



KHALISTAN EXTREMISM MONITOR

NEWSLETTER



Spotlight

In June 2023, the Punjab police achieved significant gains, neutralizing several modules involved in terrorism, gang-related crimes, and drug trafficking. Data collated by the Khalistan Extremism Monitor (KEM) indicated that at least 22 individuals were arrested during the month for their involvement in the Khalistani terrorist or gang networks. Further, an additional 45 individuals were arrested in connection with drug seizures in Punjab.

On June 12, Sukhchain Singh Gill, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Headquarters, disclosed that, since the launch of their anti-drug smuggling operation on July 5, 2022, the Punjab Police had been successful in dismantling a large proportion of the drug smuggling racket in the state, with the arrest of 14,952 drug smugglers and seizures of 1,135.25 kilograms of heroin, 731 kilograms of opium, 840.76 kilograms of Ganja (Marijuana), 350.40 quintals of poppy husk, 6.249 million tablets/capsules/injections/vials of pharmaceutical opioids, and INR 118.3 million in drug money, over the span of 11 months.

The month in review

June witnessed major Khalistan-related incidents occurring outside India, particularly in Western countries such as the UK and Canada, where pro-Khalistani elements are especially active. The consecutive deaths of prominent pro-Khalistani extremists, Avtar Singh Khanda in the UK on June 15 and Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada on June 18, left the leadership of the Khalistani diaspora network in a state of shock and fear. This development held particular significance, especially in view of the recent killing of another Khalistani terrorist, Paramjit Singh Panjwar, in Pakistan on May 6, 2023.

Khalistani terrorist and the chief of the Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF), Hardeep Singh Nijjar was shot dead by two unidentified gunmen wearing face masks in the parking lot of Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara in Surrey, Canada, on June 18. Nijjar, was the Gurudwara's President and a prominent figure in Khalistani activities in Canada, including the Sikhs For Justice's (SFJ) referendum campaigns.

On June 15, Avatar Singh Khanda *aka* Ranjodh Singh, a close associate of Amritpal Singh (the self-proclaimed head of a faction of Waris Punjab De, currently incarcerated) and the head of the London unit of the Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF),





died at the Sandwell Hospital in Birmingham, UK, reportedly due to blood cancer. However, conspiracy theories were widely circulated by Khalistani organisations and activists in the UK and beyond, alleging a targeted killing by Indian state agencies, and the possibility that his death was caused by poisoning. The case was eventually referred for a Coroner's investigation.

Nijjar, who was designated a terrorist by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (UMHA) in July 2020, was linked to the KTF's organized crime network and was facing charges in several terror-related cases, including targeted killings of religious leaders, extortion, smuggling of arms, ammunition, and explosives across national and state borders in India. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) had offered a reward of INR 10 lakh for his arrest in 2022 and confiscated his properties in Bharsingpura village in the Phillaur area of Jalandhar, Punjab, in September 2020. Earlier, an Interpol Red Corner Notice was also issued against him in 2016. Despite being briefly detained by the Surrey police in Canada in 2018, on suspicion of his association with terrorist activities, he was subsequently released.

Khanda was the main accused in the vandalism that occurred outside the premises of the Indian High Commission in London on March 19, 2023, and was allegedly involved in helping Khalistan supporter Amritpal Singh evade arrest by the Punjab Police in March-April 2023. The NIA, which took over the case from the Special Cell of Delhi Police, had put out a lookout-notice for Khanda.

Indian agencies believe that Nijjar's killing, perceived as a significant setback to the Khalistan diaspora movement, was either a result of inter-criminal gang rivalry over the control of 'well-funded' Gurudwaras in western countries or a component of a broader strategic scheme orchestrated by Pakistan's ISI. According to reports, significant pro-Khalistani figures in the western world, including SFJ chief Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, went off the radar immediately following Nijjar's killing.

