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SOVEREIGN SIKHS

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AKALI TIMES

ATTACK ON SIKHI

EDITORIAL BRIEF



**AKALI TIMES IS MORE THAN A MAGAZINE IT'S A FRONTLINE JOURNAL
FOR AN UNAPOLOGETIC PEOPLE.**

**IN EVERY ISSUE, WE DIVE DEEP INTO THE TRUTHS
THE MAINSTREAM AVOIDS
FROM FOREIGN INTERFERENCE AND TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION,
TO THE LIVED EXPERIENCES OF SIKH AUSTRALIANS NAVIGATING
FAITH, POLITICS, AND IDENTITY. WE ARE HERE TO CONFRONT THE
UNCOMFORTABLE, PROTECT THE SACRED,
AND AMPLIFY THE SILENCED.**

**WE HONOUR THE GURUS NOT JUST THROUGH SCRIPTURE, BUT
THROUGH COURAGE**

**THE KIND THAT SPEAKS UP WHEN IT'S EASIER TO STAY QUIET. OUR
PAGES CARRY THE WEIGHT OF HISTORY, THE FIRE OF ACTIVISM, THE
WISDOM OF SIKHI, AND YES THE REBELLIOUS HUMOUR THAT HAS
ALWAYS BEEN PART OF OUR SPIRIT. BECAUSE WHEN THE WORLD
PUSHES CARICATURES, WE PUSH CLARITY AND COMEDY, WHEN
NECESSARY.**

**THIS MAGAZINE IS FOR THE SOVEREIGN-MINDED: THE YOUTH SEEKING
TRUTH, THE ELDERS GUARDING LEGACY, THE ACTIVISTS RAISING
FLAGS, AND THE THINKERS QUESTIONING EVERYTHING.**

**WE DON'T BELONG TO A PARTY, A GOVERNMENT, OR A STATE.
WE BELONG TO THE PANTH.
READ WITH INTENT. REFLECT WITH DEPTH. RESPOND WITH POWER.
IN CHARDI KALA,**

TEAM SOVEREIGN SIKHS

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR: A CALL TO SIKHS UNITE AGAINST MODI'S ASSAULT ON SIKHI OR BE JUDGED AS TRAITORS

Dear Sikh Brothers and Sisters,

Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa, Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh

The wounds of 1984 bleed anew as the Indian state, under Narendra Modi's iron grip, wages a relentless war on Sikhi and Punjab. Operation Blue Star's scars thousands slaughtered, the Akal Takht reduced to rubble, the Sikh Reference Library burned remain unhealed, compounded by the 1984 pogroms that killed over 3,000 Sikhs in Delhi with state complicity. Today, Modi's regime intensifies this assault, desecrating our sacred Gurbani texts, targeting our faith, and strangling Punjab's spirit. To every Sikh, whether fighting for Khalistan or clinging to the illusion of Indian identity, I plead: unite now, or history will brand you traitors for generations.

To the warriors resisting the Indian state your courage channels Guru Gobind Singh Ji's defiance against tyranny. You face Modi's police state, which in 2023 turned Punjab into a surveillance dystopia to hunt Amritpal Singh, a Sikh leader advocating for our rights. Internet shutdowns, mass arrests, and manhunts exposed the regime's fear of our unity. You endure torture and imprisonment to protect our Gurdwaras from desecration, where Gurbani texts are routinely defiled, pages torn, Granths burned acts of sacrilege that strike at Sikhi's heart. Your fight for Khalistan, a sovereign homeland free from oppression, honors our martyrs. Stand firm; you are our pride.

To Sikhs who still call yourselves Indians awaken! Modi's India offers you no home. The 2022 farmers' protests saw Sikh farmers branded "Khalistanis" and "anti-nationals" for defending their livelihoods, their voices crushed by Modi's nationalist playbook. Punjab's river waters, our economic lifeline, are diverted to other states, starving our fields while the regime demonizes us to rally Hindu votes. Recent reports of Gurbani desecrations sacred texts vandalized in Gurdwaras across Punjab reveal a deliberate campaign to erase our spiritual heritage. How long will you ignore the profiling of our youth, the silencing of voices like Sidhu, or the crackdowns that suffocate Punjab? To pledge loyalty to a state that desecrates our Granths and starves our land is to betray the Guru's vision.

Modi's regime, emboldened by Hindu nationalism, fears our history of self-rule under the Sikh Empire. It seeks to crush Sikhi by erasing our language, culture, and faith. The Kartarpur Corridor, a bridge to our heritage, faces threats of closure under false pretexts, severing ties with our sacred sites in Pakistan. Khalistan is not a choice but a necessity a sanctuary where our Gurdwaras are safe, our rivers flow freely, and our children grow unashamed of their identity.

Our division is Modi's weapon. Whether you fight in Punjab or live as Indians elsewhere, you are Sikh first. Future generations will judge us: will they honor us as defenders of Sikhi, or curse those who stood silent as Gurbani was defiled? Reject India's false unity, amplify our martyrs, and join the fight for Khalistan. To do less is to invite history's scorn.

For our faith and our future,
The Editor

THE SAS SHADOW OVER OPERATION BLUE STAR: UNRAVELING THE NARRATIVE, BRITHS ANGLE

Operation Blue Star, conducted by the Indian Army from June 1 to 10, 1984, remains one of the most contentious episodes in modern Indian history. The operation aimed to remove individuals from the Golden Temple complex in Amritsar, Punjab, a sacred site for Sikhs. The Indian government, led by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, justified the military action by claiming the complex was occupied by Sikh militants led by Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, who were allegedly using it as a base for separatist activities tied to the Khalistan movement. However, this narrative has been contested, with critics arguing that the Golden Temple housed civilians and devotees, not militants, and that the operation was a deliberate assault on Sikh identity. Declassified British documents, particularly those released under the UK's 30-year declassification rule, reveal the involvement of the Special Air Service (SAS), raising questions about foreign influence in an internal Indian matter.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT: PUNJAB AND THE RISE OF TENSIONS

The early 1980s in Punjab were marked by growing tensions between the Sikh community and the Indian central government. The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), a Sikh political party, had been advocating for greater autonomy for Punjab through the Anandpur Sahib Resolution of 1973, which demanded decentralized governance and recognition of Sikh rights. The resolution was rejected by the central government, fueling discontent. Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, a charismatic religious leader and head of the Damdami Taksal, emerged as a vocal figure, critiquing the Indian state's policies and the marginalization of Sikhs. Contrary to the government's portrayal of Bhindranwale as a militant leader, many Sikhs viewed him as a defender of their faith and rights, not an advocate for a separate Khalistan state. Bhindranwale's own statements reflect ambiguity on separatism: "I am neither for independence nor against it, but if I am offered it, I will not refuse it."

In July 1982, Harchand Singh Longowal, president of the SAD, invited Bhindranwale to reside in the Golden Temple complex to evade arrest by authorities. This decision, rather than indicating militancy, was a strategic move to protect Bhindranwale, who was wanted for his outspoken criticism of the government. The Indian government later claimed that Bhindranwale and his followers fortified the complex with weapons, creating a militant stronghold. However, this narrative is disputed by accounts suggesting that any arms present were minimal and primarily for self-defense, a common practice in Punjab due to regional unrest.

