



KHALISTAN EXTREMISM MONITOR

NEWSLETTER



Spotlight

The Punjab Police augmented its proactive measures to counter the escalating criminal networks associated with gangs, terrorism, and drug smuggling within the state. The Inspector General of Police, Headquarters (IGP-HQ), Sukhchain Singh Gill, stated on January 23 that arrests in the ongoing drive against Proclaimed Offenders (POs)/Absconders totalled 1,260, since July 5, 2022. He added that the Anti-Gangster Task Force (AGTF), formed on April 6, 2022, had successfully dismantled 312 gangster/criminal modules, apprehended 951 gangsters/criminals, and killed 10. The force also seized 963 weapons and 208 vehicles used in criminal activities over this period.

In accordance with the data compiled by the *Khalistan Extremism Monitor (KEM)*, at least 67 individuals were arrested over the course of the month on grounds of their affiliations with Khalistan terrorist organizations or organized criminal/gang networks. Furthermore, an additional 150 individuals were apprehended in relation to drug seizures in Punjab.

The month in review

'Khalistan-related disturbances,' primarily originating from Western countries, especially Canada, United States (US) and the United Kingdom (UK), dominated the first month of 2024, mirroring the pattern observed in the second half of 2023. Coinciding with India's Republic Day, January saw a surge in of Khalistani activities, both within the domestic sphere and on the international stage.

In the midst of allegations levied by the US regarding potential Indian involvement in a foiled assassination plot against him on US soil, the Khalistani terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun persistently issued overt threats to India and its leaders, with impunity. The chief of Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) disseminated at least six threatening video messages on social media in January (January 1, 8, 16, 18, 20, and 22), which contained direct threats to the lives of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. Moreover, he called for the targeting of the Indian Parliament, Stock Exchange, and the Republic Day event. Pannun, through these videos, also urged Muslims to oppose the January 22 Ram Temple *Pran Pratishtha* (consecration) ceremony in Ayodhya and to press for the separation of 'Urduistan' from India.





Interestingly, on January 18, the Uttar Pradesh (UP) Anti-Terror Squad (ATS), arrested three 'non-Sikh' members of the banned Khalistani outfit SFJ – Shankar Dussad *aka* Shankar Jajod, Ajit Kumar Sharma, and Pradeep Puniya – in Ayodhya. According to the police, Dussad, a former gangster, had forged Khalistan ties while in Bikaner Jail and was in contact with Pannun through the Canada-based gangster-terrorist Lakhbir Singh Sandhu *aka* Landa. The arrested suspects, who had been planning reconnaissance in Ayodhya for two years, were allegedly directed by Khalistani leaders to produce a comprehensive map of the targeted site. Following the arrest, Pannun issued a threatening message against Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, accusing the police of torturing pro-Khalistan youths and filing false cases.

After the Ram Temple consecration ceremony in Ayodhya on January 22, Pannun threatened to target Hindu temples in India, specifically vowing to damage the Durgiana pilgrimage site in Amritsar. He disputed the historical significance of the Durgiana Temple in Hinduism and warned the temple management to hand over its keys to the Golden Temple. Consequently, Punjab police filed charges of promoting religious enmity against Pannun at the Sultanwind Police Station in Amritsar district.

On January 24, the Durgiana Temple received a bomb threat on its landline telephone, allegedly from a self-identified Khalistani terrorist named Harnet.

On January 19, the State Special Operations Cell (SSOC) of the Punjab Police arrested three associates of Pannun in Rajpura, Patiala district, on charges of spreading pro-Khalistan ideology and communal hatred on social media. The SSOC found that the accused received funds ranging from INR 25,000 to INR 50,000 from the US-based Pannun, intended for promoting pro-Khalistan slogans on social media and in public places.

On January 26, India's Republic Day, Khalistani supporters and SFJ activists staged anti-India protests outside Indian Consulates and Missions in various parts of the West, including Canada, UK, US, and Italy. They displayed posters with derogatory slogans against Indian leaders and treated the Indian national flag disrespectfully, including burning, trampling, or defacing it.

While the Pakistani media claimed that over 127,000 American Sikhs participated in the Khalistan Referendum event organized by SFJ in San Francisco, USA, on January 28, Video footage, however, suggests a participation of between 2,000 and 5,000. Moreover, video footage circulating on social media recorded a violent confrontation among rival factions: the Major Singh Nijjar group had reportedly been sidelined by Pannun, and SFJ was promoting the (Sarabjit Singh) Sabi Gang.

While the value of free speech is acknowledged, the silence observed in the West and the international community's reluctance to condemn Pannun's explicit endorsement of violence undermine the global commitment to counterterrorism, and also constitute a threat to bilateral relations.

