Sikh Disinformation Lab

MISLEADING

City Air News report on revived "K-2 plan" in Punjab assessed as Misleading

A 17 November 2026 article asserts that Pakistan's ISI has revived a "K-2" project uniting Sikhs for Justice, Babbar Khalsa International and Tehreek-e-Taliban Hindustan to attack Punjab Police. The Lab assesses the report as Misleading, with all six claims examined found Unsupported.

PUBLISHED
17 November 2026

SOURCE POSTED
17 November 2026

NARRATIVES
Claiming Pakistan Controls Sikh Political Activism · Portraying Advocacy for Khalistan as Terrorism

OUR ASSESSMENT

The article presents the alleged revival of Pakistan's K-2 operation as an established security development and connects Sikhs for Justice, Babbar Khalsa International and Tehreek-e-Taliban Hindustan through a purported common intelligence command.

While attacks on Punjab Police personnel are documented, the article does not establish that these incidents were coordinated by the ISI or that the named organizations share the operational roles attributed to them. The claimed responsibility for the latest killing remained under investigation.

The report's wider framing associates Sikh self-determination advocacy with terrorism, organized crime and foreign manipulation. It treats the political movement as a product of Pakistani strategic planning rather than examining the specific evidence concerning individual organizations and their alleged conduct.

The central problem is the transformation of separate criminal incidents and anonymously attributed intelligence claims into a comprehensive narrative of foreign control over Sikh political activity. Source-network observation

November 13 — Sikh religious outreach

IANS reporting associates Pakistan's restoration of historic Sikh religious sites with alleged ISI influence operations.

November 14 — Sikh diaspora mobilization

An IANS report alleges plans to mobilize overseas Sikhs and Kashmir advocacy groups as part of Pakistan's international strategy.

November 17 — K-2 militant coordination

The present report escalates the narrative to an alleged intelligence-directed alliance involving SFJ, BKI, TTH, drug trafficking and attacks on police.

These reports are analytically relevant as a recurring framing pattern: Sikh religious engagement, diaspora political activity and alleged militant operations are each interpreted through Pakistani intelligence-control claims.

THE CLAIM

ISI revives K-2 plan, brings multiple terror groups into Punjab to target cops

THE ANALYSIS

What was published

On 17 November 2026, cityairnews.com published an article headlined "ISI revives K-2 plan, brings multiple terror groups into Punjab to target cops". The piece asserts that, a month earlier, Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence and Army revived "their ambitious K-2 project, aimed at targeting Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir

simultaneously", describing the "Khalistan-Kashmir initiative" as something that "has been in the works for several years".

The report goes on to connect Sikhs for Justice (SFJ), Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) and Tehreek-e-Taliban Hindustan (TTH) through a purported common intelligence command, and links that alleged alliance to drug trafficking and to killings of Punjab Police personnel.

The Lab's assessment

The Lab assesses the article as Misleading. Each of the six claims examined is Unsupported.

Attacks on Punjab Police personnel are documented. What the article does not establish is that those incidents were coordinated by the ISI, or that the named organizations occupy the operational roles attributed to them. At the time of publication, responsibility for the most recent killing remained under investigation.

The central problem is the transformation of separate criminal incidents and anonymously attributed intelligence claims into a comprehensive narrative of foreign control over Sikh political activity.
Verdict: Misleading — unsupported coordination claims and criminalization of Sikh political advocacy.

The central concern is how the article uses serious criminal incidents to construct a broader narrative that portrays the Khalistan movement as an instrument of Pakistani intelligence and organized violence.

The report does more than allege that particular militant organizations have connections with Pakistan. It presents a comprehensive intelligence strategy in which different organizations are assigned operational responsibilities, attacks on police are coordinated to produce political instability, and the resulting insecurity is intended to generate support for Khalistan.

These assertions are attributed to unnamed intelligence officials, but the article does not disclose the investigative findings or operational records necessary to establish the alleged structure.
Reframing the Khalistan movement as foreign manipulation: The article also presents the Khalistan movement as having failed to gain public support and suggests that Pakistan intends to reverse this by engineering insecurity.

This argument portrays Sikh political sentiment as something that can be manufactured through violence and intelligence manipulation rather than examined through the movement's own political history, demands and grievances.

The assertion that public fear would eventually produce support for Khalistan is presented as an intelligence strategy, but no identifiable assessment of political attitudes or evidence connecting particular attacks to shifts in public support is supplied.

The report invokes the violence of the 1980s to explain opposition to Khalistan, while excluding the wider historical record of state repression, enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings in Punjab documented by human-rights organizations.

This selective historical framing reduces a complex political and human-rights history to a security narrative in which Sikh self-determination is associated primarily with militancy, foreign interference and criminal activity.

The significance of the K-2 allegation

The term K-2 is not newly invented. Earlier Indian legal proceedings and historical reporting referred to efforts to link armed activity in Punjab and Kashmir during the early 1990s.

