

LITERATURE | INTERVIEW



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AADHYA PUBLISHING HOUSE

# PANACHE

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JUNE 2025

OUR SPECIAL EDITION DEDICATED TO OUR  
MOTHERLAND INDIA AND THE TRUE HEROES OUR SOLDIERS



" INDIA : THE FLAME THAT NEVER FADES "  
PAHALGAM ATTACK SPECIAL EDITION



CHIEF EDITOR:  
AKANKSHA SHRIVASTAVA  
AADHYA PUBLISHING HOUSE



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# Preface

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*"Panache" is not just a name. It is a basic value of our "Aadhya Publishing House" as we believe talent should never die. Rather it should always stand out like the feathered plume on a helmet to attract the world and that is what Panache means. We, as the Publisher, believe in encouraging new talent in the field of literature. We want each and every poet to get the opportunity to express themselves and get the proper acknowledge that they deserve. They should be known by the world for their views and we hope very soon we shall be able to achieve this.*

*Panache is a monthly international magazine in the English Language, that is released on digital platforms for literature lovers.*

*However, our work does not end here. I, Akanksha Shrivastava, Publisher and Chief Editor of Aadhya Publishing house, am trying to put a smile on the faces of poor children by providing them with food on behalf of our publishing house. By taking this small initiative, it is our wish to fulfill this basic need of food so that we help the children to survive in a better way.*



# **AADHYA PUBLISHING HOUSE**

**PRESENTS**

## **PANACHE** International Magazine

*June 2025*

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**Panache** is a monthly magazine which is published by **AADHYA PUBLISHING HOUSE**. In this magazine we encourage new poets and writers by publishing their writings. Every month we offer a competition in which poets and writers can take part by registering themselves. The registered participants send their writings along with their name , photograph and phone number. The magazine will be launched on our facebook page on 1st day of every month. After the launch of magazine every registered writer will get the pdf of the magazine. Out of all the registered participants we ask every writer for their top 5 choices. And then we promote our writers on our social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, Youtube, Twitter . This “**Panache**” will definitely be the attraction of literature and also the rise of every poet...



**Akanksha Shrivastava**  
**Publisher & Chief Editor**

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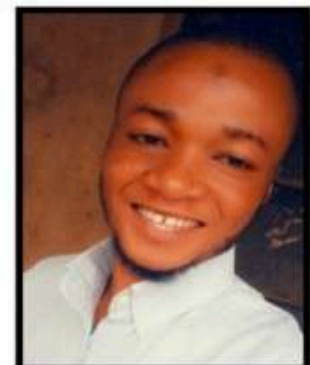
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**Editorial**

# ANTI TERRORISM

Letter from the Editor-in-Chief

By Akanksha Shrivastava  
(Editor-in-Chief, Panache)

Dear Readers,

There are moments in a nation's life when history no longer remains confined to textbooks. It burns its way into the present—through tragedy, courage, loss, and resurgence. This special edition of Panache International, titled "India: The Flame That Never Fades," is born from one such moment.

The recent terror attack in Pahalgam, where innocent lives and brave soldiers were mercilessly taken, shook the conscience of our nation. The pain was not just in the Valley—it rippled through every Indian heart. As we watched images of blood-soaked soil, trembling survivors, and grieving families, we knew this edition had to go beyond headlines. It had to carry the voice of the people, the tears of mothers, the rage of patriots, and the indomitable spirit of India.

This is not merely a journalistic endeavor—it is a tribute, a statement, and a stand.

We dedicate this issue to those who stood their ground, to those who fell, and to those who rise each day with renewed hope. Through in-depth reportage, untold stories, powerful visuals, and soul-stirring reflections, this edition seeks to preserve memory, ignite patriotism, and provoke thought. From the frontline heroes to the silent sacrifices of widows and children; from student-led vigils to global responses—every page is a piece of the larger Indian heart.

As a team, we have worked not only as editors and writers but as witnesses to grief and glory. We've read about families of the martyrs, listened to survivors, and soldiers who wear not just uniforms, but resolve.

India is not merely a country. It is a sacred continuity—of values, voices, valour. And as we go to press, even as the drums of war beat in the distance and diplomacy balances on a wire, one truth stands undisturbed: India cannot be broken.

We invite you to read, to reflect, and to respond. Let this not be just a tribute you read—but one you carry in your actions, in your words, and in your prayers.

Jai Hind.

Yours in truth and tribute,  
Akanksha Shrivastava  
Editor-in-Chief

## WHEN BLOOD FLOWS LIKE RIVERS

We are all on this earth to co-exist  
no one is greater than the other.  
Why do we feel the need  
to have this condescending attitude?  
What are we trying to prove?

We invade territories, we cross borders and  
boundaries.  
We have no right to do what we do,  
but we do it all the same.

Our intentions are created from minds that are  
warped,  
we see through eyes of hatred and revenge.  
For a cause which is senseless!

We shoot the innocent,  
we rob families of loved ones.  
Where is the sense in all of this?  
As the sounds of wailing, and lamenting,  
echo through the mountains and valleys.

Blood flows over the land like rivers.  
A mother holding her dead child,  
a lonely figure of a precious toddler  
looking confused, and wondering why his mother's  
lifeless body, won't move.  
Will she ever

talk to him again?

Stop this madness!  
Stop it now!  
How much more blood must flow?  
The earth is choking!  
Blood flows like rivers.  
STOP!!!

( I dedicate this poem to the innocent victims of  
Pahalgam- Kashmir...I pray peace over you all).



Lucy V. David is an award winning author, poet, motivational speaker, grief share specialist, singer, and Senior Pastor of Salem Church in Newlands West, Durban, South Africa.

I am the founder of Women's Camp Conferences since 1980, Salem International Friends Group , Springs Of Healing, a platform offering encouragement for all those who've lost loved ones or going through trauma. I am a board member on Panache International Magazine.

## COLUMN

### "A TRIP THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING"

BY PANACHE DESK



#### Mr. Piyush Goel

Balbir (a fictional character), a man of deeply religious values, lived in a village in Haryana with his parents. Employed at a prestigious position in a multinational company, he had a younger sister who was still in 12th grade.

One Sunday, while Balbir was at home, he received a call from his father: "Son, come home quickly. Some people are here to see you."

Excusing himself from his friends, Balbir rushed back. Upon arrival, he noticed that guests were already waiting for him. He understood what was happening. After respectfully greeting the elders, conversations flowed smoothly. After about half an hour, the guests expressed their approval for the match and suggested Balbir's family visit the girl's side too.

Eventually, the wedding was fixed. Joy filled both households, and Balbir's marriage was celebrated with great festivity and enthusiasm.



#### Special Edition on Pahalgam Attack

Time passed.

One day, Balbir told his parents, "We'd like to go on a vacation."

His mother responded instantly, "Yes, son, absolutely! We were just thinking the same."

His father asked, "Where do you plan to go?"

"We're thinking of going to Kashmir," said Balbir.

Both his parents immediately objected. "The situation there isn't safe. Please plan somewhere else."

But Balbir reassured them, "No, Dad, things are stable now. There's nothing to worry about."

Despite their concerns, Balbir and his wife set off for a week-long trip to Kashmir.

Everything seemed fine initially. They reached their hotel and planned to visit Pahalgam the next day. But as soon as they stepped out of the hotel, loud blasts shook the air. Panic spread like wildfire. No one understood what was happening. Police sirens blared in every direction. Announcements echoed from microphones:

> "Stay where you are. A terrorist attack has taken place."