Meanwhile, the presence of fringe Khalistani elements within Punjab persisted, contributing to disturbances at the domestic level.

Five persons, including an inspector, sustained injuries in a violent clash when Gurudwara Management Committee President, Col. Harsimran Singh (Retd.), directed Khalistani supporters to remove a poster of Sikh militant-preacher Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale from Gurudwara Janam Asthan Baba Deep Singh in Pahuwind village, Tarn Taran district, on the birth anniversary of Baba Deep Singh on January 28. The dispute was reportedly resolved through compromise, with Sikh bodies led by Harpal Singh Bler of Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD-Amritsar) reinstating the portrait at the Gurudwara entrance on January 29.

Raising concerns about potential communal unrest in the region, tensions escalated again on January 30 when 'Khalistan Zindabad' posters appeared in local markets, sparking anger among Hindu organizations in Batala, Gurdaspur district of Punjab. In response, Hindu groups called for a bandh (shutdown strike) on February 1.





In addition to the usual observance of a 'Black Day' and protest march advocating Khalistan on Republic Day (January 26), the radical Sikh outfit Dal Khalsa wrote to French President Emmanuel Macron, expressing disappointment over his participation as the chief guest at India's Republic Day celebrations.

TOP NEWS



Gurpatwant Pannun's latest threat

'Will target Bombay Stock Exchange from March 12': Gurpatwant Pannun's latest threat

Designated Khalistani terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, in a video message released on January 1, called for the 'economic destruction' of India by targeting the Bombay Stock Exchange and the National Stock Exchange on March 12. Pannun urged people to divest from Indian stocks and invest in American stocks. Indian security agencies have registered numerous cases against him, and in January, he called for targeting the Indian Parliament.

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Gangster Goldy Brar declared a terrorist

On January 1, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (UMHA) designated Satwinder Singh *aka* Goldy Brar, a "terrorist" under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). An Interpol red notice has been issued against Brar since June 2022. Brar is connected to the Lawrence Bishnoi gang as well as the Khalistani terrorist Babbar Khalsa International (BKI). He is implicated in assisting pro-Khalistan groups in smuggling weapons, drugs, carrying out targeted killings, and recruitment.

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Gangster Goldy Brar



Foreign minister Jaishankar

'Canadian politics have given space to Khalistani forces': Foreign minister Jaishankar

External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar, in an interview with ANI, warned that Canada's political environment was creating space for the growth of Khalistani separatism, and enabling radicals to propagate their ideology. These remarks came amid escalating tensions between Canada and India over the killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar. Jaishankar accused Canada of providing room for Khalistani forces to engage in activities detrimental to bilateral relations, refuting Canadian Prime Minister (PM) Justin Trudeau's allegations of an Indian plot to assassinate Khalistani terrorists.

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Hindu temple defaced with pro-Khalistan graffiti in California

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On January 5, the Hindu American Foundation reported that the Sherawali Temple in Hayward, California, had been defaced with pro-Khalistan graffiti, just weeks after a similar occurrence at the Swaminarayan temple in Newark, California, USA. The foundation highlighted the rising threat from Khalistan supporters and emphasized the importance of installing security cameras and alarm systems.

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Police see rise in extortion cases targeting Indo-Canadian businesses

The Edmonton Police Service reported that extortion attempts targeting Indo-Canadian businesses have spread from the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) and Metro Vancouver to the province of Alberta in Canada, leading to at least 18 investigations since October 2023. Perpetrators escalate violence, including drive-by shootings and arson, if victims fail to pay. The Edmonton Police Service reported a series of arson attempts, and six individuals have been arrested for shooting and arson incidents connected to the extortion series. These crimes highlight concerns over transnational gangs with potential links to India operating in Canada, such as the Lawrence Bishnoi gang

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Police see rise in extortion cases targeting Indo-Canadian businesses



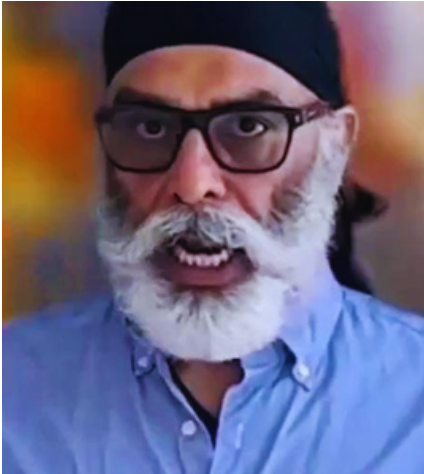
NIA

NIA court refuses to discharge 'ex-RAW agent' booked for trying to revive Khalistan movement

A special court designated under the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in Mumbai, on January 5, rejected the discharge petition of Mohiuddin Siddiqui, a former Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) operative accused of aiding in reviving Sikh militancy for a separate 'Khalistan' state in Punjab. Siddiqui allegedly provided ammunition and international SIM cards to convicted individuals. The court cited evidence from mobile phones and noted the conviction of others as sufficient grounds to proceed.

