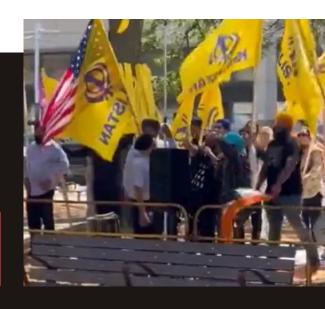


NEWSLETTER



Spotlight

As the security threat posed by drones continued to escalate, the Border Security Force (BSF) reported the seizure of 134 drones used for smuggling operations and the confiscation of 164 kilograms of Heroin as of July 31, 2024, across the Punjab sector, since January 1, 2024. In addition, 46 smugglers have been arrested. In response to heightened infiltration attempts, the BSF neutralized one Pakistani intruder and apprehended another 24 individuals. Of these, 12 were handed over to the Punjab Police for further investigation, while the remaining 12 were returned to the Pakistan Rangers.

In August 2024, security forces intensified their targeted operations against the expanding organized crime syndicates, successfully disrupting multiple gangster-terrorism and drug-smuggling networks across the state. Data from the Khalistan Extremism Monitor (KEM) indicates that 31 individuals were apprehended in Punjab for their involvement with Khalistani terrorist organizations or organized criminal groups, while 144 individuals were detained in connection with drug-related offenses during the month. Furthermore, in August, security forces intercepted and confiscated one drone being utilized to smuggle arms and narcotics across the Pakistan-India border in Punjab.

The month in review

Amid ongoing internal *Panthic* political dynamics in Punjab, pro-Khalistan elements abroad intensified their anti-India activities around India's Independence Day (August 15), while Indian security forces successfully apprehended key Khalistani terrorists during the month of August.

On August 22, 2024, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), successfully facilitated the extradition of Ramanjit Singh aka Romi, the alleged mastermind behind the 2016 Nabha jailbreak, from Hong Kong. Following the issuance of a Red Corner Notice (RCN) by the Punjab Police through Interpol, Ramanjit Singh's extradition was executed in coordination with the CBI's Global Operations Centre, the Punjab Police, and Interpol's National Central Bureau in Hong Kong, after his location was identified in 2018. Ramanjit Singh is reportedly linked to Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and the Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF), and is considered a principal conspirator in the Nabha jailbreak, which resulted in the escape of six high-profile criminals, including two terrorists.

On August 23, 2024, Ramanjit Singh, was remanded to two weeks of judicial custody by a duty magistrate in Patiala district. According to lis legal counsel, the











extradition was granted on the basis of an agreement stipulating that the police would refrain from interrogating him, to which Singh consented, agreeing to stand trial without undergoing interrogation. The counsel further noted that the duty magistrate carefully examined the relevant extradition treaty documents, leading to the decision to place Singh in judicial, rather than police, custody.

Earlier, on August 9, 2024, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) achieved a significant breakthrough by securing the extradition of Tarsem Singh, brother of Khalistani gangster-terrorist Lakhbir Singh Sandhu *aka* Landa. Tarsem Singh, a prominent pro-Khalistan element affiliated with the Khalistani group, Babbar Khalsa International (BKI), was extradited from Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE), to New Delhi. The extradition process was facilitated through the collaboration of the CBI, the NIA, and Interpol. Singh is implicated in the conspiracy to execute the rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) attacks on the Punjab Police Intelligence Headquarters on May 9, 2022, and the Sarhali Police Station in Tarn Taran on December 9, 2022, in addition to being involved in financing terrorist activities. An Interpol Red Corner Notice and a non-bailable warrant from an NIA special court were issued for his arrest. Singh has also been named in multiple NIA chargesheets for allegedly maintaining connections with drug traffickers and Khalistani operatives in Pakistan and other international locations.

