

AFTER PAHALGAM MASSACRE, INDIA FREEZES TIES WITH PAK

Shuts Attari check post, suspends visa privileges and puts Indus Waters Treaty on hold

PTI, NEW DELHI: India on Wednesday suspended the Indus Water Treaty and announced downgrading diplomatic ties with Pakistan including expulsion of its military attaches in view of cross-border links to the Pahalgam terror attack.

The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) met this evening under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and firmed up the responses to the terror attack.

The CCS also decided to close the Integrated Check Post at Attari with immediate effect, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said at a late evening press briefing.

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It is learnt that the CCS lasted for around two-and-a-half hours.

Pakistani nationals will not be permitted to travel to India under the SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme (SVES) and any such visas issued in the past to Pakistani nationals are deemed cancelled, Misri said.

The CCS decided that the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960 will be held in abeyance with immediate effect, until Pakistan credibly and irrevocably abjures its support for cross-border terrorism, he said.

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TERROR IN THE VALLEY: AFTERMATH OF THE ATTACK

A look at The Resistance Front, the terrorist group suspected to be behind the massacre, and fallout across Jammu & Kashmir



THE RESISTANCE FRONT (TRF), THE PRIME SUSPECTS

■ Claimed responsibility for Pahalgam attack that killed 26 people

■ Proxy of the banned Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT)

■ Founded in October 2019, shortly after abrogation of Article 370

■ Declared a terrorist organisation in 2023, it recruits youth through online platforms

■ Led by Sheikh Sajjad Gul; key commanders included Abbas Sheikh (killed in 2021) and Basit Ahmed Dar (killed in May 2024)

■ Digital footprints linked to safe houses in Muzaffarabad and Karachi, confirming cross-border coordination



SUSPECTS AND PERPETRATORS

■ Saifullah Kasuri (alias Khalid), senior LeT commander and close aide of Hafeez Saeed, believed to be the mastermind

■ Asif Fauji, reportedly the group's leader on the ground, possibly linked to the Pakistan Army

■ Other identified attackers include Suleman Shah and Abu Talha;

all three used aliases Moosa, Yunus, and Asif

■ Two local men, Adil Guri from Anantnag and Ahsan from Pulwama, suspected to be part of the group; both visited Pakistan in 2018

■ Security agencies released sketches of three attackers based on survivor accounts and later photos

CIVILIAN RESPONSE AND PUBLIC SENTIMENT

■ On April 23, Kashmir Valley observed a complete shutdown – the first such bandh in 35 years – to protest the killings

IMPACT ON TOURISM

■ Immediate and widespread hotel booking cancellations in Pahalgam, Gulmarg, and nearby destinations

■ Tourists began departing in large numbers, leaving popular spots deserted

FIRST-PERSON ACCOUNT

‘Saw a man running down with blood oozing from his hand’

Team Herald

PANJIM: A tour manager from Goa, who is still stranded in Srinagar along with 23 tourists from the State, narrated to *O Herald* how they had a close encounter with terror. Narrating the frightening experience over phone, in a trembling voice, Amit Samant, the tour manager said, “We went to Chandanwari and from there we were supposed to visit Baisaran point. When we were having lunch, we saw a man running down with blood coming out from his hand. But soon we heard sounds of firing. We pulled down the shutters of the restaurant where we were having lunch.”

He went on to add: “Then we saw many people fleeing. Ambulances arrived and started taking injured to hospitals. Though I have organised many tours, this is the first time that I am experiencing something like this. Everyone was traumatised. We somehow managed to reach our vehicles with the help of locals. Then by bus we managed to reach Srinagar. There were a lot of ambulances

“We went to Chandanwari and from there we were supposed to visit Baisaran point. When we were having lunch, we saw a man running down with blood coming out from his hand. But soon we heard sounds of firing. We pulled down the shutters of the restaurant where we were having lunch”

and vehicles of the Army. We then realised that we were hardly a kilometre away from the spot where the incident took place,” he said.

According to Samant, the tour party comprised five kids and nine couples from places including Margao, Corlim and Mapusa. It still sends a chill down their spine when they think what would have happened if they had reached Baisaran a little earlier.

