



# KHALISTAN EXTREMISM MONITOR

## NEWSLETTER



### Spotlight

In response to the increasing incidence of organized crime in Punjab, the Anti-Gangster Task Force (AGTF) of the Punjab Police announced, on September 9, 2024, that it has dismantled 505 gangs and gangster modules in the state over the past two and a half years (2022–2024). During this period, the AGTF neutralized 16 gangsters in 107 encounters, apprehending a total of 1,408 individuals associated with these gangs. The operation resulted in the recovery of 1,332 weapons and 293 vehicles. 81 gangsters sustained injuries during these encounters, while three police personnel lost their lives and 26 officers were injured. The AGTF also blocked 203 social media accounts that promoted gang-related activities.

During September, Punjab Police intensified their efforts to counter the growing nexus between organized crime, terrorism, and drug smuggling, successfully dismantling several crime syndicates across the state. According to data from the *Khalistan Extremism Monitor* (KEM), security forces arrested 91 individuals associated with Khalistani terrorist organizations or criminal gangs, and 73 individuals were detained for drug-related offenses. Moreover, authorities intercepted and seized 7 drones used for smuggling arms and narcotics across the Pakistan–India border in Punjab.

### The month in review

During September, reports of small-scale violent pro-Khalistan activities emerged both within Punjab and among diaspora communities in the Western world, reiterating the continued presence of marginal separatist elements linked to transnational criminal networks.

On September 11, 2024, a targeted attack occurred in which two assailants, traveling in an autorickshaw, hurled a hand grenade at the residence of former Punjab Police Superintendent of Police (SP) Jaskirat Singh Chahal, located in Sector 10, Chandigarh. While no injuries were reported, the explosion caused minor damage to the property. Chahal had vacated the house several months earlier, after being advised to relocate following the arrest of individuals involved in an earlier plot to attack him last year.

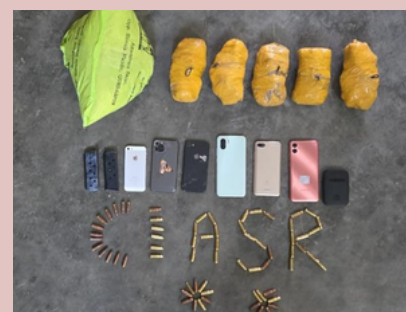
In the aftermath of the incident, on September 12, 2024, United States (US)-based gangster turned terrorist Harpreet Singh *aka* Happy Passia, publicly claimed responsibility for the blast through a *Facebook* post, purportedly to avenge the killing of four youth in 1986 at Nakodar, Punjab. Passia is reportedly affiliated with Pakistan-based Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) terrorist Harwinder Singh Sandhu *aka* Rinda.



Harwinder Singh Sandhu



Rishi Nagar



Confiscated Items from Cross-Border Smuggling Racket, Amritsar



Inter-State Illegal Arms Racket Uncovered, Jalandhar





The Punjab Police's State Special Operation Cell (SSOC), in collaboration with central agencies, swiftly resolved the grenade blast case by arresting the primary suspects, Rohan Masih from Amritsar on September 13 and Vishal Masih from Delhi (both non-Sikh), on September 15, 2024.

On September 15, 2024, Punjab Director General of Police (DGP) Gaurav Yadav disclosed that U.S.-based Happy Passia, acting on behalf of Pakistan-based Rinda and with support from the Pakistani Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), was responsible for supplying explosives, weapons, and logistical assistance to the perpetrators of the Chandigarh grenade attack. However, Passia failed to deliver the promised rewards for their actions.

According to the DGP, the investigation revealed that Passia initially provided financial incentives to recruit the individuals involved, promising a significant payment upon the successful completion of the attack. After carrying out the crime, the accused contacted Passia for the promised compensation, only to face evasion and, eventually, complete silence.

Sources further suggest that Happy Passia, wanted in over 15 cases, is actively recruiting impoverished and vulnerable youth from marginalized communities in the border areas of Amritsar and Gurdaspur districts in Punjab for criminal and terrorist activities, offering them minimal financial compensation.

