



KHALISTAN EXTREMISM MONITOR

NEWSLETTER



Spotlight

On February 17, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (UMHA) declared Harwinder Singh Sandhu *aka* Rinda, currently based in Pakistan and affiliated to Babbar Khalsa International (BKI), a terrorist; and the Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF), a terrorist organisation. According to UMHA, Rinda, is believed to be living in Lahore, is associated with the banned BKI, and has been involved in various crimes, including murder, extortion, targeted killings, and terrorism; while KTF, seeks to revive terrorism in Punjab. The recent classification makes Rinda the 54th individual to be designated as a terrorist and KTF the 44th organisation to be so designated, under the Unlawful Activities [Prevention] Act (UAPA).

The month in review

February 2023 was a turbulent month for Punjab, as a pro-Khalistani mob rampaged into and took over a police station, demanding the release of an accused in a case of abduction and assault. The mob was directed by Amritpal Singh, the self-proclaimed chief of a faction of Waris Punjab De, who chose to shield himself with a motorized palanquin carrying a copy of the Guru Granth Sahib.

Armed with swords, guns and sharp weapons, the mob stormed the Police complex in Anjala, Amritsar, on February 23, clashing briefly with the Police force, before they were allowed to overrun the Police station. At least six Policemen, including senior officers, were injured and some Police vehicles were damaged in the mob attack. The attackers raised pro-Khalistan slogans, and were demanding the release of Amritpal Singh's close aide, Lovepreet Singh *aka* Toofan, who was earlier arrested in connection with a kidnapping and assault case, in which 19 others, including Amritpal Singh, were also booked by the Police.

Succumbing to pressure, the Police negotiated with Amritpal Singh and eventually agreed to release Lovepreet Singh and withdraw the abduction and assault cases against all the accused, in order to end the fiasco at the Police Station. Lovepreet Singh was released from the detention on February 24, purportedly "on the basis of evidence furnished by Amritpal and his supporters", according to the Police.





Though Punjab police's '(in)action' was widely criticized, Harpal Singh Randhawa, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), defended the force by asserting,

What happened on February 23 should not have happened. Because Amritpal had brought Guru Granth Sahib with him, the Punjab Police did not retaliate. Things would have gone wrong if we had retaliated. We respected Guru Granth Sahib.

On February 26, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann expressed his faith in the State police's ability to manage the situation, arguing that only a handful of individuals were backing the pro-Khalistan movement in Punjab, and they were receiving financial support from Pakistan and other countries.

Meanwhile, on February 20, Amritpal Singh, who imitates the postures and costume of slain terrorist Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, threatened Union Home Minister Amit Shah, declaring that Shah would face the same consequence as Prime Minister Indira Gandhi – who was assassinated in 1984 – if he stood in the way of the Khalistan movement. Amritpal Singh was attending the death anniversary program of Punjabi actor-activist and founder of the original Waris Punjab De, Deep Sidhu, at Budhsingh Wala village in Moga District. However, on February 22, Amritpal Singh claimed that his statements regarding the Union Home Minister had been distorted.

Amritpal Singh has been playing the Sikh 'victim card' on a variety of issues, including the demand for the release of *Bandi Singhs* (Sikh convicts in prison). Earlier, on February 8, around 33 police personnel were injured and dozens of police vehicles were damaged, after armed protesters under the banner of the *Kaumi Insaaf Morcha* (National Justice Rally), seeking the release of the *Bandi Singhs*, launched a violent attack on the Police with swords, rods, sticks and sharp-edged weapons, near the Chandigarh-Mohali border.

The atmosphere of violence and instability in Punjab has been compounded by the growing gang culture, gang wars and an augmenting and profane nexus between the narcotics traffickers, gangsters and Khalistani terrorists. In a continuing chronicle of violence, two gangsters – Mandeep Singh alias Toofan of Batala and Manmohan Singh alias Mohna of Budhlana – who had been arrested in connection with the murder of popular Punjabi singer Shubdeep Singh Sidhu *aka* Sidhu Moosewala were killed in an inter-gang clash in the Goindwal Jail in Tarn Taran district, on February 26. Another accused in the Moosewala murder – Keshav of Bathinda – was also injured in the clash. All the three were part of the Jaggu Bhagwanpuria gang. Separately, in a successful operation, the Anti-Gangster Task Force (AGTF) eliminated three gangsters, identified as Teja Mehandpuria and two of his associates, in an encounter near the Bassi Pathana Bus Stand in the Fatehgarh Sahib district, on February 22.

