

Efforts to revive Sikh Militancy in Punjab

The militancy in Punjab was comprehensively tackled by 1995. While India was greatly relieved by the end of militancy in Punjab, the restoration of normalcy in Punjab had upset the calculations of Pakistan's ISI and some western agencies and NGOs engaged in destabilization activities in India. These forces have ever since been making all possible efforts to revive militancy in Punjab by trying to rekindle the dormant feeling of hurt, anger and humiliation among the Sikhs caused by the Operation Blue Star of June 1984 and the anti-Sikh riots in Delhi in the aftermath of Indira Gandhi's assassination. It is because of such patronage from the foreign agencies that the Khalistanis who no longer have any base in Punjab, still manage to have some pockets of influence in countries like Canada, the UK, Germany and the USA. The fringe Sikh terror groups which still survive with the support of foreign agencies include the Babbar Khalsa International (BKI), Khalistan Zindabad Force (KZF), Khalistan Tiger Force (KTF), Khalistan Commando Force (KCF) and International Sikh Youth Federation (ISYF). One of the most prominent such groups is Babbar Khalsa International (BKI), which is the oldest and most organized group.

The Babbar Khalsa International (BKI)

The Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) was first formed by Sukhdev Singh Babbar and Talwinder Singh Parmar after the 1978-clashes between a group of Amritdhari Sikhs of Akhand Kirtani Jatha and another group of followers of the Nirankari sect. In the said confrontation, 13 Amritdhari Sikhs were killed. When a criminal case was filed against a Nirankari leader in this regard, he had this case transferred to a court in Haryana, where he was acquitted after one year. This led to a lot of resentment among a section of Sikhs who were convinced that if the government and the courts cannot ensure justice to them, there is nothing wrong in seeking extra judicial measures to avenge the killing of their brothers. Subsequently, Gurbachan Singh, the Nirankari Baba who was widely believed to be the person responsible for the killing of 13 Amritdhari Sikhs in 1978, was shot dead on April 24, 1980, further intensifying the rivalry between the two groups. The first unit of the Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) was formally established in Canada in 1981 under the leadership of Talwinder Singh Parmar. The BKI is presently active in the US, the UK, Germany, Canada, France, Norway, Belgium, Switzerland and Pakistan. The BKI wants an independent Sikh state of Khalistan. It was Talwinder Singh Parmar who masterminded the mid-air blowing up of Kanishka aircraft of Air India in June 1985. In 1992 when western intelligence established Parmar's presence in Pakistan, he was asked by the ISI to shift his base from Pakistan and he then crossed over to Punjab in India where he was killed by the Punjab police in an encounter in October 1992. Earlier in August, 1992 Sukhdev Singh Babbar, the co-founder of the BKI, was also killed in a police action in Punjab. The BKI is presently headed by Wadhwa Singh Babbar based in Pakistan. Mehal Singh is his deputy. Both of them figure in the list of wanted terrorists handed over by India to Pakistan for repatriation to India. Wadhwa Singh is reported to have personally supervised the

assassination of former Punjab Chief Minister Beant Singh on August 31, 1995. He is also believed to have masterminded the spectacular escape of Beant Singh-Assassination accused Jagtar Singh Haveria from Burail jail in Chandigarh. (<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/isi-khalistan-punjab-militancy-babbar-khalsa-international-operation-bluestar/1/158692.html>)

Support to Sikh terrorists from Pak ISI and western agencies.

