rocket-propelled grenade attacks on the Punjab Police Intelligence Headquarters and the Sarhali Police Station in Punjab. He was earlier declared a proclaimed offender on July 27

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Delhi Metro stations defaced with 'Khalistan Zindabad' graffiti ahead of G20 Summit

On August 27, ahead of the G20 Summit in Delhi, activists of the banned Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) defaced at least five Metro stations in New Delhi: Shivaji Park, Madipur, Paschim Vihar, Udyog Nagar, and Maharaja Surajmal Stadium, with pro-Khalistan graffiti. The graffiti included slogans such as "Delhi Banega Khalistan" and "Khalistan Zindabad." Meanwhile, a video featuring SFJ's chief, Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, emerged on social media, where Pannun stated that the Indian Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi was the target of the "battle of G20 Pragati Maidan." He also announced that, coinciding with the G-20 summit in Delhi on September 10, SFJ intend to conduct a Khalistan referendum in Canada

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Delhi Metro stations defaced with 'Khalistan Zindabad' graffiti ahead of G20 Summit



Punjab Police arrests six Pakistan based operatives

Punjab Police arrests six operatives of Pak based BKI terrorist Harwinder Singh Rinda

On August 31, the Anti-Gangster Task Force (AGTF) of the Punjab Police, in a joint operation with Mohali Police, arrested six associates of Pakistan-based Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) terrorist Harwinder Singh *aka* Rinda, at Zirakpur in the Sahibzada Ajit Singh (SAS) Nagar district. The arrested persons were identified as Roshan Kumar, Saurab Kumar, Vikram Kumar, Amrinder Singh *aka* Billi, Arshveer Singh and Sunny. Five pistols and ammunition were recovered from their possession. According to the Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab Gaurav Yadav, one of the accused, Arshveer Singh, was wanted for a double murder case in Patiala

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HATE SPEECH TRACKER

Date	Incidents
07 August 23	Delhi residents received pre-recorded threat calls from Sikhs For Justice
25 August 23	SFJ chief Gurpatwant Singh Pannun threatened ISRO staff after the success of India's Moon mission
25 August 23	Sikhs For Justice threatened to storm Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport in New Delhi

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





COMPOSITE SEIZURES IN PUNJAB

Date	No. of Incidents	No. of Arrests	Items
02 August 23	1	1	1 Kilogram of heroin and a 30 bore China-made pistol with five rounds of ammunition
06 August 23	1	2	41.8 Kilograms of heroin, two 9 mm pistols, four magazines with 100 rounds, and a .30 Turkish semi-automatic pistol with two magazines and 15 rounds
23 August 23	1	2	1.290 Kilograms of heroin along with one .32 bore pistol with two magazines and 8 bullets
Total	3	5	Heroin - 44.09 kg, Pistols - 5, Rounds - 128, Magazines - 8.

ARMS & AMMUNITION SEIZURES IN PUNJAB

Date	No. of Incidents	No. of Arrests	Items
01 August 23	1	2	17 .32 bore pistols, 35 magazines
03 August 23	1	5	Two illegal country made pistols and eight live cartridges
04 August 23	1	4	One .32 bore pistol
05 August 23	3	3	Two pistols and nine live cartridges; an illegal country-made .32 bore revolver, a magazine and two live cartridges; two .32 bore pistols, a .315 bore gun, five live cartridges
09 August 23	7	12	Three pistols of .30 bore, 20 live cartridges; two .32 bore pistols; three illegal weapons, and 23 cartridges
11 August 23	1	1	A pistol and five cartridges
13 August 23	2	4	Three .32 bore pistols & three other pistols
14 August 23	1	5	Two 9mm pistols along with ammunition
21 August 23	1	1	A pistol along with four live cartridges
29 August 23	1	1	A .30 bore pistol
31 August 23	1	6	Five pistols along with ammunition
Total	20	44	Pistols - 44, Revolver - 1, Magazines - 36, Cartridges - 76, Illegal Weapons - 3





DRUG SEIZURES IN PUNJAB

Date	No. of Incidents	No. of Arrests	Items
01 August 23	1	6	322 Grams of heroin
02 August 23	2	2	8.7 Grams of opium; 153 Kilograms of poppy husk
03 August 23	1	1	6 Kilograms of heroin
05 August 23	1	0	4 Kilograms of heroin
06 August 23	1	2	6 packets of heroin, weighing 36 Kilograms
07 August 23	2	6	15 Grams of heroin; 4 Kilograms of heroin
10 August 23	2	3	12 Kilograms of heroin; 360 Grams of heroin
11 August 23	1	1	5 Kilograms of heroin
12 August 23	7	11	2 Kilograms of heroin; 1.5 Kilograms of heroin; 35 Grams of heroin; 13.4 Kilograms of poppy husk; 71 Kilograms of poppy husk; 10 Kilograms of poppy husk.
13 August 23	2	0	3 Kilograms of heroin; 530 Grams of heroin
14 August 23	1	0	1.1 Kilograms of heroin
16 August 23	2	0	2.8 Kilograms of heroin; 200 Grams of heroin
17 August 23	1	1	8 Kilograms of heroin
19 August 23	1	49	30 Kilograms of poppy husk, 374 Grams of heroin and 500 Grams of <i>charas</i>
21 August 23	1	2	29.26 Kilograms of heroin
22 August 23	1	0	450 Grams of heroin
23 August 23	3	4	41 Kilograms of heroin; 3.5 Kilograms of heroin; 2 Kilograms of heroin
24 August 23	1	0	360 Grams of heroin
27 August 23	3	5	150 Kilograms of poppy husk; 350 Grams of heroin; 5 Grams of heroin
28 August 23	2	2	248 Kilograms of poppy husk, 500 Grams of opium; 520 Grams of heroin





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30 August 23	3	1	6.3 Kilograms of heroin, 70 Grams opium; 2.6 Kilograms of heroin; 10 Grams of heroin
31 August 23	1	7	42 Kilograms of heroin, 9 lakh intoxicating tablets
Total	40	103	Heroin – 215.591 kg, Poppy Husk – 675.4 kg, Opium – 578 gm, Intoxicating Tablets – 900,000, Charas – 500 gm

