



# KHALISTAN EXTREMISM MONITOR

## NEWSLETTER



### Spotlight

Pro-Khalistan SFJ supporters attempted to intimidate Indians in Canada on several occasions, including:

November 12: a mob led by Khalistanis gate-crashed a Diwali celebration in Canada, throwing stones and trash at the celebrating Hindu crowd at Westwood Mall in Brampton, Ontario.

November 12: Indian Consul General in Vancouver, Manish, faced a security scare as Khalistanis cornered and heckled him in Abbotsford, British Columbia.

November 13: SFJ members disrupted an event organized by the Indian High Commission in Abbotsford, British Columbia.

November 15: Khalistan supporters targeted Indian Consulate officials, disrupting a life certificate distribution camp in Vancouver, British Columbia, among other incidents

### The month in review

Amid strained Indo-Canada relations over the allegations related to the killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, a recently surfaced report claimed that the United States (US) foiled an assassination plot against Khalistani terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun. Reports alleged that the US had indicated potential involvement of Indian involvement and had conveyed concerns to the Indian Government, reigniting global scrutiny of Indian security agencies even as they sparked renewed discussion on Khalistani extremism in November.

A November 22 report from the United Kingdom (UK)-based *Financial Times* claimed that the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) thwarted a murder attempt on the American citizen and Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) chief Gurpatwant Singh Pannun in June, and the US has informed India of its suspicion regarding potential involvement by Indian officials.

In addition to the diplomatic warning issued to India, US federal prosecutors have also filed a sealed indictment against an Indian national, Nikhil Gupta aka Nick, in the Southern District of New York. According to the indictment, which was unsealed on November 29, Gupta, who was said to be involved in international narcotics and weapons trafficking, collaborated with an unnamed Indian official code-named 'CC-1'. Describing himself as a 'senior field officer' responsible for intelligence,





this official agreed to pay \$100,000 for the targeted killing of Pannun in New York City. Gupta, who was arrested by Czech authorities on June 30 and is awaiting extradition to the US, has been charged with murder-for-hire and conspiracy to commit murder-for-hire.

Unlike the swift and angry response to the Canadian allegation in September, New Delhi's response to the US charges was cautious. On November 22, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson stated that "issues in the context of US inputs are already being examined by relevant departments". Again, on November 29, the MEA disclosed that an Enquiry Committee had been set up even before the US went public with the allegations. India stated, moreover, that US inputs on security, particularly regarding a nexus between organized criminals, gun runners, terrorists, and others, were being taken 'seriously' and informed the US that the allegations are already under examination by relevant departments.

Further, India underscored the disparity in the information shared by Canada and the US as the reason for its cooperation with the latter investigation into an alleged assassination attempt, while refraining from collaboration with Canada's probe into the killing of Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

Regarding the legal proceedings initiated against Gupta in the US court, India described it as a 'matter of concern', and said follow-up action would be taken on the findings of the High-Level Enquiry Committee which was constituted on November 18 to look into all the relevant aspects of the matter.

Meanwhile, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau persisted in levelling accusations against India. He asserted that the indictment of an Indian national in a US court for an aborted assassination plot against Sikh separatist in New York reinforces Canada's claims related to the alleged involvement of India in the murder of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar. India's MEA countered Trudeau, arguing that the primary concern with Ottawa revolved around its harbouring of anti-India elements.

SFJ chief Pannun, who characterized the alleged foiled attempt on his life as an instance of 'transnational terrorism' and a perceived threat to US sovereignty, played the victim card while continuing his anti-India activities. He issued a 'warning' on November 4 through a video message, cautioning Sikhs against flying with Air India on and after November 19, asserting that doing so could "endanger their lives".

Though Indian officials have requested increased security measures for Air India flights due to threats, after Pannun's implied threat, the Canadian government, while stating that it is investigating the matter closely, sought to downplay the situation.

On November 20, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) registered a fresh case against Pannun for threatening passengers flying with Air India on November 19. The charges brought against him include criminal conspiracy, promotion of enmity, criminal intimidation, and breaches of various sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA). Pannun is already under investigation in at least 35 cases registered in India – 29 by Punjab Police and six by the NIA – and efforts are underway to extradite him to India.

India has also requested evidence from the US and the UK under the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) regarding the attacks on Indian missions on their soil by Khalistani elements earlier in the year. The NIA is currently conducting an ongoing probe into these incidents.

In the meantime, Canada witnessed several violent incidents linked to transnational drug smuggling 'Punjabi' gangs and Khalistani extremist elements during the month. Harpreet Singh Uppal, an alleged member of the 'Brothers Keeper' gang, and his 11-year-old son were fatally shot outside a gas station in Edmonton, Alberta, on November 9. The incident is believed to be a result of gang-related violence with suspected ties to Khalistani groups. On November 25, unidentified miscreants fired 'warning' shots at the house of Punjabi actor and singer Gippy Grewal in Vancouver, British Columbia. Later, Gangster Lawrence Bishnoi claimed responsibility for the incident, on *Facebook*.





