

### NEWSLETTER



#### Spotlight

In a significant incident, Amarpreet Chucky Samra, a 28-year-old Indo-Canadian gangster, was fatally shot outside a wedding venue in Vancouver, Canada, on May 28. The shooting was connected to ongoing gang conflict, and Samra was associated with the UN Gang, an organized crime syndicate that, according to the Vancouver Sun, operates in British Columbia. Samra was among the individuals mentioned in a rare warning issued by Canadian police in August 2022, regarding individuals linked with 'extreme levels' of gang violence. Of the 11 men mentioned in the warning, nine were of Punjabi origin, including Amarpreet and his brother Ravinder. The British Columbia Police said they were linked to a slew of killings and shootings in the province, and asked the public to avoid being near them.

Earlier, on May 5, Kamaljit Singh Kang, a well-known *kabaddi* promoter in Canada, was also shot at outside his house in Surrey, Canada, by unidentified assailants, in what was also believed to be gang-related targeted violence.

Punjabi gangs have emerged as a major security challenge in Canada.

#### The month in review

May 2023 recorded significant Khalistan-related incidents beyond India's borders, particularly in neighboring Pakistan, which serves as the primary sponsor of the entire movement. In a significant development, dealing a severe blow to the Sikh separatist movement, Paramjit Singh Panjwar aka Sardar Singh Malik, a notorious Khalistani terrorist and the chief of the Khalistan Commando Force (KCF), was shot dead by unidentified attackers in Lahore, Pakistan, on May 6.

Sources indicate that during an early morning walk near his residence in Lahore's Johar town, two unidentified individuals on a motorcycle opened fire on Panjwar and his bodyguard, resulting in the death of both individuals. However, immediately following the incident, Pakistani intelligence agencies, including Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), swiftly cordoned off the area and maintained restricted access for the media, preventing them from approaching the crime scene.

Further, on May 7, Pakistani media reported that the killing of one of the most wanted terrorists and the longstanding leader of the banned terrorist organization KCF was merely the routine murder of a Pakistani Sikh named 'Sardar Singh Malik.'Reports also indicated that Pakistan denied visas to Panjwar's sons, who reside in Germany, preventing them from attending their father's last rites in Pakistan.









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Panjwar, who was the chief of the Khalistani separatist faction – KCF-Panjwar – was accused by the Indian government of various illegal activities, including arranging arms training, promoting the drug trade, smuggling Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN), inciting minorities against the government, and attempting to reactivate former militants, sleeper cells, and Khalistani activists and terrorists on bail, to form a nexus with other forces hostile to India. Panjwar was entangled in 22 current cases, encompassing a range of crimes, including the killing of 19 students from the Thappar Engineering College at Patiala in India on November 10, 1989. He was designated a terrorist under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in July 2020.

While the exact reason behind his killing remains unclear, various narratives have emerged surrounding the incident. According to some reports, the killing could be linked to inter-gang rivalry within the drug smuggling racket or a dispute with other terrorist groups operating within the ISI's proxy terrorist networks.

According to sources within the Indian security agencies, the 'old-aged' Panjwar had become a burden for the Pakistan government and ISI, as he had been unable to generate "desired results" over an extended period. As a result, his handlers might have decided to eliminate him, using other non-state proxies.

Interestingly, this is not the first instance where an infamous terrorist has met a suspicious demise in Pakistan recently. On January 27, 2020, Harmeet Singh *aka* Happy PhD, the former leader of the Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF), met a similar fate outside the Dera Chahal Gurudwara on the outskirts of Lahore. Again, in November 2022, it was reported that Khalistani terrorist Harwinder Singh Rinda died in a Lahore hospital, though it is believed that he may still be alive and that the news of his death was intended to mislead the Indian government.

Several prominent Khalistani terrorist leaders, such as Wadhawa Singh Babbar, the chief of Babbar Khalsa International (BKI), Gajinder Singh, the chief of Dal Khalsa, Lakhbir Singh Rode (nephew of Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale), and Ranjit Singh Neeta, the chief of the Khalistan Zindabad Force (KZF), continue to live openly in Lahore and are actively involved in fundraising for operations and coordinating cross-border transportation of weapons and drugs. These leaders have now reportedly increased their personal security, fearing they could be targeted.