Amidst this rising chaos, the Punjab Police and central agencies conducted search operations across the state and neutralised various terrorist, gangster and narcotics trafficking modules during February. According to partial data compiled by the *Khalistan Extremism Monitor* (KEM), at least 49 persons linked with Khalistani terrorism or gang networks, were arrested, while another 222 were arrested in connection with narcotics seizures, during the month in Punjab. In an operation against gangsters, working in tandem with terrorist groups and drug smugglers based in foreign countries, including Pakistan and Canada, the NIA conducted raids at 76 locations on February 21, and arrested six suspects, including a close associate of the Canada-based designated terrorist Arshdeep Singh *aka* Arsh Dalla, and seized a large cache of arms and ammunition and cash amounting to INR 2.3 crores. NIA revealed that the arrested persons were involved in smuggling arms, ammunition, explosives across international and inter-state borders in India, for several Khalistani terror outfits, including the Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF), Babbar Khalsa International (BKI), and the International Sikh Youth Federation (ISYF).





TOP NEWS



UK review warns against anti-India rhetoric over Kashmir, pro-Khalistan extremism

A review of the UK government's counter-terrorism early-intervention strategy, Prevent, stated that radicalisation of Muslims in the UK on the issue of Kashmir and "potentially toxic" pro-Khalistan extremism were major concerns for the country. On the issue of Khalistani extremism, the review observed, Prevent should also be mindful of pro-Khalistan extremism emerging from the UK's Sikh communities. A false narrative is disseminated by the tiny number of pro-Khalistan groups operating in the UK that the government is colluding with its counterpart in India to persecute Sikhs... Such groups' narratives glorify violence carried out by the pro-Khalistan movement in India. While the current threat is low, praise for violence overseas and a simultaneous belief in a state-led campaign of repression domestically is a potentially toxic combination for the future."

» [Click here to read full news](#)

Ram Mandir vandalised with anti-India graffiti in Canada

The Ram Mandir (Temple) in Mississauga, Canada, was vandalised and defaced with anti-India graffiti by unknown persons on February 14. Later, Sikhs for Justice (SFJ), an banned as an illegal association in India, took responsibility for the attack. The Consulate General of India at Toronto condemned the defacing and requested Canadian authorities to investigate the incident and take prompt action against the perpetrators.

» [Click here to read full news](#)



2022 registered at NIA Police Station New Delhi under 121, 121A of Indian Penal Code and Sections 17, 18, 19 of Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967.



Biograph of wanted accused Lakhbir Singh Sandhu alias Landa

Lakhbir Singh Sandhu alias Landa son of Lakhbir Singh permanent resident of Village Harike, District Punjab, India now residing in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada and wanted in National Investigation Agency registered on 17/2022/NIA/DLI dated 20.08.2022 (Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967) (Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967).

NIA has declared Cash reward of Rs. 15,00,000/- for information leading to the arrest of the above mentioned accused Lakhbir Singh Sandhu alias Landa.

If any person has any information on the above mentioned accused leading to his arrest, the information may be shared on the following e-mail addresses:

1. HEADQUARTER NEW DELHI CONTROL ROOM
phone Number: 011-24368800,

NIA announces ₹15 lakh for info on Khalistani terrorist Landa

On February 15, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) announced a cash reward of INR 1.5 million for information leading to the arrest of Canada-based gangster-turned-Khalistani terrorist Lakhbir Singh Sandhu *aka* Landa, wanted in connection with terrorism cases in Punjab. The NIA stated, "A cash reward of ₹15 lakh is announced for any information leading to arrest of Lakhbir Singh Sandhu *aka* 'Landa'. Landa, a resident of Tarn Taran in Punjab, believed to be residing in Edmonton in Alberta in Canada, has been an absconder and is wanted by the NIA in a case related to the grenade attack on the Punjab Police Intelligence Headquarters in Mohali in 2022.