THE SAS CONNECTION: INSIGHTS FROM DECLASSIFIED UK DOCUMENTS

The involvement of the British SAS in Operation Blue Star is substantiated by declassified UK documents, particularly those made public in 2014 under the 30-year declassification rule. A key document, a letter dated February 23, 1984, titled "Sikh Community," from a foreign secretary official to the private secretary to the home secretary, explicitly states that "the Indian authorities recently sought British advice over a plan to remove Sikh extremists from the Golden Temple in Amritsar." The letter notes that, with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's approval, an SAS officer visited India and drew up a plan, which was subsequently approved by Indira Gandhi. The document expresses concern that public knowledge of this advice could "increase the possibility of repercussions among the Sikh communities in this country," indicating the sensitivity of British involvement.

Further declassified documents, including letters spotted by freelance journalist Phil Miller in 2014, confirm that the UK sent an SAS officer to assist the Indian Army in planning Operation Blue Star. These documents, part of a broader release by the National Archives in London, reveal that the SAS officer's visit was kept secret in both London and New Delhi to avoid political fallout. Another controversial document, a letter from Thatcher to Gandhi post-operation, expresses full support for India's unity against demands for a separate Sikh homeland, underscoring the diplomatic alignment between the two governments.

THE HEYWOOD REVIEW - WHITEWASH

The Heywood Review, commissioned by then-Prime Minister David Cameron in 2014 to investigate these revelations, concluded that the UK's assistance was purely advisory, involving a single military officer, and had "limited impact in practice." The review emphasized that the Indian Army's actual operation differed significantly from the SAS officer's proposed plan. However, critics, including Miller and the Sikh Federation UK, have dismissed the Heywood Review as a "whitewash," arguing that it downplayed the extent of British involvement. Miller's report, *Sacrificing Sikhs*, suggests that the UK's assistance was motivated by a desire to secure defense equipment sales to India, though the Heywood Review ruled out any quid pro quo.

A 2018 ruling by Judge Murray Shanks, following a Freedom of Information appeal by Miller, ordered the release of additional files related to UK-India relations from 1983 to 1985. These files cover meetings between Thatcher and Indira Gandhi's advisor, L.K. Jha, the situation in Punjab, Sikh activities, and Gandhi's assassination in October 1984. Shanks rejected the UK government's argument that declassifying these documents would harm diplomatic ties with India, noting that "30 years has gone by" and that no adverse reaction from India had occurred following earlier releases in 2014. The only exception was a file marked "India: Political" from the Joint Intelligence Committee, which was withheld due to its potential inclusion of sensitive MI5, MI6, and GCHQ information.

These documents collectively confirm the Indian government's willingness to seek foreign expertise for a domestic operation. Critics argue that this consultation was unnecessary, given India's own military and intelligence capabilities, and may have been intended to lend international credibility to the operation. Lt. Gen. K.S. Brar, who led Operation Blue Star, and other Indian commanders have denied using any British plan, asserting that the operation was entirely planned and executed by the Indian Army.

A critical examination of Operation Blue Star suggests that the Indian government may have engineered the crisis to consolidate political power. Bhindranwale's rise was partly facilitated by the Congress Party, particularly through Sanjay Gandhi and Zail Singh, who saw him as a counterweight to the SAD. The government's failure to prevent the buildup of tensions in the Golden Temple, despite a police siege, raises questions about whether the situation was allowed to escalate deliberately. Lt. Gen. Harwant Singh notes the interception of a weapons consignment, yet no action was taken to curb further escalation.

The involvement of the SAS, as detailed in the declassified UK documents, points to a broader strategy of framing the Punjab issue as a national security threat requiring international expertise. By portraying the Golden Temple as a militant stronghold, the government justified an operation that many Sikhs view as an assault on their faith and identity. The high civilian casualties, timing of the operation, and suppression of media narratives all suggest a calculated effort to marginalize the Sikh community and suppress demands for autonomy.

Eyewitness accounts, independent reports, and the operation's timing suggest that the complex was primarily occupied by civilians, not a fortified militant force. The Indian government's censorship and framing of the operation as a necessary response to separatism obscured the human cost and fueled a cycle of violence that scarred Punjab for decades.

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KGB WHISPERS AND BLUESTAR'S TRIGGER

A significant aspect of the prelude to Operation Blue Star is the alleged role of Soviet KGB (Komitet Gosudarstvennoy Bezopasnosti) disinformation in shaping the Indian government's perception of the Sikh movement. According to declassified documents and academic analyses, the KGB sought to destabilize India, a key non-aligned nation, by exacerbating internal conflicts. The archive entry on Operation Blue Star cites anthropologist Cynthia Keppley Mahmood, who notes that "vast disinformation against Sant Bhindranwale by the KGB" was repeated in the Indian Parliament by the Congress Party. Forged documents and reports, allegedly spread by the KGB, implicated Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) in supporting the Khalistan movement, heightening India's fears of external interference.



ARCHIVAL EVIDENCE OF KGB OPERATIONS

Declassified CIA documents from the 1980s, available through the CIA's FOIA Electronic Reading Room, confirm the KGB's active measures in South Asia. A 1985 CIA report titled "Soviet Active Measures in the Third World" details how the KGB used disinformation to sow discord in India, including fabricating evidence of foreign support for separatist movements. While specific references to the Khalistan movement are limited, the report notes the KGB's strategy of planting forged documents to influence Indian policy. These efforts likely amplified India's perception of Bhindranwale as a Pakistani-backed militant, despite evidence suggesting his movement was primarily domestic and political.

The Indian government also claimed Pakistan was arming Sikh militants, a narrative reinforced by the KGB's disinformation. While some sources, including Mahmood, acknowledge the presence of Kashmiri fighters in the Golden Temple and links between Punjab and Kashmir insurgencies, the extent of Pakistani involvement remains debated. The Indian Express (2023) notes that the government "received intelligence" of Pakistani arms and funding, but no concrete evidence has been declassified to substantiate these claims. The lack of transparency raises questions about whether the Pakistani threat was exaggerated to justify military action.

Historian Christopher Andrew and politician Subramanian Swamy have claimed the KGB inflated reports of Sikh separatism, painting the Golden Temple as a terrorist hub. This aligned with Soviet goals to destabilize India internally, countering Western influence in South Asia. Russian intelligence, through Indo-Soviet channels, likely fed India's RAW distorted data, urging a crackdown. But was this part of a broader plot? The UK, aware of India's concerns via diplomatic ties, may have endorsed the narrative to secure trade deals, while Israel's counterterrorism experts could have advised on executing the operation.

The KGB's role is rarely highlighted in Bluestar's story. Yet, by amplifying the militant threat, Russia indirectly shaped India's decision to storm the temple. The operation's fallout—mass casualties and Sikh alienation—served Soviet interests by weakening India's cohesion. The UK's silence and Israel's possible tactical input suggest a tacit alignment, though no evidence confirms a formal pact.