According to Indian intelligence services, a significant number of secondary-level Khalistani operatives including Manjit Singh *aka* Fauji, Manjit Singh *aka* Pinka, Parshotam Singh *aka* Pamma, Rattan Deep Singh aka Happy, and Balbir Singh Sandhu, are also believed to be residing in ISI safehouses in Lahore.

Despite the Panjwar family's request in India for the government to repatriate his mortal remains, the government has taken no action. However, the *Antim Ardas* (final prayers) and *Bhog* (memorial) ceremony was held at Gurdwara Shaheed Baba Gurbax Singh Ji, near Akal Takht Sahib in Amritsar on May 12. During the event, Panth Sewak Bhai Daljit Singh Bittu called Panjwar's death a testament to his dedication to fighting for the liberation of Khalistan.

Separately, the Punjab police made significant progress in dismantling multiple groups engaged in terrorism, gang-related crimes, and drug trafficking in the state in May 2023. According to the data compiled by the Khalistan Extremism Monitor (KEM), around 32 individuals were arrested during the month for their roles in Khalistan terrorist or gang networks. Another 47 individuals were arrested in connection with drug seizures in the state.

In a commendable operation, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) arrested two associates of designated terrorist Arshdeep Singh Dhalla of the banned Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF). Amritpal Singh *aka* Ammy and Amritk Singh were arrested after they arrived at Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) in New Delhi from Manila in Philippines on May 19. Their involvement in a criminal conspiracy to raise funds for the KTF and to smuggle weapons from Pakistan has been established. Following their arrest, the two accused were presented before a special court, which remanded them to NIA custody until May 27.



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#### **TOP NEWS**



**Amritpal Singh** 

## Pro-Khalistan leader Amritpal Singh plans to return to Punjab to work against conversions and drugs

According to officials, pro-Khalistan leader Amritpal Singh, who was arrested on April 23 in Punjab's Moga district after a month-long manhunt, has refused to disclose his sources of funding and poses a threat to peace and security. Amritpal has pledged to fight against drugs and conversions if released, but authorities fear he will resume his previous activities, which had raised concerns about a resurgence of militancy in Punjab

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## Gangster Goldy Brar now among Canada's most wanted criminals

Satinderjit Singh Brar *aka* Goldy Brar, a notorious gangster from Punjab and a Canadian fugitive accused of involvement in the murder of Punjabi singer Sidhu Moosewala and other crimes in India, has been added to Canada's top 25 most wanted criminals list. A statement issued by the Canadian High Commission in New Delhi said the country's Be On Look Out (BOLO) Programme, a not-for profit organization that amplifies police fugitive cases to increase public awareness, has updated its list of 25 most wanted criminals on May 1. Brar, who arrived in Canada on a student visa in 2017, is believed to be a risk to public safety and has direct links to a Pakistan-based Khalistani terrorist outfit, Babbar Khalsa International (BKI).

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**Gangster Goldy Brar** 



Restaurant owner in UK, Harman Singh Kapoor and his wife Khushi

#### Sikh restaurant owner in UK faces death threats over Khalistan post

A Sikh restaurant owner in London, United Kingdom (UK), Harman Singh Kapoor, received threats to his life after posting a video against the Khalistan movement, on TikTok. Reports indicate that his restaurant was targeted by Khalistan supporters and he and his family have been repeatedly harassed and intimidated on social media, including receiving death threats. Harman said that his wife and his daughter received rape threats. Despite reporting the incidents to the authorities, Harman and his family continue to experience a sense of insecurity. Harman has accused the police of stating that they can only intervene if physical harm or loss of life occurs.



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Khalistani Leader Gurpatwant Singh Pannun

## Khalistani leader Pannun made threat calls via Japanese telecom

The Uttarakhand Special Task Force (STF) has discovered that Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, leader of the banned pro-Khalistani group Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), used a Japanese telecommunications company to make threat calls to recipients in India, while sitting in United States (US). The police have written to the company for further action, but are yet to receive a reply. Pannun had made threat calls to police officers, media persons and government employees in Punjab, ahead of the three-day G20 event in Ramnagar near Nainital, a city in Uttarakhand in March.

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## Khalistan supporters vandalise Swaminarayan Temple in Australia's Sydney

A Hindu temple in Sydney, Australia, the BAPS (Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha) Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, was defaced with anti-India graffiti on the walls by pro-Khalistan elements on May 5. A Khalistan flag was also found hanging on the gate. The temple authorities reported the matter to the New South Wales police, and a member of parliament reached the temple to help repaint the wall.