Sikh terror outfit Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) is learnt to have received more than Rs.80 crore from the ISI during the last four years to fund its cadres. The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has reportedly initiated a probe into the funding of the BKI. According to the NIA, there are more than two dozen websites and nearly 50 groups on various social networking sites trying to revive militancy in Punjab and recruiting cadres to fight for their demand for an independent Sikh state. These sites show pictures and other details of the Sikh prisoners lodged in various jails and those who died during the Operation Blue Star and also provocative and gruesome scenes of massacre of Sikhs during the 1984 riots. Obviously the sole objective of such websites is to incite the passion and anger of Sikhs over the old wounds and revive militancy in Punjab. One of the popular websites is called www.neverforget84.com and this name itself is indicative of the objective of the website. The NIA has information that there are many NGOs based in Canada, UK and Germany which are donating money to the BKI's cause for revival of Khalistan movement. The money comes via hawala, legal bank transfers and human courier. The fronts floated by the BKI in the cyberspace urge the Sikh community settled abroad to generously donate to the cause of the Khalistani movement aimed to attain an independent Sikh state. The government has already banned BKI, Khalistan Zindabad Force (KZF), Khalistan Commando Force and International Sikh Youth Federation (ISYF) under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act,1967 (UAPA).
<http://akalidalamritsar.in/commentdetail.php?intCommentID=215>)

After the 1971 war, there was a joint covert operation by the US intelligence community and Pakistan's ISI to encourage Sikh militancy in Punjab with the demand for an independent state of Khalistan, as part of an action plan for destabilisation of India. As part of this plan Dr.Jagjit Singh Chauhan,a Sikh leader of Punjab was sent to the UK to take over the leadership of the separatist Sikh Home Rule movement which he renamed as the Khalistan movement. Dr.Chauhan had earlier served as the Deputy Speaker of the Punjab Assembly before 1969 and later as the Finance Minister of Punjab. Even before his arrival in London, the officials in the Pakistan High Commission and the US embassy in London were in touch with the Sikh Home Rule activists. After Dr.Chauhan's arrival in London, they established contacts with him and gave him the necessary support and encouragement for his propaganda campaign and divisive activities against the government of India. The Yahya regime invited him to Pakistan, honoured him as a great leader of the Sikh people and gave him some Sikh holy relics kept in Pakistan, which on his return to London, he used for impressing and winning the support of the Sikh diaspora in the UK. In September,1971 he had given the call for the creation of an independent state of Khalistan. After the defeat of Indira Gandhi in the 1977 elections, Dr Jagjit Chauhan had suspended his Khalistan movement and returned to India. But he went back to London to revive the Khalistan movement following Indira's return to power in 1980. By late seventies a number

of new and more militant Sikh separatist organisations had sprung up in the US, UK and Canada with names such as International Sikh Youth Federation (ISYF), The Dal Khalsa, The Babbar Khalsa, etc. The leaders of these outfits were found to have close links with US state department officials. These outfits denounced Dr. Chauhan's leadership and advocated a violent path to realise their dream of Khalistan. The ISI also started losing interest in Dr. Chauhan and began to encourage the new militant Sikh outfits. Apart from the patronage enjoyed by these militant outfits from some western countries, this episode also shows the extreme animosity entertained by the western countries towards Indira Gandhi's leadership in India. (Ref: Kaoboys of R & AW by B. Raman.)

India had sought the help of western intelligence agencies for the arrest and repatriation of Talwinder Singh Parmar, a sacked saw mill worker of Vancouver in Canada and a founder-leader of Babbar Khalsa, who had issued many statements threatening to eliminate Indira Gandhi and was also wanted in India for trial in a case relating to the massacre of some Nirankaris in Punjab. However India's request did not evoke any positive response from the western agencies. At India's behest, the Interpol had issued a look out notice to all member countries to arrest Talwinder Singh Parmar and inform Indian police if he was found in their territory. In 1983, the West German Police arrested him and informed the CBI about his arrest through INTERPOL. They had also sought the details of the cases in which he was wanted and evidence against him. The CBI had informed them that a special CBI team with all required details will be flying to Bonn immediately and requested them to keep him under detention till their arrival. However, under pressure from some local Sikh community leaders the West German authorities sent him back to Canada and told the CBI that they couldn't get extension of his detention. Two years later the same Parmar had played an active role in the conspiracy for blowing up an Air India plane "Kanishka" off the Irish Coast, which resulted in the death of over 300 passengers, many of them Canadian citizens. The West German authorities probably could have averted this gruesome tragedy if they had positively responded to Indian request for Parmar's repatriation. (Ref: Kaoboys of R&AW by B. Raman).