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Gurpatwant Singh Pannun

Pannun calls for shutdown of airports from Amritsar to Ayodhya ahead of Jan 22

Khalistani terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, through a video message on January 8 called for the shutdown of airports from Amritsar in Punjab to Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh (UP), ahead of the January 22 Ram Temple *Pran Pratishtha* (consecration) ceremony. Pannun, the leader of the banned Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), also urged Muslims to oppose the ceremony and carve out 'Urduistan' from India. Threatening global consequences, he called for Muslims to protest the event, which was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

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Slogans supporting Khalistan surface in Delhi ahead of Republic Day

Slogans supporting Khalistan, linked to Gurpatwant Singh Pannun's Republic Day threats, were discovered on walls in the Chander Vihar area in West Delhi on January 16. The graffiti read 'SFJ, January 26, Khalistan.' Later, Delhi Police removed the slogans and filed a case. Pannun had also threatened to hoist the Khalistani flag on January 26, and urged Sikhs For Justice sympathizers to write slogans calling for a referendum and voting for a separate Khalistan.

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Slogans supporting Khalistan surface in Delhi ahead of Republic Day



Gurpatwant Singh Pannun

Gurpatwant Singh Pannun threatens to kill Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann

Gurpatwant Singh Pannun issued a threat on January 16 to Punjab Chief Minister (CM) Bhagwant Mann and Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav, urging gangsters to join the banned Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) and disrupt Republic Day events, and to prevent Mann from hoisting the national flag. The threat was delivered via a video message sent by email to some journalists. Pannun compared CM Mann to the late assassinated Chief Minister Beant Singh and Yadav to the assassinated officer Gobind Ram. Additionally, Pannun issued threats to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, daring him to attend Republic Day without security.

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UP ATS arrests three aides of Khalistani leader Pannun from Ayodhya

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On January 18, the Uttar Pradesh (UP) Anti-Terror Squad (ATS) arrested three members of Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), identified as Shankar Dussad *aka* Shankar Jajod, Ajit Kumar Sharma, and Pradeep Puniya, in Ayodhya, UP. Dussad, a former gangster, had forged Khalistan ties while in Bikaner Jail. He was in touch with Khalistan leader Gurpatwant Singh Pannun through Canada-based arms smuggler, Lakhbir Singh Sandhu *aka* Landa. According to the police, Khalistan leaders had instructed Dussad to visit Ayodhya and prepare a map of the site.

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Khalistani terrorist Pannun threatened UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath

On January 18, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister (CM) Yogi Adityanath received a threat from Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, the chief of the banned Khalistani Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), following the arrest of three individuals, ahead of the Ram Temple ceremony in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh. Pannun issued a threatening voice message, accusing the police of torturing two pro-Khalistan youths and filing false cases against them. The recorded message warns of an SFJ response on January 22, coinciding with the Ram Temple ceremony in Ayodhya.

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UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath



Dal Khalsa writes to French President prior to his visit to India

Dal Khalsa writes to French President prior to his visit to India on January 26

The radical Sikh outfit Dal Khalsa wrote to French President Emmanuel Macron, expressing disappointment over his participation as the chief guest in India's Republic Day celebrations. The letter urged Macron to engage in discussions with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on issues such as transnational targeted killings of Sikhs, equal prisoner norms, human rights, and the right to self-determination. The letter also mentions the murder of Canadian Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, and opposed France's endorsement of India's UN Security Council membership bid.

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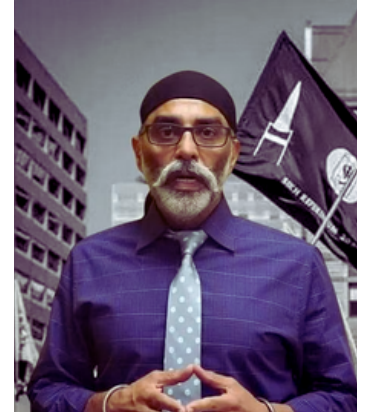




Punjab Police books pro-Khalistan leader Pannun for threatening Hindu temple management

On January 23, Punjab Police booked the chief of Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, on charges of promoting religious enmity, at the Sultanwind Police Station in Amritsar district. The First Information Report (FIR) was filed based on a social media video in which Pannun claimed that the Shri Durgiana Mandir had no historical significance in Hinduism. He also warned the temple management to hand over the keys to the Golden Temple.