» [Click here to read full news](#)





Amritpal among over 20 booked

Police on February 16 booked 'Waris Punjab De' head Amritpal Singh among 20 persons on charges of kidnapping, thrashing, and snatching, on the complaint lodged by Varinder Singh of the Chamkaur Sahib area in Anjala in Amritsar district. The First Information Report (FIR) was registered against them at the Ajnala police station.

» [Click here to read full news](#)

BKI's Khanpuria convicted of waging war against country

The special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court in Mohali on February 16 convicted Kulwinder Singh Khanpuria of the banned Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) for waging a war against the country. He was produced before the court through video-conferencing. The NIA had registered a case against Khanpuria in 2019. He was arrested on November 21, 2022, from Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi, while returning from Bangkok. The NIA framed charges against Khanpuria for criminal conspiracy and under sections of the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA).

» [Click here to read full news](#)



Home Ministry bans Khalistan Tiger Force, declares Rinda as terrorist

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (UMHA) on February 17 declared Harwinder Singh Sandhu *aka* Rinda, currently based in Pakistan and affiliated to Babbar Khalsa International (BKI), a terrorist, and the Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF) a terrorist organisation. According to intelligence officials, Rinda, who is believed to be living in Lahore, is associated with the banned group BKI, and is said to have played a key role in the 2021 attack on the intelligence headquarters of the Punjab Police in Mohali. KTF is a militant outfit that seeks to revive terrorism in Punjab, national security, unity, and sovereignty. The organization promotes various forms of terrorism, including targeted assassinations within Punjab.

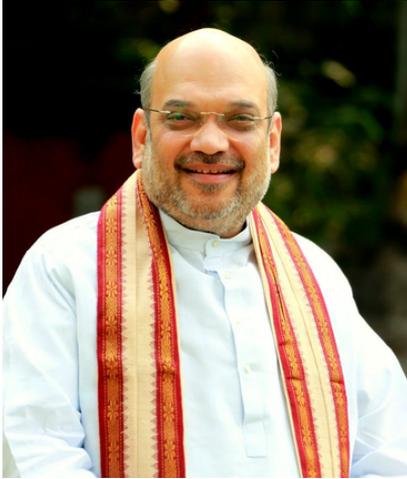
» [Click here to read full news](#)

Khalistan supporters getting funding from Pakistan, Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann

On February 26, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann stated that supporters of Khalistan were receiving funds from Pakistan and other countries. The Chief Minister, who was in Gujarat at the time, stated that the Punjab Police were capable of handling the Anjala violence, and only a handful of persons were supporting the pro-Khalistan movement in Punjab.

» [Click here to read full news](#)





“Will do same to Amit Shah as happened to Indira Gandhi”, threatens Amritpal Singh

Amritpal Singh, who is the head of ‘Waris Punjab De’ threatened Union Home Minister Amit Shah on February 20. In his address in Budhsingh Wala village of Moga District, Amritpal Singh declared, “We will do the same to Amit Shah as happened to Indira Gandhi.” He had come to the village to attend the death anniversary of Punjabi actor-activist Deep Sidhu. Amritpal Singh was also facing arrest, along with five of his aides and other unidentified persons, on charges of several crimes, including kidnapping, theft, rioting, causing injury, and unlawful assembly.

» [Click here to read full news](#)

Radicals storm police station to force release of kidnap accused

On February 23, supporters of pro-Khalistan ideologue and ‘Chief’ of Waris Punjab De, Amritpal Singh, armed with swords, guns, and sharp weapons, clashed with Punjab Police officers in Anjala police complex. According to sources, six policemen were injured, and a police vehicle was damaged. The protest was organized in response to the arrest of Lovepreet Singh *aka* Toofan who was accused in a kidnapping and assault case. Later, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) of Amritsar, Satinder Singh, stated that Lovepreet would be released on February 24, after the completion of formalities “as per the evidence submitted before the Punjab Police.”