European Union's sympathy for Khalistani convict

Devinder Pal Singh Bhuller, a former Khalistan Commando Force militant, was given death penalty under TADA in 2001 by a Delhi court in connection with a 1993 car bomb attack in New Delhi in which 12 people were killed and 19 were injured. Bhuller was deported to India from Germany in 1995. President Pratibha Patil had rejected his mercy petition in May 2011. The European Union in a letter written to Indian Home Minister P Chidambaram in June 2011 had requested him not to hang Bhuller. A US-based Sikh group called Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) is also seeking the intervention of the UN to save Devinder Pal Singh Bhuller. The SFJ said in a statement issued on 17th June, 2011 that it will approach the UN to act on a 2008 UN General Assembly resolution calling for the abolition and moratorium on the use of death penalty by intervening to save Bhuller.

The campaign in support of Bhuller has the support of World Coalition Against Death Penalty, American Civil Liberties Union and Amnesty International. (<http://www.pravasitoday.com/eu-urges-india-not-to-hang-bhullar-to-death>)

London, a haven for Sikh terrorists

Every year on June 6, on the anniversary of Blue Star operation, pro-Khalistani elements take out processions and hold demonstrations in various parts of London. They hold placards demanding Khalistan and shout pro-Khalistan slogans.

India's Independence Day celebrations in the UK's East Midlands in 2012 were cancelled after a group of about 50 pro-Khalistani elements disrupted the event by removing the tricolor and manhandling the organizers. The function was organized by Indian Workers Association (IWA) on 18th August. The miscreants describing themselves as Khalistanis said that they were not Indians and they did not want any Indian Independence Day celebrations.

Lt Gen (rtd) Kuldip Singh Brar who was on a visit to London was attacked by some Sikh terrorists near Oxford Street in London on September 30, 2012. Brar who resisted the attack escaped with minor injuries. Brar as Major General had led the Operation Blue Star in 1984. (<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/lt-gen-brar-attacked-in-london/article3955686.ece?css=print>)

Campaign in the West demanding declaration of 1984 anti-Sikh riots as genocide

A signature campaign for a White House petition seeking recognition of the November 1984 anti-Sikh riots in India as genocide had crossed the threshold of more than 25000 signatures. The signature drive urging the Obama administration to fulfill its obligation under Article 1 of the UN Convention on Genocide by recognizing the 1984 violence as "Sikh Genocide" was launched on November 15, 2012 by Sikhs for Justice (SFJ), a New York-based rights organization. The petition alleged that in the systematic violence against the Sikhs in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots, more than 30000 Sikhs were killed. The petition claimed the support of Voice for Freedom (VFF), another Sikh rights group, and support of Gurudwaras across the US. To elicit a response from the administration, a White House petition must gather over 25000 signatures within a month.

On November 1st, 2012, Warren Entsch, the Chief Opposition Whip for the Liberal Party in Australia, had also tabled a "1984 Sikh Genocide" petition before the House of Representatives. Hundreds of Sikhs had thronged the Capital city Canberra on that day and were present in the Parliament Galleries on the occasion when Entsch read out the petition. He thundered that "the intentional and deliberate nature of attacks on Sikh lives, properties and places of worship during the November 1984 riots makes them a crime of Genocide as per Article 2 of the UN Convention on Genocide." The Sikh Genocide petition had the support of Sikh for Justice and other human rights organizations.

Sukh Dhaliwal, the Canadian member of Parliament of Indian origin had introduced a similar petition in Canadian Parliament in June, 2010, demanding recognition of 1984 anti-Sikh riots in India as "Sikh Genocide". The Canadian government had however rejected the demand.

The United States, Canada and Australia are signatories to UN Convention against Genocide and have domestic laws declaring intentional attack on a religious minority as “genocide”. (<http://in.news.yahoo.com/white-house-petition-1984-anti-sikh-violence-gains-053818887.html>).

