



Operation Mahadev

Why in News?

Operation Mahadev, carried out by the Indian Army and Jammu & Kashmir Police, eliminated the alleged mastermind behind the Pahalgam attack, along with two other terrorists affiliated with Lashkar-e-Taiba, in an encounter in the forests near [Dachigam National Park](#), Jammu and Kashmir.

- One of the other terrorists killed in the operation was allegedly involved in the **Sonamarg Tunnel attack**.

Key Points

- **About Pahalgam Terror Attack:** The [Pahalgam terror attack](#) took place on **22nd April 2025**, in **Baisaran Meadows in Pahalgam**, Jammu and Kashmir, where terrorists ambushed a group of tourists, resulting in the deaths of 28 people.
 - [The Resistance Front \(TRF\)](#), an offshoot of [Lashkar-e-Taiba](#), claimed responsibility for the attack.
 - The US officially designated **TRF** as a [Foreign Terrorist Organization \(FTO\) and a Specially Designated Global Terrorist \(SDGT\) group](#).
 - India carried out [Operation Sindoor](#) in self-defense following the attack, in accordance with [Article 51 of the Right to Self-Defense](#) under the UN Charter.

Key Facts About the Sonamarg Tunnel

- **Official Name:** Z-Morh Tunnel
- **Length:** Approximately 12 km, including the main 6.4 km tunnel, an egress tunnel, and approach roads.
- **Strategic Importance:** Enhances all-weather connectivity **between Srinagar and Sonamarg en route to Leh, bypassing Z-shaped, avalanche-prone areas.**
- **Travel Efficiency:** Reduces travel time **between Gagangir and Sonamarg** from several hours to approximately 15 minutes.
 - Along with the **Zojila Tunnel (completion by 2028)** it will reduce the route length from 49-43 km and boost vehicle speed from 30-70 km/hr, ensuring seamless **NH-1 connectivity between Srinagar Valley and Ladakh.**
 - **Zojila Tunnel** is a 14.2 km tunnel under construction to enhance connectivity between Sonamarg and Leh.