



KHALISTAN EXTREMISM MONITOR

NEWSLETTER



Spotlight

The Indian security establishment has made every effort to expose the double standards of Western countries that protect 'violence glorifying' Khalistani extremists, apparently in the name of freedom of expression. On December 29, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (UMHA) officially designated Lakhbir Singh *aka* Landa, a Canada-based gangster and leader of the Khalistani terror outfit Babbar Khalsa International (BKI), as an 'individual terrorist' under the provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). The National Investigation Agency (NIA) had earlier announced a cash reward of ₹10 lakh for information leading to the Landa's arrest. Landa currently operates a narco-terrorist-gangster network from Canada, with alleged support from Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). Landa's gang has been involved in various criminal activities, including murder, attacks on government establishments, extortion, kidnapping, and arms and drug smuggling, in India.

The month in review

In December 2023, amid diplomatic tension stemming from accusations by Canada and the United States (US) regarding India's alleged involvement in 'targeting' pro-Khalistani figures on their soil, India endeavoured to meticulously expose the broader international Khalistani criminal syndicate, controlled by extremists and gangsters operating abroad, while intensifying its efforts against Khalistani elements within India's borders.

Following the US' assertion of an Indian agent's potential involvement in a 'foiled assassination plot' against Khalistani terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, India tried to uphold a careful and measured response to ensure the preservation of strong ties with the US. Simultaneously, India clarified that it treats the US and Canada differently based on the intelligence inputs provided by the US.

Having established a High-Level Enquiry Committee to scrutinize allegations made by the US, India engaged in collaborative efforts with US authorities and is closely monitoring the unfolding legal proceedings relating to Indian national Nikhil Gupta *aka* Nick, who was arrested by Czech authorities and stands accused on charges related to murder-for-hire and conspiracy to commit murder-for-hire in the US. Meanwhile, US President Joe Biden declined to attend India's Republic Day celebrations on January





26, 2024. On September 8, 2023, on the sidelines of the G20 Summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had invited Biden to be the chief guest at the event.

On the other hand, India reiterated the absence of any 'specific and relevant information' provided by Canada in connection with the killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, while unofficial reports have surfaced, suggesting that two suspects implicated in Nijjar's demise are reportedly under 'close monitoring' and anticipated to be arrested by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP).

Meanwhile, the NIA has identified 43 Khalistan supporters allegedly involved in attacks on the Indian High Commission in London, UK, and the Indian Consulate in San Francisco, US. To unveil the conspiracy, the NIA conducted over 50 raids, employing innovative investigative methods, including crowd-sourcing.

On December 27, a shooting incident targeted the residence of the Lakshmi Narayan Mandir (Hindu Temple) president's son in Surrey, British Columbia, Canada. While no injuries were reported, the incident resulted in structural damage, leaving behind bullet holes in the building. The motive behind the drive-by firing is yet to be determined, but there are suspicions of involvement by either extortionists or Khalistan supporters. Hindu temples in Canada have recently faced repeated aggression from Khalistani elements.

Earlier, on December 22, the Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, a Hindu Temple in Newark, California, US, was vandalized with anti-India and pro-Khalistan graffiti on its exterior walls. The Newark Police Service launched an investigation, treating the incident as a targeted act. The US State Department, recognizing the severity of the vandalism, condemned the action, while India underscored the necessity to restrict the influence of extremist and separatist forces.

Meanwhile, Lakhbir Singh Rode, the self-styled head of the International Sikh Youth Federation (ISYF) and nephew of the slain Khalistani militant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, reportedly died in Pakistan on December 1, due to a heart attack, at the age of 72. Rode, who was among India's 20 most-wanted terrorists, was involved in coordinating with Pakistan's ISI to smuggle arms and ammunition into Indian Punjab. Between 2021 and 2023, he was under investigation by the NIA for six cases related to terrorism. It is noteworthy that Rode's demise coincides with allegations by Pakistan, accusing India of employing 'death squads' for the targeted elimination of 'Sikh and Kashmiri activists' within Pakistan.

