



# Pahalgam Terror Attack

## Why in News?

**Terrorists** launched a **deadly attack in Anantnag** district, Jammu & Kashmir, killing at least 26 people.

- The attack's timing coincided with the **Indian Prime Minister's visit to Saudi Arabia** and the **US Vice President J.D. Vance's tour of India**, suggests a deliberate move aimed at **sending a provocative geopolitical message**.

## Key Points

- **Brutal Assault in Baisaran Meadows:**
  - Terrorists attacked a group of around 40 tourists in the Baisaran meadows near Pahalgam.
  - Eyewitnesses said the terrorists fired with automatic rifles and small arms, and allegedly checked identities (religion) before shooting victims at close range.
  - This is the **first major terror attack targeting civilians** in Kashmir since the **abrogation of Article 370** in 2019.
- **Terror Group Claims Responsibility:**
  - **The Resistance Front (TRF)**, a **Lashkar-e-Taiba** offshoot, claimed responsibility for the attack.
  - TRF opposed the issuance of 85,000 domicile certificates to non-locals or "a pathway for demographic change."
  - Security agencies have not confirmed the authenticity of the claim.
- **Strategic Exploitation of Terrain:**
  - Officials stated that terrorists took advantage of Baisaran's non-motorable terrain, delaying emergency response.
  - The area, though remote, lies within Pahalgam's **high-security zone** due to its proximity to the **Amarnath shrine**.
- **Consequences of the attack:**
  - **Security Setback in Kashmir:**
    - The attack severely **dents the narrative of normalcy and stability** following the abrogation of Article 370.
    - It raises serious **concerns over the effectiveness of security measures** and exposes vulnerabilities in counterterrorism efforts.
  - **Blow to Tourism and Local Economy:**
    - As a major tourist destination, Pahalgam is likely to witness a **sharp decline in visitor numbers**, especially during the crucial summer season.
    - The **dip in tourism will directly impact local businesses, hospitality services, and livelihoods** that rely heavily on seasonal footfall.
  - **Diplomatic and International Fallout:**
    - The attack occurred during the visit of key global leaders, casting India in a light of instability and internal unrest.
    - It risks **diplomatic unease and may strengthen adversarial propaganda**, particularly from Pakistan, on the international stage.
  - **Risk of Communal Polarization:**
    - The **selective targeting of civilians based on identity** hints at an **attempt to**

**stoke religious divisions.**

- Such actions carry the potential to **fuel communal tensions** and disrupt the social fabric, which aligns with the terrorist agenda of destabilisation through fear and division.

## The Resistance Front (TRF)

- **Formed in 2019**, TRF has emerged as a significant player in the region. It is believed to be a **front for Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT)** and has been involved in several high-profile attacks.

## Terrorism

- It is the **deliberate and unlawful use of violence and intimidation**, especially against civilians, to instill fear and achieve political, religious, or ideological goals.
  - It seeks to influence governments or societies by creating a **climate of fear, disruption, and uncertainty**.
  - India maintains a strong stance against terrorism with a "**zero tolerance**" policy.
  - However, there are **no universally accepted definitions of terrorism**, making it difficult to classify specific activities as terrorist acts.
    - This ambiguity gives terrorists an advantage and enables some countries to remain silent and veto actions in global institutions.

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