In another significant development, on August 10, 2024, the Punjab Police, in collaboration with central agencies, arrested Simranjot Singh Sandhu, an international drug trafficker and the principal orchestrator of the 487 kg cocaine smuggling case in Germany in 2020, from Bhaloor village in Moga district, Punjab. Sandhu is believed to have played a key role in orchestrating drug trafficking networks spanning India, Europe, and South America, facilitating the smuggling of substantial quantities of cocaine, marijuana, and hashish. After being convicted in Germany in 2022, he absconded to Dubai before returning to India, evading capture in several locations, including Amritsar, Chandigarh, and Rajasthan.

Amidst discussions about the leadership vacuum within Akali politics in Punjab, hardline Sikh organizations intensified their pro-Khalistan activities around the Independence Day celebrations. Dal Khalsa, along with the Shiromani Akali Dal-Amritsar (SAD-A), organised a 'Freedom March' on August 13 in Hoshiarpur, and on August 15 in Tarn Taran, commemorating slain Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar and Dal Khalsa founder Gajinder Singh Khalsa, in protest against the central government's alleged injustices towards Sikhs.

Despite pro-Khalistan elements in the Diaspora engaging in extensive digital campaigns to promote their 'Khalistan Referendum' activities on social media, reports suggest a noticeable decline in pro-Khalistan protests in Western nations, including the United States (US), Canada, and the United Kingdom (UK). Demonstrations that previously garnered significant participation now record reduced turnout, while anti-Khalistan and pro-India demonstrations have emerged in parallel at many of these locations.

On August 15, 2024, India's Independence Day celebrations in the Strawberry Hill area of Surrey, British Columbia, Canada, were disrupted by counter-protests from pro-Khalistan groups. A confrontation ensued between pro-Khalistan activists and Indian supporters, resulting in a clash that necessitated police intervention. Despite the heightened tensions, law enforcement successfully dispersed the crowds without any reported injuries or arrests.

Again, on August 18, 2024, pro-Khalistan elements disrupted the 'India Day Parade' at Nathan Phillips Square in Toronto, organized by Panorama India and co-hosted by the Indian Consulate at Toronto. The event, which attracted a large number of visitors and featured the largest Indian flag outside of



India, was marred by Khalistani extremists who engaged in a 'Face-off' between 'Khalistan Sikhs' and 'Canadian Hindus', escalating tensions. A viral video captured the disruption, showing Khalistani extremists shouting 'Go back to India' at parade participants.

Meanwhile, recent reports indicate that two pro-Khalistan figures in the West were attacked by unidentified individuals. On August 10, 2024, the residence of Raghbir Nijjar, former president of the Guru Nanak Sikh Gurdwara and a close associate of the deceased Khalistani militant Hardeep Singh Nijjar, was targeted in a shooting incident in Surrey, British Columbia, Canada.

On August 11, 2024, Satinder Pal Singh *aka* Raju, a close aide of the deceased Hardeep Singh Nijjar, was attacked while driving on Interstate 505 in California, United States. According to the Khalistani group, Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), Raju survived an ambush when the truck he was traveling in was sprayed with bullets.

On August 8, 2024, Khalistani terrorist and SFJ chief Gurpatwant Singh Pannun issued a video threatening Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, demanding he should refrain from hoisting the Indian flag on August 15 Independence Day. Pannun offered USD 500,000 to anyone preventing Mann from doing so and vowed to incite violence at Indian embassies globally – from Vancouver and Washington DC to Melbourne. He urged supporters to burn the tricolour, claiming Punjab is not part of India and August 15 holds no significance for Sikhs or Punjab.

TOP NEWS



Gurpartap Singh Wadala

"No one in Punjab wants Khalistan", says rebel SAD leader Gurpartap Singh Wadala

Gurpartap Singh Wadala, convener of the rebel Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) group, dismissed concerns about the return of terrorism in an interview with *The Tribune*, stating that there is no demand for Khalistan in Punjab. He attributed the recent victory of condemned radical Khalistani preacher and jailed Member of Parliament (MP) Amritpal Singh to a leadership vacuum in the state. Wadala criticized the current SAD leadership for not addressing Punjab's issues and suggested that while the slogan of Khalistan may resonate with some Sikhs abroad, it does not reflect the broader sentiment in Punjab. He also condemned Amritpal's actions at the Ajnala Police Station but acknowledged his efforts against drug abuse



August 2024

Firearms seized at Surrey home tied to Pro-Khalistan activist

Canadian law enforcement, specifically the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's (RCMP) South Community Response Unit (SCRU), seized several firearms on August 1 from a residential property linked to a pro-Khalistan activist in Surrey, British Columbia. This action followed a video circulating online that showed people with weapons at a pre-wedding event, which was connected to Harjit Singh Pattar, an associate of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar and the secessionist group Sikhs For Justice (SFJ).