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Swaminarayan Temple in Australia's Sydney



KCF chief Paramjit Singh Panjwar

#### Wanted Khalistani terrorist & KCF chief Paramjit Singh Panjwar shot dead in Pakistan's Lahore

Wanted Khalistani terrorist and the chief of Khalistan Commando Force (KCF), Paramjit Singh Panjwar, was shot dead by unidentified assailants in Lahore in Pakistan on May 6. According to sources, Panjwar was gunned down in the morning by two motorcycle-borne men near his residence in Lahore. He was involved in drug and weapons smuggling and was designated as a terrorist under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in July 2020.



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Pro Khalistani activist

## Report highlights Pakistan's role in fanning extremism in UK and Europe through minority terrorist groups.

A report by Colin Bloom, an Independent Faith Engagement Advisor, reveals that pro-Khalistani activities across the globe are being fuelled by a small group of terrorists and extremists, aided and funded by Pakistan. The Khalistani movement uses the freedom provided in Western nations, especially the United Kingdom (UK), to spread hate and extremism and to coerce moderate Sikhs to support their ideology. The majority of Sikhs and Indians living abroad do not support extremism and the call for a separate Khalistan. The Khalistanis use gurdwaras to spread their messages of hate and extremism and to collect funding for their operations.

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#### Interpol issues blue notice in Khalistan-linked probe

India's National Investigation Agency (NIA) has issued a "blue notice" and Look Out Circulars (LOCs) against several individuals based in the United States, Greece, and the Philippines in connection with the probe into an alleged nexus of gangsters and Khalistani outfits operating from foreign soil. The "blue notice" was issued against Harjot Singh, while LOCs were issued against Satnam Singh, Amrik Singh, and Mandeep Singh. The case relates to an alleged nexus between Khalistani outfits and north India-based gangsters in terror attacks, smuggling of arms and drugs, targeted hits, and extortion .





Interpol issues blue notice



**Sikhs For Justice** 

#### SFJ Issues Assassination Threats to S. Jaishankar, Manohar Lal Khattar, and Anil Vij

The banned Khalistan terror outfit, Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), through a pre-recorded video clip, on May 19 issued assassination threats against Indian Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, and Haryana Home Minister Anil Vij. The SFJ, known to be backed by Pakistan's ISI (Inter-Services Intelligence), aims to revive the Khalistan movement in India following recent arrests of alleged Khalistani leaders.



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## NIA team leaves for London to probe pro-Khalistan protest outside High Commission

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) team on May 23 left for London to investigate a pro-Khalistan protest outside the Indian High Commission on March 19. One staffer was allegedly attacked and the mission's property was damaged in the incident. The NIA team will gather CCTV footage, examine the crime scene, and record statements from senior officials. The attack is believed to have a terror link involving Pakistan's ISI, prompting the transfer of the case from Delhi Police to NIA.



NIA

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**Jarnail Singh** 

#### Gangster shot dead by assailants in Amritsar

A gangster, identified as Jarnail Singh was shot dead by four armed assailants in broad daylight at Sathiala village in Beas sub-division, Amritsar district on May 24. Jarnail was out on bail at the time of the incident. The police suspect gang rivalry or personal enmity as possible motives for the killing.

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## Indo-Canadian gangster Amarpreet Chuck' Samra killed in suspected gang war in Canada

Amarpreet 'Chucky' Samra, a 28-year-old Indo-Canadian gangster known for his violent activities, was shot dead by unidentified attackers at a wedding venue in Vancouver, Canada on May 28. The shooting is believed to be connected to ongoing gang conflict, and Samra was associated with the UN Gang — a criminal gang which operates in British Columbia. Witnesses reported unidentified individuals entering the venue and instructing the DJ to stop the music before the shooting occurred. Samra was among the individuals mentioned in a rare warning issued by Canadian police in August 2022 regarding high levels of gang violence.



Gang war in Canada



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Pro-Khalistan activist Jaswinder Singh Multani

#### NIA Court declares pro-Khalistan activist Jaswinder Singh Multani a proclaimed offender

Jaswinder Singh Multani, a member of the banned pro-Khalistan group, Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), was declared a proclaimed offender by a National Investigation Agency (NIA) court in Chandigarh on May 31. The declaration comes in relation to a case involving the alleged planting of a bomb near a jail in April 2022. The court has instructed the NIA to provide a list of the accused's properties, with the case adjourned until July 31. Multani, a pro-Khalistan terrorist, is named in multiple FIRs in Punjab.