Reports also indicate that terrorist Rinda has severed ties with Canada-based Khalistani terrorist Lakhbir Singh Sandhu *aka* Landa, and has since aligned with Happy Passia to establish terrorist modules in Punjab. Between August 2023 and August 30, 2024, the Punjab Police dismantled eight terrorist modules and apprehended 35 individuals associated with the Rinda-Passia network.

Meanwhile, on September 29, 2024, Rishi Nagar, an Indo-Canadian journalist and news director at Red FM Calgary, was assaulted by two unidentified individuals at Calgary in Alberta, Canada. Nagar expressed the belief that the assailants were pro-Khalistan elements dissatisfied with a report detailing arrests made at the Gurdwara Dashmesh Cultural Centre in Calgary recently. The Calgary Police are currently investigating the incident, which was recorded on CCTV. Additionally, there have been unverified allegations of attempted extortion by pro-Khalistan elements targeting the Calgary Gurdwara.

On September 22, 2024, the New York Police Department apprehended a pro-Khalistan demonstrator and successfully prevented a pro-Khalistan group from encroaching upon a designated Free Speech Zone to disrupt a community event featuring Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Nassau County, New York. The police confiscated provocative banners, including one that depicted Prime Minister Modi with a sniper scope aimed at his face, as well as others that read "Target – Enemy of America" and "Face of India's Hindu Terror."

Following the unsuccessful anti-Modi protests planned during Indian Prime Minister Modi's visit to the US, Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, a Khalistani extremist and the leader of Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), released a threatening video on September 23, 2024, directed at Indo-American citizens. In the video, Pannun expressed discontent with the significant success of Modi's event in the US and accused these citizens of endorsing Prime Minister Modi's Hindutva ideology, and called for their repatriation to India.





Pannun has also reportedly filed a lawsuit in New York against the Indian government and senior intelligence officials, alleging conspiracy to assassinate him. The lawsuit names several individuals, including Nikhil Gupta, currently incarcerated in Brooklyn, senior intelligence officer Vikram Yadav, former Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) chief Samant Goel, and National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval. On September 19, 2024, India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri dismissed the lawsuit as "unwarranted and unsubstantiated imputations," reaffirming India's stance on Pannun and his connections to the banned Sikhs For Justice (SFJ) organization, which is designated as an unlawful association under Indian law. He emphasized that the lawsuit does not alter India's stance on Pannun or his activities.

## TOP NEWS



AP Dhillon

### Firing outside Punjabi singer AP Dhillon's Canada house, Lawrence Bishnoi gang claims responsibility

On the night of September 1, gunshots were fired outside Punjabi singer AP Dhillon's residence on Vancouver Island, Canada. Rohit Godara, a gangster linked to the Lawrence Bishnoi-Goldy Brar gang, took responsibility for the attack in a viral social media post, allegedly in retaliation for Dhillon's collaboration with Bollywood actor Salman Khan. Authorities are investigating the incident and Godara's threats, as worries mount over the gang's increasing international reach.

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### Growing anti-Khalistan sentiments pinning SFJ in Europe, US and Canada

According to sources, rising anti-Khalistan sentiments are challenging the Khalistani extremist outfit Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) across Europe, the United States (US), and Canada, reflecting a shift within the Sikh diaspora as pro-India Sikhs unite against divisive extremism. The recent incident in Italy, where Gurudwara Committees firmly opposed SFJ activists, is part of a broader global trend rejecting separatist rhetoric in favour of peace and stronger ties with India. This movement marks a new chapter for the Sikh community, focused on unity and progress.

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## Justin Trudeau Weakened After Key Sikh Ally Withdraws Support

On September 4, Canadian Prime Minister (PM) Justin Trudeau faced a setback when Jagmeet Singh, leader of the New Democratic Party (NDP), withdrew his party's support for the Liberal government in Ottawa. Singh criticized the Liberals for failing to counter the Conservatives and prioritizing corporate interests. The NDP had backed Trudeau under a 2022 agreement in exchange for increased social spending, but growing voter fatigue appears to have strained the partnership. While this does not immediately threaten Trudeau's position, it complicates his ability to pass legislation and survive confidence votes.