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Harjit Singh Pattar



Tribunal to look into extending curbs on Sikhs For Justice

Tribunal to look into extending curbs on Sikhs For Justice

According to sources, the Indian Government has established an Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Tribunal to review the extension of the ban on the pro-Khalistan group Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), following a Union Ministry of Home Affairs (UMHA) notification that declared SFJ an unlawful association under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act and extended the ban for an additional five years from July 10, 2024.

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Is 'Ice' becoming the new 'chitta'? Hit hard by Taliban's opium ban, Punjab is breaking bad

The emergence of the drug 'Ice' (methamphetamine) signals a significant shift in Punjab's drug market, highlighted by the recent arrest of Harpreet Singh, elder brother of radical Khalistani preacher and jailed Member of Parliament (MP) Amritpal Singh, for allegedly possessing and consuming crystal methamphetamine. The rise in Ice usage is linked to a decline in Heroin supplies following the Taliban's ban on opium cultivation in Afghanistan. Punjab Police have reported a dramatic increase in Ice seizures, from 0.54 kg in 2023 to 16.9 kg in 2024, while Heroin recoveries have decreased. This trend is raising concerns among de-addiction specialists about its potential impact on addiction patterns and public health



The emergence of the drug 'Ice' (methamphetamine) signals a significant shift in Punjab's drug market



August 2024



Pro-Khalistan graffiti found on walls of Goriwala govt school

Pro-Khalistan graffiti found on walls of Goriwala govt school

Pro-Khalistan graffiti was discovered on the walls of a government girls' school in Goriwala village, Dabwali, Sirsa district, Haryana, on August 4. A worker alerted the village *sarpanch* [head of the village self-government institution], who then informed the Police. The graffiti was promptly removed by Dabwali Police, who also found a liquor bottle and sharpedged weapons at the scene. An investigation is underway to identify and apprehend the suspects.

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Delhi Police lists 11 gangs for growing menace of extortion, shootings

On August 7, the Delhi Police identified eleven gangs involved in a recent surge of extortion calls, threats, shootings, and killings in the national capital region during an interstate meeting at the Delhi Police headquarters in New Delhi. The identified gangs were: Lawrence Bishnoi-Goldy Brar gang, Himanshu Bhau gang, Kapil Sangwan *aka* Nandu gang, Manjeet Mahal gang, Jitender Gogi-Sampat Nehra gang, Kaushal Chaudhary gang, Neeraj Faridpuria gang, Neeraj Bawana gang, Sunil Tillu gang, Hashim Baba gang, and Irfan *aka* Chhenu gang.

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Delhi Police lists 11 gangs for growing menace of extortion, shootings



Gurpatwant Singh Pannun

"Balkanise India, attack Indian embassies worldwide, receive money to stop hoisting of Indian flag on August 15," threatens Gurpatwant Singh Pannun

Khalistani extremist and chief of the banned Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, recently released a video in which he threatened Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann, demanding that he should not hoist the Indian flag on Independence Day (August 15). Pannun also offered a reward of USD 500,000 to anyone who prevents Mann from raising the tricolour, and condemned Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He vowed to incite violence against Indian embassies worldwide – from Vancouver and Washington DC to Melbourne – and urged supporters to burn the tricolour as a symbolic act against Indian rule and in support of Khalistan. He also stated that Punjab was not part of India and claimed that August 15 was not a day of independence for Sikhs or Punjab.