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## Rahul Gandhi faces disruption at US event as radicals chant 'Khalistan Zindabad'

Radicals belonging to the Khalistani extremist group Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) disrupted a speech by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi at an event attended by NRIs in the United States (US) on May 31. They raised 'Khalistan zindabad' slogans and confronted Gandhi over the 1984 anti-Sikh riots during Congress rule. Videos of the incident went viral on social media. The incident sparked a political battle between the BJP and Congress, with the BJP declaring that Gandhi was paying for the 1984 riots, while the Congress criticized the BJP for spreading fake news and supporting Khalistanis.

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Rahul Gandhi

#### HATE SPEECH TRACKER

Date	Incidents	
03 May 23	Sikh restaurant owner in London faces death threats by pro-Khalistan supporters	
19 May 23 SFJ Issues Assassination Threats to S. Jaishankar, Manohar Lal Khattar, and Anil Vij		

Click here to access the full list at <u>www.kalistanextremismmonitor.org</u>





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#### **COMPOSITE SEIZURES IN PUNJAB**

Date	No. of Incidents	No. of Arrests	Items
04 May 23	1	13	One .32 bore, two Glocks, and three 30 bore Pistols, 7 magazines, 77 live rounds, 4.5 kg heroin
16 May 23	1	1	2.6 kg of heroin, 2 kg of intoxicating powder, a .32 bore pistol
18 May 23	2	2	Narcotic substances weighing 2.1 kg along with a pistol, 150 gms of heroin, a country-made pistol, and live bullets.
23 May 23	1	1	Chinese-made drone, 1.6 kg of heroin, a pistol, and a rifle
31 May 23	1	0	1.8 kg heroin, 82 kg poppy husk, 1 kg opium, four weapons.
Total	6	17	Heroine – 10.65 Kg, Poppy Husk – 82 Kg, Opium – 1 Kg, Intoxicating Powder – 2 Kg, Other Narcotics – 2.1 Kg. Pistols – 10, Magazines – 7, Live cartridges – 77, Bullets – 1, Other Weapons – 4

#### **ARMS & AMMUNITION SEIZURES IN PUNJAB**

Date	No. of Incidents	No. of Arrests	Items
03 May 23	1	2	1 country-made pistol
05 May 23	1	4	10 pistols
06 May 23	1	2	1 Pistol, 6 cartridges
07 May 23	1	3	Five .32 bore pistols, one .30 bore pistol, eight magazines, four live cartridges.
11 May 23	1	5	1 kg explosive
17 May 23	1	1	1 pistol and live cartridges
20 May 23	2	5	Eight pistols of .32 bore along with 14 magazines, five bullets.





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Total	11	21	Pistols – 29, Guns – 5, Explosive – 1 Kg, Cartridges – 23. Magazines – 22, Bullets – 5.
31 May 23	1	1	A .32 calibre pistol and seven live cartridges
27 May 23	1	1	Five country-made .315 bore guns
26 May 23	1	1	A .30 bore pistol and five cartridges

#### **DRUG SEIZURES IN PUNJAB**

Date	No. of Incidents	No. of Arrests	Items
01 May 23	2	1	3.5 kg heroin
02 May 23	4	6	100 gm heroin, 58 gm intoxicant powder
06 May 23	1	0	70 gm of heroin
08 May 23	2	5	1.59 kg heroin, 1 lakh intoxicating tablets
11 May 23	1	2	2 kg heroin
12 May 23	2	5	5.48 kg of heroin
14 May 23	1	1	5 gm of heroin and 1500 intoxicant tablets
17 May 23	5	8	15 kg 300 gm heroin, 300 kg puppy husk, 850 intoxicant tablets.
18 May 23	1	0	15.5 kg heroin
19 May 23	2	1	2.6 kg heroin
20 May 23	1	0	3.3 kg heroin
22 May 23	2	0	5.3 kg heroin
25 May 23	2	4	14 gm heroin, 500 gm opium





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26 May 23	1	2	450 kg puppy husk
27 May 23	1	1	3.4 kg heroin
29 May 23	2	0	6.9 kg heroin
Total	30	38	Heroin – 65.059 Kg, Poppy Husk – 750 Kg, Opium – 500 gm, Intoxicating tablets – 102,350, Intoxicant Powder – 58 gm.