In another significant development, three Khalistani supporters were convicted for the attempted murder of Harnek Singh, a prominent radio host based in Auckland, New Zealand, who vociferously opposes the Khalistan ideology. The assailants ambushed Singh on December 23, 2020, inflicting more than 40 stab wounds. The court underscored the significance of community protection and the deterrence of religious fanaticism in its sentencing deliberations. The 48-year-old mastermind (under interim name suppression) behind the attack received a sentence of 13-and-a-half years; Sarjeet Sidhu was sentenced to nine-and-a-half years' imprisonment, while Sukhpreet Singh received six months of home detention. Two men, Jagraj Singh and Gurbinder Singh, were acquitted due to insufficient evidence, while two others, Jobanpreet Singh and Hardeep Singh Sandhu, await sentencing in early 2024 for their involvement in the attempted murder.

In the midst of these developments, the Punjab Police intensified its proactive measures against criminal networks involved in activities encompassing gangsterism, terrorism, and drug smuggling throughout the state. Reports indicate that Chief Minister (CM) Bhagwant Mann has given the Police the green light to prioritise the issue of gangsters in the state, marking a notable shift in policy. Punjab Police have been involved in at least nine encounters (exchanges of fire) with gangsters, resulting in the demise of two gangsters in December 2023.

The Punjab Police were also able to neutralize several terrorist, gangster, and drug smuggling networks through their specialized operations against criminals in December 2023. According to data collated by the *Khalistan Extremism Monitor* (KEM), at least 42 individuals were arrested over the course of the month on account of their affiliations with Khalistan terrorist organizations or organized gang networks, and an additional 73 persons were arrested in relation to drug seizures in Punjab.





On December 27, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Headquarters, Sukhchain Singh Gill, stated at the 'Year Ender' Press Conference at Chandigarh that Punjab's Internal Security apparatus successfully dismantled 13 terrorist modules, resulting in the apprehension of 67 terrorists during the year. These operations yielded the recovery of two rifles, 55 revolvers/pistols, two tiffin Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), 2.14 kg of RDX, and assorted explosives, in addition to two hand grenades and 111 drones.

The Anti-Gangster Task Force (AGTF) also reported significant achievements, with the arrest of 482 gangsters and criminals. The AGTF dismantled 188 gangster/criminal modules, recovering 519 weapons, 102 vehicles used in criminal activities, 4.5 kg of heroin, and INR 71.08 lakhs in drug money during the year 2023.

TOP NEWS



General Assembly of Interpol

India has geolocated 184 fugitives abroad; efforts on to bring them back

On December 1, at the 91st General Assembly of Interpol in Vienna, Austria, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) disclosed that India had geolocated 184 criminals in various countries and initiated formal proceedings for their return with the help of Interpol and the respective countries' law enforcement agencies

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Khalistani terrorist Lakhbir Singh dies in Pakistan, says brother

Lakhbir Singh Rode, the chief of the banned terrorist Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF) and International Sikh Youth Federation (ISYF), died in Pakistan on December 1, at the age of 72. Rode, a nephew of slain Khalistani militant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, was listed as an 'individual terrorist' by India and had fled to Pakistan. Rode, accused of orchestrating multiple terrorist activities, faced charges, including involvement in a tiffin bomb blast in Punjab in 2021. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) had confiscated his land earlier this year.

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Lakhbir Singh





Harnek Singh

Three Khalistan supporters guilty for plot to kill New Zealand radio show host Harnek Singh

Three Khalistan supporters, identified as Sarvjeet Sidhu, Sukhpreet Singh, and an individual with an interim name suppression, were recently sentenced for the attempted murder of popular Auckland-based radio host Harnek Singh, who opposed Khalistan ideology in Auckland, New Zealand. The attackers ambushed Singh on December 23, 2020, inflicting over 40 stab wounds. Sarvjeet Sidhu pleaded guilty to attempted murder, Sukhpreet Singh was found guilty of being an accessory, while the third unnamed individual planned the attack, harboring resentment against Harnek Singh for his vocal opposition to Khalistan.

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3 held for writing pro-Khalistan slogans near Mata Chintpurni Temple in Himachal Pradesh's Una

Three people identified as Phool Chand, Arjinder Singh, and Harry were arrested on December 3 for writing pro-Khalistan slogans near Mata Chintpurni Temple in Himachal Pradesh's Una district, from Dhesiya and Surja villages in the Jalandhar district of Punjab. The individuals had received financial incentives for their actions, with INR 25,000 received online from a foreign source, and further investigation is ongoing.

