



TERROR TRACKER

Newsletter by Counter Terrorism Centre



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES
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INDIA WILL PURSUE ATTACKERS TO THE 'ENDS OF THE EARTH', SAYS PM

NIA EXPERTS COMB PAHALGAM AREA EXTENSIVELY FOR MORE LEADS

AFTER CLAIMING RESPONSIBILITY, TERROR GROUP TRF DENIES ROLE

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India Will Pursue Attackers to the ‘Ends of the Earth’, says PM

On 22 April 2025, a deadly terror attack carried out by TRF (an LeT front organisation) shattered the peace in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam district, killing 26 people, most of them tourists visiting the popular Baisaran valley.

Cutting short his visit to Saudi Arabia on hearing news about the Pahalgam attack, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his return told the country and the world: “India will identify, track and punish every terrorist and their backers.

“We will pursue them to the ends of the Earth. India's spirit will never be broken by terrorism,” he said.

Later, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri highlighted the government’s decision to suspend the Indus Waters Treaty and expel Pakistani defence aides in its embassy.

Pakistanis holding South Asian visas were ordered to leave within 48 hours, and the only land crossing between the nations was closed.

These moves were part of a broader effort to diplomatically isolate

Pakistan until it “credibly and irrevocably” ends support for terrorism.

In parallel, Indian armed forces heightened their operational readiness.

While ceasefire violations by Pakistan continued along the Line of Control (LoC), India conducted military drills involving the Navy and Air Force, including BrahMos supersonic cruise missile firings.

Additionally, India blocked several Pakistani YouTube channels, including major news outlets like Dawn and ARY News, accusing them of spreading false propaganda related to the attack.

Authorities arrested individuals for both online incitement and fraudulent identification documents, including two Pakistani nationals in Chhattisgarh accused of illegally acquiring Indian documents.

Public sentiment surged against the attack across India, with mass protests, candlelight vigils, and demonstrations demanding justice. – [*Reuters*](#), [*Hindustan Times*](#), [*India Today*](#), [*The Hindu*](#)

NIA Experts Comb Pahalgam Area Extensively for More Leads

Following the deadly terrorist attack in Pahalgam, the Indian government launched a series of decisive countermeasures aimed at holding Pakistan accountable for cross-border terrorism.

Investigators have discovered that the attackers trekked 20-22 hours from the Kokernag forests to Baisaran, navigating harsh terrain to execute their plan. The group included Adil Thokar (had initially joined Hizbul Mujahideen in 2018), a radicalised local who had trained in Pakistan with Lashkar-e-Taiba before returning in 2024.

They used advanced weaponry, including AK-47s and M4 rifles, and snatched phones from victims during the attack. A local photographer hiding in a tree captured key video footage that may help reconstruct the timeline of events.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has now taken over the probe, with teams deployed on-site and forensic experts combing the area for evidence. Eyewitnesses are being interviewed, and all possible routes into the valley are being scrutinised

to understand how the attackers infiltrated the region. The investigation aims to uncover the broader terror network behind this devastating act and bring justice to the victims.

Around 2 pm, four armed terrorists—three from Pakistan and one local—launched a brutal assault, indiscriminately firing on civilians. The incident marks the deadliest strike in the region since the 2019 Pulwama terror attack. Eyewitnesses described the horror, with attackers asking victims to identify their religion before opening fire, causing chaos and panic.

One of the victims, Shubham Dwivedi, is being hailed as a hero by his wife, Ashanya Dwivedi, who recounted how he sacrificed himself by identifying as Hindu, giving others precious moments to flee.

She initially mistook the terrorists' question about religion as a prank, only to see her husband shot in front of her. Her plea to the government is for her husband to be declared a martyr for his bravery. - [Live Mint](#), [India Today](#), [Hindustan Times](#)

After Claiming Responsibility, Terror Group TRF Denies Role in Attack

The Resistance Front (TRF), a Pakistan-linked proxy of the banned terror group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), has backtracked on its earlier claim of responsibility for the Pahalgam terror attack, which killed 26 civilians.

In a surprise online statement, the group denied any involvement, despite initially boasting about orchestrating the assault.

This sudden reversal has raised eyebrows across intelligence and security circles.

According to Indian security officials, the TRF's denial is widely believed to be the result of mounting pressure and the increasing scrutiny facing the Pakistani deep state.

Islamabad has faced global condemnation following the deadly terror attack in Pahalgam.

The denial also follows large-scale protests by Kashmiris across the Valley, who publicly denounced the brutal killings and criticised the terror groups operating with Pakistan's support — a reaction that appears to have unnerved both the terror outfit and its backers.

The Indian Ministry of Home Affairs had previously declared TRF a terrorist organisation under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

It was proscribed for its involvement in recruiting militants, facilitating infiltration, and smuggling arms and narcotics from Pakistan.

The group's retraction is seen as a clear sign of the shifting ground — with local sentiment in Kashmir turning sharply against terror. Furthermore, it could also be attributed to India's global diplomatic campaign to build pressure as far as Islamabad's aiding and abetting of cross-border terror activities is concerned.

Following TRF's recent claims, BJP's IT cell head Amit Malviya called this development on X as a “humiliating retreat” for the Pakistani army. It is noteworthy that TRF had killed six workers and a doctor to stall the construction of a tunnel on the Srinagar-Leh national highway in Ganderbal district on October 20, 2024. — [*The New India Express*](#), [*MSN*](#)

UNSC Condemns Pahalgam Attack, Calls for Justice against Perpetrators

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) strongly condemned the Pahalgam terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir that killed 26 tourists, declaring it a "reprehensible act of terrorism." In a statement issued by Council President Jerome Bonnafont, the UNSC expressed solidarity with the victims' families and the governments of India and Nepal, emphasising the urgent need to hold the attackers, organisers, financiers, and sponsors accountable under international law.

Reaffirming that terrorism is one of the gravest threats to global peace, the Council called on all states to cooperate with relevant authorities to bring those responsible to justice. The statement, initiated by the US and issued by France as April's Council President, underscored the global consensus that terrorist acts are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of motive or origin. – [News18](#)

Tahawwur Rana Extradited to India after Lengthy U.S. Legal Battle

The United States has extradited Tahawwur Rana, a convicted terrorist and Pakistani-origin Canadian citizen, to India to face trial for his role in the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks. Rana, 64, is charged with conspiracy, murder, terrorism, and forgery linked to the attacks that claimed over 160 lives. His extradition marks a significant milestone in India's long-standing pursuit of justice for the victims.

Rana had fought his extradition for nearly five years through multiple U.S. courts, but his petitions were ultimately rejected by the District Court, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the U.S. Supreme Court. Following the legal clearance, the U.S. Secretary of State ordered his surrender, which was executed by the U.S. Marshals Service on 9 April, 2025, handing him over to Indian authorities for prosecution. – [U.S. D.O.J.](#)

ATS Busts ISIS-HUT Terror Network in Jharkhand

In a significant anti-terror operation, the Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) detained four individuals, including a couple, from Wasseypur in Jharkhand's Dhanbad district for alleged links to banned terrorist groups ISIS and Hizb-ut-Tahrir (HUT). The suspects were part of a sleeper cell network and were recruiting local youth for anti-national activities.

During the raids, the ATS recovered two pistols, 12 cartridges, laptops, smartphones, and other electronic devices used in their operations. – [News on Air](#)