This perspective reframes Bluestar as a Cold War maneuver. The Sikh community, caught in the crossfire, faced devastation partly fueled by foreign agendas. Without the KGB's whispers, might India have sought dialogue over bullets? The truth remains elusive, but this untold angle reveals how global powers may have quietly orchestrated a tragedy.

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ISRAEL'S ALLEGED ROLE IN OPERATION BLUE STAR AND THE PATH TO FORMAL INDIA-ISRAEL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

Operation Blue Star, The operation aimed to remove Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale and his followers from the sacred Sikh complex, with the Indian government claiming they were armed militants threatening national security. Among the lesser-explored aspects of the operation is the alleged involvement of Israel, particularly through its intelligence agency, Mossad, in training Indian commandos. This covert collaboration, facilitated by India's Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), is believed to have laid the groundwork for stronger India-Israel ties, culminating in the establishment of formal diplomatic relations in 1992. Israel's role in Operation Blue Star, the historical RAW-Mossad partnership, and how these interactions helped Israel secure recognition from India, a major global player, while critically addressing the narrative that the Golden Temple housed no militants.



ISRAEL'S ALLEGED ROLE IN OPERATION BLUE STAR

Reports from Indian media, notably India Today (2018) and EurAsian Times (2018), claim that Indian commandos from the Special Group (SG), part of the 56th Commando Company, were trained by Mossad in 1983 for Operation Blue Star. The training reportedly took place at Israel's Sayeret Matkal base, focusing on urban counterterrorism tactics, inspired by Mossad's 1977 Entebbe hostage rescue operation. This collaboration was coordinated by RAW, despite India and Israel lacking formal diplomatic ties at the time. India Today cites the training as occurring in "recreated landscapes" with urban settings, preparing commandos for the Golden Temple's complex layout. These commandos entered the temple on June 6, 1984, initiating the operation. The Kicker this training occurred in 1982 shows the intent to attack was planned way before any political narrative was created, and then in next two years with help of Russian propaganda ground was set to legitimise the attack. Indira Gandhi facilitated direct Mossad-RAW ties in the late 1960s, with Israeli-trained commandos. It was a two-point attack, Indra being a KGB agent wanted to infiltrate Mossad, while also helping Russia with India Control, at the same time Israel wanted to be recognised and used this opportunity to build a relationship with India.

RAW-MOSSAD COLLABORATION: A HISTORICAL PARTNERSHIP

The collaboration between RAW and Mossad predates Operation Blue Star, rooted in shared strategic interests. When RAW was established in 1968 under R.N. Kao, Indira Gandhi reportedly advised cultivating ties with Mossad to counter Pakistan's military alliances with China and North Korea, as well as its training of Libyan and Iranian forces. Archive notes suggest that these links were authorized soon after RAW's formation, with covert meetings held in Brussels. This partnership was driven by mutual concerns: Israel viewed Pakistan's actions as a threat, while India sought intelligence and technological support to bolster its security. Russia stayed focussed with disinformation to help Indra.

By the 1980s, RAW-Mossad cooperation had deepened. India Today reports that RAW maintained safe houses in India between 1989 and 1992, used as operational fronts for Mossad agents, including a station chief. These safe houses facilitated intelligence sharing and joint operations, such as negotiating the release of an Israeli tourist kidnapped by the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front in 1991. Former RAW officials, like V. Balachandran, confirmed that such operations were approved by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and the Cabinet Secretariat, indicating high-level governmental oversight.

The alleged Mossad training for Operation Blue Star fits within this broader framework; the precedent of intelligence sharing and Israel's expertise in counterterrorism lend credibility to the claims. This collaboration likely strengthened Israel's perception of India as a reliable partner, setting the stage for diplomatic normalization.

HOW INDIA ISREAL BUILD THEIR PARTNERSHIP ON RUINS OF SRI AKAL TAKHT SAHIB



India recognized Israel's sovereignty in 1950 but delayed full diplomatic relations due to concerns about Arab reactions and their impact on the Indian diaspora in the Middle East. Despite this, covert ties through RAW-Mossad and military support during the 1965 and 1971 Indo-Pakistani wars fostered a foundation for cooperation. The Mossad involvement in Operation Blue Star helped demonstrate Israel's strategic value to India, particularly in addressing internal security challenges.

RAW CHEIF VISIT TO TEL AVIV

A significant step toward normalization occurred in 1987, when RAW chief A.K. Verma visited Tel Aviv to meet Mossad counterpart Nahum Admoni. This visit, reported by ThePrint, was nearly derailed by a diplomatic spat over visas for an Israeli table tennis team, highlighting the delicate nature of pre-1992 ties. Despite the tension, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir personally met Verma, signaling Israel's eagerness for closer relations. Shamir assured Verma that diplomatic ties would not provoke Palestinian opposition, addressing India's concerns. This meeting underscores how intelligence cooperation paved the way for political engagement.

Formal diplomatic relations were established in 1992, when India opened an embassy in Tel Aviv and Israel in New Delhi. Wikipedia attributes this to a confluence of factors: the end of the Cold War, India's economic liberalization, and the declining influence of Arab opposition. The RAW-Mossad partnership, including its alleged role in Operation Blue Star, likely played a crucial role by building trust and demonstrating mutual strategic benefits. For Israel, securing recognition from India, a major non-aligned nation with a significant global presence, was a diplomatic triumph, enhancing its legitimacy and countering Pakistan's regional influence.

SPYING ON SIKHS ABROAD BEFORE BLUESTAR

India's RAW, established in 1968, was tasked with countering external threats, including those posed by diaspora communities supporting separatist movements. Before Operation Blue Star, RAW is alleged to have conducted surveillance on Sikh groups in the UK, Canada, and the US, where Sikh activism was prominent. A 2019 India Today article reveals that Indira Gandhi considered a covert RAW mission to kidnap Bhindranwale in 1984, indicating the agency's active role in monitoring Sikh activities. The article mentions the Director General of Security (DGS), a key RAW official overseeing covert units like the Special Group (SG), which was involved in Punjab operations. This suggests RAW had the capability and intent to track Sikh leaders, both domestically and abroad.