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Justin Trudeau



## Interpol issued 100 red notices on India's request in 2023: CBI chief

On September 5, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Director Praveen Sood announced that Interpol had issued 100 red corner notices in 2023 at India's request, the highest ever in a single year. While speaking at the 10th Interpol Liaison Officers' Conference in New Delhi, Sood highlighted that 29 wanted criminals were extradited to India in 2023 with Interpol's assistance. He emphasized the importance of international cooperation in addressing cross-border crimes in the digital age.

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## Portugal-based gangster Mann Ghanshampurria among two booked for extortion

Amritsar (Rural) Police on September 6 launched a probe into an extortion case involving Portugal-based gangster Manpreet Singh *aka* Mann Ghanshampurria, and his accomplice Jobanjit Singh, who demanded INR 50 lakh from a local resident with threats of violence, in Amritsar district, Punjab. This case is part of a broader pattern of intimidation by the gang, which includes recent extortion threats and shootings. Earlier arrests related to the gang led to the seizure of weapons, mobile phones, a vehicle, and INR 18,000 in cash. The gang is also wanted for various criminal activities, including a fatal shooting in Lakhowal village, Ajnala, Amritsar district on the eve of the Lok Sabha polls on May 31, 2024.

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**Attacks on Indian high commission in London**

## NIA files first charge sheet over attacks on Indian high commission in London

On September 5, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) filed its first charge sheet naming UK national Inderpal Singh Gaba, in connection with the twin attacks on the Indian High Commission in London, which occurred in 2023. The attacks, organized by Khalistani terrorist Avtar Singh Khanda, were allegedly in retaliation to the Punjab Police's actions against Waris Punjab De (WPD) chief Amritpal Singh.

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## 505 gangs, modules of gangsters busted in two-and-a-half years in Punjab

On September 9, the Anti-Gangster Task Force (AGTF) of the Punjab Police announced that it had dismantled 505 gangs and modules in the state over the past two-and-a-half years (2022–2024). During this period, they neutralized 16 gangsters in 107 encounters, recovering 1,332 weapons and 293 vehicles. Additionally, 81 gangsters were injured in encounters, while three police personnel lost their lives and another 26 were injured. The AGTF also blocked 203 social media accounts promoting gang-related content.

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**Harvinder Singh Sandhu aka Rinda**

## Rinda formed new terror network with US-based Passia: Intel agencies

According to sources in Central Intelligence agencies, Canada-based Khalistani terrorist Lakhbir Singh Sandhu *aka* Landa, and Pakistan-based gangster-turned-terrorist Harvinder Singh Sandhu *aka* Rinda, have parted ways. Rinda has now partnered with Harpreet Singh *aka* Happy Passia, who operates from the United States (US), to raise terrorist modules in Punjab. Between August 2023 and August 30, 2024, Punjab Police busted eight terrorist modules and arrested 35 individuals linked to the Rinda-Passia network. Landa, residing in Edmonton, Canada, is wanted for his involvement in the 2022 Rocket Propelled Grenade attack on the Punjab State Intelligence Headquarters in Mohali. Rinda, associated with the terrorist Babbar Khalsa International (BKI), is currently based in Lahore, Pakistan, under the patronage of Pakistani intelligence agencies and has been involved in various terrorist activities, particularly in Indian Punjab.

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Rahul Gandhi

## Rahul Gandhi's Pro Khalistani Line Gets Support from Banned Sikhs For Justice

On September 10, Khalistani extremist and chief of the banned Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, endorsed Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's statement that 'the fight in India is whether a Sikh will be allowed to wear a turban, *kada*, or go to a *gurdwara*.' Pannun called Gandhi's remark on the 'existential threat to Sikhs in India' bold and pioneering, claiming it was grounded in the factual history of Sikh struggles since 1947. He further stated that Gandhi's comments aligned with SFJ's stance on the Punjab Independence Referendum for the creation of an independent Khalistan.

