



TERROR TRACKER

Newsletter by Counter Terrorism Centre



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR
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5 SOLDIERS MARTYRED IN POONCH TERROR ATTACK

ARMY TRUCK WAS EN ROUTE TO PROVIDE IFTAR TO NEARBY VILLAGE



The army vehicle which came under heavy fire from terrorists in Mendhar in Poonch district on April 20 — PTI

On 20 April 2023, five soldiers were martyred and one critically wounded in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch District after they were ambushed by terrorists affiliated with the People's Anti-Fascist Front, an offshoot of Pakistan-sponsored Jaish-e-Mohammed.

The vehicle, a lone army truck in which the soldiers were travelling came under heavy armoured piercing steel bullets and caught on fire after a subsequent grenade attack.

As per reports, a sniper initially attacked the truck from the front before the rest of the terrorists began firing and launched grenades from opposite ends. Furthermore, perpetrators are believed to have absconded with the soldiers' weapons and ammunition.

The fallen soldiers were part of the Rashtriya Rifles Unit, responsible for counter-terror operations in the area. When the attack occurred, they were en route to provide Iftar to a nearby village.

The attack occurred in the Bhata Dhurian Forest, notorious for being exploited by terrorists for infiltrating into Indian territory considering its topography and the dense forest cover it provides. Natural caves can also be found in this area. At least six people have been detained in connection with this attack, including a local, Nisar Ahmad, who provided terrorists shelter for two months leading up to the attack. — [NDTV](#), [Zee News](#), [The Hindu](#)

NIA ATTACHES PROPERTIES OF HIZBUL MUJAHIDEEN CHIEF'S SONS



One of the properties attached by NIA in the Ram Bagh area in Srinagar. — [Hindustan Times](#)

The National Investigation Agency has attached two properties of Syed Salahuddin's (Chief of Hizbul Mujahideen) sons — Syed Ahmed Shakeel and Shahid Yousuf. Salahuddin is a designated terrorist. He fled to Pakistan in 1993 and has been operating from his base there ever since. He is also the head of the United Jihad Council or Muttahida Jihad Council.

Shakeel and Yousuf are currently imprisoned in Tihar Jail (Delhi) after being arrested in 2018 and 2017, respectively.

They were arrested for receiving funds from Hizbul Mujahideen's overground workers and Salahuddin's foreign associates. — [Hindustan Times](#)

INDIA URGES UK TO STOP SIKH RADICALS FROM EXPLOITING ASYLUM POLICIES



Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla and Permanent Secretary of British Home Office, Sir Mathew Rycroft

On 11 April 2023, the Indian delegation (led by Union Home Secretary, Mr. Ajay Kumar Bhalla) and the British delegation (led by Permanent Secretary Home Office, Sir Matthew Rycroft) participated in the 5th India-UK Home Affairs Dialogue in New Delhi.

Both sides discussed concerns over Khalistani separatism and ways to counter the threat.

In addition, the issue of cyber security, narcotics trafficking, and global supply chains-based issues were also taken up during this meeting.

It is noteworthy that the Indian government has expressed concerns about Khalistani separatists exploiting the UK's asylum policy to facilitate and carry out terror activities in India. – [Hindustan Times](#)

SIKH SEPARATIST LEADER AMRITPAL SINGH ARRESTED

TRANSFERRED TO HIGH-SECURITY DIBRUGARH CENTRAL JAIL IN ASSAM



File picture of Sikh separatist leader (middle) along with his supporters.

Amritpal Singh, the Khalistani separatist and leader of Waris Punjab De, was arrested on 24 April 2023. He had been absconding for over a month. As per reports, he has been transferred to the Dibrugarh Central Jail (Assam) because it is a highly-secure prison with no precedent of major jailbreaks in more than a century of its existence in more than a century. At the moment, it has a three-tier security system around the clock. An official source added “the jail compound has been surrounded by Assam Police’s elite Black Cat Commandos, CRPF, and other security personnel.”

Eight additional Khalistani separatists, aids of Singh, are also lodged in this jail. As per sources, there are several reasons why he has been sent to this place, in particular, beyond its enhanced security measures. Unlike North Indian prisons, this jail and surrounding area lack Khalistani sympathisers.

Furthermore, the linguistic divide will prevent him from establishing ties with prison staff and other inmates. At the same time, new CCTV cameras have been installed focused on the cells housing Khalistani separatists while those malfunctioning have been replaced or repaired. As per some reports, Singh’s apprehension about his wife, Kiranjeet Kaur, a British national, being arrested if he fled the country compelled him to surrender before the authorities. She had been placed under surveillance. Kaur and Singh’s mother were also questioned by the police after he went underground in March this year. – [NDTV](#), [Live Mint](#)

GANGSTER ATIQ CONFESSED TO TERROR LINKS BEFORE DEATH

EXPLOITED DIRECT TIES WITH LeT TO GAIN SOPHISTICATED ARMS: POLICE

ATIQ ADMITS
HAVING LINKS
WITH ISI,
LASHKAR-E-TAIBA



TRAIN ARSON
CASE ACCUSED
SHAHRUKH
SAIFI 'HIGHLY
RADICALISED'



SHAHRUKH SAIFI

Maharashtra's Anti-Terrorism Squad arrested Shahrukh Saifi from Ratnagiri. He was taken into custody for his role in the 2 April 2023 fire incident in Kerala, leaving three people dead and nine suffering burns.

He poured petrol on some passengers as the train arrived near Elathur. What was initially thought to result from an altercation between Saifi and another passenger is now being investigated as a 'planned conspiracy' with 'possible terror links.'