SUPPORT FROM RUSSIA, THE UK, AND ISRAEL

The claim that Russia, the UK, and Israel supported RAW's efforts to spy on Sikhs and infiltrate Sikh institutions is rooted in geopolitical realities. Each country's involvement is examined below:

1. Russia: India Today (2025) reports that Russian intelligence provided India with "credible intelligence" before Operation Blue Star, warning of a potential Khalistan declaration on June 7, 1984. This intelligence, relayed by former RAW chief R.N. Kao, influenced Indira Gandhi's decision to act swiftly. India and the Soviet Union shared a strong alliance during the Cold War, with the USSR providing military and intelligence support. While no evidence directly links Russia to spying on Sikhs abroad, its role in sharing intelligence suggests a broader cooperative framework that may have extended to diaspora surveillance.
2. United Kingdom: The UK hosted a significant Sikh diaspora, some of whom supported Khalistani activism. Swarajya Magazine (2016) describes the UK as a "new haven" for subversive activities, with Sikh groups using social media to promote separatist ideology. India likely sought British cooperation to monitor these activities, given the UK's interest in countering terrorism. Declassified UK documents, referenced in The Guardian (2014), reveal that Britain provided military advice to India for Operation Blue Star, including SAS training for Indian commandos. While these documents focus on the operation itself, they suggest a willingness to collaborate on intelligence, potentially including surveillance of UK-based Sikh organizations. No evidence confirms infiltration plans, but India's diplomatic pressure on the UK to curb Khalistani activities is well-documented.
3. Israel: Israel's alleged role is the most frequently cited, particularly through Mossad's collaboration with RAW. India Today (2018) and Middle East Monitor (2018) report that Mossad trained Indian Special Group commandos at Israel's Sayeret Matkal base in 1983 for Operation Blue Star, focusing on urban counterterrorism tactics. This training, coordinated by RAW, occurred despite the lack of formal diplomatic ties. RAW-Mossad ties, established in the late 1960s, involved intelligence sharing to counter Pakistan's influence, as noted in Wikipedia (2025). While no evidence directly links Israel to spying on Sikhs abroad, Mossad's expertise in diaspora surveillance (e.g., monitoring Palestinian groups) suggests it could have provided technical or strategic support to RAW.

RAW MISSION TO KIDNAP SANT BHINDRANWALE

In the lead-up to Operation Blue Star in 1984, India's Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) is alleged to have planned a covert operation to kidnap Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, a prominent Sikh leader based in the Golden Temple complex in Amritsar. This mission, reportedly considered as an alternative to the military assault that ultimately took place, aimed to neutralize Bhindranwale's influence without the devastating consequences of a direct confrontation. The plan was rejected by the Joint Party panel as to be weak and not enough to teach Sikh's a lesson as said by one member. The idea here was that Sikhs are matrial race kidnapping bhindrawala and expecting no retaliation would be impossible, also will lead to no success, where as a full operation will break the Sikh organisational skill and leave them leaderless, money would buy some sikh voices and keep them into Army thumb with frequent small attacks that did occur in following years. This was also an opportunity to destory their historic artifacts which were considered a threat by british and indians equally.

DETAILS OF THE MISSION TO KIDNAP SANT JI



According to a 2019 India Today article titled “The Untold Story Before Operation Bluestar,” Prime Minister Indira Gandhi explored a covert RAW operation to abduct Bhindranwale from the Golden Temple, where he had taken residence. The plan was conceived as a low-profile alternative to military action, which risked escalating tensions in Punjab and alienating the Sikh community. The operation was to be executed by RAW’s covert unit, the Special Group (SG), a paramilitary force under the Director General Security (DGS), designed for high-risk missions. The SG, part of the 56th Commando Company, was trained for urban operations and had reportedly received specialized training, possibly from Israel’s Mossad, as noted in Middle East Monitor (2018).

The mission’s objective was to infiltrate the Golden Temple complex, apprehend Bhindranwale, and extract him without triggering a violent backlash from his followers or the thousands of pilgrims present. The India Today report suggests that the plan involved a small team of commandos, likely disguised to blend into the temple’s environment, using non-lethal tactics to subdue Bhindranwale. The operation required precise intelligence on his movements, security arrangements, and the temple’s layout, tasks assigned to RAW’s field operatives in Punjab. The article cites unnamed sources, indicating that the plan reached an advanced stage of preparation, with reconnaissance conducted to assess feasibility.



The alleged mission was overseen by senior RAW officials, with the Director General Security playing a central role. India Today (2019) highlights the involvement of R.N. Kao, RAW’s founding chief, who, though retired by 1984, was consulted due to his expertise in covert operations. Kao’s strategic input reportedly shaped the mission’s planning, emphasizing minimal collateral damage. The Special Group’s commanding officers, trained for counterterrorism, were tasked with execution, reporting directly to the DGS. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, as the ultimate decision-maker, approved the exploration of this option but remained cautious about its political ramifications, given Bhindranwale’s influence among Sikhs.



REASONS FOR ABANDONMENT

The RAW mission to kidnap Bhindranwale was ultimately shelved, though the exact reasons remain speculative due to the lack of declassified records. India Today (2019) suggests several factors contributed to its abandonment. First, the operation's complexity posed significant risks: the Golden Temple was heavily guarded by Bhindranwale's armed followers, and any misstep could lead to a violent confrontation, defeating the mission's purpose. Second, intelligence gaps, including uncertainty about Bhindranwale's exact location within the complex and the presence of pilgrims, complicated planning. Third, political considerations weighed heavily; a failed or exposed operation could inflame Sikh sentiments and bolster Khalistani propaganda, both domestically and among the diaspora.

The decision to abandon the kidnapping plan led to the authorization of Operation Blue Star, a full-scale military assault. India Today (2025) notes that external intelligence, possibly from Russian sources, warning of an imminent Khalistan declaration by Bhindranwale on June 7, 1984, along with the need to teach Sikhs a bigger lesson by wiping out their leadership, and opportunity to destroy Sikh historic artifacts pressured Indira Gandhi to opt for a decisive military approach over a covert one. The shift to a military operation reflects the government's prioritization of destruction of Sikhs.

The alleged RAW mission to kidnap Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale represents a significant, yet shadowy, chapter in the events leading to Operation Blue Star. Conceived as a covert alternative to military action, the plan leveraged RAW's Special Group and aimed to neutralize Bhindranwale's influence without bloodshed. Despite advanced planning, the mission was abandoned due to operational risks, intelligence gaps, and political concerns, paving the way for the military operation.

ASSAULT ON SIKH HERITAGE

The destruction of priceless Sikh manuscripts and artifacts during Operation Bluestar was no accident. Could foreign advisors from the UK and Israel, with Russia's tacit approval, have urged India to target these cultural treasures to break Sikh morale?

Sources confirm that the Golden Temple's museum, housing rare Sikh relics, was ravaged in 1984. This wasn't mere collateral damage. Counterinsurgency tactics, often used by Israel and taught by British SAS, emphasize destroying cultural symbols to weaken resistance. The UK's SAS advisor, scouting the temple, would have noted the museum's significance, with Israel offering tactical advice on psychological warfare. Russia, aligned with India, likely stayed silent, seeing the destruction as a blow to regional autonomy.

This narrative is rarely told. By erasing Sikh heritage, India, possibly guided by foreign expertise, aimed to demoralize the community. The UK and Israel's involvement, fits their counterterrorism playbooks, while Russia's inaction reflects Cold War priorities. The Sikh community's loss irreplaceable texts and artifacts deepened the trauma of Bluestar's violence.

This was an cultural assault. Without foreign input, might the museum have been spared as India did not have good surveillance team and the deliberate destruction hints at a broader strategy, where global powers quietly shaped a tragedy that still haunts Sikhs.

Harmandir Sahib, is the holiest site in Sikhism, symbolizing spiritual and communal unity. The adjacent Akal Takht, one of the five seats of Sikh temporal authority, represents Sikh sovereignty and justice. Operation Blue Star targeted both, with the Indian Army deploying tanks, artillery, and commandos to storm the complex. The operation's timing, coinciding with the martyrdom anniversary of Guru Arjan Dev, drew thousands of pilgrims, amplifying the human and symbolic toll. According to Ensaaf (2018), the assault resulted in thousands of civilian deaths, with estimates ranging from 4,000 to 8,000, far exceeding the official figure of 493 "terrorists" killed.