Soon after these deaths, the Khalistani Diaspora's propagandist machinery initiated its own narrative, alleging that India's external intelligence agency, R&AW, was responsible for these killings, and declared that the dead were 'martyrs'. On June 21, seven Members of Parliament (MPs) from the 'Liberal Sikh caucus' met with Canada's Public Safety Minister Marco Mendicino to express their concerns about the potential 'foreign interference' (referring to India) in Nijjar's assassination. Further, portraying Nijjar's killing as an attack by the Indian State on 'Sikh activists' in Canada, pro-Khalistani Sikh groups organized a protest march on June 24 in front of the Indian consulate.

As the anniversary of Operation Bluestar falls in June, many cities in the West recorded aggressive and inflammatory pro-Khalistani protests and rallies. In one such incident, a float glorifying the assassination of the late Prime Minister (PM) Indira Gandhi by her Sikh bodyguards, along with signs that read 'revenge for the attack on Shri Darbar Sahib,' was displayed at a pro-Khalistani rally in Brampton, Canada, on June 4, drawing criticism from different quarters. Subsequently, on June 28, India's External Affairs Minister (EAM), S. Jaishankar, accused Canada of being driven by vote-bank politics on the Khalistan issue and warned that if activities from Canada impinged on India's national security and integrity, India would be compelled to respond.





TOP NEWS



Tableau depicting Indira Gandhi's Assassination

Tableau depicting Indira Gandhi's assassination by Sikh bodyguards part of parade in Canada's Brampton

A float depicting the assassination of late Prime Minister (PM) Indira Gandhi was displayed in a Parade on June 4 in Brampton, Canada. The five-kilometre-long parade was taken out by Khalistan supporters to coincide with the anniversary of Operation Blue Star. Condemning the incident, Canadian High Commissioner to India, Cameron MacKay, stated that there was no place in his country for hate or for the glorification of violence.

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Australian authorities on alert as Sikh-Hindu tensions over Khalistan separatist movement boil over in Sydney

According to reports, Sikh-Hindu tensions escalated in Sydney following a "referendum" event organized by pro-Khalistan supporters on June 4 in Minchinbury, Sydney. The recent referendum in Minchinbury resulted in protests and subsequent arrests. Additionally, confrontations and an attack on a 42-year-old man were also reported in Harris Park. The New South Wales police have taken action, arresting two men, aged 23 and 24. The violence has raised concerns among government officials and community leaders, who fear that these tensions could strain Australia-India relations.

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Referendum in Minchinbury



Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale

Bhindranwale never wanted Khalistan, says Bhindranwale's elder brother Harjit Singh Rode

During an interview with *The Statesman*, Harjit Singh Rode, the elder brother of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, disclosed that Bhindranwale never supported the idea of Khalistan, which goes against the belief widely propagated by Khalistan advocates. Rode clarified that Bhindranwale's primary focus was on realizing the Anandpur Sahib resolution, which sought to grant Punjab greater autonomy. Rode further emphasized that Bhindranwale's intention was for Punjab to have control over various subjects, while remaining a part of India.

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Pro-Khalistan slogans raised at Golden Temple

Pro-Khalistan slogans raised on Operation Blue Star anniversary at Golden Temple premise

Pro-Khalistan slogans were raised by a group of people on the 39th anniversary of Operation Blue Star at the Golden Temple in Amritsar on June 6. Shiromani Akali Dal (Amritsar) activists, led by Member of Parliament (MP) Simranjit Singh Mann and former MP Dhian Singh Mand, raised "Khalistan Zindabad" slogans at the Akal Takht. Activists from the radical Sikh group, Dal Khalsa were seen holding placards featuring portraits of the slain militant leader Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, while raising pro-Khalistan slogans.

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Punjab Police Launches Drone Emergency Response System to Combat Drug and Arms Smuggling

The Punjab Police has introduced the Drone Emergency Response System (DERS) in the border district of Pathankot, to combat the smuggling of drugs and arms from across the border using Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs). DERS will cover 14 villages within a 2-kilometer radius of the international border, and is intended to prevent illicit transportation facilitated by UAVs. The police will collaborate with village-level defence committees for coordinated responses to smuggling incidents.