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Pro-Khalistan slogans near Mata Chintpurni Temple in Himachal Pradesh's Una



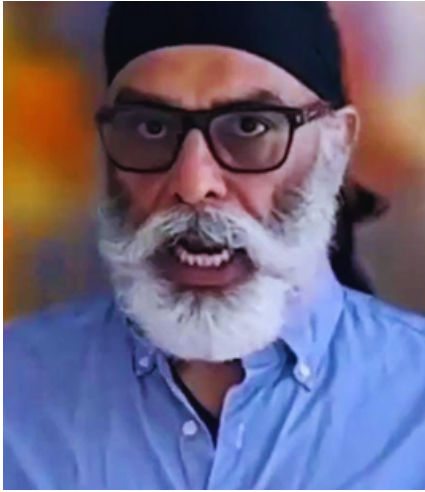
Avtar Singh Khanda

Indian Police 'Harassed' Sikh Activist in UK Before His Sudden Death, reports The Guardian

According to a report by the United Kingdom (UK) daily *The Guardian* released on December 4, Khalistani terrorist Avtar Singh Khanda, who was based in the UK, claimed harassment by Indian police and threats to his family in Punjab before his sudden death in June. The report indicates that Khanda's associates suspected foul play in his death, suggesting poisoning. The Guardian's investigation questions the West Midlands police's initial statement, highlighting alleged lapses in the probe.

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Gurpatwant Singh Pannun

'Will attack Parliament on or before Dec 13': Pannun's new threat over plot to kill him

Khalistani terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, in an online video, threatened to attack the Indian Parliament on or before December 13, coinciding with the 22nd anniversary of the 2001 Parliament attack. The video features a poster of the 2001 Parliament attack convict Afzal Guru, with the caption 'Delhi Banega Khalistan' (Delhi will become Khalistan). Pannun, the chief of the banned Sikhs for Justice (SFJ), claimed a foiled plot against him and vowed retaliation. Security agencies in India are on high alert, suspecting the involvement of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).

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Khalistan terrorist Lakhbir Singh Rode's associate arrested from Amritsar airport

On December 5, Paramjit Singh Dhadi, an associate of Khalistani terrorist Lakhbir Singh Rode, was arrested at Amritsar airport in Punjab. Dhadi, based in the United Kingdom (UK), is accused of involvement in terrorist funding and other subversive activities in Punjab. The arrest followed Rode's death in Pakistan. Rode was the chief of the banned Khalistani terrorist Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF) and International Sikh Youth Federation (ISYF).

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Lakhbir Singh

US and Canada not on the same page as India on Khalistan, says EAM S Jaishankar

India's External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar, while speaking in Parliament at New Delhi on December 7, clarified that India treats the United States (US) and Canada differently due to the inputs provided by the US, prompting an inquiry committee to examine national security implications. The clarification came after the US charged an Indian national with a foiled plot against Khalistani terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, while Canada's allegations regarding the killing of Khalistani Hardeep Singh Nijjar lacked specific evidence.

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India's External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar





Dal Khalsa led protest

Pro-Khalistani slogans chanted at Bathinda Protest; Dal Khalsa led protest march clashes with the police

On December 9, the Shiromani Akali Dal-Amritsar organized a march under the leadership of the Dal Khalsa, where supporters raised Khalistan slogans, causing disruptions in the markets and road blockages in the Bathinda district of Punjab.

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SFJ rally in San Francisco vows to hold Modi accountable for Nijjar's murder

During a car rally event held on December 10, over 1,000 pro-Khalistan attendees accused the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Indian Prime Minister (PM) Modi of involvement in the murder plot of Khalistani leaders and displayed wanted posters of Modi at San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, US. At the rally, over 1,000 vehicles displayed Khalistan flags and 'Wanted' banners accusing Indian officials, PM Modi, External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar, and Indian Ambassador to the US, Taranjit Singh Sandhu.

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SFJ rally in San Francisco



Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)

India denies U.S. news outlet's report on Khalistan sympathisers

On December 10, Arindam Bagchi, spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), strongly denied reports of a written order issued in April 2023 to address the threat of Khalistan sympathizers in Western countries. The denial came in response to *The Intercept's* report that such an order, signed by Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra, listed pro-Khalistan figures, including Hardeep Singh Nijjar, who was killed in Surrey, British Columbia, in June. Bagchi labelled the reports as "fake and completely fabricated," part of a "sustained disinformation campaign against India," and linked the outlet to propagating narratives by Pakistani intelligence.