August 2024



NIA extradites most wanted Pro-Khalistan Element, Tarsem Singh from Abu Dhabi

NIA extradites most wanted Pro-Khalistan Element, Tarsem Singh from Abu Dhabi

On August 9, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) successfully extradited Tarsem Singh, the brother of Khalistani terrorist Lakhbir Singh Sandhu *aka* Landa and a key Pro-Khalistan Element (PKE) associated with the Khalistani terrorist outfit, Babbar Khalsa International (BKI), from Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), to New Delhi. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), in coordination with the NIA and Interpol, facilitated the return. Singh, wanted for his involvement in rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) attacks and terrorist funding, had an Interpol Red Notice issued against him. He is linked to major terrorist networks and faces charges related to smuggling, narcotics trafficking, and funding terrorist activities in India. Singh's extradition is a significant development in the ongoing efforts to tackle terrorism and organized crime linked to the Khalistan movements.

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Supreme Court rejects plea against election of Amritpal Singh as Lok Sabha MP

On August 9, the Supreme Court (SC) dismissed a plea challenging the election of jailed radical Khalistani preacher Amritpal Singh as a Member of Parliament (MP) from Khadoor Sahib in Punjab. The petitioner argued that Amritpal Singh, who had stated he did not owe allegiance to the Constitution of India, was not qualified to be an MP under Article 84 of the Constitution. The Court advised the petitioner to pursue an election petition and noted that Singh's eligibility was subject to procedural and evidential considerations.

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Amritpal Singh



'New-age' drones from Pakistan difficult to detect, says BSF IG

'New-age' drones from Pakistan difficult to detect, says BSF IG

Border Security Force (BSF) Punjab Frontier Chief Inspector General (IG) Atul Fulzele, while speaking to reporters in Jalandhar on August 9, reported that the latest drones from Pakistan are smaller, can fly up to a height of one kilometre, and are harder to detect. He also revealed that these new drones, identified as Chinese Mavic models, had a reduced payload capacity and were almost silent. Since January 1, the BSF has seized 137 drones, 28 weapons, and over 160 kilograms of Heroin.



August 2024



Punjab Police Nabs Suspect Wanted In VHP Leader's Murder Case

Punjab Police Nabs Suspect Wanted In VHP Leader's Murder Case

On August 12, Punjab Police arrested Mukul Mishra, a suspect wanted in the murder of Nangal-based Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP) leader Vikas Bagga, in Gonda district, Uttar Pradesh (UP). Bagga was shot dead on April 13, 2024, by two assailants, and Mishra is accused of facilitating the payment for the weapons used in the crime. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) is overseeing the case. Mishra is also wanted in another criminal case in Ludhiana.

>> Click here to read full news

Indian Independence Day celebrations in Surrey see counter-protesters

On August 15, an event where a large Indian crowd had gathered to celebrate India's Independence Day was disrupted by counter-protests from a pro-Khalistan group in the Strawberry Hill area of Surrey, British Columbia, Canada. The situation escalated as both groups clashed, prompting police intervention. Despite the confrontation, no injuries were reported, and the police successfully dispersed the crowds without making any arrests.

Click here to read full news



Indian Independence Day celebrations in Surrey see counter-protesters



Pro-Khalistan Protesters Disrupt India Day Parade in Toronto, Canada

Pro-Khalistan Protesters Disrupt India Day Parade in Toronto, Canada

A viral video on social media captured the disruption of the India Day Parade on August 18, by dozens of Khalistani extremists shouting 'Go back to India', at the Nathan Phillips Square in Toronto, Canada. The incident follows a similar confrontation in Surrey, Canada, on India's Independence Day, August 15.



August 2024



Himachal influencer faces threats for filming Khalistan poster

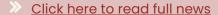
Himachal influencer faces threats for filming Khalistan poster

A 27-year-old environmental and social activist from Dalhousie, Himachal Pradesh (HP), identified as Siddharth Bakaria, has been receiving constant death threats from Khalistan supporters after posting images on social media platform X of a Khalistani separatist poster of Bhindranwale placed on a vehicle in Banikhet, Chamba district, HP. Despite reporting the threats and an attempted attack by a group, including a man dressed as a Nihang Sikh, to the Police, no action has been taken so far. He has written to the Superintendent of Police (SP) of Chamba District, Himachal Pradesh, requesting immediate action.