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Khalistan Supporters

Khalistani supporters 'with swords' attack Indians in Australia

A *Tiranga* (Indian national flag) rally by Australian Hindus was attacked by sword-wielding Khalistanis near Clifton Boulevard, Griffith, on June 11. According to sources, attackers smashed the cars of participants in the *Tiranaga* rally, shattered their windscreens, side windows and rear-view mirrors and dented the doors with swords and heavy metal rods.

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Avtar Singh Khanda

Khalistan leader Avtar Singh Khanda, who played key role in Indian mission attack, dies.

Avtar Singh Khanda *aka* Ranjodh Singh, a close associate of Amritpal Singh and the head of the London unit of the Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF), died at the Sandwell Hospital in Birmingham, United Kingdom (UK) on June 15. The cause of his death is yet to be confirmed, but is most likely to be blood cancer. Some reports claim that food poisoning could be the cause of his death. Khanda was booked by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) for the attack on the Indian High Commission in London and was the 'mastermind' behind the lowering of the Indian tricolour at the Indian High Commission in London on March 19, 2023. He had allegedly assisted Amritpal Singh, the leader of a faction of Waris Punjab De (WPD) to evade arrest, while the latter was on the run from the Punjab Police.

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UMHA directs NIA to investigate pro-Khalistan protests in Canada and US

On June 16, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (UMHA) instructed the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to take over cases related to pro-Khalistan protests at the Indian consulate in San Francisco, United States (US), and the Indian High Commission in Ottawa, Canada. The move follows previous directives to the NIA to investigate similar Khalistani protests in London, United Kingdom (UK), which revealed a potential connection with Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).

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Hardeep Singh Nijjar

Khalistan Tiger Force chief Hardeep Singh Nijjar shot dead in Canada

Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, the leader of the Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF) and the Canadian branch of Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), was shot dead by two unidentified assailants in a parking lot of the Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara in Surrey, Canada, on June 18.

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NIA announces cash reward on Khalistani militant, seven others

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on June 22 announced a cash reward for the arrest of eight absconding individuals, including Arshdeep Singh Gill *aka* Arsh Dalla, a gangster and designated terrorist of the Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF) based in Canada. The NIA placed a cash reward of INR 5 lakh on Dalla and Gaurav Patyal, as well as rewards of INR 1 lakh each on other absconding gangsters, Sandeep *aka* Bandar, Sukhdool Singh, Gurpinder Singh *aka* Baba Dalla, Dinesh Sharma, Neeraj Pandit, and Dalesh Singh Kotia

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NIA



Attack on Indian High Commission in Canada

Amritpal Singh's brother-in-law key accused in attack on Indian high commission in Canada

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) revealed on June 23 that Amarjot Singh, the brother-in-law of Amritpal Singh, the chief of a faction of Waris Punjab De (WPD), has been identified as the primary accused in the March 23 attack on the Indian High Commission in Canada. The NIA has taken over the case and is investigating a larger conspiracy and potential links to Pakistan. According to the NIA's First Information Report (FIR), Amarjot Singh was part of a pro-Khalistan mob led by Baba Sarvan Singh, that attacked the Indian High Commission in Canada.

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Dal Khalsa organizes a memorial event in remembrance of Hardeep Singh Nijjar

On June 25, the radical Sikh group Dal Khalsa announced its plans to hold a memorial event for Hardeep Singh Nijjar at the Darbar Sahib Complex in Amritsar, Punjab, on July 1. Nijjar, a Khalistani terrorist who was recently killed in Canada, was wanted by India and has been sought for extradition since 2018.

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Dal Khalsa



Goldy Brar

Fugitive gangster Goldy Brar says he is not in favour of Khalistan

In an exclusive interview with *India Today*, fugitive gangster Goldy Brar has denied supporting the idea of Khalistan or a separate Sikh nation. He emphasized that, although there are individuals who advocate the Khalistan ideology, he is not one of them. Brar is currently facing charges filed by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) for alleged connections to banned pro-Khalistan terror groups like Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) and others.