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## Low-grade blast at Chandigarh home, Khalistan hand suspected

Two unidentified men on an autorickshaw hurled an explosive at a house in the Sector 10 area of Chandigarh on September 11. No injuries were reported, but the explosion caused minor damage to the property. Police suspect the target was former Punjab Police Superintendent of Police (SP) Jaskirat Singh, with potential involvement from Pakistan-based Khalistan terrorist Harwinder Singh Sandhu aka Rinda. A National Investigation Agency (NIA) team has also joined the investigation.

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SP Jaskirat Singh's Chandigarh residence



Seized Glock pistol

## In Punjab, seizure of 11 Glock pistols in August sparks concern

The recovery of 11 Glock pistols among 29 illegal firearms seized by Punjab Police in August 2024 has raised concerns over sophisticated, foreign-made weapons reaching criminals in the state. The Punjab Anti-Gangster Task Force (AGTF), in collaboration with central agencies, neutralized Pakistan-backed arms smuggling networks, recovering several Glock pistols, including one marked 'Made for NATO Army.' Between January and July 2023, Punjab Police recovered 2,608 illegal weapons, including 1,515 pistols, underscoring the growing challenge of cross-border weapons' smuggling via drones.

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**Rohan Masih**

## Chandigarh grenade blast a terrorist attack: Punjab Police

In a joint operation with central agencies on September 13, the Punjab Police solved the Chandigarh grenade blast case with the arrest of one of the main perpetrators, Rohan Masih, in Amritsar district. Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI)-backed Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) terrorist Harwinder Singh *aka* Rinda, and US-based Harpreet Singh *aka* Happy Passia, were identified as the masterminds behind the attack. The grenade used in the incident was smuggled across the border via drones with the assistance of the ISI. Investigations are ongoing to apprehend the remaining suspects

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## Punjab Police bring back fugitive from Austria

On September 13, Punjab Police, in coordination with central agencies, successfully brought back and arrested fugitive Amritpal Singh from Austria to face charges for numerous heinous crimes, including murder and drug offenses. He was taken into custody by the Batala Police at Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport in New Delhi.

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**Amritpal Singh**

## Canada's opposition leader condemns pro-Khalistan calls for Hindus to leave Canada

Canadian Conservative Party leader Pierre Poilievre condemned the pro-Khalistan elements' calls for Hindus to leave Canada as 'absolutely unacceptable' during a statement in Toronto on September 13. He criticized Prime Minister Justin Trudeau for dividing communities and emphasized the need for unity based on Canadian values. Poilievre's remarks were welcomed by the Coalition of Hindus of North America (CoHNA) and the Canadian Hindu Chamber of Commerce (CHCC), both of which highlighted concerns over rising Hinduphobia in Canada.

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**Pierre Poilievre**







**BAPS Swaminarayan Temple**

## **BAPS Swaminarayan Temple Vandalised in New York**

The BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS) Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Melville, New York, United States (US), was desecrated with hate messages on September 15. The Consulate General of India in New York, via the social media platform X, strongly condemned the vandalism of the BAPS Swaminarayan Temple in Melville, calling it 'unacceptable' and urged United States (US) law enforcement to take swift action against the perpetrators.

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## **Indian intelligence officials targeted in New York lawsuit for alleged role in assassination plots**

Khalistani extremist and chief of the banned Sikhs For Justice (SFJ), Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, has reportedly filed a lawsuit in New York, United States (US), against the Indian government and senior intelligence officials, accusing them of orchestrating assassination plots. The lawsuit names Nikhil Gupta, currently in a Brooklyn prison, senior intelligence officer Vikram Yadav, former Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) chief Samant Goel, and India's National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval. This comes after the murder of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in Canada, an incident that India denies involvement in.

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**Gurpatwant Singh Pannun**



**Lawrence Bishnoi**

## **Gangster Lawrence Bishnoi's gang enters online betting business**

On September 19, the Delhi police revealed that gangster Lawrence Bishnoi had launched online gaming apps operated from Dubai, enlisting the help of major bookies in Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Delhi. Bishnoi, an accused in the 2022 murder of singer Sidhu Moose Wala, is using the gaming business to invest black money and has delegated various operational responsibilities to close associates. A businessman based in Dubai is running the app under Bishnoi's instructions, while Goldy Brar and Rohit Godara handle its promotion. Bishnoi is currently imprisoned in Sabarmati jail in Gujarat, and his younger brother Anmol is managing gang-related matters abroad.