Sikh for Justice petitions British PM seeking justice for minorities in India

About 750 ‘Kesri Lehar’ and ‘Sikh for Justice’ volunteers held a demonstration in front of the office of the British Prime Minister David Cameron on December 10, 2012, on the occasion of the 64th anniversary of the adoption and proclamation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, demanding a debate on atrocities on the minorities of India. A delegation of activists later submitted a People’s Petition signed by 118000 activists to the PM seeking truth, justice and dignity for all minorities in India. The petition urged the UK Parliament to request India to sign and ratify the Rome Statute of the International Crime Court and the UN Charter Against Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, which encompasses the death penalty. The delegation consisted of several British MPs, human rights and Sikh activists and was led by Labour MP John Mc Donnell. (<http://www.sikhsiyasat.net/2012/12/12/5576-kesri-lehar-the-wave-for-justice-submitted-the-peoples-petition-to-uk-prime-minister-david-cameron/>)

Canadian PM on demand for Khalistan

Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper during his visit to India said on November 8, 2012 that Sikhs advocating for the creation of an independent Khalistan is not a crime. He said that the issue of violence and terrorism should not be confused with people’s political right to freedom of expression and their right to promote their political views.

Above instances clearly indicate that it is not only Pakistan’s ISI, but certain western agencies have also been making all out efforts to revive militancy in Punjab since last more than a decade.

Present state of militancy in Punjab

Though militancy in Punjab was successfully tackled by 1995, Pakistan never gave up its hope of reviving the militancy and continued to support various Sikh militant groups like the BKI, Khalistan Tiger Force (KTI), Khalistan Commando Force (KCF), Khalistan Zindabad Force (KZF), Khalistan Liberation Force (KLF) and Dal Khalsa. The KTF is the most lavishly-funded group by ISI at present and Tara appears to be its new favourite. Khalistan Liberation Force is presently led by Harminder Singh Mintu. Mintu however fled to Malaysia following a foiled bomb plot in Ludhiana in 2010.

The liberty cinema at Karol Bagh and Satyam Multiplex cinema at Patel Nagar in New Delhi were struck by two bomb blasts on May 22, 2005, causing injuries to about 50 people. One of the injured later succumbed to the injuries. Both the cinemas were screening the controversial

film “So Bole So Nihal” which had hurt the religious feelings of a section of Sikhs. This film was withdrawn from all theatres in Punjab earlier.

On March 21, 2006 the police arrested 4 Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) terrorists from Sector 12 of Chandigarh and seized 1 kg of RDX and also some arms and ammunition from them. On interrogation it was revealed that three of the youths hailing from Ropar district of Punjab and the fourth one named Balbir Singh @ Nepali from Solan district in Himachal Pradesh formed part of one of the many modules controlled by BKI leader Jagtar Singh Tara, assigned with the task of reviving terrorism in Punjab.

Three Sikh militants belonging to International Sikh Youth Federation (ISYF) were arrested by the Punjab police from different parts of Jalandhar district on December 24, 2006. The police seized 11 kg of RDX, 11 detonators, four hand grenades, 11 timer devices, two pistols, four magazines and 100 cartridges from their possession. Paramjit Singh, one of the arrested youths, was a UK citizen. On interrogation, it was found that the explosives were meant to be used during the assembly election campaign in Punjab.

There was a bomb blast in a cinema theatre in the Shringar Complex in Ludhiana on October 14, 2007 in which 7 people were killed and 40 others were injured. A Bojpuri film ‘Janam Janam Ka Sath’ was being screened at the time of the blast. Most of the victims were migrants from Bihar. The blast was triggered by suspected terrorists belonging to Babbar Khalsa International (BKI).

An ISI-sponsored Khalistan terror plot was foiled by the security agencies on 4th May, 2010 with the arrest of a Khalistan Commando Force (KCF) terrorist Nirmal Singh @ Nimma, who was tasked to attack Adampur Air Force station in Punjab and recruit locals from villages along the Indo-Pakistan border to set up a terror network. Nimma, who was arrested from Raipur district in Chhattisgarh was holed up abroad and returned to India via Greece following instructions from his bosses in Germany and Pakistan to conduct some terror acts in India. Nimma was also tasked to attack a congregation of Dera Sacha Sauda in Punjab.