The TV in the hotel lobby showed horrifying news—an attack launched by Pakistan. Around 20–25 people had died. Most of the victims were newlywed couples.

## COLUMN

Balbir's wife clung to him, sobbing uncontrollably. Tears welled up in his eyes too.

"If only we had listened earlier..."

They were devastated, thinking about their families back home. Their phones weren't working, and they had just informed their parents the night before that they had reached Pahalgam.

Soon, local police arrived at the hotel. They thoroughly searched the premises, took photographs of everyone's identity cards, mobile numbers, and even emergency contacts.

Balbir's wife pleaded with the officers, "Please help us reach the railway station safely."

One officer replied kindly, "Don't worry. We're making arrangements. Not just you, everyone will be safely escorted."

She continued, "Can we at least inform our families?"

The officer responded, "There's no network now, but we've collected all information. As soon as communication lines are restored, your families will be notified."

He added,

"And please remember, if we need your cooperation for any inquiry later, we'll expect your full support."

Balbir agreed without hesitation,

"Sir, whenever you need us, we'll fully cooperate."

Somehow, Balbir and his wife made it home. The police had already informed the families. Their return was met with uncontrollable tears and tight embraces. Balbir wept in the arms of his mother, father, sister, and sister-in-law.

"Dad, you were right..." he said, his voice choking.

He shared how they were only a few meters away from the attack site and how his slight delay in getting ready—caused by his wife—possibly saved their lives.

Neighbors soon gathered to meet them. Even reporters showed up.

A few days later, Balbir received a strange call.

"Is this Balbir? Are you at home?"

"Yes, this is Balbir. Who's calling?"

The line went dead.

Moments later, the doorbell rang. Four police officers were at the door.

"Welcome, sir, please come in," said Balbir, leading them to the drawing room where the whole family joined in. The officers only drank some water, then began their inquiry. Everything was recorded on video.

At the end of the session, Balbir said with folded hands:

"Sir, we made it back because of you. I also salute our country's three armed forces—from the depths of my heart, though words fall short. Because of them, our nation continues to live in peace. And yes, whenever you need me or my family, we are always here to help."

The officers took their leave. Tears shimmered in every eye in the house.

Turning to his parents, Balbir whispered:

"Mom, Dad... you were right."

**Mr. Piyush Goel**

## Tainted Humanity

Humanity and nature, bright as the moon,  
 Why are they wounded and tainted again and again?  
 Once more, some creatures were killed,  
 By cruel cruelty, and with more cruelty,  
 The lush green valley, vibrant with red flowers,  
 Became bloodstained, once again put to shame,  
 Humanity and nature, bright as the moon,  
 Why are they wounded and tainted again and again?  
 Those who died were supposedly humans,  
 Those who killed also seemed to be humans,  
 In fact, before the massacre,  
 Humanity itself is murdered,  
 The essential, precious human qualities  
 That make humans humane,  
 Are wounded first, left bloodied,  
 Love, harmony, compassion, and benevolence.  
 In the people, who kill, are sown  
 Enmity, hatred, intolerance and revenge,  
 Those who kill and cause to be killed mercilessly,  
 Filled with venomous barbarity,  
 Creatures of their own human race,  
 Humanity and nature, bright as the moon,  
 Why are they wounded and tainted again and again?  
 Which evil power has conspired  
 To incite humans against humans,  
 For bringing about destruction of the human race,  
 Their destruction, by their own hands,  
 Filling them with animosity towards each other.  
 There is still time to be cautious,  
 To find such solutions with wisdom,  
 That cause no further harm to humankind,  
 That place no obstacle in our growth and prosperity,  
 May no one kill anyone just like that,  
 May no one die before their appointed time,  
 We are humans, may we always remain human.  
 Humanity and nature, bright as the moon,  
 May they not be tainted and wounded again and again



**Mrs. Promila Punnu Bhardwaj**  
 Retd. General Manager,  
 Industries Department, Himachal  
 Pardesh



# Timeline: Pahalgam Attack – From the First Shot to the Aftermath



This timeline outlines the key phases of the Pahalgam attack, providing a clear, chronological summary from the planning stages to the diplomatic consequences.

## 1. Planning and Preparation (March–April 2025)

- **Early March–April:** Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) operatives, working through The Resistance Front (TRF), began planning the attack. Local sleeper cells in Kashmir were consulted about a month before the incident to gather intelligence on security arrangements and tourist movements in Pahalgam's Baisaran Valley.
- **Logistics:** Sleeper cell members provided information on Army deployments, supplied food, and scouted the area. The attackers, including two Pakistan-based terrorists and a local, finalized their plan with logistical support from local operatives.
- **Target Selection:** The attackers specifically chose the tourist-heavy Baisaran Valley for its isolation, accessibility only by foot or horseback, and minimal security presence.

## 2. The Attack (April 22, 2025)

- **Morning:** Five militants, armed with M4 carbines and AK-47s and dressed in military-style uniforms, entered Baisaran Valley, about 7 km from Pahalgam town.
- **Execution:** The attackers singled out tourists based on religion, forcing them to recite the Islamic kalima and checking for circumcision. Hindu and Christian tourists were executed at close range; a local Muslim pony operator, Syed Adil Hussain Shah, was killed while trying to protect tourists.
- **Casualties:** 26 civilians were killed—25 tourists (including several newlywed couples) and one local. The incident was inadvertently filmed by a tourist, capturing the chaos and horror.
- **Immediate Aftermath:** Panic ensued, with injured victims pleading for help. Locals, including pony handlers, risked their lives to rescue the wounded and transport them to safety.



### 3. Rescue and Emergency Response (April 22–23, 2025)

- **Rescue Efforts:** Local pony-handlers and residents rescued 11 injured tourists using ponies and makeshift stretchers. Gurudwaras opened their doors to shelter fleeing tourists.
- **Medical Response:** Emergency services arrived quickly. The critically injured were airlifted to a military hospital in Srinagar. Helplines and emergency control rooms were set up in Anantnag and Srinagar for affected tourists and families.
- **Security Measures:** The region was placed under lockdown. The Army, CRPF, and J&K Police launched a joint cordon and search operation, deploying special forces, sniffer dogs, and technical intelligence to track the attackers.



### 4. Investigation and Security Operations (April 23–May 2025)

- **Search Operations:** Security operations expanded to a 5 km radius around the attack site. Additional checkpoints and quick reaction teams were established throughout Kashmir, especially at tourist hotspots.
- **NIA Involvement:** The National Investigation Agency (NIA) visited the site, released sketches of suspects, and traced digital evidence to safe houses in Muzaffarabad and Karachi, Pakistan.
- **Detentions and Interrogations:** Over 1,500 people were detained for questioning. Authorities demolished homes of suspected militants' families and interrogated former overground workers and ex-militants.
- **Link to Pakistan:** Forensic and intelligence evidence pointed to directives from Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and direct involvement of LeT commanders.

### 5. Diplomatic Fallout and Military Escalation (Late April–May 2025)

- **India's Response:** India accused Pakistan of orchestrating the attack, suspended the Indus Waters Treaty, expelled Pakistani diplomats, and closed the border.
- **Pakistan's Reaction:** Pakistan denied involvement, suspended the Simla Agreement, restricted trade, and closed its airspace.
- **Operation SINDOOR:** On May 7, India launched Operation SINDOOR, conducting airstrikes on terror camps in Pakistan-administered Kashmir and Punjab. India emphasized its response was targeted and non-escalatory, focusing on terror infrastructure, not military or civilian targets.