Against the backdrop of heightened diplomatic tensions concerning the 'Khalistan issue' with Canada and the US, the Punjab police undertook a series of specialized and successful operations in November, neutralizing various terrorist, gangster, and drug smuggling networks, which maintained connections within the state of Punjab and extended into Canada. Data gathered by the *Khalistan Extremism Monitor* (KEM) indicates that at least 36 individuals were apprehended through the month due to their affiliations with Khalistan terrorist or organized gang networks. Moreover, 49 additional arrests were carried out in relation to drug seizures in Punjab.

## TOP NEWS



**Khalistani Flag**

### **Khalistani terrorists using latest tech to evade law enforcing agencies, reveals intelligence source**

On November 1, a senior official in the security establishment said that Khalistani terrorists were using advanced communication methods such as VoIP, encrypted chat apps, VPNs, and virtual phone numbers, to evade law enforcement while conducting operations and spreading anti-India propaganda. They were also making use of various social media platforms for both private and public communication. Additionally, they were employing domestic, cross-border, and international logistics. Some individuals found refuge in the United States (US), Canada, and European countries, owing to differing perspectives and support for the Khalistan cause.

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### **Petition for recognition of Hinduphobia in Canada tabled in House of Commons**

Canadian Member of Parliament (MP) Melissa Lantsman tabled a petition in the House of Commons in Ottawa, Canada, on November 1, calling for the recognition of Hinduphobia. The petition, supported by 80 organizations, aims to define Hinduphobia, raise awareness, and address systemic discrimination, citing increased attacks against the Hindu community in their places of worship. The issue gained prominence due to incidents such as temple desecrations and a viral video targeting Canadian Hindus.

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**House of Commons of Canada**





**Dr. Abdul Basit Syed**

## Canada's easy asylum rules have made it a haven for Punjab separatists, Dr. Abdul Basit Syed

British philanthropist Dr. Abdul Basit Syed, an advocate for global peace, voiced concern at the United Nations (UN) in New York City, United States (US), about Canada's harbouring of Khalistan terrorists. He warned of the threat to the global economy and urged international solidarity in supporting India's fight against terrorism. Dr. Syed emphasized the need for cooperation, awareness, and peaceful conflict resolution to combat terrorism globally.

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## Punjab man held with \$1.8 million drugs in Canada

The Edmonton police, on November 3, arrested a Punjab-origin man identified as Randhir Singh Gill and recovered 40.5 kilograms of cocaine with a street value of USD 1.8 million in Edmonton, in the Alberta province of Canada. This represents the largest single-location cocaine confiscation in the history of the Edmonton police. Randhir is expected to appear in court on November 8.

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**Canada**



**Gurpatwant Singh Pannun**

## Gurpatwant Singh Pannun warns Sikhs in new threat video: "Don't fly by Air India on Nov 19"

Khalistani terrorist and the chief of the banned Khalistani terror outfit Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, issued a warning on November 4 via a video message which cautioned Sikh people against flying via Air India on November 19, claiming that doing so could endanger their lives. Pannun's video message also asserted that there would be a global blockade against Air India operations on that day.

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**Sikhs for Justice**

## Sikhs For Justice declares US phase of Khalistan referendum beginning January 28, 2024

On November 5, the banned Khalistani outfit, Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), announced the American phase of the Khalistan referendum, set to begin on January 28, 2024, during the 44th annual Sikh parade in Yuba City, California, in the United States (US). SFJ chief Gurbatwant Singh Pannun stated that the Khalistan referendum marks a journey for Sikh sovereigntists in the pursuit of Punjab's liberation from Indian control.

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## Rift between two pro-Khalistan groups comes to fore at Yuba City's famous Sikh Nagar Kirtan

According to reports, tensions arose on November 5 between alleged Khalistani factions during the annual Sikh Nagar Kirtan in Yuba City, California, United States (US). One group flew a banner via a helicopter reading 'Delhi Will be Khalistan.' The cause of the division remains unclear, but there are indications that some elements within these groups may be influenced or controlled by the Khalistani Sikhs For Justice (SFJ).

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**Sikhs For Justice**

## India orders blocking of apps, websites, social accounts linked to Sikhs For Justice

According to sources, India's Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has invoked emergency powers to block apps, websites, and social media accounts affiliated with UK-based Punjab Politics TV, linked to the banned Sikhs For Justice (SFJ). The action was taken in response to intelligence inputs indicating attempts to disrupt public order during state assembly elections. It was executed under IT Rules due to content promoting communal disharmony and separatism, posing threats to India's sovereignty and public order.