In June 2010, the ATS had arrested a 27-year old Babbar Khalsa militant, Nishant Singh from Mumbai. Singh, who was a sepoy in the army, had served in Kargil, Siachen and Jammu & Kashmir. Singh had not reported for duty for the past four years. ATS had recovered an AK-47, four other fire arms and 128 live cartridges from him. Singh had told the ATS that he procured the weapons from across the border.

Jagtar Singh Tara, a former BKI leader along with three other BKI operatives had in January 2004 in a daring night-operation slid through a 104’-long tunnel dug under three massive perimeter walls at Chandigarh’s maximum security Burail jail. Tara later crossed over to Pakistan and established links with ISI. In March 2011, he parted company with Wadhwa Singh of BKI and launched Khalistan Tiger Force with the assistance of ISI.

The Delhi police, with the help of sniffer dogs, had seized 5.6 kg of RDX kept hidden in the door of a metallic blue Indica car outside Ambala cantonment on October 12, 2011. An improvised explosive device (IED) packed with 5 kg of RDX could have killed scores of people in the immediate surroundings besides critically injuring many others. The lethal consignment sent from Pakistan was smuggled in from across Jammu border had come unchallenged up to Ambala where the Delhi police special cell, alerted by some suspicious mobile phone intercepts originating from Nepal, intercepted the vehicle and seized the consignment. Two clean-shaven Sikhs who were driving the car however managed to escape. Jagtar Singh Tara of Khalistan Tiger Force had on October 23 claimed the responsibility for the aborted terror plot. During the investigation, it was found that the BKI with the help of ISI was trying to target some prime locations in Delhi and Punjab. The probe further revealed the existence of a joint committee to coordinate the activities of major Sikh terrorist outfits like ISYF, BKI, KTF, and Komagata Maru Dal. It was also found that ISI is keen on forging coordination between Khalistani terrorists and terrorists operating in J&K. (http://www.satp.org/satporgrp/countries/india/states/punjab/terrorist_outfits/BKI.htm).

Delhi police arrested two members of Babbar Khalsa International,(BKI), one from Punjab and another from the Shalimar Bagh area of Northwest Delhi, during the fourth week of December, 2011. The police first arrested Sarabpreet Singh from Delhi on December 22nd. and on the basis of information given by him, Jaswinder Singh was arrested from Anandpur Sahib in Punjab. The police also recovered three pistols, cartridges, mobile phones, laptops and pen drives from the two accused who were reportedly planning to assassinate some political and religious leaders ahead of assembly elections in Punjab. The duo reportedly admitted that they were tasked to eliminate certain political and religious leaders of Punjab by BKI chief Wadhawa Singh and another leader, Kulbir Singh.

“Forgotten Citizen” campaign

A new Sikh movement called the “Forgotten Citizen” campaign was launched on the initiative of some NGOs and human rights organizations at a meeting held at Punjabi Bagh, West Delhi on October 14, 2012, mainly to keep the Sikh anger and indignation alive over the killing of Sikhs in the aftermath of Indira Gandhi’s assassination in October, 1984. The organizations which took a leading role in launching this new movement included the Sikh Forum, Sikhi Sidak, Lok Raj Sangathan, Akal Network, Gnan Sewa Trust and Vismad. As per the plan chalked out at the October 14 meeting, the campaign started from Jallianwala Bagh on October 21, 2012. The volunteers displayed placards showing gruesome killing of Sikhs during the 1984 riots and a list of names and addresses of about 3000 Sikhs killed in the 1984 riots. After visiting Sultanpur Lodhi, Jalandhar, Ludhiana and Chandigarh, it reached New Delhi on October 28. From November 1st to 3d, the volunteers visited various Gurdwaras in Delhi as part of an awareness campaign and conducted photo exhibitions at some of the Gurdwaras in Delhi depicting the graphic details of the 1984 carnage in Delhi. On November 3d afternoon, the campaign volunteers led by Jarnail Singh, President of the Campaign, took out a rally from

Jantar Mantar to Parliament House, New Delhi to mark the anniversary of the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. The leaders led by Jarnail Singh also submitted a memorandum to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh demanding an independent probe into the 1984 riots by a judicial team of the Supreme Court of India.