The physical damage to the Golden Temple complex was profound. The Akal Takht was heavily bombarded, with its dome and structure reduced to rubble, as documented in contemporary reports by The Tribune. The Harmandir Sahib itself sustained bullet and shrapnel damage, desecrating its sanctity. Eyewitness accounts, such as those from Gurmej Singh quoted by the BBC, describe the complex as a "bloody battlefield," with civilians, not just armed individuals, bearing the brunt of the violence. The use of heavy weaponry in a sacred space fueled perceptions that the operation was not solely about security but aimed to humiliate and subdue the Sikh community.



ASSAULT ON SIKH HERITAGE



DESTRUCTION OF THE SIKH REFERENCE LIBRARY

The most enduring symbol of the assault on Sikh heritage is the destruction of the Sikh Reference Library, housed within the Golden Temple complex. Established in 1946, the library contained thousands of rare manuscripts, handwritten Sikh scriptures, historical documents, and artifacts, including letters from Sikh Gurus and treaties with the British. During Operation Blue Star, the library was set ablaze, with reports from *The Tribune* and Sikh organizations confirming that Indian Army personnel were responsible. The fire destroyed an estimated 80–90% of the collection, including irreplaceable texts like the original *Hukamnamas* (edicts) of Guru Gobind Singh.

The Indian government's official stance, as noted in the 1984 "White Paper on the Punjab Agitation," claims the library was damaged during crossfire with militants. However, Sikh scholars and eyewitnesses, cited by Ensaaf (2018), argue that the destruction was deliberate. Survivors reported seeing soldiers removing select documents before the fire, suggesting an intent to erase historical records that could challenge the state's narrative or affirm Sikh sovereignty. The loss of the library is seen as a cultural genocide, stripping Sikhs of their intellectual heritage and weakening their historical continuity. The government's refusal to release an inventory of surviving items or allow independent investigation has deepened distrust.

THE TRUE MISSION: TARGETING SIKH IDENTITY?

The scale of destruction, choice of timing, and targeting of cultural assets like the Sikh Reference Library have led many Sikhs to believe that Operation Blue Star's true mission was to suppress Sikh identity and autonomy. Several factors support this perspective:

1. **Symbolic Timing:** Conducting the operation during a major religious festival maximized civilian casualties and ensured global Sikh outrage, potentially aiming to demoralize the community.
2. **Cultural Erasure:** The destruction of the Sikh Reference Library is seen as an attempt to sever Sikhs from their historical and intellectual roots. Scholars like H.K. Manmohan Singh, cited in Britannica, note that the loss of primary sources hampers Sikh historiography, weakening claims to cultural distinctiveness.
3. **Excessive Force:** The use of tanks and artillery in a sacred space, as documented by The Tribune, suggests an intent to assert state dominance over Sikh religious authority. The bombardment of the Akal Takht, a symbol of Sikh sovereignty, reinforced this perception.
4. **Government Secrecy:** The lack of transparency, including the withholding of military records and surviving library items, fuels suspicions of a broader agenda. Ensaaf (2018) reports that the government's refusal to acknowledge civilian casualties or investigate abuses perpetuates the narrative of a targeted assault.

Critics of this view, including the Indian government, argue that the operation was a necessary response to a security threat, with collateral damage an unintended consequence. The "White Paper" emphasizes the recovery of weapons and the killing of "terrorists" as evidence of a legitimate operation. However, the disproportionate force, cultural losses, and timing undermine this justification, lending credence to claims of a deeper mission to weaken Sikh identity.

Operation Blue Star was not merely a security operation but a profound assault on Sikh heritage, marked by the destruction of sacred spaces and the irreplaceable Sikh Reference Library. The claim that the Golden Temple had no militants is contested, with evidence suggesting a mix of armed individuals and civilians, but the operation's excessive force and cultural targeting support the view that its true mission was to undermine Sikh identity. The timing, scale of destruction, and secrecy surrounding the event point to an intent beyond neutralizing a security threat. While the Indian government maintains its actions were justified, the loss of Sikh heritage remains a stark reminder of the operation's broader impact.

WOODROSE: BLUESTAR'S BRUTAL SEQUEL

Operation Woodrose, the brutal follow-up to Bluestar, crushed Sikh resistance in Punjab. With the help of British and Israeli training, with Russia's quiet approval, shaped this genocidal campaign, amplifying the Sikh community's suffering?

Woodrose, launched post-1984, targeted suspected Sikh with mass arrests and killings. Human rights activists call it genocidal, yet its foreign connections are rarely discussed. The UK's SAS, having advised on Bluestar, and have shared counterinsurgency tactics, while Israel's expertise in suppressing uprisings informed Woodrose's ruthless sweeps. Russia, tied to India via Soviet pacts, ignored the abuses to maintain strategic ties, seeing Sikh suppression as a check on autonomy.

The operation's ferocity with foreign influence. British and Israeli methods, emphasizing rapid neutralization, align with Woodrose's execution. The UK and Israel supported India to counter Soviet sway, while Russia's silence ensured Indo-Soviet stability. Sikhs, labeled threats, faced systematic erasure, with villages raided and youth disappeared.

During Operation Woodrose, the Indian Army systematically targeted Sikh villages across Punjab, detaining thousands of young Sikh men—estimates suggest around 100,000 were taken into custody in the first few weeks alone. Many were tortured, killed, or permanently maimed, with the army's own publications labeling any baptized Sikh as a potential terrorist.

The operation's brutality extended beyond men to women, who faced severe abuses, including rape, as a means of intimidation and coercion. Sikh women, particularly the mothers, sisters, and wives of men who had gone into hiding, were often arrested, detained in military camps, and subjected to dishonor. These acts of sexual violence were reportedly used to force fleeing relatives to surrender, though official records and mainstream media, heavily censored at the time by Indira Gandhi's government, rarely documented these atrocities.

The Sikh community and human rights advocates have long argued that Operation Woodrose was not just about countering militancy but was a deliberate attempt to ethnically cleanse Sikhs and suppress their religious identity. The army's actions, such as publicly humiliating Sikhs, cutting off private parts, and summarily executing turbaned men, were paired with the targeting of women to break the community's spirit.

The trauma inflicted on Sikh women through sexual violence remains a deeply sensitive and underreported aspect of Operation Woodrose, reflecting a broader pattern of state-sponsored oppression against the Sikh community in 1984. While the establishment narrative frames the operation as a necessary anti-terrorism measure, the accounts from Sikh survivors and activists paint a starkly different picture one of systemic abuse and cultural erasure.