Click here to read full news

CBI facilitates return of 2016 Punjab jailbreak accused from Hong Kong

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on August 22 facilitated the return of Ramanjit Singh, wanted for his involvement in the 2016 Nabha jailbreak, from Hong Kong. The Punjab Police had issued a Red Corner Notice (RCN) through Interpol, leading to his extradition after his location was traced in 2018. Singh was linked to Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and the Khalistani terrorist Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF), and was a key conspirator in the jailbreak that freed six notorious criminals, including terrorists.





2016 Punjab jailbreak accused from Hong Kong



Do not install
Panjwar's portrait at
Central Sikh Museum:
Sikh leaders to Akal
Takht Jathedar

Do not install Panjwar's portrait at Central Sikh Museum: Sikh leaders to Akal Takht Jathedar

On August 26, a group of former leaders of the All India Sikh Students Federation (AISSF) sent a letter urging Akal Takht Jathedar Giani Raghbir Singh to withdraw his instructions to install Parmjit Panjwar's portrait at the Central Sikh Museum in Amritsar. They argued that displaying a portrait of Panjwar, a designated terrorist and chief of the Khalistani terrorist Khalistan Commando Force (KCF), would promote violence within the Sikh community, citing Panjwar's role in fratricidal bloodshed and in orchestrating the killings of *Panthic* leaders. The letter requested that the Jathedar reconsider his directive.





August 2024

'Can behead you...': Kangana Ranaut gets death threats for Emergency movie, seeks police help

On August 26, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Member of Parliament (MP) from Himachal Pradesh's Mandi constituency, Kangana Ranaut, received death threats over her portrayal of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in the upcoming film *Emergency*, and sought Police assistance. A viral video on social media shows individuals threatening violence against Kangana if the film depicts Sikhs as terrorists. In the video, one person can be heard saying, "History cannot be changed. If they portray Sikhs as terrorists in the film, remember what happened to the person making the movie. Remember who Satwant Singh and Beant Singh were. Those who challenge us face consequences. If we can cut off heads, we can also behead."





'Can behead you...': Kangana Ranaut gets death threats for Emergency movie, seeks police help



Punjab defends Amritpal's detention, cites confidential intelligence

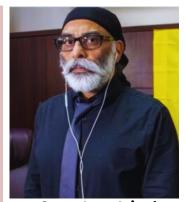
Punjab defends Amritpal's detention, cites confidential intelligence

On August 29, the Punjab Police informed the Punjab and Haryana High Court that the renewed detention of Khalistani radical preacher and jailed Member of Parliament (MP) Amritpal Singh was based on new grounds and strictly in accordance with the law. The Police stated that Amritpal's detention in Dibrugarh, Assam, was due to the sensitivity of the case and denied that it was a response to his vocal criticism. The affidavit emphasized that Amritpal's activities posed a threat to state security and public order.

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Pannun's viral video: Slogans of Khalistan Zindabad written on the statue of Late Chief Minister Beant Singh in Doraha

On August 29, Khalistani extremist and chief of the banned Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), Gurpatwant Singh Pannun claimed responsibility for writing pro-Khalistan slogans targeting the late Chief Minister Beant Singh's family in Doraha, Ludhiana district, Punjab. The slogans were found on Beant Singh's statue as well as at the railway station and bus stand. This incident occurred just two days before Beant Singh's death anniversary on August 31.



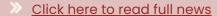
Gurpatwantsingh Pannun



August 2024

Pro-Khalistan groups pay homage to Beant Singh assassin in Canada

On August 31, Pro-Khalistan radical groups in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, displayed floats reading "Beanta Bombed to Death", paying homage to the suicide bomber responsible for killing Punjab Chief Minister (CM) Beant Singh.