Bizarre claims by pro-militant Sikh outfits

All India Sikh Students Federation (AISSF) and the US-based Sikhs for Justice (SfJ), two pro-militant Sikh outfits made a bizarre claim during a press conference held at Chandigarh on December 17, 2012 that they have unearthed murder fields at Tughlakabad and Nangloi where dozens of Sikhs belonging to the armed forces were butchered to death during the 1984 riots. They further claimed that many high-ranking as well as junior rank serving Sikh personnel had fallen victims to the massacre. The leaders of the outfits even released service particulars of the army personnel killed in the planned massacre. (<http://www.punjabnewslines.com/news/AISSF-SFJ-release-list-of-Sikh-soldiers-killed-in-84-genocide-demand-probe.html>).

A similar technique was used by the human rights and NGO activists in Jammu and Kashmir in 2008 as part of their hate-campaign against the Indian Army. There they announced the alleged discovery of mass graves in places like Baramulla and Uri and claimed that those were the graves of disappeared Kashmiri youths who had become victims of atrocities by Indian security forces. A rights body called the Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons (APDP) which claimed to have conducted a two-year survey of people missing after being taken under custody by the security forces in J&K also suddenly cropped up with its survey report titled 'Facts Under Ground' giving details of missing people allegedly taken under custody by security forces, tortured to death and buried in unmarked graves. The report released in April, 2008, was given wide publicity in the western press with the Amnesty International playing a leading role in the campaign. While the intention behind such sinister campaign in Kashmir was to stir up people's anger against the Indian Army and strengthen separatist sentiments, such false and misleading campaign in Punjab was meant to open the old wounds and keep the militancy alive.

UPA government's sympathetic attitude to Khalistani terrorism

In a significant decision, the Central government has removed 142 of the 169 hardcore Punjabi militants from its blacklist. These wanted persons whose names have been deleted are believed to be currently based in Pakistan, the US, Canada, Norway, France and Germany. Those who have benefited from this baffling gesture of UPA government include four dreaded Punjab terrorists based in Pakistan, namely, Wadhawa Singh, chief of Babbar Khalsa International, Paramjit Singh Panjwar, chief of Khalistan Commando Force, Ranjit Singh @ Neeta, chief of Khalistan Zindabad Force and Lakhbir Singh Rode, nephew of slain terrorist Jarnail Singh Bhinranwale and President of International Sikh Youth Federation. The removal of their names from the blacklist will enable them to move freely around the world or return home. The government's gesture comes in the wake of consistent demand from a section of people within

the ruling party who wanted the black-listed Punjab militants to be given an opportunity to join the mainstream in view of the transformation in their views and activities and normalized situation in Punjab. The names have been deleted in two phases. While 25 names were deleted in August 2010, 117 names were deleted in May, 2011. (<http://news.in.msn.com/national/article.aspx?cp-documentid=5160230>)

Bhindranwale portrait at Golden Temple

In a controversial move, Punjab's ruling Shiromani Akali Dal-controlled Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) had on November 29, 2007 installed a portrait of slain Khalistan militant leader Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale in the Golden Temple museum at Amritsar. The ceremony was attended by the son of the former Dandami Taksal head Isher Singh, SGPC chief Avtar Singh Makkar and Akal Takht jathedar Joginder Singh Vedanti.

Akal Takht supports Beant Singh killer

The five Sikh high priests on March 23, 2012 asked Punjab Chief Minister Prakash Singh Badal, SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal and Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) chief Avtar Singh Makkar to immediately meet the President and take appropriate steps through the State and Union governments to ensure the unconditional release of Babbar Khalsa International terrorist Balwant Singh Rajoana. Rajoana, who was convicted for the assassination of former chief minister Beant Singh, was sentenced to be hanged on March 31 by a Chandigarh court. Akal Takht chief Giani Gurbachan Singh also announced the conferment of the title 'Zinda Shaheed' on Rajoana for his brave and fearless stand against the atrocities by the Centre. He also bestowed upon Dilawar Singh, who had blown up Beant Singh and died in the process, the title of 'National Martyr of Sikhs'.