However, the existence of historical allegations does not establish that a specific operation was revived in October 2026 or that the organizations named in this article are participating in a common command structure.

The article relies on the historical familiarity of the K-2 narrative to lend authority to contemporary allegations involving SFJ, BKI and TTH. The reported revival is presented as an established security development rather than a claim requiring independent substantiation.

The claims, one by one

1. That Pakistan revived the K-2 operation in October 2026. Unsupported. The article presents this as an established intelligence development, but does not identify an official assessment or operational evidence documenting the alleged revival.

2. That SFJ, BKI and TTH are participating in a coordinated ISI-directed operation. Unsupported. The article does not substantiate the organizational relationships, command structure or shared operational activity it describes.

3. That Khalistan-related groups have been directed to concentrate on drug trafficking. Unsupported. The claim associates Sikh political organizations with organized crime without identifying the specific networks or operations necessary to establish the connection.

4. That six police killings in Punjab during 2026 were coordinated attacks under the K-2 strategy. Unsupported. The article does not demonstrate coordination among the incidents, and responsibility for the latest killing remained under investigation.

5. That Pakistan intends to use insecurity to generate support for Khalistan. Unsupported. This is an attributed explanation of alleged strategic intent, not an independently demonstrated relationship between criminal violence and Sikh political sentiment.

6. That Sikh political advocacy, militant organizations and drug trafficking form part of a unified Pakistani strategy. Unsupported. This is the article's overarching explanatory narrative. The report does not demonstrate the organizational and causal relationships necessary to substantiate it.

Framing

The report's wider framing associates Sikh self-determination advocacy with terrorism, organized crime and foreign manipulation. It treats the political movement as a product of Pakistani strategic planning rather than examining the specific evidence concerning individual organizations and their alleged conduct.

Source-network observation

The article sits within a short sequence of reporting that applies the same interpretive frame to distinct subjects.

On 13 November, IANS reporting associated Pakistan's restoration of historic Sikh religious sites with alleged ISI influence operations.

On 14 November, an IANS report alleged plans to mobilize overseas Sikhs and Kashmir advocacy groups as part of Pakistan's international strategy.

On 17 November, the present report escalated the narrative to an alleged intelligence-directed alliance involving SFJ, BKI, TTH, drug trafficking and attacks on police.

These reports are analytically relevant as a recurring framing pattern: Sikh religious engagement, diaspora political activity and alleged militant operations are each interpreted through claims of Pakistani intelligence control.

Verdict

Misleading. Severity 4 of 5. Documented violence against police officers is real, but the article's attribution of that violence to a revived foreign intelligence project, and its folding of Sikh political advocacy into that project, are not supported by the evidence it presents.

CLAIMS ASSESSED

01	Pakistan revived the K-2 operation in October 2026.	UNSUPPORTED
02	SFJ, BKI and TTH are participating in a coordinated ISI-directed operation.	UNSUPPORTED
03	Khalistan-related groups have been directed to concentrate on drug trafficking.	UNSUPPORTED
04	The six police killings in Punjab during 2026 were coordinated attacks under the K-2 strategy.	UNSUPPORTED
05	Pakistan intends to use insecurity to generate support for Khalistan.	UNSUPPORTED
06	Sikh political advocacy, militant organizations and drug trafficking form part of a unified Pakistani strategy.	UNSUPPORTED

SOURCES

01 https://www.cityairnews.com/content/isi-revives-k-2-plan-brings-multiple-terror-groups-into-punjab-to-target-cops

02 Sikh Disinformation Lab analyst review of the above item (verdict: Misleading; six claims assessed Unsupported)

03 IANS report, 13 November 2026, on Sikh religious site restoration in Pakistan (as cited in the Lab's source-network observation)

04 IANS report, 14 November 2026, on alleged mobilization of overseas Sikh and Kashmir advocacy groups (as cited in the Lab's source-network observation)

Sikh Disinformation Lab

About Sikh Disinformation Lab

Sikh Disinformation Lab is an independent, evidence-based programme founded and hosted by the World Sikh Organization of Canada. It monitors, analyses and publicly documents disinformation affecting Sikhs.

The Lab examines claims against evidence, publishes assessments with that evidence attached, and tracks coordinated campaigns over time. Every published assessment names what was claimed, where it appeared, what the review found, and what that assessment rests on. Where an item makes several distinct claims, each is assessed separately.

Assessments are made against the methodology framework in force at the time of publication. That framework is public, versioned, and reviewed at each phase gate; a material change produces a new version rather than a silent edit. The full method is published at sikhdisinfolab.ca/method.

Corrections are dated entries, never silent edits. Where a published assessment is found to be wrong or incomplete, the correction is recorded against it and listed at sikhdisinfolab.ca/corrections. If you believe something published here is inaccurate, write to the programme and it will be reviewed.

Assessments are the responsibility of Sikh Disinformation Lab.

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