» [Click here to read full news](#)



“Will ‘target’ Delhi Airport during G20 FM meet”, warns SFJ chief Pannun

In a video posted on social media on February 27, The chief of Sikhs for Justice (SFJ), Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, threatened to “storm and target” New Delhi’s Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport with Khalistan flags during the G20 Foreign Ministers Summit in New Delhi. The video also displayed the slogans “Punjab is Not India” and “Khalistan Zindabad” by the outlawed pro-Khalistan group at the Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Office Complex of Rode village in the Moga district of Punjab. In the video, Pannun further declared, “This message is for the G20 foreign ministers. Punjab is not India. SFJ will storm and target the New Delhi Airport with Khalistan flags,” he said.

» [Click here to read full news](#)





HATE SPEECH TRACKER

Date	Incidents
17 February 23	Hindu temple in Brisbane gets threatening call from Khalistanis
21 February 23	Self-proclaimed Khalistan leader Amritpal Singh threatens Home Minister Amit Shah

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

COMPOSITE SEIZURES IN PUNJAB

Date	No. of Incidents	No. of Arrests	Items
03 February 23	3	1	2.2kg of heroin, 14kg narcotics, two rifles, three pistol, live ammunition
10 February 23	1	0	3kg of heroin, one China-made pistol, cartridges, and a magazine
18 February 23	1	0	22kg heroin, two pistols, six magazines and 242 rounds
Total	5	1	Heroin – 27.2kg, Pistols – 6, Rifles- 2, Magazines – 7, Rounds – 242, Other Narcotics – 14kg.

ARMS & AMMUNITION SEIZURES IN PUNJAB

Date	No. of Incidents	No. of Arrests	Items
04 February 23	1	2	Nine Pistols
05 February 23	1	2	Quantity of arms was not disclosed
10 February 23	2	5	Two country-made .32 bore pistols, along with 10 live rounds and two magazines, one country-made 9 mm pistol with two live rounds, one country-made .12 bore pistol with one live round. & Five pistols
16 February 23	1	2	Two pistols and ten live cartridges
17 February 23	1	2	Six illegal pistols, eight magazines and 12 live cartridges
18 February 23	3	4	A .32 bore pistol and five live cartridges, Nine pistols and 20 cartridges, Three illegal weapons.





19 February 23	1	10	Six rifles, two pistols, one revolver, 35 live cartridges
21 February 23	1	6	11 pistols and rifles with ammunition.
22 February 23	1	0	Six pistols
23 February 23	1	1	One pistol and six cartridges
Total	13	34	Pistols – 56, Revolver – 1, Rifles – 17, Cartridges – 88, Magazines – 10, Rounds – 13. Other weapons – 3

DRUG SEIZURES IN PUNJAB

Date	No. of Incidents	No. of Arrests	Items
01 February 23	1	0	2.662kg heroin
03 February 23	1	0	5kg heroin
04 February 23	1	0	2.256Kg heroin
07 February 23	1	1	50gm heroin
08 February 23	1	1	500gm opium
09 February 23	1	1	15kg heroin and INR 8.40 lakh drug money.
11 February 23	1	1	18gm heroin
14 February 23	3	3	123kg puppy husk
15 February 23	1	1	1kg heroin & 27 lakh drug money
17 February 23	1	0	2kg heroin
19 February 23	3	3	115.7kg of heroin, 70kg puppy husk, 1kg charas, INR 1 lakh drug money
21 February 23	3	205	2.8kg heroin & INR 2.20 lakh drug money 18gm heroin, 50 intoxicant capsules, 4kg poppy husk.
24 February 23	1	2	75, 500 intoxicant capsules
26 February 23	1	2	15gm & 20gm heroin
27 February 23	1	0	2. 6kg heroin
Total	21	220	Heroin – 149.639kg, Opium – 500gm, Poppy Husk – 197kg, Charas (Hashish) – 1kg, Intoxicant capsules – 75,550, Drug money – INR 38.6 Lakh)