Both Balwant Singh Rajoana and Dilawar Singh were assigned the task of assassinating Punjab chief minister Beant Singh in 1995. It was the toss of a coin that decided as to who should become the chief minister's assassin and Balwant Singh was assigned the role of standby. The blast also killed 16 others at the Punjab Civil Secretariat on the evening of August 31, 1995.

The Centre on March 28, 2012 stayed the execution of Balwant Singh Rajoana, scheduled to be hanged on March 31, 2012. The decision to stay the execution was taken after the President's office forwarded a mercy petition filed by the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) for reexamination of the case.

Memorial for Operation Blue Star.

The title of 'zinta shaheed' was formally conferred on Balwant Singh Rajoana by the Sikh clerics on the occasion of the 28th anniversary of Operation Blue star observed in the Golden Temple complex on June 6, 2012, amidst pro-Khalistan slogans raised by some of the Sikh radicals present on the occasion. The foundation stone for a memorial for the "Operation Blue Star", to be built in the honour of those who were killed in the army action in 1984, was

also laid on the occasion. The memorial is being built by Damdami Taksal, a radical Sikh seminari once headed by Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale.

SGPC honours Vaidya killers

The Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) on October 10, 2012 honoured the kin of two terrorists of Khalistani Commando Force, Harjinder Singh Jinda and Sukhdev Singh Sukha, who had shot dead the former Army chief A.S.Vaidya in Pune in 1986 to take revenge for the Operation Blue Star in 1984, carried out to flush out terrorists taken shelter in the Golden Temple. The event was organized at the Golden Temple complex to observe the death anniversaries of the two terrorists. The SGPC presented 'siropas' (robe of honour) to Jinda's brother Bhupinder Singh and Sukha's kin Surjit Kaur, after the prayers. Jinda and Sukha who were arrested and sentenced to death, were hanged in 1992.

Centre refuses to intervene in Blue Star memorial construction

Addressing a press conference in Delhi on October 10, 2012 Home Minister Sushilkumar Shinde said that the Centre was fully aware of the construction of a memorial for Operation Blue Star in the Golden Temple complex at Amritsar and added that it would not interfere in the matter respecting the rights of such organizations bestowed by the Constitution.

SGPC pays homage to Indira killers

Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee on October 31, 2012 paid homage to Beant Singh, one of the killers of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on her death anniversary. Indira Gandhi was shot dead at her residence in New Delhi on October 31, 1984 by her bodyguard Beant Singh and another bodyguard Satwant Singh. Beant Singh was shot dead by the security personnel immediately after the incident and the SGPC, which manages the Golden Temple, observes this day as 'martyrdom day of Bhai Beant Singh'. Golden Temple granthi Giani Rawel Singh, Manager Harban Singh Mallhi and Satwant Singh's brother Waryam Singh Agwan were among those who attended the bhog of the Akhand Path. The ceremony was held at Gurdwara Jhandae Bungae inside the Golden Temple complex. SGPC president Avtar Singh Makkar however stayed away from the function.

Despite the widespread criticism over the SGPC's act of honouring General Vaidya's killers on October 10 and Beant Singh, one of the assassins of Indira Gandhi on October 31, the SGPC held a special function at Amritsar on January 6, 2013 to pay tributes to Satwant Singh, another assassin of Indira Gandhi and Kehar Singh, a conspirator in the crime, who were both hanged to death on January 6, 1989. Those who were present on the occasion included officials of SGPC and Shiromani Akali Dal and leaders of Sikh radical organization Dal Khalsa. Jathedar of Akal Takht Giani Gurbachan Singh bestowed Siropa (robe of honour) upon Tarlok Singh, father of Satwant Singh and also upon Bhupinder Singh, brother of Harjinder Singh Jinda, one of the assassins of General Vaidya. A similar function was also organized on the same day at Agwan, the native village of Satwant Singh, to honour him on the occasion of his 24th. death

anniversary. Sukhwinder Singh, Sarpanch of the village and brother of Satwant Singh and many prominent SGPC and Akal Takht leaders attended the function.