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Gurpatwant Singh Pannun



Khalistan slogans

Khalistani protesters create a ruckus outside the Indian embassy in Vancouver on Republic Day

On January 26, India's Republic Day, Khalistani activists and supporters staged anti-India protests outside the Indian Consulate in Vancouver, Canada. They displayed posters with derogatory slogans against Prime Minister Modi, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, and National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, as well as slogans such as "Khalistan Referendum," "Delhi Banayga Khalistan," and "Assassins of Shaheed Nijjar, Enemies of Canada." Videos and eyewitness accounts depict protesters handling the Indian national flag disrespectfully, including burning, trampling, or defacing it.

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Dal Khalsa marked a black day in Moga: took out a protest march and demanded Khalistan

On January 26, Republic Day, supporters of Dal Khalsa, led by Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar) Member of Parliament Simranjit Singh Mann, took out a protest march in the Moga district of Punjab, calling it a Black Day, displaying black flags, and advocating for Khalistan.

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Dal Khalsa marked a black day in Moga





Khalistanis using RBI's money transfer service to fund terror

Khalistanis using RBI's money transfer service to fund terror

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) is currently investigating the misuse of the Reserve Bank of India's Money Transfer Service Scheme (MTSS) by operatives of the Khalistani terrorist group Babbar Khalsa International (BKI), which has shifted its tactics from *hawala* to using tourists as a means to funnel funds for their activities. Harwinder Singh *aka* Rinda, and Lakhbir Singh Sandhu *aka* Landa are identified as the chief conspirators involved in terrorist plots and arms smuggling into Punjab. In collaboration with tour guides, BKI reportedly offers commissions to tourists for receiving remittances via MTSS, and the funds acquired are used to purchase arms.

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Clash at Tarn Taran gurdwara over removal of Bhindranwale's poster

Tension erupted on January 28 after a clash ensued when the President of the Gurudwara Management Committee, Col. Harsimran Singh (Retd.), asked volunteers to remove the poster of Sikh militant-preacher Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale from the premises of the Gurudwara Janam Asthan Baba Deep Singh at Pahuwind village in Tarn Taran district. Police escorted Col. Harsimran Singh to safety amidst the chaos. With persons on both sides sustaining injuries, discussions were initiated to resolve the dispute.

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Clash at Tarn Taran gurdwara over removal of Bhindranwale's poster



Khalistan Referendum held in San Francisco, US

Khalistan Referendum held in San Francisco, US

According to Pakistan media sources, more than 127,000 American Sikhs participated in the Khalistan Referendum on United States (US) soil, organized by Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), in San Francisco. Amid diplomatic tensions with India, the referendum saw heavy security, following an earlier alleged assassination attempt on SFJ chief Gurpatwant Singh Pannun.

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HATE SPEECH TRACKER

Date	Incidents
01 January 2024	Gurpatwant Singh Pannun threatened to target Bombay Stock Exchange on March 12
08 January 2024	Gurpatwant Singh Pannun issued a threat ahead of Ram Temple consecration
16 January 2024	Gurpatwant Singh Pannun threatened to kill Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann
18 January 2024	Gurpatwant Singh Pannun issued a threat against Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath
20 January 2024	Gurpatwant Singh Pannun threatened Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann
22 January 2024	SFJ chief Gurpatwant Singh Pannun threatened to attack Hindu temples in India
24 January 2024	Caller threatens to blow up Durgiana Temple in Amritsar
31 January 2024	Khalistani terrorist Lakhbir Singh <i>aka</i> Landa threatens to kill Tejkaran Singh, chief sevadar of Dera Harbhagat Jethuwal, as well as members of Singh Tejkaran Singh's family living in Canada and other foreign countries.

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COMPOSITE SEIZURES IN PUNJAB

Date	No. of Incidents	No. of Arrests	Items
04 January 2024	1	1	2 kilograms of ICE (methamphetamine), a .30-bore China-made pistol and five bullets
08 January 2024	1	3	3.5 kilograms of heroin along with 10 cartridges
09 January 2024	1	1	Consignment of heroin and arms
14 January 2024	1	2	3 kilograms of heroin, a .45 bore pistol with four live cartridges, and a .32 bore pistol with five live bullets
17 January 2024	1	3	1.07 kilograms of heroin and a .32-bore pistol and live cartridges
23 January 2024	1	1	1.3 kilograms of heroin, an Australia-made Glock pistol, a country-made pistol, and 20 cartridges.