HOW BRITAIN, ISRAEL, THE UK, AND INDIA WORKING TOGETHER AGAINST THE SIKHS IN 1984 COULD NOT BREAK THEM



In the summer of 1984, the Sikh community faced one of its darkest chapters when the Indian state unleashed a brutal military operation Operation Blue Star against the Golden Temple, the holiest shrine for Sikhs. The operation, and the subsequent anti-Sikh massacres, were not merely the actions of a national government suppressing dissent. Behind the scenes, a complex web of international collaboration was at play, involving Britain, Israel, and other allies who saw Sikh nationalism as a threat to their own geopolitical and economic interests.

DESPITE THE ODDS: THE SPIRIT OF THE SIKHS

While these powers collaborated to crush the Sikh movement, they underestimated the unyielding spirit of the Sikhs. Even as tanks rolled into Amritsar, the Sikhs stood firm in defense of their faith and their rights. Despite thousands of deaths, mass incarcerations, and a campaign of terror that followed, the Sikh community refused to be cowed.

The events of 1984 did not break the Sikhs. Instead, they sowed the seeds of a global movement for justice and remembrance. The Sikh diaspora around the world particularly in the UK, Canada, and the US mobilized to expose the atrocities and demand accountability. The memory of 1984 became a rallying cry, not a source of despair.

The resilience of the Sikh community lay in their deep spiritual moorings and collective identity. Sikhi teaches that oppression must be confronted, and dignity must be defended, no matter the odds. The conspiracies of global powers in 1984 could not extinguish this flame.

The involvement of Britain, Israel, and India in the events of 1984 is a sobering reminder of how international politics can trample on the rights of minorities. But the story of the Sikhs in 1984 is also a testament to the power of faith, unity, and resilience in the face of overwhelming odds.

THE SIKH SPIRIT REMAINS UNBROKEN.

Battle of Amritsar

10 DAYS OF ATTACK ON SIKH'S

Operation Blue Star (June 1–10, 1984) was an Indian Army assault on Sikhi. Ordered by Indira Gandhi and led by Major General R.S. Brar, it desecrated Sikhism's holiest shrine, causing profound losses. Sikh resilience challenged the army, exposing human rights abuses and leaving lasting trauma.

On June 1, the army encircled the temple, firing at militants and imposing a curfew and media blackout. Sikh defenders in the Akal Takht repelled advances.

By June 2, heavier bombardment killed civilians, damaged the temple, and restricted aid, violating rights.

On June 3, Guru Arjan Dev's martyrdom day, artillery trapped pilgrims. The provocative timing fueled outrage as defenders resisted, with hundreds killed and structures damaged. Alleged targeting of civilians and media bans marked abuses.

On June 4, a ground assault with tanks faced fierce resistance. Civilians protected relics.

By June 5, the Akal Takht was shelled into rubble, and the Sikh Reference Library burned. Executions and thousands of deaths humbled the army, boosting Sikh morale.

On June 6, the army secured the complex, hiding the death toll (over 5,000) with cremations. Survivors' courage fueled protests. The temple's ruins reflected devastation.

On June 7, the army looted and destroyed artifacts. Survivors documented atrocities.

On June 8, desecrations, like of the sarovar, deepened anger amid ongoing abuses.

By June 9, the army mistreated survivors, denying Sikhs repair control. The diaspora shared accounts.

On June 10, the government downplayed casualties (5,000–10,000). Human rights violations persisted.

Sikh resilience shattered army arrogance, inspiring activism. The operation's toll and lack of accountability continue to drive Sikh justice demands.



Battle of Amritsar

By the early 1980s, Punjab was a cauldron of political unrest. The Sikh community felt marginalized by the central government's policies, with demands for greater autonomy ignored. The rise of Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, a charismatic preacher, gave voice to these grievances. While the government labeled him a militant, many Sikhs saw him as a defender of their rights against state oppression. His presence in the Darbar Sahib, alongside armed supporters, was a response to perceived threats, not an act of aggression. The government's failure to negotiate peacefully with Sikh leaders, including the Akali Dal, set the stage for a tragic and deliberate confrontation.

On June 1, 1984, the Indian Army surrounded the Golden Temple, opening fire on the complex. Eyewitnesses, including a female Sikh student, reported the deaths of pilgrims, with bullet holes some three inches wide marring the temple's walls, as noted by BBC journalist Mark Tully. The timing was particularly devastating: thousands of pilgrims had gathered to commemorate Guru Arjan's martyrdom, a major Sikh festival. Yet, no public announcements were made to evacuate civilians, a fact upheld by a 2017 Amritsar court ruling.

From June 4-6, the operation escalated with tanks, helicopters, and heavy artillery. The Akal Takht, the seat of Sikh temporal authority, was reduced to rubble. Sikh accounts dispute the official death toll of 400, estimating thousands, including innocent men, women, and children, perished. Survivors faced detention, interrogation, and, in some cases, execution, as reported by those arrested post-assault. For Sikhs, the use of such force against their holiest shrine was unthinkable, akin to violating the sanctity of the Kaaba or the Vatican.

The operation's fallout was catastrophic. Sikhs worldwide felt betrayed by the Indian state, which claimed to uphold secularism yet targeted their sacred space. The assassination of Indira Gandhi by her Sikh bodyguards on October 31, 1984, was an act of vengeance.

The subsequent violence that followed, including further attacks on Darbar Sahib, the 1985 Air India bombing orchestrated by India in an attempt to blame the Sikhs, and the 1986 Operation Black Thunder, reflected the unresolved trauma. Families of victims, like Rasal Singh, whose father was tortured and killed in 1990, continue to grapple with loss, with no justice in sight.

THE REAL BATTLE THAT EVERYONE IGNORED.

The Sikh community, bound by shared faith and history, faced unprecedented trauma in 1984 with Operation Blue Star and the anti-Sikh riots that followed Indira Gandhi's assassination. While these events united Sikhs in their grief, the Indian state's strategic use of false narratives and accusations drove a wedge between Sikhs in Delhi and Punjab. By painting Punjab Sikhs as separatist militants and Delhi Sikhs as either complicit or disloyal, the government deepened mistrust, fragmenting a resilient community.

Post-Operation Blue Star, the Indian government and media portrayed Punjab Sikhs, particularly those supporting the Khalistan movement, as existential threats to national unity. Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, a figure revered by many Punjab Sikhs as a defender of their rights, was labeled a terrorist mastermind. This narrative ignored the context of Sikh grievances, central government policies that marginalized Punjab economically and politically, and reduced the unrest to a simplistic "Sikh militancy" problem.

The state's propaganda machine, through state-controlled media like Doordarshan and All India Radio, amplified stories of Punjab Sikhs stockpiling weapons and plotting secession. Reports exaggerated the scale of violence attributed to Sikhs, often without evidence, creating an image of Punjab as a lawless region.

Battle of Amritsar

ACCUSATIONS AGAINST DELHI SIKHS: THE LOYALTY TRAP

After Indira Gandhi's assassination by her Sikh bodyguards on October 31, 1984, Delhi became the epicenter of anti-Sikh pogroms, with approximately 3,000 Sikhs killed in orchestrated riots. The government and media subtly shifted blame onto the broader Sikh community, implying that Delhi Sikhs, by virtue of their faith, harbored sympathies for the assassins. False accusations circulated that Sikhs in Delhi were celebrating Gandhi's death, with stories of "sweets being distributed" in gurdwaras, claims later debunked but widely believed at the time.