- Regional Tensions: Pakistan retaliated with drone and artillery attacks targeting religious sites in India. The conflict drew international concern, with China maintaining a neutral stance and calling for restraint, while not condemning the terror attack itself.



## 6. Ongoing Impact and Security Measures (May 2025 Onwards)

- Heightened Security: Security across Kashmir Valley remains on high alert, with intensified frisking at tourist sites and hotels.
- International Diplomacy: India launched a diplomatic campaign to expose Pakistan's role and highlight the regional destabilizing influence, engaging with global powers and international organizations.
- Community Response: The attack galvanized national unity, with widespread condemnation from all communities and increased support for counterterrorism efforts.

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 Strategic Clarity and Calculated  
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 Introduction: On April 22, terror  
 struck Pahalgam. Pakistan-  
 backed attackers stormed a  
 village, a

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 possible without help of  
 sleeper cells in ...  
 In an interview with India  
 Today, the former sleeper cell  
 operative said locals were likely  
 consulted a month ago and  
 everything was planned in  
 advance before the attack in  
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The terrorist attack in Pahalgam has shaken the entire nation. The brutal killing of innocent civilians has made it clear how cruel and inhumane the face of terrorism can be. This attack not only exposes the shortcomings of our security system but also shows that terrorists are now targeting tourists and common citizens. It has dealt a severe blow to the efforts being made to restore normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir.

Following this attack, the Government of India launched a strong counteraction against terrorist bases located in Pakistan under 'Operation Sindoor'. The Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, made it clear that India will take strict measures against terrorism.

However, this incident has also raised serious questions about the functioning of our intelligence agencies. A comprehensive review and reforms are necessary to prevent such incidents in the future.

Ultimately, our greatest strength against terrorism is our unity. We must strengthen our security measures.

This is the time for all of us to come together against terrorism and take firm steps toward building a peaceful and secure India.

Jai Hind.



**Mr. Rachit Shrivastava**  
**HR. IES University**  
**Madhya Pradesh**

# EYEWITNESS ACCOUNTS: VOICES FROM BAISARAN

## Survivors' Narratives

Many survivors recall the sudden eruption of violence in the peaceful Baisaran meadow. Tourists described how the attackers singled out groups based on religion and began firing at close range, creating chaos and panic. Some survivors credited their escape to the quick thinking and bravery of local pony handlers, especially Syed Adil Hussain Shah, who intervened at great personal risk.

One survivor, whose father was killed in the attack, recounted to Adil's brother at the hospital how Adil tried to confront the terrorists, attempting to snatch a rifle from one of them, which may have saved more lives. The survivor said, "He shielded us with his body and told us to run. I saw him fall after being shot, but his courage gave us a chance to escape."



## **Locals and Responders**

Adil's fellow pony handlers and villagers from Hapat Nar, his home village, spoke of his selflessness and courage. His cousin, Md Hussain, remembered, "Adil left for work that morning with his tiffin, like always. Who could have imagined he wouldn't return? He was always ready to help others, and that day he gave his life for strangers".

Ghulam Hassan, who led Adil's funeral prayers, said, "He will be rewarded by Allah for his deeds. We should always be ready to die for others, whether a Sikh, Pandit, or a Muslim. That is what our religion teaches us".

## **Excerpts from the Tourist's Video Diary**

A tourist's video, inadvertently capturing the attack, has circulated widely. In the footage, frantic screams and gunfire are heard. The camera shakes as people run for cover. Amidst the chaos, voices can be heard urging others to stay low and hide behind rocks. One voice, believed to be Adil's, shouts in Kashmiri, "Don't panic, follow me!" before the sound of gunshots interrupts the recording. The video ends abruptly, but it has become a symbol of both the terror and the courage witnessed that day (based on survivor and media accounts).

## **Family of Syed Adil Hussain Shah**

Adil's family, devastated yet proud, shared their memories and grief. His father, Syed Haider Hussain Shah, said, "I am very proud of him and his sacrifice. I am alive because of the pride I am feeling. Otherwise, I would have died the moment I saw his young, dead body. I am happy because of his bravery. Some people were saved because of him, and I am proud of it".

His brother, Syed Naushad, recounted, "He used to take tourists on pony rides to Baisaran. On Tuesday, when terrorists attacked tourists, my brother tried to stop them. A tourist whose father was killed in the attack told me about the heroic act of my brother at SMHS hospital. The killers pumped three bullets into Adil's chest".

His sister Asma said, "In the morning, I told him not to go as if I knew something bad was going to happen. But he did not listen to me and left. He was always brave, always ready to support others".

## **Community and Official Tributes**

Thousands attended Adil's funeral in Hapat Nar, including Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who said, "He tried to stop the attack. We've heard he was targeted after he tried to snatch a terrorist's rifle. I've come here to assure the family that the government will stand by them and help in every way possible. Adil was the sole breadwinner, and his extraordinary bravery and sacrifice will forever be remembered".

## Summary

**These voices from Baisaran—survivors, locals, Adil’s family, and officials—paint a vivid picture of the horror, heroism, and heartbreak of the Pahalgam attack. The courage of Syed Adil Hussain Shah stands as a beacon of humanity and unity in the face of terror.**

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Real Life Hero: Syed Adil Hussain Shah Amid the heartbreaking ...

## RED

The world wants to spread,  
The colour red.  
Not the negative red,  
Surely the assertive red.  
Not the blood shed red,  
Surely the Kashmir apples red.  
Not the atom bomb red,  
Surely the Indian vermillion red.  
Not the angry eyes red,  
Surely the Indian rose red.  
Not the riot burnt home red,  
Surely the Diwali lit lamps red.  
Not the negative red,  
Negative red seizes bread.  
Surely the assertive red,  
Assertive red wins bread.  
The world wants to spread,  
The colour red, the colour red.  
Not the negative red,  
Surely the assertive red, the assertive red.



**Mr. Manoj R Chincholikar**  
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Bhopal  
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# The Anatomy of the Attack: How It Unfolded

## Detailed Narrative of the Attack

On April 22, 2025, five armed militants entered Baisaran Valley, a popular tourist destination near Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir, surrounded by dense pine forests and accessible only by foot or horseback. The attackers, dressed in military-style uniforms and armed with M4 carbines and AK-47 rifles, emerged from the forest at approximately 1:50 PM, targeting three separate locations where tourists were relaxing and children were playing.

The attack was sudden and coordinated. The militants singled out tourists, asking men about their religion and forcing some to recite the Islamic kalima (declaration of faith) to identify non-Muslims.

## Profiles of the Attackers and Their Methods

- **Number and Armament:** Five militants, heavily armed with M4 carbines and AK-47s.
- **Tactics:** The attackers wore military-style uniforms to blend in and used the forest cover for a surprise assault. They targeted tourists based on religious identity, using direct questioning and religious tests.
- **Execution:** The attack was highly organized, with simultaneous firing at multiple locations to maximize casualties and confusion.
- **Escape:** The attackers fled back into the forest, taking advantage of the difficult terrain and lack of immediate security presence.