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## Sikh man, son shot dead in gang violence in Canada's Edmonton

An alleged gangster, identified as Harpreet Singh Uppal, and his 11-year-old son were fatally shot outside a gas station in Edmonton in Alberta province of Canada, believed to be a result of gang-related violence with suspected ties to Khalistani groups. Uppal, described as a high-level figure in organized crime, faced criminal charges, including cocaine smuggling. This incident adds to a series of gang war-related killings in Canada involving Punjab-origin gangs with connections to Khalistanis and Pakistan's Inter Service-Intelligence (ISI).

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## Narco-terror nexus: 593 drone sightings by BSF since 2019 at India-Pak border in Punjab

According to sources, Pakistani smugglers are utilizing sophisticated drones to transport narcotics into India, leading to the recovery of 82 unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and 593 drone sightings along the India-Pakistan border since 2019 by the Border Security Force (BSF) and Punjab Police. Central agencies suspect that these UAVs are used supply weapons to and to finance pro-Khalistan entities on the Indian side. Recent seizures include substantial quantities of heroin, RDX, IEDs, firearms, and cash.

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## Khalistanis gatecrash Diwali event in Canada, throw stones, garbage at attendees

On November 12, a mob led by Khalistani radicals gate-crashed a Diwali celebration in Canada, throwing stones and trash at the celebrating Hindu crowd at Westwood Mall in Brampton, Ontario. Peel Regional Police are investigating the incident, and the City of Mississauga is collaborating on necessary action. This incident follows India's recent recommendation to Canada to strengthen its framework against the misuse of freedom of expression that may incite violence and address hate crimes.

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## Indian diplomat in Vancouver heckled by Khalistanis

Indian Consul General in Vancouver, Manish, faced a security scare on November 12 as Khalistanis cornered and heckled him in Abbotsford in the British Columbia province of Canada. A video circulating on social media shows the diplomat's car surrounded by protesters holding Khalistan flags, with police present, but not taking active countermeasures. The activists shouted accusations about the death of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar, demanding accountability from the Indian government.

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**Manish, Indian Consul General in Vancouver**



**Gurpatwant Singh Pannun**

## SFJ chief Pannun offers \$100K for arrest of Indian High Commissioner to Canada

On November 13, Khalistani terrorist and the chief of the banned Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) Gurpatwant Singh Pannun offered a USD 100,000 reward for the arrest of Indian High Commissioner to Canada, Sanjay Verma, accusing him of fabricating a terror threat against Air India. Pannun's threat follows a statement by Canadian Prime Minister (PM) Justin Trudeau, seeking collaboration with India in the investigation of the killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

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## Khalistan supporters attack land owner in Haryana

On November 19, three Khalistani supporters removed the national flag from Bhajan Lal's private property, assaulted him, and occupied his land, citing his non-support for the Khalistan cause, at Morni village, in the Panchkula district of Haryana. The police have registered a case based on Lal's complaint.

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**Air India**

## **NIA books SFJ chief Gurpatwant Singh Pannun for threatening Air India**

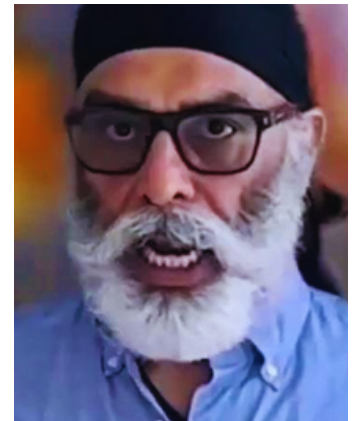
On November 20, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) registered a case against Khalistani terrorist and the chief of the banned Khalistani outfit, Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, for threatening passengers flying with Air India on November 19. The NIA charged him with criminal conspiracy, promoting enmity, criminal intimidation, and various sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, highlighting Pannun's history of promoting terrorism.

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## **US thwarted plot to kill Khalistan separatist Pannun, warned India, says report**

A report by the United Kingdom (UK)-based daily Financial Times on November 22 claimed that the United States (US) reportedly foiled an assassination conspiracy against Khalistani terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun on its soil and warned India regarding its potential involvement. Both countries are taking the information seriously, and India is already examining the issues raised by the US. White House spokesperson Adrienne Watson stated that Indian counterparts expressed surprise and concern, disavowing such activity as not their policy.

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**Gurpatwant Singh Pannun**



**Taranjit Singh Sandhu**

## **Indian envoy Taranjit Singh Sandhu 'heckled' by pro-Khalistan group at US gurdwara**

A group of Khalistani supporters on November 26 attempted to heckle India's Ambassador to the United States (US), Taranjit Singh Sandhu, at Guru Nanak Darbar on Long Island in New York. Despite the disturbance, Mr. Sandhu celebrated Gurburab, emphasizing Guru Nanak's message of togetherness. According to sources, the hecklers accused Ambassador Sandhu of involvement in a failed plot to assassinate Khalistani terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun of Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) and the Khalistan Referendum campaign, as well as India's role in the assassination of another Khalistani terrorist, Hardeep Singh Nijjar, in Canada.