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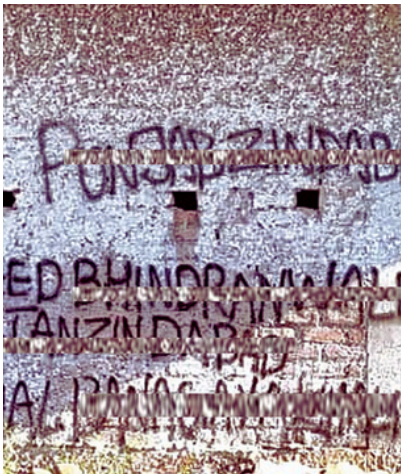
Sikh extremist Pannun offers Rs 10 lakh legal aid for 'rebels'

Khalistani terrorist and the chief of Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) Gurpatwant Singh Pannun on December 13 announced INR 10 lakh in legal aid for 'rebels' involved in the major security breach that occurred in the Indian Parliament in New Delhi. Pannun claimed that the incident marked the beginning of voter registration for the Khalistan Referendum, suggesting a continued disruption to parliamentary proceedings.

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Rs 10 lakh legal aid



Khalistan slogans

Khalistan slogans investigation takes international turn: Dubai connection revealed

The investigation into pro-Khalistan slogans near Chintpurni Temple in the Una district of Himachal Pradesh has taken a global turn, revealing a direct link to funding from Dubai. The three arrested individuals, Phool Chand, Arjinder Singh, and Harry Phillaur, disclosed receiving INR 25,000 from a Dubai source through an online medium for writing controversial slogans. This revelation raises concerns about external involvement in fostering anti-national sentiments, prompting authorities to seek custody for a more extensive investigation and to explore potential connections to similar incidents.

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Pro-Khalistani graffiti painted near Delhi metro station

Slogans connected to the Khalistani Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) were discovered on a metro pillar in the Tilak Nagar area of Delhi. The Delhi Police promptly responded by painting over the slogans and launched an investigation into the incident. SFJ, led by Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, has been implicated in previous incidents promoting pro-Khalistan sentiments. Authorities are examining CCTV footage to identify the individuals responsible for the act.

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Pro-Khalistani graffiti painted near Delhi metro station





Indian courts have no jurisdiction in Nikhil Gupta's case, says Czech Ministry

Vladimír Repka, spokesperson for the Czech Ministry of Justice, stated to The Indian Express that Indian judicial authorities had 'no jurisdiction' in the case of Nikhil Gupta, who is accused by the United States (US) of plotting to kill Khalistani terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun. Gupta's family filed a habeas corpus petition in the Indian Supreme Court, alleging procedural failures in the extradition proceedings. Currently detained in Prague's Pankrac prison, Gupta's case is scheduled to be heard by the Supreme Court on January 4.

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After Poonch attack, Khalistani separatist Pannun ties up with Kashmiri terror groups

On December 21, Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, the chief of the Khalistani Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), expressed solidarity with terrorists responsible for ambushing an Indian Army vehicle in Poonch in Jammu and Kashmir. Pannun declared himself the spokesperson of the Kashmir-Khalistan Referendum Front, attributing the attack to India's alleged violence against Kashmiris.

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Gurpatwant Singh Pannun



Pro-Khalistan graffiti in US

Hindu temple vandalised with anti-India, pro-Khalistan graffiti in US

A Swaminarayan temple in Newark, California, US, was vandalized on December 22, with anti-India and pro-Khalistan graffiti on its exterior walls. The Newark Police Service initiated an investigation, treating the incident as a targeted act. The temple authorities and the Consulate General of India in San Francisco, Dr. K. Srikar Reddy, condemned the defacement, pressing for a quick investigation and action against the vandals.

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Target Modi roadshow in Ayodhya on December 30: Pannun

On December 26, Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, chief of the banned Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), issued a fresh threat via a video statement, urging Muslims in Uttar Pradesh (UP) to target Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his planned roadshow in Ayodhya on December 30. Pannun also expressed support for terrorists in Kashmir, aligning himself with Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence's "K2 (Kashmir-Khalistan) desk".

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PM Modi





Gangster 'Lakhbir Singh Landa
»

UMHA declares Canada-based gangster 'Lakhbir Singh Landa' an 'individual terrorist'

In a notification issued by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (UMHA) on December 29, Canada-based gangster and Khalistani terror outfit Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) leader Lakhbir Singh Landa was declared an 'individual terrorist' under India's Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). Landa, associated with several pro-Khalistan elements, fled to Canada in 2017. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) had earlier announced cash rewards for information leading to the arrest of five BKI operatives, including Landa, wanted for terrorist activities, murder, drug smuggling, and aiming to disrupt peace in Punjab.