## Sidebar: What is The Resistance Front (TRF)?

- The Resistance Front (TRF) is an armed group believed to be an offshoot of the Pakistan-based, UN-designated terrorist organization Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). TRF has claimed responsibility for several attacks in Indian-administered Kashmir, often targeting religious minorities. In the case of the Pahalgam attack, TRF initially claimed responsibility, stating it was in opposition to non-local settlement in the region following the abolition of Kashmir's special status. However, a few days later, TRF denied involvement. Indian authorities maintain that TRF is closely linked to LeT and operates with support from Pakistan's "deep state".



## My Views on Pahalgam attack

Pahalgam attack,a cowardice act has become a night mare.It has been done at the behest of our arch enemy Pakistan.It has been condemned at Global level by majority of countries.The bilateral ties with Pakistan have become worst.

United Nation too has criticised and condemned it in so many words.

An imminent danger of attack by India,backed by U.S.Russia,Israel and Afghanistan is now inevitable.Pakistan can't hide its face.It deserves to get a befitting reply by India.The departed innocent souls of Pahalgam attack are crying for retaliation.

May Almighty bless and place them in heaven.



**Mr. Girish Chandra Upadhyay**  
**Advocate Allahabad High Court,**  
**Allhabad**  
**Prayag Raj**  
**Uttar Pradesh**

# The Investigation:

## 1. Immediate Response and Site Examination

- The National Investigation Agency (NIA) formally took over the Pahalgam attack probe on April 27, 2025, following orders from the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- NIA teams, led by senior officials, camped at the attack site in Baisaran meadow, meticulously searching for forensic evidence and interviewing eyewitnesses to reconstruct the sequence of events.

## 2. Identifying Suspects and Local Networks

- Jammu and Kashmir Police released sketches of three militants, believed to be linked to Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), with at least two identified as foreigners.
- The NIA identified around 20 overground workers (OGWs) in the Kashmir Valley who allegedly provided logistical support, such as shelter, reconnaissance, and facilitation of movement for the attackers.
- Two key OGWs, Nisar Ahmad alias Haji and Mushtaq Hussain, both associated with LeT, were interrogated in connection to the attack and previous terror incidents.

## 3. Forensic and Digital Breakthroughs

- Over 40 cartridges were recovered from the site and sent for ballistic and chemical analysis.
- Investigators conducted 3D mapping of the area and extracted data from nearby mobile towers to analyze movement patterns.
- A spike in satellite phone activity was detected in the region before the attack, and at least three satellite phones were traced and analyzed.
- The NIA appealed to the public for photos, videos, and any information, gathering visuals from tourists and locals to aid in identifying the attackers and their methods.

#### 4. Tracing the Cross-Border Network

- Digital footprints and intelligence intercepts led investigators to safe houses in Muzaffarabad and Karachi, Pakistan, suggesting a control-room style operation similar to the 2008 Mumbai attacks.
- The NIA's preliminary report confirmed the involvement of LeT, Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), and the Pakistan Army in planning and directing the attack.
- Investigative journalists revealed a surge in demand for high-resolution satellite imagery of Pahalgam by a Pakistani geospatial firm two months prior to the attack, raising suspicions about pre-attack reconnaissance.

#### 5. Ongoing Manhunt and Community Interrogations

- More than 2,800 individuals were questioned, and over 150 remain in custody, including suspected OGWs and individuals linked to banned organizations.
- The NIA continues to review CCTV and digital evidence from transit points and public locations, while also scrutinizing the entry and exit points at Baisaran.

### Infographic: Links Between LeT, TRF, and Pakistani Handlers

A	B	C
Entity	Role in Attack	Connection
Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT)	Principal planner and coordinator	Direct operational control
The Resistance Front (TRF)	Claimed initial responsibility; acted as proxy	Public face, local recruitment
ISI (Pakistan)	Provided support, direction, and logistics	Strategic guidance, funding
Pakistan Army	Alleged involvement in planning and facilitation	Cross-border infiltration support
Local OGWs	Provided shelter, reconnaissance, and logistics	Enabled attackers' movement

## Summary:

**The NIA's investigation into the Pahalgam attack revealed a sophisticated, cross-border terror network involving LeT, TRF, and Pakistani state actors. Through forensic, digital, and human intelligence, authorities have mapped the support structure behind the attack and continue to pursue leads to bring all perpetrators to justice**

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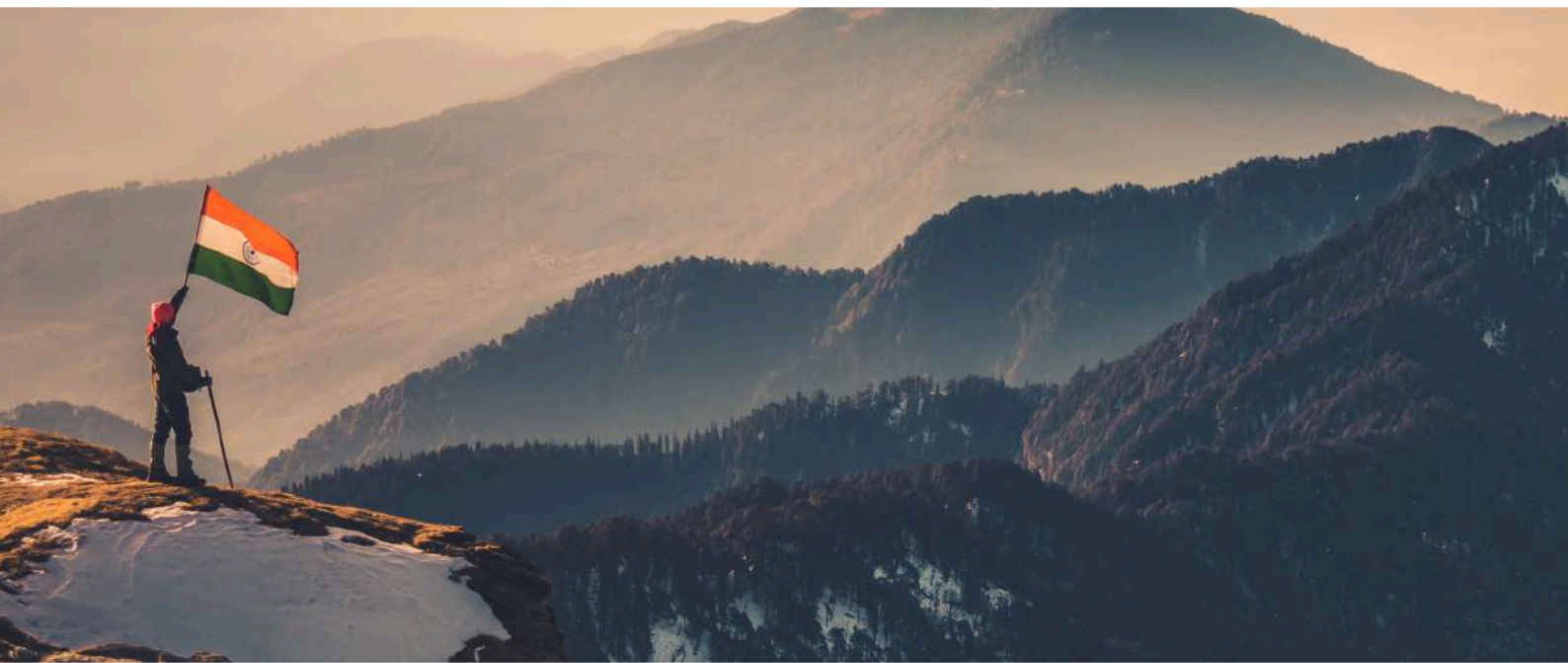
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The agency's teams have been camping at the attack site in the Baisaran meadow, located 5km from Pahalgam town, since Wednesday.
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Amid a massive manhunt for the Pahalgam attackers, the NIA said it had already obtained a number of visuals from the scene but wanted to ensure "no useful information or evidence is missed."
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## Terrorism : A curse to Humanity