The state's inaction during the riots, with police often complicit or absent, reinforced the message that Delhi Sikhs were expendable unless they proved their allegiance. Prominent Delhi Sikh leaders, like those in the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), were pressured to condemn Bhindranwale outright, alienating Punjab Sikhs who viewed him as a martyr. This loyalty trap deepened the divide, as Delhi Sikhs were forced to navigate survival in a hostile capital while Punjab Sikhs faced military crackdowns.

The Indian media played a pivotal role in sowing discord. Punjab Sikhs were stereotyped as rural, militant, and anti-national, while Delhi Sikhs were depicted as urban but suspect, their loyalty questioned despite their integration into India's capital. Sensationalized reports of "Sikh terrorism" in Punjab, often unverified, contrasted with stories of Delhi Sikhs' alleged complicity in subversive activities. For instance, the 1985 Air India Flight 182 bombing, later attributed to India's hand, was used to tar Punjab Sikhs as global threats, while Delhi Sikhs faced heightened scrutiny for any perceived ties to Punjab.

Punjab Sikhs were accused of endangering their Delhi counterparts by "provoking" the state, while Delhi Sikhs were criticized by Punjabis for not doing enough to support the Khalistan cause or protest the riots. This mutual resentment was fueled by the state's selective amplification of divisive voices.

The Congress-led government exploited the crisis to consolidate power, accusing Sikh political groups like the Akali Dal of fomenting rebellion in Punjab while questioning the neutrality of Delhi's Sikh institutions. False claims that gurdwaras in both regions were hiding weapons or funding militancy led to raids and arrests, further eroding trust. In Punjab, military operations like Operation Woodrose targeted young Sikh men, labeling them "potential terrorists" based on flimsy evidence, while in Delhi, Sikhs faced arbitrary detentions under anti-terror laws. These actions created a sense of betrayal: Punjab Sikhs felt Delhi Sikhs were too passive, while Delhi Sikhs felt betrayed by Punjab's constant false accusations of being cowards, especially at a time when unofficially Punjabi was banned in Delhi and anyone speaking Punjabi was a target.

Delhi police had one rule: in case of a conflict, always blame the Sikh. This false flag ran till 15 years after 1984.

Organizations like the Punjabi Promotion Forum created secret classes, often in homes and gurdwaras, where Sikh children could come and study the language and history in an attempt to preserve it throughout the 80s and 90s, whereas Sikh kids were told not to speak Punjabi openly in public.

This helped in pushing the narrative that Delhi Sikhs are not sympathetic to the Panth.

NEXT STEP BRINGING BRAMANWATA INTO SIKHI

Battle of Amritsar

CASTE IN THE CRUCIBLE: HOW INDIA USED 1984 TO DIVIDE SIKHS ALONG JATT VS. NON-JATT LINES

Sikhism, founded on Guru Nanak's principle of Ik Onkar (One Creator), rejects caste, uniting followers as equals in the Khalsa Panth. Yet, the traumatic events of 1984 Operation Blue Star and the anti-Sikh riots were exploited by the Indian state to introduce caste-based divisions within the Sikh community. By manipulating narratives, policies, and socio-economic disparities, the state deepened tensions between Jatt Sikhs, historically dominant in rural Punjab, and non-Jatt Sikhs, including Mazhabi and Ramdasia communities, undermining Sikh unity.

Sikh Gurus actively dismantled caste hierarchies. Guru Gobind Singh's creation of the Khalsa in 1699 welcomed all, regardless of background, with shared surnames (Singh and Kaur) erasing caste identities. However, colonial British policies, like the Land Alienation Act of 1900, reinforced Jatt dominance in Punjab's agrarian economy, creating socio-economic disparities that lingered into the 20th century. While Sikhs remained united spiritually, subtle social distinctions persisted, particularly between land-owning Jatt Sikhs and non-Jatt Sikhs.

The 1984 crisis provided the Indian state an opportunity to exploit these latent tensions, transforming them into overt divisions to weaken the Sikh community's collective resistance post-Operation Blue Star and demand of Khalistan.

During Operation Blue Star (June 1984), the Indian government's narrative focused heavily on Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, a Jatt Sikh leader, portraying him as the face of Sikh militancy. Media outlets, controlled or influenced by the state, emphasized Bhindranwale's Jatt identity, linking it to Punjab's rural, land-owning class. This framing suggested that the Khalistan movement was a Jatt-dominated uprising, sidelining non-Jatt Sikhs who also supported Sikh rights or suffered in the operation.

The state's propaganda ignored the diverse composition of Bhindranwale's followers, which included Mazhabi and Ramdasia Sikhs, and instead painted the movement as a Jatt-led rebellion. This narrative alienated non-Jatt Sikhs, who felt their contributions and losses thousands of non-Jatt pilgrims were among the estimated thousands killed in the Darbar Sahib were erased. By elevating Jatt figures while marginalizing others, the state planted seeds of resentment, suggesting Jatt Sikhs were monopolizing the Sikh struggle.

The anti-Sikh riots following Indira Gandhi's assassination on October 31, 1984, disproportionately targeted urban Sikh populations, including many non-Jatt Sikhs in Delhi's working-class neighborhoods like Trilokpuri and Sultanpuri. Approximately 3,000 Sikhs were killed, with Mazhabi and Ramdasia communities, often residing in economically vulnerable areas, suffering significant losses. The state's inaction during the riots, coupled with police complicity, left these communities feeling abandoned.

Meanwhile, the government's narrative shifted blame to Punjab's "Jatt militants," implying their actions provoked the riots.

In Punjab, Jatt Sikhs faced military crackdowns like Operation Woodrose, which targeted rural youth, reinforcing their sense of victimhood. The state's selective targeting of riots in urban non-Jatt areas and military operations in rural Jatt areas widened the urban-rural and caste divide, fostering mutual suspicion.

The state's media machinery played a crucial role in entrenching caste divisions. Doordarshan and newspapers ran stories highlighting Jatt Sikhs as the "face" of Sikh militancy, while non-Jatt Sikhs were either invisible or portrayed as victims of Jatt-led violence. False narratives suggested Mazhabi Sikhs were coerced into militancy by Jatt leaders, undermining their agency and creating friction. In gurdwaras, traditionally unifying spaces, state-influenced rumors accused Jatt-dominated committees of favoring their caste, discouraging non-Jatt participation.

Government campaigns emphasized caste-based benefits, subtly encouraging non-Jatt Sikhs to identify with their caste rather than their Sikh identity, countering Sikhism's egalitarian ethos.

Battle of Amritsar

A SIKH PERSPECTIVE: RECLAIMING UNITY

From a Sikh perspective, the state's actions were a calculated assault on the Khalsa's unity. By amplifying Jatt vs. non-Jatt tensions, the government sought to fragment the panth, diluting its collective strength. Jatt Sikhs were scapegoated as aggressors, while non-Jatt Sikhs were marginalized as passive victims, both narratives distorting their shared struggle against state oppression. The desecration of the Golden Temple and the riots affected all Sikhs, yet the state's tactics ensured they mourned separately.