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HATE SPEECH TRACKER

Date	Incidents
05 December 23	Khalistani terrorist Pannun threatens to attack Parliament on or before December 13
26 December 23 »	Gurpatwant Singh Pannun issues threat against PM Narendra Modi roadshow in Ayodhya

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

COMPOSITE SEIZURES IN PUNJAB

Date	No. of Incidents	No. of Arrests	Items
11 December 23	1	6	51 grams of heroin, four weapons, and 14 cartridges
13 December 23	1	3	5,400 kilograms of poppy husk, two country-made pistols of .32 bore, six cartridges
19 December 23	1	1	2 kilograms of heroin and a pistol along with .30-bore cartridges
31 December 23	1	2	19 kilograms of heroin, seven pistols (including one 9mm Glock, three .30 bore pistols, and three .32 bore pistols), along with Pakistan-stamped ammunition.
Total	4	12	Heroin – 21.051 kilograms, Poppy Husk – 5,400 kilograms, Pistols – 10, Cartridges– 22, Other Weapons – 4





ARMS & AMMUNITION SEIZURES IN PUNJAB

Date	No. of Incidents	No. of Arrests	Items
02 December 23	1	0	Two Glock pistol
05 December 23	1	1	Four .32 bore pistols, four magazines, and seven live rounds
12 December 23	2	3	10 country-made pistols of .32 bore and 10 magazines; 13 pistols
14 December 23	2	12	22 illegal .32 bore pistols; 1 illegal pistol
22 December 23	1	1	One .32 Bore pistol
28 December 23	1	1	One Chinese pistol with 8 live cartridges
30 December 23	1	2	One illegal pistol along with seven live cartridges
Total	9	20	Pistols - 55, Magazines - 14, Cartridges - 15, Rounds - 7

DRUG SEIZURES IN PUNJAB

Date	No. of Incidents	No. of Arrests	Items
02 December 23	1	4	50 grams of heroin
04 December 23	1	0	300 grams of heroin
06 December 23	3	5	1 kilogram of heroin; 555 grams of heroin; 4.155 kilograms of heroin
07 December 23	1	0	550 grams of heroin
09 December 23	2	1	520 grams of heroin; 5.020 kilograms of heroin
10 December 23	7	8	1 kilograms of heroin; 20 grams of heroin; 15 grams of heroin; 15 grams of heroin; 20 grams of heroin; 50 grams of heroin; 180 grams of opium
11 December 23	3	0	450 grams of heroin; 400 grams of heroin; 3.182 kilograms of heroin





12 December 23	2	4	1 kilogram of heroin; 3 kilograms of heroin
13 December 23	2	2	570 grams of heroin; 50 grams of heroin
14 December 23	5	6	53.04 grams of heroin; 500 grams of heroin; 5 kilograms of heroin; 70 grams of heroin; 340 grams of heroin
15 December 23	3	4	500 grams of heroin; 10 kilograms of poppy husk; 220 intoxicating pills
17 December 23	6	6	545 grams of heroin; 544 grams of heroin; 2 kilograms of heroin; 300 grams of heroin; 250 grams of heroin; 3.5 kilograms of hashish
18 December 23	1	6	1.21 kilograms of heroin.
19 December 23	1	0	1 kilograms of heroin.
20 December 23	1	0	2.718 kilograms of heroin
21 December 23	1	0	530 grams of heroin
22 December 23	1	0	540 grams of heroin
23 December 23	3	2	540 grams of heroin; 430 grams of heroin; 2.550 kilograms of opium; 20 kilograms of poppy husk
24 December 23	1	3	525 grams of heroin
25 December 23	1	0	434 grams of heroin
26 December 23	3	0	2.090 kilograms of heroin; 2.19 kilograms of heroin; 4.177 kilograms heroin
28 December 23	4	3	4 kilograms of heroin; 33.92 kilograms of heroin-soaked paper sheets; 8,000 intoxicating tablets; 10 kilograms of poppy husk
29 December 23	1	1	204 kilograms of poppy husk
30 December 23	1	0	523 grams of heroin
31 December 23	1	3	260 grams of heroin
Total	56	58	Heroin – 87.111 kilograms, Poppy Husk – 244 kilograms, Opium – 2.73 kilograms, Hashish – 3.5 kilograms, Intoxicating Tablets/Pills – 8,220

