



KHALISTAN EXTREMISM MONITOR

NEWSLETTER



Spotlight

On September 20, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) released details of 43 most-wanted criminals, many of whom are associated with gangster-terrorist networks having linked to Canada and the Khalistan movement. Interestingly, the NIA list also included the name and details of Sukhdool Singh Gill *aka* Sukha Duneke, who was killed in a gangland hit in Canada on September 21. According to NIA sources, the gangster-terrorist (Khalistani) nexus, which shares similarities with the 'Mumbai underworld', was causing significant security concerns in Punjab. Due to the increasing number of gangsters and hitmen fleeing to Canada, which has already become a safe haven for Khalistani terrorists, that country has effectively become part of an extended 'gang war zone', previously limited to Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, and the National Capital Region in India.

The month in review

Indo-Canada diplomatic relations hit rock bottom in September, after Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau made allegations about India's 'potential involvement' in the killing, on Canadian soil, of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar. This development elevated the entire Khalistan discourse to a different level, well beyond its previous status as a predominantly 'online' phenomenon.

On September 18, during an emergency session of the House of Commons (Canada's Lower House of Parliament), Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau asserted, "Canadian security agencies have been actively pursuing credible allegations of a potential link between agents of the government of India and the killing of a Canadian citizen, Hardeep Singh Nijjar... The involvement of any foreign government in the murder of a Canadian citizen on Canadian soil is an unacceptable violation of our sovereignty." Subsequently, Canadian Foreign Minister Mélanie Joly announced the expulsion of a senior Indian diplomat, Pavan Kumar Rai, the head of Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) in Ottawa.

In a tit-for-tat move, India expelled the senior Canadian diplomat and the Canadian intelligence agency chief based in India on September 19, and strongly rejected Trudeau's allegations as 'absurd' and 'motivated,' while emphasizing its commitment to the rule of law.





India also urged Canada to take legal action against anti-India elements operating on its soil. These developments were accompanied by escalating diplomatic tensions, including the cancellation of visa issuance, as well as adverse travel advisories by both countries.

Amidst rising Indo-Canadian bilateral strains, a Punjabi gangster associated with Khalistani elements in Canada and wanted by the National Investigation Agency (NIA), Sukhdool Singh Gill *aka* Sukha Duneke, was killed on September 21 in what is believed to be an incident of inter-gang rivalry at Winnipeg in Canada's Manitoba province. Shortly after the incident, the Punjab-based Lawrence Bishnoi and Canada-based Goldy Brar's gang claimed responsibility for the killing in a social media post, declaring that it was in retaliation against Duneke's alleged involvement in three murders in Punjab. Duneke, had 18 criminal cases against him, including charges related to murder and extortion in India, and fled to Canada in 2017 counterfeited documents. From Canada, he was running gang activities, including an extortion racket and targeted killings, in Punjab.

Though parts of Trudeau's 'credible allegations' were purportedly based on 'intelligence' collected by a member of the Five Eyes alliance – United States, United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, and Canada – it was reported that the alliance declined Canada's request to collectively condemn the killing. Nevertheless, most Western countries, including the US, took the 'allegations' seriously, requesting India to cooperate with the ongoing investigation and wait for the conclusion.

India, on the other hand, chose to highlight the threat posed by Khalistan separatism and its larger networks among global organized crime syndicates. India also emphasized Canada's persistent negligence in addressing this issue, pointing out how the Trudeau government had chosen to repeatedly ignore hard evidence shared by Indian agencies, lists of 'most-wanted' gangsters and terrorists, and extradition requests, in the past. India criticized Trudeau for what it saw as playing 'vote bank' politics to secure the support of the 'pro-Khalistani Sikh caucus' in domestic politics.

India's neighbours, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, openly supported India and criticized Canada for providing safe haven to criminals from South Asia, citing examples of Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and Islamist terrorists who had obtained Canadian citizenship and were currently residing there due to a prejudiced asylum process.

Indian security agencies initiated action against Khalistani elements based in the West, especially in Canada. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) confiscated land and a portion of a house belonging to the 'chief' of Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, in Khanoti village in the Amritsar district of Punjab and Chandigarh, on September 23. The NIA is also in the process of impounding properties belonging to other Khalistani terrorists and gangsters, including Hardeep Singh Nijjar, in Punjab.

SFJ's proposed Khalistan referendum event on September 10 at Tamanwis Secondary School in Surrey, British Columbia, Canada, was officially cancelled, as the school authorities revoked permission due to concerns raised by various societies regarding the event, as well as the use of promotional materials featuring weapons such as AK-47s. Nevertheless, the event was organised at the Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara in Surrey, British Columbia, but recorded a very low turnout, prompting the event organizers to schedule a 'revote' on October 29.

