



Operation Keller

Why in News?

The Army gunned down three **Kashmiri terrorists** affiliated with the **Pakistan-backed banned** group **Lashkar-e-Taiba** during a [counterterrorism operation in Keller](#), Shopian district of Kashmir.

Key Points

- **About the Counterterror Operation:**
 - Based on intelligence inputs from the [Rashtriya Rifles](#), the Army launched “**Operation Keller**” in the dense forested Shoekal Keller area of Shopian.
 - Army and [paramilitary forces](#) quickly sealed off the area, triggering a fierce gunfight that ended with all three terrorists killed.
 - The Army stated that the operation is still ongoing.
 - This was the second terrorist encounter in Kashmir in 2025.
 - Earlier, on 16 March, **J&K Police killed a Pakistani terrorist in the Handwara forests**, about 100 km north of Srinagar.
- **Wider Military Context:**
 - Security forces remain on high alert following [Operation Sindoor](#) launched by India on 7 May 2025.
 - Under the operation, India carried out airstrikes on nine terrorist camps in [Pakistan-occupied Kashmir \(PoK\)](#) and Pakistan.
 - These strikes came roughly two weeks after the [Pahalgam massacre](#), escalating Indo-Pak tensions.

The Rashtriya Rifles

- It is a **counter-insurgency force** in India, **formed in 1990**, to deal with [internal security](#) in the Jammu and Kashmir region.
- They maintain public order by drawing powers from the [Armed Forces \(Jammu and Kashmir\) Special Powers Act, 1990 \(AFSPA\)](#).
- The force operates under the **Ministry of Defence**. The Indian Army describes RR as their “**specialist elite force to combat insurgency**”.
- The RR is headquartered at **Northern Command in Udampur** and commanded by an **Additional Director General of Rashtriya Rifles (ADG RR)**.