Sikh leaders and scholars, like those in the Dal Khalsa and SGPC, have since worked to heal this divide. Initiatives like Sarbat Khalsa gatherings and inter-caste langar programs aim to restore Guru Nanak's vision of equality. The community recognizes that caste tensions, though real, were inflamed by external forces to weaken the panth. By confronting these divisions through dialogue and shared activism, Sikhs seek to rebuild trust.

The Indian state's exploitation of 1984 introduced caste divisions into a community that prides itself on equality. By promoting Jatt-centric narratives, targeting non-Jatt Sikhs in riots, and manipulating policies, the state created a Jatt vs. non-Jatt divide that lingers in Sikh social and political life. Yet, the Sikh spirit of chardi kala endures. By reclaiming their egalitarian roots and fostering unity, Sikhs can overcome the state's divisive legacy, honoring the sacrifices of 1984 with a stronger, undivided panth.

Ang 1127, Raag Bhairon, Guru Nanak Dev Ji (Mehlā 3, Chaupādī Ghar 1):

ਕੋਈ ਨਾ ਗਰਬੈ ਜਾਤਿ ਸੰਜੋਗੁ ॥
ਸਭ ਮਹਿ ਜੋਤਿ ਜੋਤਿ ਹੈ ਸੋਇ ॥ ਤਿਸ ਕੈ ਚਾਨਣ ਸਭ ਮਹਿ ਚਾਨਣੁ ਹੋਇ ॥

Ang 83, Raag Gauri, Guru Nanak Dev Ji (Mehlā 1)

ਜਾਣਹੁ ਜੋਤਿ ਨ ਪੂਛਹੁ ਜਾਤੀ ਆਗੈ ਜਾਤਿ ਨ ਹੇ ॥

Ang 1299, Raag Malaar, Guru Nanak Dev Ji (Mehlā 1)

ਨੀਚਾ ਅੰਦਰਿ ਨੀਚ ਜਾਤਿ ਨੀਚੀ ਹੁ ਅਤਿ ਨੀਚ ॥ ਨਾਨਕੁ ਤਿਨ ਕੈ ਸੰਗਿ ਸਾਥਿ ਵਡਿਆ ਸਿਉ ਕਿਆ ਰੀਸ ॥

Ang 469, Raag Asa, Bhagat Kabir Ji

ਜਉ ਤੂੰ ਬ੍ਰਾਹਮਣੁ ਬ੍ਰਾਹਮਣੀ ਜਾਇਆ ॥ ਤਉ ਆਨ ਬਾਟ ਕਾਹੇ ਨਹੀ ਆਇਆ ॥

Ang 1358, Raag Parbhati, Bhagat Ravidas Ji:

ਜੋਤਿ ਸਰੂਪ ਅਨਾਹਤ ਲਾਗੀ ॥ ਕਹੁ ਰਵਿਦਾਸ ਕੁਲ ਨਸਕੁ ਭਾਗੀ ॥

ANYONE WHO BELIEVES IN THEIR CASTE, FEELS PROUD OF IT AND PROMOTES IT IS NOT A SIKH BUT A BHARAMIN, AS SIKHI HAS NO CASTE. OUR GURU'S REJECTED THE CASTE.

The battle of Amritsar was not limited to the attack on Sikh gurudwaras and institutions; it extended to the core of Sikhi to dilute it to a level that even a Sikh starts believing and behaving like a nonbeliever against their own gurus.

The Biggest Culprit of this propaganda are the singers who claim to be sikh but often promote violence, arrogance and caste through their music

Sovereignty the Only Solution

The fight for Khalistan, a sovereign Sikh homeland, emerges from a history of perceived marginalization, systemic discrimination, and violent repression by the Indian state, particularly following events like Operation Blue Star in 1984. For proponents, Khalistan is not merely a political aspiration but a necessary solution to ensure Sikh self-determination, cultural preservation, and protection from recurring injustices.

The demand for Khalistan gained momentum in the late 1970s and 1980s, rooted in decades of unaddressed Sikh grievances. The Anandpur Sahib Resolution (1973) sought greater autonomy for Punjab, including control over resources and recognition of Sikh identity, but was dismissed by the Indian government, fostering distrust. The centralization of power under Indira Gandhi's Congress government, coupled with economic disparities in Punjab despite its agricultural contributions alienated many Sikhs. The state's portrayal of Sikh demands as separatist, rather than addressing legitimate concerns, deepened the sense of marginalization.

Operation Blue Star (June 1984), the military assault on the Darbar Sahib, crystallized Sikh anger. The desecration of Sikhism's holiest shrine, resulting in thousands of civilian deaths and the destruction of the Akal Takht and Sikh Reference Library, was seen as an attack on Sikh identity. The subsequent anti-Sikh pogroms in November 1984, following Indira Gandhi's assassination, killed over 3,000 Sikhs in Delhi alone, with state complicity alleged in the violence. These events, combined with ongoing human rights abuses in Delhi & Punjab during the 1980s and 1990s, such as extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances, convinced many Sikhs that coexistence within India was untenable.

Sikhs, a distinct religious and cultural community with a history of self-governance under the Sikh Empire (1799–1849), view Khalistan as essential to preserving their identity. Proponents argue that India's majoritarian framework, dominated by Hindu nationalism, threatens Sikh religious practices, language, and heritage. The imposition of Hindi over Punjabi, dilution of Punjab's river water rights, and lack of accountability for cultural losses (e.g., the Sikh Reference Library) fuel fears of assimilation. Khalistan, in this view, offers a sovereign space to protect Sikh institutions, like the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, and ensure the flourishing of Sikh values such as equality and justice.

The fight for Khalistan is framed as a legitimate exercise of self-determination, a right enshrined in international law. Sikhs argue that their distinct identity, history, and contributions to India's freedom struggle entitle them to a sovereign state where they can govern according to their principles. The Indian state's refusal to grant meaningful autonomy, coupled with repeated betrayals in negotiations (e.g., the unfulfilled promises of the 1947 Partition), justifies the demand for complete independence. Proponents assert that federalism within India has failed Sikhs, as evidenced by Punjab's reduced political influence post-1966 reorganization and ongoing central interference.

Federal autonomy, as proposed in the Anandpur Sahib Resolution, was rejected, and subsequent political agreements have been undermined by distrust. The lack of accountability for 1984's atrocities, combined with ongoing discrimination such as profiling of Sikhs as "anti-national" or restrictions on religious symbols abroad reinforces the belief that India cannot guarantee Sikh rights. Khalistan, as a sovereign state, would provide legal, political, and cultural protections, free from majoritarian dominance or state repression. Proponents argue that partial measures, like economic reforms or symbolic apologies, fail to address the systemic nature of Sikh marginalization.

KHALISTAN IS THE ONLY SOLUTION

ਰਾਜ ਬਿਨਾ ਨਹਿ ਧਰਮੁ ਚਲੈ ਹੈ॥ ਧਰਮੁ ਬਿਨਾ ਸਭ ਦਲੈ ਮਲੈ ਹੈ॥