Sikh Disinformation Lab

MISLEADING

Yes Punjab report on Punjab "dead drops" rests on unsupported claims, Sikh Disinformation Lab review finds

A 13 October 2026 article on yespunjab.com links concealed contraband caches to gangster networks, Pakistan-backed intelligence operatives and "Khalistan-linked terror groups." A the Lab's analyst assessed the item as misleading, finding each of its three central claims unsupported by the evidence the article itself presents.

PUBLISHED
19 October 2026

SOURCE POSTED
13 October 2026

NARRATIVES
Linking Sikhs to Gangs, Drugs and Organized Crime · Claiming Pakistan Controls Sikh Political Activism · Portraying Advocacy for Khalistan as Terrorism · Portraying the Sikh Freedom Struggle and the Events of 1984 and After Solely as Terrorism

THE CLAIM

Dead Drops Pose Growing Security Challenge in Punjab, Fuel Drug Trade and Targeted Killings

THE ANALYSIS

What was published

On 13 October 2026, the India-based outlet yespunjab.com published an article headlined "Dead Drops Pose Growing Security Challenge in Punjab, Fuel Drug Trade and Targeted Killings."

The piece describes the use of "dead drops", contraband concealed at pre-arranged locations for later retrieval- as an emerging security problem in Punjab. As captured, it ties the practice to "gangster networks and Pakistan-backed intelligence operatives and Khalistan-linked terror groups," and frames the concern as arising "amid a series of fatal" incidents.

The Lab flagged the item for review. The analyst recorded a verdict of **Disinformation**, with the nuance **Misleading**, and a severity rating of 2 out of 5. The item has been assigned to the Linking Sikhs to Gangs, Drugs and Organized Crime narrative.

The central finding is not that dead drops do not occur, or that no attacks took place. It is that the article's specific assertions about duration, about network attribution, and about coordination are not substantiated by anything it puts on the record.

Claim 1: Contraband remains concealed for three to eight months

Verdict: Unsupported.

The article asserts a specific concealment window of three to eight months. The analyst found this unverified in the particular. The article provides no case records, seizure documentation, or investigative data from which that duration could be derived.

A precise numerical range carries an implicit claim of underlying data. Where no such data is cited, the figure cannot be assessed as accurate and should not be repeated as established.

Claim 2: Gangsters have alleged links to Pakistan-backed intelligence operatives and Khalistan-linked groups

Verdict: Unsupported.

This is the claim with the broadest reputational consequence, because it attaches a religious-political label to a criminal phenomenon.

The analyst notes that some police investigations have alleged cross-border involvement. That is acknowledged. What the article does not do is demonstrate that a single common network sits behind all of the incidents it lists. The article moves from individual allegations to a composite actor , gangsters plus foreign intelligence plus

"Khalistan-linked terror groups" without establishing that these elements are in fact linked to one another across the cases described.

The effect is an attribution that reads as settled when the supporting material supports no such conclusion.

Claim 3: The killings demonstrate coordinated operations facilitated by dead drops

Verdict: Unsupported.

The article presents a series of fatal attacks and treats them as evidence of coordinated activity enabled by the dead-drop method.

The analyst accepts that a series of attacks is documented. The gap is in the inference. The article does not demonstrate that the same network was behind each case, nor that the dead-drop method was involved in each case. Sequence is not coordination. Listing incidents in proximity to one another does not establish that they share an organiser or a logistical method.

Why the rating is "misleading" rather than fabricated

The severity rating of 2 reflects a specific assessment. The article is not built on invented incidents. Dead drops as a technique, police allegations of cross-border involvement, and a sequence of killings are each present in the record in some form.

The problem is the assembly. Individually unremarkable or partially evidenced elements are combined into a single causal narrative one network, one method, one political affiliation that the article does not evidence. Readers encounter a specific duration figure, a named set of actors, and a claim of coordination, none of which the piece substantiates.

Context

The Lab assigned the item to the Linking Sikhs to Gangs, Drugs and Organized Crime narrative. Clustering indicates that the article shares a narrative structure with other monitored material; it is not in itself a finding about the article's origins, and the analyst's review makes no assertion about coordination behind its publication.

The Lab's assessment is limited to what the analyst assessed: the three claims above, each unsupported, producing an overall misleading framing. Nothing in this review establishes that the underlying security concerns in Punjab are fabricated. It establishes that this article does not demonstrate what it asserts.

CLAIMS ASSESSED

01	Contraband remains concealed for three to eight months.	UNSUPPORTED
02	Gangsters have alleged links to Pakistan-backed intelligence operatives and Khalistan-linked groups.	UNSUPPORTED

03	The killings demonstrate coordinated operations facilitated by dead drops.	UNSUPPORTED

SOURCES

01 https://yespunjab.com/dead-drops-pose-growing-security-challenge-in-punjab-fuel-drug-trade-and-targeted-killings/

02 The Lab's analyst review record: verdict Disinformation / Misleading, severity 2, the Linking Sikhs to Gangs, Drugs and Organized Crime narrative, three claims assessed

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.

This project has been made possible with support from the Government of Canada.

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