Meanwhile, the Punjab police and central security agencies effectively neutralized various terrorist-gangster-drug smuggling networks operating within Punjab. Data collated by the *Khalistan Extremism Monitor* (KEM) indicates that at least 20 individuals were arrested due to their alleged ties to Khalistan terrorist activities or organized gang networks, and an additional 122 individuals were arrested in relation to drug seizures in the state during September 2023.

On September 4, Sukhchain Singh Gill, Inspector General of Police (IGP) Headquarters, announced that the Punjab Police had arrested 19,093 drug smugglers, including 2,778 major culprits, and registered a total of 14,179 FIRs, with 1,717 related to commercial drug quantities in the preceding 14 months. A total of 1,548.27 kilograms of heroin, 871.82





kilograms of opium, 446.30 quintals of poppy husk, 905.9 million tablets/capsules/injections/vials of pharmaceutical opioids, were seized across the state during this same period, and INR 139.6 million in drug money was recovered.

TOP NEWS



Khalistan referendum event in Surrey school cancelled amidst community concerns

The proposed Khalistan referendum event scheduled for September 10 at Tamanawis Secondary School in Surrey, British Columbia, Canada, was officially cancelled. The school's board of trustees revoked permission due to concerns raised by various societies and the use of promotional materials featuring weapons such as AK-47s. The cancellation followed opposition from the local community, concerned about the event's association with the Khalistani outfit Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), which is proscribed in India, and its glorification of terrorists and weapons. This led to calls for a halt to the event's use of public-school premises.

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SFJ calls for pro-Khalistan demonstrations in Delhi during G20 Summit

In a video uploaded on September 5, Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, the chief of the banned Khalistani organization, Sikhs For Justice, urged G20 nations to support the Khalistan movement and called upon Khalistan supporters to organize demonstrations at five key locations in the national capital, New Delhi: Tilak Marg Bridge, Sardar Patel Bridge, Bhairon Marg Bridge, Africa Avenue Road, and Ring Road Bridge.

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SFJ lie busted; Govt says no pro-Khalistan posters at places that G20 delegates would visit

On September 5, the Government of India's media wing, the Press Information Bureau's (PIB) fact-check unit, debunked the claim made by the banned Khalistani organization, Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), that it had put up pro-Khalistan posters and graffiti at five places to be visited by the G20 delegates in Delhi. Earlier, in a video uploaded on September 5, SFJ chief Gurpatwant Singh Pannun had claimed that SFJ had put up graffiti and posters at five locations in New Delhi.

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Pak-Khalistani social media army turns to lies, hate, to discredit G20 summit in India

According to reports, a deliberate disinformation campaign was underway on social media amidst India's hosting of the G20 Summit at New Delhi. This campaign was orchestrated by individuals associated with Pakistan and Khalistani groups, with the aim of undermining India's G20 presidency. The disinformation included false claims, fake news, and support for Khalistan, and sought to create challenges for India's efforts to lead an inclusive, action-oriented G20 summit. This anti-India campaign also involved foreign organizations, including the Indian American Muslim Council (IAMC) and Canada's New Democratic Party (NDP).

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Second Hindu Temple vandalised in British Columbia in less than a month

On September 7, the Shri Mata Bhameshwari Durga temple in Surrey, British Columbia, Canada, was vandalized with anti-India and pro-Khalistan graffiti on its walls. The Surrey Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) have initiated an investigation into the incident. This occurrence follows a series of similar acts of vandalism by Khalistanis, reflecting a troubling trend of hate-motivated incidents targeting Hindu temples in Canada.

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Hindu Temple vandalised in British Columbia in less than a month

Canadian Sikhs' thumbs down to 'Khalistan referendum'

The Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) 'Khalistan referendum', held on September 10 at the Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara in Surrey, British Columbia, Canada, witnessed a low turnout, prompting the event organizer to schedule a re-vote on October 29. SFJ chief Gurpatwant Singh Pannun delivered a speech in which he claimed widespread participation, but local Sikhs largely dismissed the referendum as a 'sham exercise' that didn't represent their sentiments. They cited its association with controversial figures, such as Talwinder Singh Parmar and Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

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Lahore Police's anti-narcotics chief heads gang smuggling drugs into India

Pakistan's Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) has exposed a significant drug-smuggling network operating in India, led by Mazhar Iqbal, the head of the Lahore Police's anti-narcotics wing. Iqbal and his network used drones to smuggle drugs, particularly heroin, from Kasur in the Punjab Province of Pakistan, into Indian Punjab. Despite a history of dismissals and suspensions related to illegal activities, Iqbal held a key position in the anti-narcotics department of Lahore Police. The police investigation revealed that a drone in Mazhar Iqbal's network, transported up to 6 kilograms of drugs across the border into Indian Punjab. The network was exposed after the arrest in Pakistani territory, of six Indians from Punjab.