25 January 2024	1	2	100 grams of heroin and 13 live rounds of .32 bore
29 January 2024	1	4	4.369 kilograms of heroin, 968 grams of ICE (methamphetamine), a pistol, and four rounds of ammunition
Total	8	17	Heroin – 13.339 kilograms, ICE (methamphetamine) – 2.968 kilograms, Pistols – 7, Cartridges / Bullets – 50.

ARMS & AMMUNITION SEIZURES IN PUNJAB

Date	No. of Incidents	No. of Arrests	Items
03 January 2024	2	3	Eight pistols, ammunition; Three weapons and eight live cartridges
04 January 2024	1	2	4 pistols and 10 live cartridges
10 January 2024	1	4	A .32 pistol, over a dozen live cartridges
11 January 2024	1	0	Two pistols, two magazines and ammunition
12 January 2024	1	1	One .30 calibre Chinese pistol along with eight cartridges
15 January 2024	1	5	Five pistols, five revolvers, three guns, and a rifle, along with 30 cartridges
17 January 2024	1	1	A revolver
19 January 2024	1	0	One AK-47 assault rifle, two magazines, 40 cartridges
20 January 2024	1	6	Nine pistols
21 January 2024	1	2	Two .30 bore pistols, ammunition
25 January 2024	1	0	One Pump Action Gun (PAG), 10 rounds of 0.32 bore, and one pistol
31 January 2024	1	1	A.32 bore pistol, along with two live cartridges
Total	13	25	Pistols – 34, Cartridges – 112, Magazines – 4, Revolvers – 6, Guns – 4, Rifles – 2, and Other Weapons – 3.





DRUG SEIZURES IN PUNJAB

Date	No. of Incidents	No. of Arrests	Items
01 January 2024	2	2	10 kilograms of opium; 480 grams heroin
03 January 2024	2	1	530 grams of heroin; 305 intoxicant tablets
04 January 2024	3	6	63 kilograms of opium; 20 grams of ICE (methamphetamine); 50 grams of heroin
06 January 2024	1	0	3.210 kilograms of heroin
08 January 2024	10	72	260 grams of intoxicant powder; 80 grams of intoxicant powder; 110 grams of narcotics; 65 grams of intoxicant powder; 110 (45 +65) grams of intoxicant powder; 160 grams of narcotic substance; 65 grams of narcotic substance; 1.9 kilograms of heroin, 1.1 kilograms of opium, 87.5kilograms of poppy husk, 10,125 intoxicating tablets, 12,350 litres <i>lahan</i> (raw material in illegal liquor manufacture); 1.1 kilograms of opium, 1,450 habit-forming tablets, 1.5 kilograms of cannabis, 10 grams of heroin, 30 grams of intoxicants.
09 January 2024	3	1	6 kilograms of heroin; 1.50 kilograms of heroin; 515 grams of heroin
10 January 2024	1	1	44.50 grams of heroin
11 January 2024	2	2	470 grams of heroin; 1.5 kilograms of heroin
13 January 2024	3	2	672 grams of heroin; 300 grams of opium; 21 grams of heroin
14 January 2024	1	0	5 kilograms of heroin
15 January 2024	1	2	22 quintals of poppy husk
18 January 2024	1	1	7 kilograms of heroin
19 January 2024	2	2	3 kilograms of heroin; 530 grams of heroin
20 January 2024	1	2	3 kilograms of heroin
22 January 2024	4	6	600 grams of heroin; 400 grams of opium; 20 grams of heroin; 37,000 prohibited intoxicating tablets
23 January 2024	1	2	1.5 kilograms of heroin
25 January 2024	1	0	531 grams of heroin





KHALISTAN EXTREMISM MONITOR

January 2024

26 January 2024	1	0	1 kilogram of heroin; 3 kilograms of heroin
27 January 2024	1	1	570 grams of heroin; 50 grams of heroin
28 January 2024	5	6	53.04 grams of heroin; 500 grams of heroin; 5 kilograms of heroin; 70 grams of heroin; 340 grams of heroin
30 January 2024	2	5	500 grams of heroin; 10 kilograms of poppy husk; 220 intoxicating pills
Total	48	114	Heroin – 49.43 kilograms, Opium – 75.9 kilograms, Poppy husk – 22.875 quintals, ICE (methamphetamine) – 20 grams, Intoxicant tablets – 48,880, Intoxicant Powder – 545 grams, Other Narcotic Substance – 400 grams, Lahan – 12,350 litres, Habit-forming tablets – 1,450, Cannabis (Marijuana) – 1.5 kilograms.

