Sikh Disinformation Lab

MISLEADING

# NationPress article merges SFJ with armed militant groups under one "terror outfits" label

A 29 September 2026 NationPress article asserts that Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed, Babbar Khalsa International and Sikhs for Justice are India's "top terror outfits" now using dead-drop tradecraft. The Lab assesses the item as misleading: it collapses distinct legal designations and separate allegations into a single network narrative.


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2 October 2026

SOURCE POSTED
29 September 2026

NARRATIVES
Portraying Advocacy for Khalistan as Terrorism · Claiming Pakistan Controls Sikh Political Activism · Labelling Sikh Individuals as Terrorists Without Evidence · Linking Sikhs to Gangs, Drugs and Organized Crime

OUR ASSESSMENT

NationPress combines several distinct organizations and allegations into a single terrorism-network narrative. India formally lists Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed and Babbar Khalsa International as terrorist organizations under the UAPA. Sikhs for Justice, however, is separately designated an “unlawful association”; its leader Gurpatwant Singh Pannun is individually designated a terrorist by India. Describing all four organizations collectively as India’s “top terror outfits” therefore removes an important legal distinction. The article also uses the recent Preetpal Singh graffiti case to place SFJ within a wider narrative involving Pakistan-based handlers, weapons, narcotics and drone smuggling. Police have alleged that Preetpal was associated with SFJ, communicated with Pannun and paid two men involved in the graffiti. However, the article does not provide publicly checkable evidence showing that this SFJ-linked incident involved weapons, narcotics or a Pakistan-based handler. Those separate allegations should not be treated as interchangeable without evidence connecting them.

THE CLAIM

*LeT, JeM, SFJ using dead-drop tactics to funnel arms and funds into India*

THE ANALYSIS

## What was published

On 29 September 2026, the India-based outlet NationPress published an English-language article headlined "LeT, JeM, SFJ using dead-drop tactics to funnel arms and funds into India."

The article asserts that "India's top terror outfits — LeT, JeM, BKI and SFJ — have quietly shifted to dead-drop tradecraft, using fragmented courier chains, drone" deliveries and related methods to move weapons and money into India.

## Verdict

The Lab assesses the item as **disinformation, misleading in character**, at severity 3 of 5.

The core problem is not a single fabricated statement but the construction: four organizations with materially different legal statuses in India are presented as a single category, and separate allegations are presented as though they describe one operation.

## What the review found

### The four named organizations do not share one legal status

India formally lists Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed and Babbar Khalsa International as terrorist organizations under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

Sikhs for Justice is not in that category. It is separately designated an "unlawful association" under Indian law. Its leader, Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, is individually designated a terrorist by India — a designation applying to a person, not to the organization as a whole.

Describing all four bodies collectively as India's "top terror outfits" removes that distinction. Readers are left with the impression of a uniform legal classification that does not exist, even within India's own statutory framework.

## The graffiti case does not establish the wider allegations

The article draws on the recent Preetpal Singh graffiti case to situate SFJ inside a broader narrative involving Pakistan-based handlers, weapons, narcotics and drone smuggling.

Police have alleged that Preetpal Singh was associated with SFJ, that he communicated with Pannun, and that he paid two men involved in the graffiti incident.

01 Lashkar-e-Taiba , Jaish-e-Mohammed , Babbar Khalsa International , and Sikhs for Justice are reportedly using dead-drop techniques to move funds, weapons, and instructions into India .

02 Operatives in the chain do not know the identity of the supplier or the final recipient, making it harder for investigators to map the network.

03 A digital variant uses a shared anonymous email account where messages are saved as drafts and never sent, evading conventional interception.

04 Designated terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun of SFJ allegedly used the dead-drop method to pay operative Preetpal Singh ₹1.5 lakh , with cash left on the Amritsar-Faridkot highway .

05 Drones are being extensively used to drop arms and drug consignments across the border as part of narco-terrorism operations.

06 The National Investigation Agency (NIA) is deploying forensic tools to recover deleted drafts and raw disk data to counter the method.

The article's key takeaways group Sikhs for Justice with LeT, JeM and BKI within a single "dead-drop" terrorism narrative involving covert payments, weapons, narcotics and cross-border drone activity. The summary also presents allegations concerning Gurpatwant Singh Pannun and Preetpal Singh alongside broader arms and narco-terrorism claims, without establishing that the SFJ-linked case involved the same weapons, drug or Pakistan-based networks. — Source:NationPress, "LeT, JeM, SFJ using dead-drop tactics to funnel arms and funds into India.

Those allegations, as recorded, concern graffiti. The article does not provide publicly checkable evidence that this SFJ-linked incident involved weapons, narcotics or a Pakistan-based handler. The dead-drop tradecraft, courier chains and drone deliveries described elsewhere in the piece are not shown to connect to it.

Allegations of this kind are not interchangeable. Placing a graffiti case alongside arms-and narcotics-smuggling claims, without evidence linking them, invites the reader to treat one as proof of the other.

## Context

The Lab tracks this item under the Portraying Advocacy for Khalistan as Terrorism narrative, which concerns content that blends Sikh advocacy organizations into descriptions of armed militant networks.

The analytical concern is category conflation. When an organization subject to one legal designation is listed in the same breath as groups subject to another, and when unrelated allegations are presented as a continuous chain of activity, the resulting impression exceeds what the underlying material supports.

This finding addresses the accuracy of the article's framing. It makes no assessment of the underlying police investigation into the graffiti case, which remains a matter of allegation, and it makes no claim about the intent behind the article's publication.

The Lab assesses claims against publicly available evidence. Where an outlet asserts a connection between organizations or incidents, the burden rests on the assertion to be supported by checkable material. In this instance, it is not.

## SOURCES

01 https://www.nationpress.com/international/let-jem-use-dead-drop-tactics-to-hit-india

02 The Lab's analyst review record, the Portraying Advocacy for Khalistan as Terrorism narrative (verdict: Disinformation / Misleading, severity 3)

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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