As per reports, the accused had purchased 4 litres of petrol just a kilometre from the Palakkad railway station and had transferred it into two bottles before boarding the train. In addition, he spent approximately 14 hours in Palakkad preparing for this attack. – [The Print](#), [The Telegraph](#)

Atiq Ahmed, a gangster-politician, and his brother, Khalid Azeem alias Ashraf, revealed to police before their death last month that they had direct links with ISI and Pakistan-sponsored terrorist groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba. Furthermore, they exploited these ties to gain access to sophisticated weapons.

They had Rs. 5 lakh bounty, each, on their heads, leading to their capture. Until his death, Ahmed had been accused in more than 100 cases filed against him in the past 43 years.

The local police made this disclosure in the application seeking police custody that was filed on 13 April 2023. They were arrested in connection with the killing of a local lawyer, Umesh Pal, who was a witness in the 2005 murder case of Raju Pal, a Bahujan Samaj Party lawmaker.

An excerpt from the application (quoting Atiq) filed before the court underlines the scale of the operation previously carried out by Ahmed and his brother – "I have no dearth of weapons because I have direct connections with Lashkar-e-Taiba. Weapons from Pakistan are dropped on the Punjab border with the help of drones, and local connection collects them. Terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir get weapons from this consignment. If you take me with you, I can help you recover that money, arms, and ammunition used in the incident."

Ahmed's son Asad and aid Ghulam, also accused in the Umesh Pal murder case, were neutralised by Uttar Pradesh's Special Task Force in Jhansi on 13 April. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath hailed the officers' efforts and subsequently chaired a high-level meeting to discuss matters in the state concerning law and order. – [NDTV](#), [Hindustan Times](#), [The Indian Express](#)

ISIS ANNOUNCES SETTING UP 2 SUB GROUPS IN SOUTH INDIA

The terrorist group ISIS has recently announced the establishment of two sub-groups to intensify its terrorist activities in South India and the Indian neighbourhood. One group will be responsible for targeting Sri Lanka and Tamil Nadu, while the second group will cover Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, and Karnataka.

This announcement comes on the heels of it claiming responsibility for Mangaluru and Coimbatore blasts last year and the Ministry of Home Affairs banning Popular Front of India held responsible for disseminating violent extremist Islamist ideology.

According to sources, a number of recruits for ISIS have come from southern states and have participated in the so-called 'hijrat' (a distorted interpretation of Islamic concept of 'holy migration') from these states to other countries like Iraq, Syria and Afghanistan for terrorist activities. – [Daily Pioneer](#) , [The Tribune](#)

BRICS Prepares Counter-Terrorism Convention

On 26 April 2023, Deputy Foreign Ministers and Special Envoys on the Middle East and North Africa from BRICS member states convened in Cape Town (South Africa) to call for finalising a comprehensive convention on international terrorism swiftly while stressing the United Nations (UN) involvement in countering this security threat. Convened via a hybrid format, the participants underlined the need to adopt a zero-tolerance approach towards terrorism.

Afterwards, the delegates released a joint statement summarising the key security issues and redressal mechanisms to resolve major conflicts. [The Print](#)

Anti-Terror Squad for Tamil Nadu Planned

On 21 April 2023, Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister, Mr. M.K. Stalin, announced in the state assembly that an anti-terror squad would be set up within the state's intelligence wing shortly. At least 380 personnel would be involved in this initiative, and the entire process is estimated to incur expenditure worth Rs. 57. 51 crores. He unveiled the details in response to a question about grants for the police during a debate. – [The News Minute](#)

Terror-Related Deaths Spike in Pakistan

The first quarter of 2023 has seen an unprecedented increase in deaths due to terrorist attacks in Pakistan. At least 496 people have been wounded and 358 killed between January and March 2023. Khyber-Pakhtunkwa province has been the worst-affected region, accounting for approximately 68 deaths. The Global Terrorism Index Report released this year supports this data, asserting that Pakistan remains one of the ten most-affected countries. Terrorist acts surged by 120% from 2021 to 2022. – [ANI News](#)

US-Led Forces Take Out ISIS Terrorist in Syria

On 3 April 2023, the United States-led coalition neutralised Khalid Aydd Ahmad al-Jabouri, a senior ISIS leader in north-western Syria. He had arrived in the area ten days prior to the drone strike that killed him and was living under the guise of an internally displaced person from Deir el-Zour in Eastern Syria.

Khalid Aydd Ahmad al-Jabouri was wanted for planning terrorist attacks in Europe. As per the statement released by coalition forces, the terrorist's death "will temporarily disrupt the organization's ability to plot external attacks." However, despite the defeat of ISIS in 2019, its sleeper cells have been carrying out attacks in Iraq and Syria. – [CBS News](#)

Burkina Faso's Anti-Terror Mobilisation

Burkina Faso's government has declared a "general mobilization" to give the state "all necessary means" to combat a string of terrorist attacks, since the beginning of 2023.

Captain Ibrahim Traore, the country's transitional president, has set a goal of recapturing 40 percent of Burkina Faso's territory, which is currently controlled by groups affiliated with Al-Qaeda and ISIS. – [France 24](#)

10 Civilians Killed in Mali Terrorist Strikes

On 23 April 2023, the Malian junta government has revealed that at least three armed officers and ten civilians were killed in a terrorist attack in Sévaré (Central Mali). Dozens of jihadists were also neutralized. This occurred in the wake of resurging terrorist events in the country recently. The Support for Islam and Muslims, an al-Qaeda affiliate, claimed responsibility on 25 April 2023. – [The Defence Post](#)