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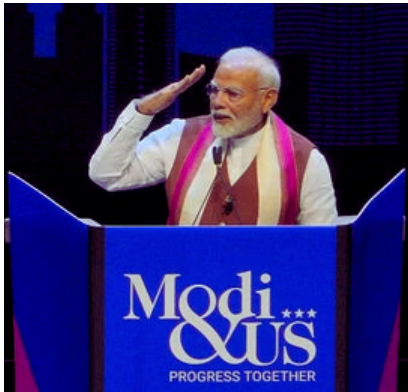




## In a First, White House Engages with Pro-Khalistan Groups, Gives Assurance

On September 19, the White House met with a group of Sikh organizations, including the American Sikh Caucus Committee, Sikh Coalition, and Sikh American Legal Defence and Education Fund (SALDEF), marking the first official engagement with Khalistan sympathizers, in Washington, D.C., United States (US). The meeting occurred ahead of Indian Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi's US visit, amidst growing concerns over the shelter provided to separatist elements in North America. Initiated by the White House, the meeting assured Sikh Americans of "protection from any transnational aggression on its soil." SALDEF supported Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar and accused India of his killing.

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**Prime Minister Narendra Modi**

## New York police arrest Khalistani protester, thwarts group's plan to disrupt PM Modi's community event

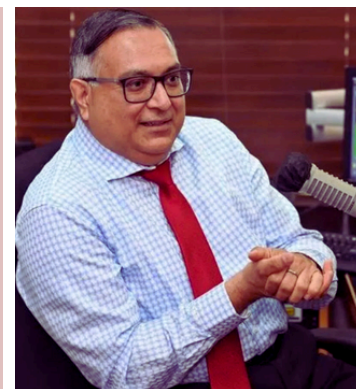
On September 22, the New York Police arrested a Khalistani protester and prevented a group from breaching a designated Free Speech Zone to disrupt Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi's community event in Nassau County, New York State, USA. Police removed provocative banners, including one depicting PM Modi with a sniper scope on his face and others reading 'Target – Enemy of America' and 'Face of India's Hindu Terror.'

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## Indo-Canadian media person, attacked by two persons, blames 'pro-Khalistan' elements

Indo-Canadian newspaperman and news director of Red FM Calgary, Rishi Nagar, was attacked by two unidentified individuals in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, on September 29. Nagar said that he believes the assailants were pro-Khalistan elements upset over a report involving arrests at the Gurdwara Dashmesh Cultural Centre. Calgary Police are investigating the assault, which was captured on CCTV.

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**Rishi Nagar**





## HATE SPEECH TRACKER

Date	Incidents
23 Sep 2024	Gurpatwant Singh Pannun Threatens Indo-Americans After PM Modi's US Event Success
Click here to access the full list at <a href="http://www.kalistanextremismmonitor.org">www.kalistanextremismmonitor.org</a>	

## COMPOSITE SEIZURES IN PUNJAB

Date	No. of Incidents	No. of Arrests	Items
08 Sep 2024	1	5	160 grams of heroin, two pistols – a .32 bore pistol without a magazine and a .30 bore pistol without magazine and barrel
14 Sep 2024	1	7	1,000 Alprazolam tablets, four pistols, and ammunition
16 Sep 2024	1	3	Three .32 calibre pistols, 26 cartridges, and 20 grams of heroin
21 Sep 2024	1	10	1 kilograms of heroin, 381 grams of <i>charas</i> , three pistols (including one Glock), 62 live cartridges, two empty shells
22 Sep 2024	1	17	1.1 kilograms of heroin along with 18 weapons and 66 cartridges
29 Sep 2024	2	2	550 grams of heroin along with a China-made pistol, one magazine and four live cartridges; 6 kilograms of heroin, 67 live cartridges, 2 magazines
<b>Total</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>Heroin – 8.83 kilograms; Charas (Hashish) – 381 grams; Intoxicant Tablets – 1,000; Pistols – 13, Cartridges/Bullets – 230, Other Weapons – 18</b>