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NIA special court forfeits properties of listed Khalistani terrorist Rinda's aides

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) announced, through a press release on September 14, that it had secured a landmark court order from a special NIA court in Haryana for the forfeiture of the properties of terrorists, including cash and an SUV, belonging to four associates of Pakistan-based Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) terrorist Harwinder Singh Sandhu alias Rinda. This action, taken under Section 26 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), marks a significant step in the NIA's strategy to disrupt the financial resources of terrorist organizations.

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Amrit Pal Singh

Jailed Khalistan poster boy Amritpal now totally out of the picture in his own village

According to reports, the radicalization efforts of Amritpal Singh, the jailed Khalistani supporter from Jallupur Khera village in Amritsar district, have been dismantled. The residents of his village now claim that the movement for Khalistan was a false narrative created by Amritpal Singh, and there is no such sentiment on the ground. They attribute the issue of drug abuse as a more significant concern and emphasize the need for job opportunities, to prevent youth from turning to drugs or Khalistani ideologies. Amritpal Singh's influence in the village appears to have waned, and he is expected to remain in jail for a long time due to the serious charges against him.

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Justin Trudeau

Trudeau says Canada has evidence linking India to Khalistan leader's killing

During an emergency session of the House of Commons (Canada's Lower House of Parliament) on September 18, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau escalated a diplomatic standoff with India by claiming that his government was investigating "credible allegations" of India's involvement in the killing, on Canadian soil, of a prominent Khalistani terrorist and the deceased chief of the Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF), Hardeep Singh Nijjar. Prime Minister Trudeau stated that Canadian national security authorities had reason to suspect that "agents of the Indian government" were responsible for Nijjar's murder. Nijjar served as the president of Surrey's Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara.

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Khalistani terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun threatens Hindus in Canada

Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, the chief of the banned Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), issued a threat to Hindus living in Canada in a viral video. In the video, he urged Indo-Canadian Hindus to leave Canada and return to India, alleging that they had forsaken their allegiance to Canada and its constitution. He warned of potential attacks on Indian missions in Ottawa, Toronto, and Vancouver in Canada on September 25. Pannun also announced an upcoming referendum in Vancouver on October 29, to determine if Indian High Commissioner Sanjay Kumar Verma was responsible for the assassination of Hardeep Singh Nijjar.

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Gurpatwant Singh Pannun



National Investigation Agency (NIA)

NIA intensifies crackdown on pro-Khalistan terrorists operating in India

On September 20, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) announced a reward of INR one million, for information leading to the arrest of the listed Khalistani terrorists Lakhbir Singh Sandhu *alias* Landa, and Harwinder Singh Sandhu *alias* Rinda. Additionally, a reward of INR 500,000 was announced for information leading to the arrest of three associates of these terrorists, Parminder Singh Kaira *alias* Pattu, Satnam Singh *alias* Satbir Singh *alias* Satta, and Yadvinder Singh *alias* Yadda.

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Khalistan-linked gangster Sukha Duneke killed in inter-gang rivalry in Canada

Gangster Sukhdool Singh *alias* Sukha Duneke, who was wanted by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) for a series of targeted killings and suspected links with pro-Khalistan terrorists, was killed on September 21 in inter-gang rivalry at Winnipeg, in Canada's Manitoba province. He had escaped to Canada in 2017 using forged documents and had a long criminal record, with at least 18 cases, including murder and extortion. Duneke was actively involved in managing his gang's activities from abroad, running an extortion racket, and orchestrating targeted killings, including those of rival gang members in Punjab. His name was on the NIA's wanted list, and he had connections to other criminal figures in Canada as well as other countries.

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Khalistan-linked gangster Sukha Duneke



Property of Sikhs For Justice chief Gurbatwant Singh Pannun

NIA confiscates properties of Sikhs For Justice chief Gurbatwant Singh Pannun

On September 23, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) confiscated land and a portion of a house belonging to Khalistani terrorist Gurbatwant Singh Pannun, the chief of the banned Khalistani outfit Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), at Khanoti village in the Amritsar district of Punjab, and in Chandigarh. The properties confiscated included 46-kanals (5.7 acres) of agricultural land at Khankot village and a one-fourth share of a house in the Sector 15/C area of Chandigarh.

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Pro-Khalistan graffiti found at Kashmiri Gate flyover in New Delhi

Delhi Police on September 27 registered a case after pro-Khalistani graffiti was discovered on the walls under the Kashmiri Gate flyover in New Delhi. Gurbatwant Singh Pannun, the chief of Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) had released a video claiming responsibility for defacing the walls with slogans that read 'Delhi Banega Khalistan' (Delhi will become Khalistan).