Was that a World Earth day ?  
When Earth blood stained, please say ?  
Kashmir opens its gate for  
everyone and every season  
Who knew where terrorists wait  
To massacre by asking religion?  
Genocide of so many innocent  
Who on trip Pahalgam went  
Though there is border and fence  
Yet killings , blood shed and violence  
Whose failure and How's security?  
Where was army and its duty?  
Terror , fire , killing in valley  
Kashmir sees such scenes daily  
Kashmir is indian integral part  
Without it , nation can't apart  
However, enemies view a dream  
Kashmir as a heaven and Cream  
But their dream won't get complete  
Like everytime they receive a beat  
But the time has come to stop  
This terror , bleeding and fire  
To make kashmir free from  
This disorder and toxic wire  
Timid are those who  
Shoot unarmed tourists  
Shame on them who  
Loot land as a jurist  
Nation secures peoples'  
Law and order  
Government's duty is  
To secure the borders  
Terrorists nurture in  
adjoining mud  
Indian army must  
Nip in the bud



**Mr. Pushendra Pratap Singh**  
English Teacher  
Kannauj  
Uttar Pradesh



## **INDIA: A CIVILIZATION OF RICHNESS, RESILIENCE, AND RENEWED RESOLVE**

India's history is a tapestry woven with the threads of ancient wisdom, vibrant culture, and enduring strength. For millennia, the subcontinent has been celebrated for its spiritual depth, artistic achievements, and intellectual contributions. Despite facing centuries of invasions—from Central Asian dynasties to European colonial powers—India has always emerged with its identity intact, absorbing diverse influences and transforming adversity into opportunity.

Throughout its past, invaders sought India's legendary riches and knowledge. Yet, even after enduring plunder and hardship, India has continually shown the world its capacity for forgiveness, trust, and peaceful coexistence. This spirit is reflected in its festivals, languages, and the daily lives of its people—a testament to unity in diversity.

### **Rising United: India's Response to the Pahalgam Attack**

The terrorist attack in Pahalgam on April 22, 2025, was a grave provocation, targeting innocent civilians and aiming to sow fear and division. Instead, it ignited a wave of national unity and determination. India's leadership made it clear that the country would not be seen as weak or passive. The government responded with compassion for the victims and an unwavering commitment to justice.

## **Operation Sindoor: Precision, Restraint, and Strategic Clarity**

In a defining moment, India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7, 2025—a precise, tri-services military campaign targeting terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. The operation was carefully calibrated: only terror camps were struck, with no Pakistani military or civilian facilities targeted, demonstrating India’s commitment to operational ethics and restraint. Indian forces used advanced air-launched cruise missiles, stand-off weapons, and loitering munitions to destroy nine major terror sites, crippling Pakistan’s radar and air defense networks and delivering what experts called a “five-year setback” to the adversary’s air power.

Operation Sindoor sent a clear message: India possesses not only the capability but also the will to act decisively against terrorism, while upholding international norms and humanitarian values.

## **Leadership and Valor: Prime Minister and Trailblazing Women Officers**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s leadership during this crisis was marked by strategic clarity and resolve. He articulated India’s position firmly on the global stage, emphasizing both the country’s desire for peace and its readiness to defend its sovereignty. His government’s actions reflected a doctrine that combines restraint with the credible threat of calibrated force.

Among the many who contributed to India’s response, “Colonel Sophia Qureshi” and “Wing Commander Vyomika Singh” is a real and widely respected Indian defence officers, known for their distinguished service and operational expertise. They led Indian Defence contingents in international exercises and are a symbol of the growing role of women in India’s defense forces.

## A Message to the World

India's response after the Pahalgam attack was not just a demonstration of military might—it was a reaffirmation of its ancient values: courage in adversity, justice in action, and compassion in victory. India has always chosen the path of peace, but when challenged, it rises united and unafraid.

**“Operation Sindoor delivered not just a tactical blow but a strategic message: India had the reach, the intent, and the means to respond decisively.”**

— Senior Indian official, Times of India

Through centuries of trials, India has always emerged wiser and stronger. Today, as it honors its rich past and faces the future with confidence, India stands as a testament to the power of unity, resilience, and the unbreakable spirit of its people.

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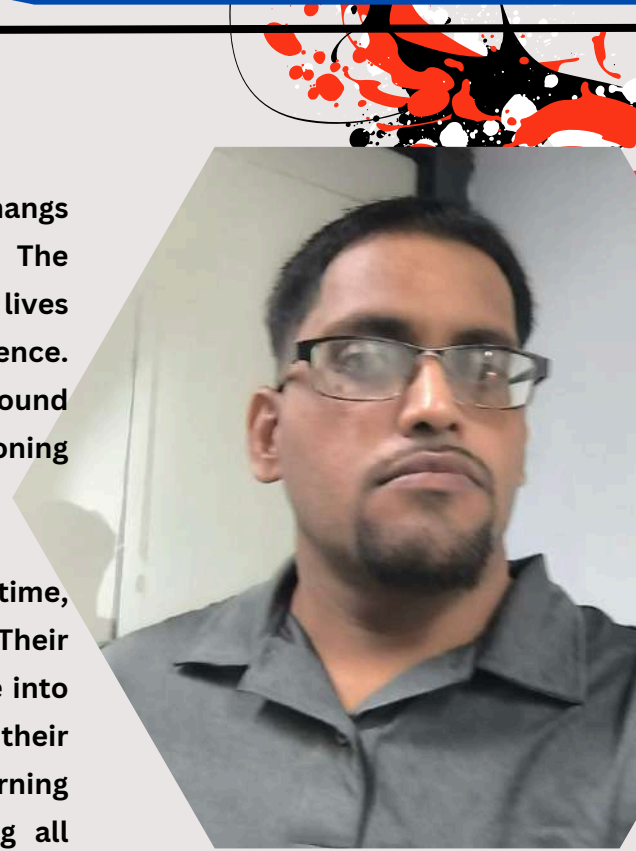
## Rebirth

In the silent aftermath of the Phagalam Attack, the air hangs heavy with unspoken memories, and unseen wounds. The land, scarred yet resilient, bearing the weight of innocent lives lost, each soul a whisper in the tapestry of our own existence. In the quiet depths of that tragedy, there lies a profound truth: death is not an end, but a passage, a gentle beckoning toward rebirth.

Spirits of those fallen drift softly through the currents of time, their essence woven into the fabric of the universe. Their departure, they do not vanish into oblivion, but dissolve into the infinite, returning anew with lessons etched into their being. Reincarnation becomes a sacred cycle, a returning dance where love remains the eternal thread binding all hearts across the ages.

Amidst the grief, there is a tender reminder, every life lost is a seed of love, waiting to bloom again in another form. Their sacrifice, though borne of pain, plants the roots of compassion and understanding deep into the soil of collective consciousness. In every rebirth, love persists, not as a fleeting emotion, but a profound, enduring force that transcends time and space.