## ARMS & AMMUNITION SEIZURES IN PUNJAB

Date	No. of Incidents	No. of Arrests	Items
01 Sep 2024	2	10	Three pistols; numerous sharp-edged weapons
03 Sep 2024	1	1	Eight pistols, 55 live cartridges, and eight magazines
04 Sep 2024	2	4	Five pistols and several magazines; four Glock 19 pistols, including one marked 'Made for NATO Army,' along with four magazines, seven live cartridges
08 Sep 2024	2	3	Four .32-bore pistols and 26 live cartridges; two .32-bore pistols and 14 live cartridges
09 Sep 2024	1	3	Five pistols and two magazines
12 Sep 2024	1	2	One .32 bore pistol
18 Sep 2024	1	7	One pistol, two sharp weapons
26 Sep 2024	1	1	Three country-made pistols and three live cartridges
28 Sep 2024	1	2	Four .32 calibre country-made pistols and six live cartridges
30 Sep 2024	1	2	Two pistols, nine live cartridges
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>Pistols - 42; Cartridges/Bullets - 136; Other Weapons - 4</b>

## DRUG SEIZURES IN PUNJAB

Date	No. of Incidents	No. of Arrests	Items
01 Sep 2024	2	4	536 grams of heroin; 37 grams of heroin
03 Sep 2024	5	6	60 grams of heroin; 60 grams of heroin; 10 grams of heroin; 5,500 intoxicating tablets; 506 grams of heroin
04 Sep 2024	2	3	15 grams of heroin; 43,000 tablets of banned Tramadol and Clovidol 100
05 Sep 2024	3	5	80 grams of heroin; 200 grams of heroin; 150 grams of heroin
06 Sep 2024	2	5	2.7 kilograms of heroin; 30 grams of heroin





# KHALISTAN EXTREMISM MONITOR

September 2024

07 Sep 2024	2	5	50 grams of heroin; 5.54 kilograms of heroin
09 Sep 2024	2	27	71 kilograms of narcotics, including 1.1 kilograms of opium, 29 kilograms of poppy husk, 42 kilograms of intoxicant powder, and 1,070 intoxicating tablets; heroin weighing 1.18 kilograms
10 Sep 2024	1	1	1 kilograms of heroin
11 Sep 2024	2	1	6.23 kilograms of heroin; 520 grams of heroin
13 Sep 2024	4	3	6.8 kilograms of heroin; 581 grams of heroin; 513 grams of heroin; 800 grams of opium
15 Sep 2024	7	6	12.5 kilograms of heroin; 3 grams of heroin; 35 grams of heroin and a large quantity of intoxicating pills; large quantity of intoxicating pills; 10 grams of heroin; 68 grams of heroin; 1.14 kilograms of heroin
16 Sep 2024	3	7	10 kilograms of heroin; 1 kilogram of heroin; 4.58 kilograms of heroin
17 Sep 2024	1	0	545 grams of heroin
18 Sep 2024	2	1	5 kilograms of heroin; 5 kilograms of heroin
20 Sep 2024	1	0	2.838 kilograms of heroin
21 Sep 2024	2	3	100 grams of heroin; 30 kilograms of poppy husk
22 Sep 2024	2	1	10 kilograms of <i>ganja</i> ; 2.84 kilograms of heroin
23 Sep 2024	2	2	3 kilograms of opium; 570 grams of heroin
24 Sep 2024	2	4	4 kilograms of opium; 1.2 kilograms of opium
25 Sep 2024	1	1	320 grams of heroin
26 Sep 2024	7	6	501 grams of heroin; 5 kilograms of <i>ganja</i> ; 4 grams of heroin; 1.25 kilograms opium; 520 grams heroin; 290 grams of heroin; 265 grams of heroin
27 Sep 2024	1	1	150 grams of heroin
28 Sep 2024	1	1	199 kilograms of poppy husk; 265 grams of heroin
<b>Total</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>Heroin – 75.077 kilograms; Poppy husk – 258 kilograms; Opium – 11.35 kilograms; Ganja (Marijuana) – 15 kilograms; Intoxicant Tablets/Capsules – 49,674+; Intoxicant Powder – 42 kilograms</b>