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Pro-Khalistan graffiti found at Kashmiri Gate flyover in New Delhi





Gurdwara in Scotland

Radical Sikhs prevent Indian high commissioner from entering gurdwara in Scotland

Radical British Sikh activists prevented Indian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom (UK), Vikram Doraiswami, from entering a gurdwara in Scotland, UK, on September 29. Sikh Youth UK posted a video of the incident on Instagram, showing the activists disputing with the gurdwara committee and attempting to approach Doraiswami's car, which eventually left. The activists expressed their opposition to Indian officials visiting gurdwaras in the UK due to recent tensions related to issues such as the deaths of Khalistani terrorists Hardeep Singh Nijjar and Avtar Singh Khanda, for which they hold India responsible.

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Sikh restaurant owner's car shot, vandalised by alleged Khalistan supporters in London

A Sikh restaurant owner, Harman Singh Kapoor had his car shot at and vandalized by unidentified Khalistani assailants in West London, United Kingdom (UK), on September 30. Kapoor had previously spoken out against Khalistani elements in the UK. Insightuk2, a British Hindu and Indian group, asserted that the Kapoor family had been facing continuous threats of violence and rape from suspected Khalistan sympathizers.

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Sikh restaurant owner's car shot, vandalised by alleged Khalistan supporters

HATE SPEECH TRACKER

Date	Incidents
10 September 23	Gurpatwant Singh Pannun threatens Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other Indian leaders
19 September 23	SFJ chief Gurpatwant Singh Pannun threatens Hindus in Canada
21 September 23	BJP leader receives a threat call after tweeting about the Khalistan row
27 September 23	A caller threatens a digital news channel managing editor over broadcasting news on Khalistan
28 September 23	Sikhs For Justice issues threat calls amid Cricket World Cup 2023

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





COMPOSITE SEIZURES IN PUNJAB

Date	No. of Incidents	No. of Arrests	Items
04 September 23	2	7	A .315 bore pistol and 1.2 kilograms of heroin; 10 grams of heroin and 2 pistol of .315 bore
10 September 23	1	64	667 grams of heroin, two pistols along with ammunition, 35 kilograms of poppy husk, 40 grams of smack (brown sugar)
15 September 23	1	0	1.71 kilograms of heroin, one .32 bore revolver, and 13 rounds of ammunition
Total	4	71	Pistols – 5, Revolver – 1, Rounds – 13, Heroin – 3.587 kilograms, Poppy Husk – 35 kilograms, Smack – 40 grams

ARMS & AMMUNITION SEIZURES IN PUNJAB

Date	No. of Incidents	No. of Arrests	Items
08 September 23	1	3	Three foreign-made pistols of .32 bore
10 September 23	1	2	Two pistols and cartridges
11 September 23	2	2	One pistol of .32 bore along with two magazines, one pistol of .9 mm along with three magazines and 12 cartridges; one pistol along with two live cartridges.
12 September 23	1	1	One pistol
Total	5	8	Pistols – 9, Cartridges – 15, Magazines – 5





DRUG SEIZURES IN PUNJAB

Date	No. of Incidents	No. of Arrests	Items
01 September 23	4	4	2.7 kilograms heroin; 2.43 kilograms heroin; 10 grams of heroin; 15 kilograms of heroin
02 September 23	1	4	15 kilograms of heroin
04 September 23	1	2	400 grams of heroin
06 September 23	1	1	15 kilograms of heroin
07 September 23	1	1	31.5 kilograms of heroin
08 September 23	1	1	15 kilograms of heroin
09 September 23	1	5	Unspecified quantity of drugs
11 September 23	1	0	1.3 kilograms of heroin
15 September 23	2	3	1.6 kilograms of heroin; 1.71 kilograms of heroin
17 September 23	4	3	2.5 kilograms heroin; 1 kilogram of heroin; 30 grams of heroin and 105 grams of Sulfa; 3.130 kilograms of heroin
18 September 23	1	5	6 kilograms of heroin
19 September 23	1	1	850 grams of heroin
23 September 23	1	0	500 grams of heroin
24 September 23	1	2	12 kilograms of heroin
25 September 23	1	2	2 kilograms of heroin
26 September 23	6	7	3.5 kilograms of opium; 50 grams of heroin; 20 grams of heroin; 1.5 kilograms of heroin; 700 grams of heroin; 4 kilograms of heroin
27 September 23	5	9	1.872 kilograms of heroin; 1,010 intoxicating tablets; 70 grams of heroin; 100 grams of heroin; 260 grams of intoxicating powder
29 September 23	1	0	545 grams of heroin
Total	34	50	Heroin - 138.517 kilograms, Opium - 3.5 kilograms, Intoxicating Tablets - 1,010, Intoxicating Powder - 260 grams, Sulfa drugs - 105 grams.