The tragedy of Phagalam teaches us that even in darkness, there is a promise of light, a promise that love, born anew through each life, is the ultimate truth. As souls journey through the cycles of life and death, they carry with them the echoes of love unbroken, woven into the very fabric of existence. In this eternal dance, we find solace: that through loss, we grow closer to the divine, and in love's infinite embrace, we are forever connected.



**Mr. Tha Ono**  
**Teacher**  
**Gasparillo**  
**Trinidad & Tobago**

# India's Resilience: Stories of Courage and Unity

The aftermath of the 2025 Pahalgam attack revealed not only the nation's pain but also its remarkable spirit of unity, compassion, and resilience. Across Kashmir and the rest of India, ordinary citizens, medical professionals, and communities came together to help, heal, and honor the victims, demonstrating the country's enduring strength in the face of tragedy.

## Local Sheltering Tourists and Acts of Courage

In the immediate chaos following the attack, local pony-handlers—displayed extraordinary bravery. Despite the danger, they rushed to the scene, rescuing 11 injured tourists using ponies and improvised stretchers. Their quick action saved lives, as they ferried the wounded to safety and medical attention. These acts of selflessness transcended religious and regional divides, highlighting the shared humanity that unites the people of Kashmir.

Gurudwaras (Sikh temples) in Kashmir also opened their doors to shelter tourists fleeing the valley, providing food, warmth, and a safe haven as many sought to return to their home states. This gesture of solidarity was echoed in other parts of India, where communities rallied to support those affected.



## **Doctors Working Round the Clock**

At the Government Medical College (GMC) in Anantnag, Dr. Ruksana Najeeb, the principal and a senior anaesthesiologist, immediately sounded a red alert upon hearing of the attack. She and her team prepared 30 beds, readied the ICU and blood bank, and coordinated the arrival of critical care ambulances from neighboring districts. Seventeen injured patients, some in critical condition, were brought in. The medical staff, including cardiologists, surgeons, and anaesthesiologists, worked tirelessly—performing life-saving surgeries, resuscitating patients, and providing round-the-clock care. For three days and nights, doctors and staff remained at the hospital, arranging food and accommodation for attendants and even bringing clothes for patients. Their dedication ensured that many who might have otherwise perished survived.

## **Nationwide Vigils and Solidarity**

The nation responded with an outpouring of grief and solidarity. Candlelight vigils were held across cities and towns, with citizens gathering to honor the memory of the victims and express unity against terror. Political parties set aside differences, with opposition leaders joining peace marches and supporting the government's response. The Congress party, among others, organized a peace march at its headquarters, and all-party meetings saw rare unity in the face of tragedy. Internationally, leaders and governments from around the world condemned the attack and expressed their support for India, reflecting a global consensus against terrorism.

## **Voices from the Community**

Community leaders and volunteers spoke of the importance of standing together. The actions of local rescuers, medical teams, and religious institutions were widely praised as examples of India's secular and inclusive ethos. Survivors and their families recounted how strangers became saviors, and how the bonds of compassion and courage helped them through their darkest hours.

## **Conclusion**

The response to the Pahalgam attack was not just about resilience in the face of terror, but about the triumph of humanity over hate. From the valleys of Kashmir to the cities of India, stories of courage, unity, and compassion reaffirmed the nation's unbreakable spirit and its commitment to stand together—no matter the challenge.

## Retribution with restraint

“Terror knows no borders, but neither does humanity” can be perfectly seen in the terrifying attack at Pahalgam by the terrorist.

On 22 April 2025, an attack on non -Muslim tourists by five armed militants near Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir region of India in which 26 civilians were killed. They targeted Hindu tourists, though a Christian tourist and a local Muslim were also killed in the attack. This incident is considered the deadliest attack on civilians in India since the 2008 Mumbai attacks.

### NOT THE FIRST TIME

Back from the history, India has never attacked any country, nor has it captured an inch of foreign land, but if anyone ever tries to harm the sovereignty, unity and integrity of the nation, a befitting reply will always be given. So, in response, India initiated “Operation Sindoor” as the kinetic punitive action. The operation was specifically aimed at the terrorists and their infrastructure, while avoiding collateral civilian damage. It is also consistent with a nation’s right to defend itself. The scale of the attack is unprecedented and reflects an extraordinary level of planning and daring. Operation Sindoor was a just a payback not only for Pahalgam but also for the countless innocent lives lost in earlier terror attacks.

It was not new that India has responded so strictly to the terror attack for the first time. India has conducted at least ten major military operations in response to aggression or terrorism emanating from the same country including

•“Operation Parakram” by Indian Army to counter response the terror attack on parliament in dec 2001.

•“Operation Black Tornado” by India's National Security Guard (NSG) in 2008 Mumbai attacks to neutralize the situation.

•“Operation surgical strike” by Indian Army on 29 Sept 2016 in response to Uri terror attack. It targeted terror launch pads in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK) across the Line of Control (LoC).



Ms. Ayushi Khawade  
Student  
Bhopal, MP

•“Operation Bandar”, a codename for the Indian Air Force's Balakot airstrike on 26 Feb 2019 which was conducted in response to the Pulwama terror attack. However, the strikes were measured and precise, designed to send a message without escalating into full war. Point to be focused here is, this is new emerging India with new advanced technologies which avoided full blown “revenge” and followed “retribution with restraint”. India’s goal is not escalation, but to deter the future attacks like pahalgam. Message is clear, India will act alone if global efforts fail to contain any country’s use of terrorism.

#### A SMART MOVE

However, India also has an option to get involve in war like situation with the terrorist homage country but we have seen the situations in Russia -Ukraine conflict or the Israel-Hamas conflict. We believe in “this is not an era of war”. And that’s why we agreed to ceasefire. This simply means, we are against terrorism that’s why we responded. No doubt, with the advance technology and excellent defense team, we can get ourselves in war too, but all we want is peace and harmony in the world. A smart move is, India knows where to response and where to cease. It appears as a fact that India has learned to speak and act more candidly and transparently.

#### A SECULAR MESSAGE

Although the terrorist might saw the religion before killing, but an Indian muslim civilian who was also killed never thought twice to help the tourists. We can find that the kinetic response team also included non-Muslims which reflects that the essence of true nationalism is beyond any religion and gender. Since no religion demand terror, a terror doesn’t have any religion. As the terror has no religion and no border, but neither does humanity too. And hence, India chooses humanity over terrorism. Thus, the essence of true secularity and diversity reflect in every movement of our country.