A lady tourist, who is in the group, said, “We were rescued by the locals and the guide of the tour operator. We safely reached Srinagar last night.”

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Govt is dedicated to bringing all Goans back home safe: CM

After Pahalgam terror attack, security tightened in State

Team Herald

PANJIM: Three couples from Goa narrowly escaped the Pahalgam terror attack, having left the area just 15 minutes before the incident occurred.

Speaking to reporters at Mantralaya, Porvorim, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said, “While three couples from Goa were present in the area where the terror incident took place, they had departed 15 minutes prior to the attack.”

“In light of the Pahalgam terror attack, security measures have been intensified in Goa. Currently, 26 people, including the three couples from Goa, remain

“While three couples from Goa were present in the area where the terror incident took place, they had departed 15 minutes prior to the attack. In light of the Pahalgam terror attack, security measures have been intensified in Goa. Currently, 26 Goans, including the three couples, remain in Jammu and Kashmir, government is dedicated to ensuring their safe return”

– Pramod Sawant, Chief Minister

in Jammu and Kashmir, government is dedicated to ensuring their safe return,” he said.

“As Goa is a coastal and popular tourist destination, the police department maintains a state of alert at all times. Following the Jammu and Kashmir incident, security has been tightened,” Sawant said.

The Chief Minister has condemned the terror attack and expressed his deepest condolences to the victims' families.

Meanwhile, tour operators in Goa are trying to bring all tourists back from Jammu and Kashmir.

According to one tour operator, some tourists were scheduled to visit Baisaran

point after lunch, which was the location of the attack.

Ahraz Mulla, co-founder of the Goa Adventure Club in Panjim, said, “One group of Goans was in the Pahalgam market, while another was in Sonamarg when the incident occurred. All tourists have been safely relocated to a hotel in Srinagar.”

“My company had organised a trip for 34 people to Pahalgam and 12 to Jammu,” Mulla added.

Due to a landslide, those in Jammu are stranded and unable to fly out due to fully booked flights.

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Sanvordem's green cover in danger

Locals allege tree cutting and land filling; claim stone crusher has been installed on Survey No. 8/1

Team Herald

SANVORDEM: Despite government assuring that it will not allow illegal hill cutting and tree felling, a stone crusher has been illegally installed on Survey No 8/1 in Sanvordem Panchayat jurisdiction, where large-scale tree cutting and land filling have also occurred.

Locals claim the stone crusher is situated directly on a nullah that is prone to regular flooding during monsoon. The nullah is adjacent to the main road from Sanvordem to Mollem and Dharbandora, they alleged.

The residents claim that these activities were based solely on provisional per-



“Objections were raised when the clearing work began. Despite these objections, numerous trees were cut down. The issue was raised in the last gram sabha and we had requested the panchayat not to permit any projects in the area due to high levels of pollution from two industrial units”

– Swapnil Bhandari, Sanvordem resident

mission from the Sanvordem panchayat, which does not authorise them.

Swapnil Bhandari, a local resident, said, “Objections were raised when

the clearing work began. Despite these objections, numerous trees were cut down.”

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Pope Francis's funeral on April 26

AGENCIES, THE VATICAN: Pope Francis's funeral will be held on April 26, in the majestic Baroque plaza in front of St Peter's Basilica at the Vatican at 10 am local time (1.30 pm IST).

The funeral date was set by cardinals meeting in a so-called “general congregation”, the first of a series of meetings which will culminate in a conclave within three weeks, where a new pope will be elected.

Several world leaders are expected to attend to honour the Catholic leader.

The Argentine pontiff, 88, died on April 21, following a stroke, less than a month after returning home from five weeks in hospital battling double pneumonia.

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GOA CASHEW FEST 2025 Season 3

EXPLORE • EMPOWER • ENRICH

As a mark of respect to the innocent lives lost in the tragic Pahalgam terror attack, Goa Cashew Fest 2025 scheduled on 25th, 26th & 27th April, stands postponed.

New dates for the festival will be announced shortly.

We extend our heartfelt sympathies to the victims families and stand in solidarity during their time of grief.