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NIA

NIA locates five wanted Khalistani terrorists abroad and issues non-bailable warrants

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has located five individuals wanted for their alleged involvement in Khalistani terrorism in India. The individuals have been identified as Kashmir Singh Galwadi (located in Nepal), Gurjant Singh (located in Australia), Yadwinder Singh (located in the Philippines), Parminder Singh (located in Greece), and Tarsem (located in Dubai). Non-bailable warrants (NBWs) have been issued against them, and they have been declared as absconders.

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HATE SPEECH TRACKER

Date	Incidents
23 June 23	Gurpatwant Singh Pannun threatens PM Narendra Modi, Amit Shah and Ajit Doval
25 June 23	Gursimran Singh Mand, the leader of the International Anti-Khalistani Terrorist Front, gets assassination threat from Khalistani elements

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

COMPOSITE SEIZURES IN PUNJAB

Date	No. of Incidents	No. of Arrests	Items
08 June 23	1	12	A .32 Caliber revolver, and 10 grams of heroin
15 June 23	1	5	15 grams of heroin, one pistol, along with 2 magazines and 8 live rounds, a pistol of .32 bore along with a magazine and 24 live rounds
25 June 23	1	2	Two pistols along with 285 cartridges, 100 grams of opium, and 250 kilograms of 'lahan' (a raw material for liquor production)
Total	3	19	Pistols- 4, Revolver - 1, Magazines - 3, Cartridges - 285, Rounds - 32, Heroin - 25 grams, Opium- 100 grams, and Lahan - 250 kilograms





ARMS & AMMUNITION SEIZURES IN PUNJAB

Date	No. of Incidents	No. of Arrests	Items
08 June 23	1	1	Four pistols and 20 cartridges
09 June 23	1	1	A .32-bore pistol
13 June 23	1	1	Three .32 bore pistols, one .32 bore revolver, and one country-made .315 bore rifle
16 June 23	1	1	One pistol and five live cartridges
19 June 23	1	1	A .32 bore pistol
21 June 23	1	2	Two .30 bore pistols along with 10 cartridges
22 June 23	1	0	Four .30 bore calibre pistols and magazine
Total	7	7	Pistols – 16, Revolver – 1, Rifle – 1, Magazine – 1, Cartridges – 35

DRUG SEIZURES IN PUNJAB

Date	No. of Incidents	No. of Arrests	Items
01 June 23	1	2	2.5 kilograms heroin
03 June 23	3	2	14.5 kilograms heroin
04 June 23	2	0	8.4 kilograms heroin
05 June 23	1	0	3.2 kilograms heroin
06 June 23	1	4	2.34 lakh Intoxicant Tablets and 330 vials
07 June 23	2	0	5 kilograms heroin
09 June 23	1	0	5.26 kilograms of heroin
10 June 23	1	0	5.5 kilograms heroin
11 June 23	1	1	Two packets of heroin





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13 June 23	2	3	6 kilograms heroin, 240 intoxicant tablets and 110 intoxicant capsules
14 June 23	1	0	2.6 kilograms heroin
17 June 23	2	2	52-grams of heroin, 460 sedative pills and 95 grams Intoxicant Powder
18 June 23	2	7	149 grams heroin
20 June 23	1	4	2 kilograms heroin
22 June 23	1	0	2 kilograms narcotics
23 June 23	1	1	60 grams heroin
24 June 23	1	1	360 habit-forming tablets
25 June 23	1	1	215 kilograms of poppy husk
26 June 23	3	3	25 gm heroin, 10 kg puppy husk and 5000 Intoxicant Tablets
28 June 23	2	2	12 grams heroin and 700 gm opium
29 June 23	1	0	5.12 kilograms Heroin
Total	31	33	Heroin - 60.378 kilograms, Poppy Husk - 225 kilograms, Opium - 700 gm, Intoxicant Powder - 95 grams, Other Narcotics - 2 kilograms, Intoxicant Tablets/Capsules/Pills - 2,40,170, and vials - 330