(<http://m.timesofindia.com/india/Indira-Gandhis-assassins-honoured-by-Akal-Takht/articleshow/17910528.cms>.)

Prospects of revival of Terrorism in Punjab

Instances mentioned above make it amply clear that it is not only the Pakistan's ISI, but many western agencies and NGOs with the connivance of the ruling regimes in countries like the US, the UK, Germany and Canada have also been involved in abetting the revival of terrorism in Punjab. During the last five years about 180 Sikh terrorists were arrested and there was also substantial seizure of weapons and ammunition from Punjab. However, there were only two major terrorist attacks carried out by the Sikh terrorists in the recent past, one in the form of twin cinema hall blasts that rocked Delhi on May 22, 2005 in which one person was killed and another, again a bomb blast at a cinema hall in Ludhiana on November 14, 2007, in which six people were killed. There had however been some more incidents of attacks targeting religious leaders with the aim of provoking a wider conflict. Such incidents include the IED attack on the convoy of Gurmit Ram Rahim Singh, head of the Dera Sacha Sauda in February 2008, the killing of Rulda Singh, president of the Rashtriya Sikh Sangat in July 2009 and the killing of Sant Pardhan Singh, the head of the Maidas Nirmali Dera in May 2010. However, despite all efforts by Pakistani and western agents and other anti-national forces within the country, there is very little scope for revival of terrorism in a significant scale in Punjab. Because, the Khalistani terrorists stand totally exposed, disgraced and discredited by their own misdeeds and follies and no amount of efforts and maneuvers will help them to win back their lost support base. Whatever support they now enjoy is limited to some lunatic elements confined to the Sikh diaspora community. All the same, the UPA government's apparent sympathy for the Sikh extremists, as demonstrated by its reluctance stop the construction of a memorial for the Operation Blue Star in the Golden Temple, its prevarication on the death sentence to former chief minister Beant Singh's assassin, Balwant Singh Rajoana and removal of names of many hard-core Sikh terrorists from the black list, is a matter of grave concern as it is bound to give the much-needed political space and life support to the Khalistani terrorists in Punjab. It is the sympathetic attitude of the UPA government that had emboldened the SGPC to go ahead with its various pro-Khalistani measures and acts, like the construction of the Blue Star Operation memorial in the Golden Temple complex. This memorial, if allowed to be completed, will prove to be a permanent trigger for inspiring all future Sikh militants in Punjab.

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Babbar Khalsa is part of a terrorist network sponsored by Germany-based Sikh terrorist groups as well as Pakistan's ISI to revive terrorism in Punjab. It was reported that a joint committee was formed in Germany in 2001 to coordinate the activities of major terrorist outfits abroad. Gurdial Singh Lalli of International Sikh Youth federation (ISYF), Resham Singh of Babbar Khalsa International and Harmeet Singh of Kamagata Maru Dal of Khalistan are the prominent leaders of this committee. There have also been reports that the ISI was trying to ensure closer coordination between Khalistan terrorists and jihadi terrorist operating in Jammu and Kashmir.

The government of Pakistan had set up the Pakistan Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee in April 1999 to administer the Sikh shrines in Pakistan and had appointed Lt Gen (Rtd) Javed Nazir, a former chief of ISI, as its chairman. All Sikh terrorists camping in Pakistan were reportedly working under Javed Nazir. The ISI had entrusted the task of reviving Sikh militancy in Punjab to the LeT. The LeT was giving arms training to groups like BKI, ISYF and Khalistan Zindabad Force. The LeT is operating eight terror camps in Pakistan to train the Khalistanis. These camps are located at Kot Lokhpat, Chakwal, Gujranwala, Mianwali Peshawar, Attock, Shahidan, Da Banga and Gulbarg in Lahore.

(Beant Singh was killed on August 31, 1995. Bhullar was convicted in 2001.)