Beant Singh

HATE SPEECH TRACKER

Date	Incidents		
08 August 2024	Gurpatwant Singh Pannun offers money to stop the hoisting of the Indian flag on August 15		
18 August 2024	Himachal influencer faces death threats for filming Khalistan poster		
26 August 2024 BJP MP Kangana Ranaut Receives Death Threats Over <i>Emergency</i> Movie			
Click here to access the full list at <u>www.kalistanextremismmonitor.org</u>			

COMPOSITE SEIZURES IN PUNJAB

Date	No. of Incidents	No. of Arrests	Items
18 August 2024	1	3	Two knives and 14 small packets of contraband drugs
19 August 2024	1	2	1.05 kilograms of Heroin, a country-made pistol, seven live rounds
29 August 2024	1	1	530 grams of Heroin, three live cartridges
Total	3	6	Heroin – 1.58 kilograms, Pistol – 1, Cartridges/Bullets – 10, Knives- 2





August 2024

ARMS & AMMUNITION SEIZURES IN PUNJAB

Date	No. of Incidents	No. of Arrests	Items
01 August 2024	1	1	A .32 bore pistol
05 August 2024	1	1	Two sophisticated 9mm Glock pistols, along with two magazines
14 August 2024	1	5	Three .30 calibre Chinese pistols, two .32 calibre pistols, 40 cartridges
16 August 2024	2	5	Four .32 bore pistols; one China-made 7.65 mm Glock, two .30 bore pistols, one revolver, four cartridges, three magazines.
17 August 2024	1	1	Ten pistols and ten magazines
20 August 2024	1	2	Three pistols and eight live cartridges
28 August 2024	1	1	Two illegal .32 bore pistols and 10 cartridges
29 August 2024	1	2	Four sophisticated Glock-19 pistols (including one marked 'Made for NATO army'), four magazines, seven live cartridges
Total	9	18	Pistols – 34, Revolver – 1, Rifle – 1, Cartridges/Bullets – 88

DRUG SEIZURES IN PUNJAB

Date	No. of Incidents	No. of Arrests	Items
01 August 2024	1	1	3.5 kilograms of Heroin
05 August 2024	3	5	5,270 banned tablets, 260 capsules; 1,300 Pregabalin capsules; 402 grams of Heroin
07 August 2024	2	84	6.65 kilograms of Heroin; 270 grams of Heroin, 74 kilograms of poppy husk, 2 kilograms of Ganja, 1,868 intoxicant tablets
09 August 2024	1	3	2 kilograms of opium
10 August 2024	1	1	153 grams of Heroin
11 August 2024	2	2	500 grams of Heroin and 1.16 kilograms of opium; 1,350 Pregabalin capsules (300 mg each)





August 2024

31 August 2024 Total	36	136	1.28 kilograms of Heroin; 20 grams of Heroin; 245 grams of Heroin Heroin - 19.165 kilograms; Poppy husk - 224 kilograms; Opium - 22.56 kilograms; Ganja (Marijuana) - 2 kilograms; Intoxicant Tablets/Capsules - 52,148; ICE
29 August 2024	2	5	1 kilograms of Heroin; 250 grams of Heroin
28 August 2024	5	8	5 kilograms of opium; 300 grams of Heroin; 507 grams of Heroin; 155 grams of ICE (methamphetamine); 255 grams of Heroin; 1 kilograms of Heroin
26 August 2024	4	6	10.5 kilograms of opium; 45 grams of Heroin; 52.79 grams of Heroin; 1.2 kilograms of opium
25 August 2024	1	1	500 grams of Heroin
23 August 2024	1	3	225 grams of Heroin
20 August 2024	1	2	500 grams of Heroin
18 August 2024	3	2	15,000 Pregabalin 300 mg capsules; 7,000 Pregabalin 300 mg capsules and 100 tablets of Tramadol; 500 grams of Heroin
17 August 2024	1	2	2.7 kilograms of Opium
13 August 2024	1	0	538 grams of Heroin
12 August 2024	3	5	5 grams of Heroin; 150 kilograms of poppy husk; 20,000 habit-forming tablets