A

# MEMORIAL

## *Pahalgam Terror Attack*

*Along the tranquil trails of Pahalgam, where the Lidder River murmurs through the valley and the mountains rise in solemn majesty, a day that should have echoed with peace was torn apart by a brutal act of terror. On April 22, 2025, a horrifying attack claimed innocent lives, leaving behind shattered families, grieving communities, and a mourning nation. This page serves as a tribute — a sacred space to remember, honour, and reflect. Here, we share the names, stories, and memories of those who were lost far too soon.*

*We stand united in grief and solidarity — with the victims, with their families, and with all who carry the weight of this tragedy. In remembering them, we affirm both our shared humanity and our enduring commitment to peace, even in the shadow of terror.*

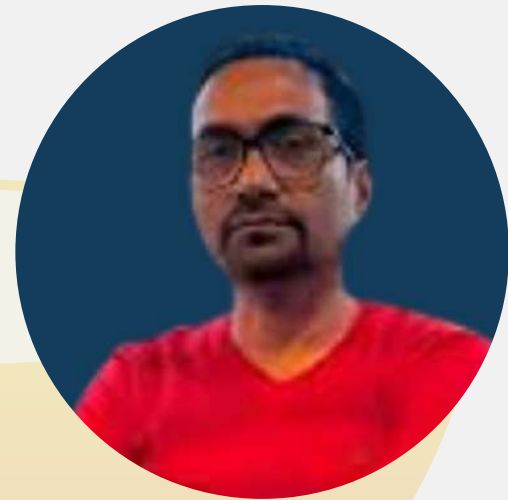


Bitan Adhikari  
West Bengal

Adhikari (40), who worked in Florida, had returned to his hometown of Patuli, Kolkata, for a holiday and was visiting Kashmir with his wife, Sohini, and their 3-year-old son. He arrived in India on April 8 and went to Kashmir on April 16. A test manager at TCS with 15+ years' experience in UI/API automation and functional testing, he earlier worked at Verizon and Cognizant.

Sameer Guha  
West Bengal

Sameer (52) had arrived in Kashmir on April 16 with his wife, Sabari, and daughter, Subhangi, for a family vacation. They were scheduled to return on April 23. A resident of Sakherbazar in Behala, Sameer was shot dead by gunmen in front of his wife and daughter. He worked with the MoSPI and was posted at the CGO Complex in Salt Lake. Neighbours remember him as soft-spoken and affable.



Manish Ranjan  
West Bengal

Ranjan (41), an Intelligence Bureau officer from Purulia, had been posted in Hyderabad for the past 2 years. He was on vacation in Kashmir with his family and is survived by his wife and two children. The eldest of three siblings, Manish was the son of Mangalesh Mishra, a retired school headmaster who lives in Jhalda. He was in J&K on a pilgrimage to the Vaishno Devi Temple.





Sushil Nathaniel  
Madhya Pradesh

Nathaniel (58), a resident of Indore and LIC branch manager in Alirajpur, was killed in the attack, while his daughter Akanksha was shot in the leg. The family had travelled to J&K on April 19 to celebrate Easter. Remembered as the “guardian of the family,” Sushil was someone whom friends and relatives often turned to for advice, says his brother, Vikas Nathaniel.

Syed Adil Hussain Shah  
Jammu and Kashmir

Adil (30), a 'ponywallah' from Pahalgam, was the sole breadwinner of his family. Married with children, he earned a living by offering horse rides to tourists. The eldest in his family, Adil tragically lost his life while trying to protect the tourist.



Hemant Suhas Joshi  
Maharashtra

Joshi (45), one of three cousins from Dombivli killed in the Pahalgam terror attack, had travelled with Sanjay Lele and Atul Mone. The cousins had long planned the trip to Srinagar. On April 20, they boarded a train to Ahmedabad and then flew to Srinagar with their wives and children, looking forward to a holiday that ended in tragedy.





Lt. Vinay Narwal  
Haryana

Lt. Narwal, a 26-year-old officer in the Indian Navy, hailed from Karnal in Haryana and was posted in Kochi, Kerala. Having served in the Navy for 2 years, he was known in his neighborhood as a young officer with a bright future. He was on a short vacation in Kashmir with his wife, celebrating their recent wedding on April 16 – a joyous occasion embraced by the entire neighborhood.

Atul Shrikant Mone  
Maharashtra

Mone (43), a Senior Section Engineer in the Indian Railways, was in Pahalgam with his wife and daughter. He had accompanied his cousins Sanjay Lele and Hemant Joshi, two other victims from Maharashtra, on the trip. Nine members of the extended family were on a six-day vacation in Kashmir and were scheduled to return on April 26.



Neeraj Udhwani  
Rajasthan

Udhwani (33), a chartered accountant based in Dubai, was on holiday in Pahalgam with his wife Aayushi when the attack occurred. A native of Jaipur, he had come to India to attend a wedding. Married in February 2023, the couple had travelled to J&K on April 21 for a short vacation.



## Vyomika Singh and Sophia Qureshi

Throughout history, the military has been seen as a male-dominated field, but Wing Commander Vyomika Singh and Colonel Sofiya Qureshi have proven that women can achieve great things in the armed forces. Their journeys are filled with hard work, bravery, and determination, inspiring many young people to follow in their footsteps.

Vyomika Singh always dreamed of flying. As a child, she would watch planes in the sky and imagine being the pilot. She worked extremely hard in school and was accepted into the Indian Air Force Academy, where she trained to become a helicopter pilot. Over the years, she flew helicopters like the Chetak and Cheetah and completed more than 2,500 flying hours. She led high-altitude rescue missions in dangerous conditions, saving lives even in extreme weather. In 2021, she joined a mountaineering expedition to Mt. Manirang showing her strength and teamwork. Because of her skills and dedication, she was granted a permanent commission in the Indian Air Force, securing her position as a respected leader.

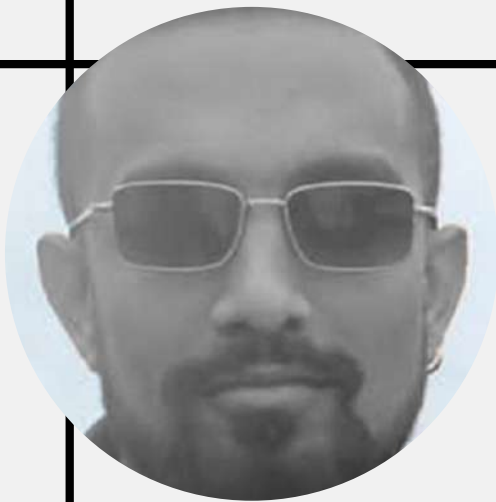
Colonel Sofiya Qureshi had a different journey but was just as determined. She was always fascinated by military strategy and technology, which led her to specialize in cyber warfare and military communications. Her work helped strengthen India's defense systems and cyber security. In 2016, she made history by becoming the first woman to lead an Indian contingent in a UN Peacekeeping Mission, commanding 40 Indian troops in Exercise Force 18. Later, she played an important role in Operation Sindoor, a major military operation. She also became the leader of India's Cyber Defence Command, helping protect the country from cyber threats.

Both Vyomika Singh and Sofiya Qureshi have shown that women can be strong leaders in the military. They have broken barriers, led important missions, and earned respect in their fields. Their stories prove that with determination and hard work, anyone can achieve their dreams, no matter their gender.

Their achievements inspire young people, especially girls, to dream big and never give up. They remind us that leadership comes from courage, skill, and dedication, not stereotypes. These incredible women are proof that the future of the armed forces is open to everyone willing to work hard and push boundaries.



**Mr .Prabhav Potu**  
Student  
Australia



Sudip Neupane  
Nepal

Sudip (27), a Nepalese national, was with his mother Rima Pandey, sister Sushma, and brother-in-law Ujjwal Kafle when terrorists attacked them in Pahalgam. The family had gone to J&K on April 19 for a vacation. Sudip had completed his Health Assistant studies and a Bachelor's in Public Health, and worked on an oral-health project at Adhunik Samaj Dental.