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**Khalistani terrorist Rinda's father, brother arrested in extortion case in Maharashtra**

## **Khalistani terrorist Rinda's father, brother arrested in extortion case in Maharashtra**

On November 29, Nanded Police arrested the father and brother of Khalistani terrorist Harvinder Singh *alias* Rinda, identified, respectively, as Charan Singh Sandhu and Sarabjot Singh Sandhu, for their involvement in an extortion case in Nanded, Maharashtra. Rinda, associated with the Khalistani terrorist organization Babbar Khalsa International (BKI), has been declared a terrorist by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (UMHA), and his last known location was reported to be Lahore, Pakistan.

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## **HATE SPEECH TRACKER**

Date	Incidents
01 November 23	Senior Advocate HS Phoolka receives threatening email from Sikhs For Justice
04 November 23	Gurpatwant Singh Pannun issues warning to Sikh community against flying via Air India
» 13 November 23	SFJ chief Pannun offers \$100K reward for arrest of Indian High Commissioner to Canada

Click here to access the full list at [www.khalistanextremismmonitor.org](http://www.khalistanextremismmonitor.org)

## **COMPOSITE SEIZURES IN PUNJAB**

Date	No. of Incidents	No. of Arrests	Items
20 November 23	1	9	110 grams of heroin, a pistol
24 November 23	1	1	135 grams of heroin, two country-made 0.32 bore pistols, three live cartridges
25 November 23	1	0	5.240 kilograms of heroin, along with a pistol, two magazines, and 20 bullets
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Heroin - 5.485 kilograms, Pistols - 4, Magazines - 2, Cartridges- 3, Bullets- 20.</b>





## ARMS & AMMUNITION SEIZURES IN PUNJAB

Date	No. of Incidents	No. of Arrests	Items
01 November 23	1	3	A .32-bore pistol and four live cartridges
03 November 23	3	8	A .32-bore pistol; Four pistols and six cartridges; Five foreign-made pistols, 9 magazines and 23 cartridges
04 November 23	1	4	Four pistols – including a Glock and three country-made pistols – along with live cartridges
06 November 23	1	1	A .30-bore Chinese pistol and a .32-bore pistol, along with 15 live cartridges
10 November 23	1	3	A .32-bore pistol and a .30-bore pistol, apart from 10 live cartridges
22 November 23	1	3	Five .50-bore pistols and three .30-bore pistols, along with nine magazines, 30 cartridges
23 November 23	1	1	Four illegal pistols of .32 caliber, each with one magazine, along with eight live cartridges and four empty magazines
24 November 23	1	5	12 country-made firearms and five bullets
30 November 23	1	1	Two pistols, one .30 bore and one .32 bore, along with two magazines and 10 live cartridges
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>Pistols – 34, Country-made Firearms – 12, Magazines – 28, Cartridges – 102, Bullets – 5</b>

## DRUG SEIZURES IN PUNJAB

Date	No. of Incidents	No. of Arrests	Items
01 November 23	2	1	3.242 kilograms of heroin; 1 kilograms of opium
02 November 23	3	2	850 grams of heroin; 50 grams of heroin; 10 grams of heroin
03 November 23	1	0	490 grams of heroin
04 November 23	3	6	28,500 intoxicating tablets; 700 grams of opium; 4 grams of heroin
05 November 23	1	2	2 kilograms of heroin





06 November 23	2	1	3.770 kilograms of heroin; 250 grams of heroin
07 November 23	1	1	1.5 kilograms of opium
11 November 23	1	3	2.7 kilograms of heroin
13 November 23	2	0	470 grams of heroin; 2.518 grams of heroin
15 November 23	1	3	100 grams of heroin
17 November 23	2	4	3 kilograms of heroin; 500 grams of heroin
18 November 23	4	6	505 grams of heroin; 115 grams of heroin; 1.5 kilograms of heroin; 1.01 kilograms of heroin
19 November 23	1	0	2 kilograms of heroin
21 November 23	1	0	565 grams of heroin
22 November 23	3	0	5.2 kilograms of heroin; 534 grams of heroin; 524 grams of heroin
26 November 23	1	2	6 kilograms of heroin
27 November 23	1	3	2.56 kilograms of opium
28 November 23	2	0	2 kilograms of heroin; 500 grams of heroin
29 November 23	1	0	1 kilograms of heroin; 1 kilograms of heroin
<b>Total</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>Heroin - 41.965 kilograms, Opium - 4.260 kilograms, Intoxicating Tablets - 28,500</b>