Shubham Dwivedi  
Uttar Pradesh

Dwivedi (30), a businessman from Kanpur who had married on Feb. 12 this year, was on a family trip to Kashmir with his wife, Aishanya, and relatives. They arrived in J&K on April 17 and were to return on April 23. On the tragic day, he and his wife went horse-riding while others stayed at the hotel. He was reportedly having a meal with his wife when terrorists opened fire.



Prashant Kumar Satpathy  
Odisha

Satpathy (41), an accounts assistant at CIPET in Balasore, Odisha, was gunned down by terrorists in front of his wife and 9-year-old son. He had gone to Kashmir on LTC after saving for months and was excited for the trip, his family said. The second of three siblings, Prashant planned the holiday after his son's exams to enjoy nature with his family.





N. Ramachandran  
Kerala

Ramachandran (65), a native of Edappally, Kerala, had worked in the UAE for years before returning home two years ago. He travelled to Kashmir with his wife, daughter Aarathy, and grandchildren for a holiday. He was shot dead by terrorists in front of his daughter. Neighbours remember him as active and warm, known for his cordial nature in the community.

Sanjay Lakshman Lele  
Maharashtra

Lele (50) was an accountant in a private firm in Thane. He lived with his joint family in Pandurang Wadi on Mahatma Phule Road in Dombivli (West). He had accompanied Atul Mone and Hemant Joshi, who were also killed in the attack, on their tour to Pahalgam. His son also suffered a gunshot wound on his hand.



Dinesh Agarwal  
Chhattisgarh

Dinesh Agarwal, a businessman from Raipur, was in Pahalgam with his wife to celebrate their wedding anniversary, due on April 24, when he was shot dead. Neighbours remember him as an affable and kind-hearted person.





Dilip Disle  
Maharashtra

Disle, a resident of Panvel, was visiting J&K with his family. While his wife waited in the parking lot, he went sightseeing on horseback in Baisaran Valley, unaware of the horror that would soon unfold.

J.S. Chandramouli  
Andhra Pradesh

J.S. Chandramouli (68), a retired State Bank of India employee from Visakhapatnam, was visiting J&K with his wife and two other families. A devoted family man, he is survived by his two daughters, both of whom live in the United States.



Somisetti Madhusudan Rao  
Karnataka

Madhusudan Rao, a senior architect at IBM in Bengaluru, hailed from Byta Kummari Vari Street in Kavali, SPSR Nellore, Andhra Pradesh. He had gone to Kashmir with his family for a vacation. He is survived by his wife Kamakshi, a son, and a daughter.



## India's women of defence and The Sindoor story.

On May 7, 2025, India launched *Operation Sindoor*, a massive tri-services military strike against terrorist camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. The operation, India's largest since Balakot airstrikes in 2019 was historic not only for its strategic precision but also for who led its public face two senior women officers, Lieutenant Colonel Sophia Qureshi and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh.

For the first time in Indian history, women led official military briefings during a high stakes combat mission. Lieutenant colonel Sophia Qureshi, an officer in the Indian Army's Signals Corps, presented ground operations and logistics. With a legacy of military service and a passion for leadership, she stated, "It was about skill, not gender." Meanwhile, Wing. Commander. Vyomika Singh, a helicopter pilot with over 2,500 flight hours, represented the Air Force, detailing air strikes and airspace management. "The sky fascinated me" she said, echoing her childhood dream of flying.

Their appointments reflect a significant shift in India's defence landscape, from g limiting women to support roles to empowering them in command and strategy. With recent policies like permanent commissions for women, the armed forces are becoming more inclusive.

Both officers balance military duties with family life, breaking stereotypes and proving that women can lead in every arena, including the battlefield. Operation Sindoor sent a strong message: India is ready to defend itself with strength, unity, and inclusive leadership.

Lieutenant colonel Sophia Qureshi and Wing commander Vyomika Singh are more than officer, they are pioneers, redefining what it means to serve the nation.



**Ms. Moksha Pullepu**  
Student  
Australia



Santosh Jagdale  
Maharashtra

Jagdale had arrived in Pahalgam with four others, including his wife and daughter, on April 22. When gunfire erupted, he took shelter in a camping tent with his family, lying flat on the ground. When terrorists found their camp, they ordered him to come out and chant the Kalma. After he failed to do so, they shot him three times.

Bharat Bhushan  
Karnataka

Bharat Bhushan (35) was in Pahalgam with his wife Sujatha and their 3-year-old son when terrorists attacked. While his family survived, he was tragically shot dead. The family had arrived in J&K for a vacation on April 18, with Pahalgam being their last stop.



Sumit Parmar  
Gujarat

Sumit Parmar and his father, Yatish Parmar, both from Bhavnagar, Gujarat, were killed in the attack. The two had travelled to J&K on April 16 on a 15-day pilgrimage to attend spiritual leader Morari Bapu's discourse. What was meant to be a sacred journey ended in tragedy.





Yatish Parmar  
Gujarat

Yatish Parmar, from Bhavnagar in Gujarat, was killed along with his son Sumit in the attack. The father and son had travelled to J&K on a pilgrimage when tragedy struck.

Tage Hailyang  
Arunachal Pradesh

Hailyang (30), an IAF corporal from Tajang, Arunachal Pradesh, was visiting J&K with his wife. Posted in Srinagar for 5 years, he had recently been transferred to Dibrugarh and was on a short break before reporting. While at Don Bosco College, Itanagar, he saw an IAF advertisement, despite family hesitation, applied and was selected even before his final exams.



Shailesh Kalathiya  
Gujarat

Kalathiya (44), originally from Chikuwadi in Surat, had moved to Mumbai four years ago for work. He was touring Pahalgam with his wife and children when he was shot dead. His wife, daughter, and son survived the attack.





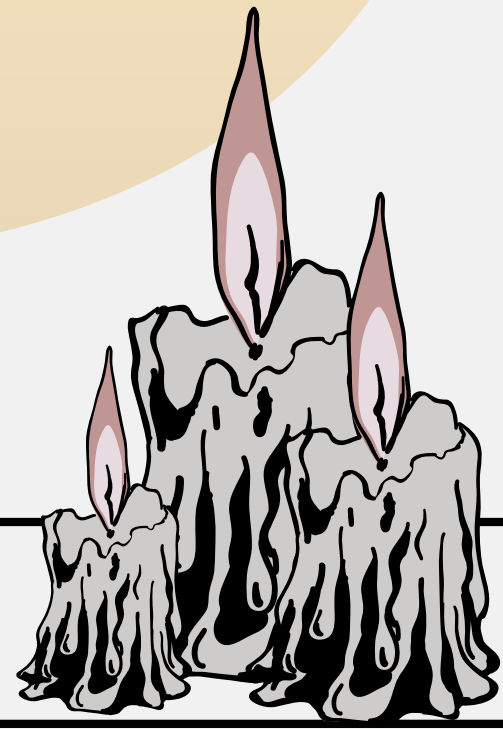
Manjunath Rao  
Karnataka

Rao (47), a realtor from Shivamogga, Karnataka, was visiting J&K with his wife Pallavi and son Abhijeya. It was the family's first holiday outside the state.

Kaustubh Ganbote  
Maharashtra

Ganbote, who ran a snacks business, was a close friend of Santosh Jagdale, who was also killed in the attack.

Both families were holidaying in Kashmir when the terror strike shattered their lives. Known for his jovial and helpful nature, Ganbote was a beloved figure in his old neighbourhood in Rasta Peth. He had recently become a grandfather.



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