

MAJOR TERRORIST ATTACKS IN JAMMU & KASHMIR
(JANUARY - JULY 2006)
A PROFILE

Priyashree Andley

Research Intern, IPCS

16 January 2006

Militants strike on CPM activists in Kulgam

Militants launched a major offensive to strike on the party functionaries of the CPI (M). State secretary Mohammad Yusuf Tarigami had earlier played a key role in organizing New Delhi's first round of dialogue with the Valley's moderate secessionists like Sajjad Gani Lone. Militants fired upon Gulzar Ahmed, nephew of the CPI (M) State secretary, at Kulgam, and two other CPI (M) activists, namely Bashir Ahmed Rishi at Kehrawat and Aijaz Ahmed Malla at Sholipura village on 16 January. The first two activists were killed while Ahmad Malla sustained leg injuries.¹

21 January 2006

Grenade blast in Budshah Chowk

Militants lobbed a grenade at a bunker vehicle of CRPF 131 Bn in Budshah Chowk in Srinagar. Seven persons, including four civilians, were wounded. The explosion caused stampede in the crowded Budshah Chowk and Maisuma marketplaces. A powerful IED lying at the bottom of an electric pole outside Bostaan restaurant near Bakhshi Stadium was

detected and neutralized on the same day.²

8 February 2006

IED on highway defused

Security forces averted a major attack as they detected and defused a powerful Improvised Explosive Device (IED) planted by militants on the 300-km-long Srinagar-Jammu national highway. Traffic on the highway, which is the only road linking Kashmir valley with the rest of the country, was suspended and bomb disposal squad was summoned to defuse the IED.³

14 February 2006

Grenade attack at Sopore

Six pedestrians were injured and vehicles were damaged in a grenade attack in Sopore on 14 February. The grenade missed the intended target, a picket of 112 Battalion BSF near the bus stand, and exploded on the roadside.

On the same day, Security Forces gunned down three LeT militants after an overnight gun battle at Bandipore in north Kashmir. A huge cache of arms and ammunition, including a foreign made missile having a

¹ Ahmed Ali Fayyaz, "Militants strike on CPM activists in Kulgam; 2 killed, 1 critical," *Daily Excelsior*, 17 January 2006

² "7 injured in grenade blast," *Daily Excelsior*, 22 January 2006

³ "IED on highway defused," *Daily Excelsior*, 8 February 2006

potential to cause substantial damage to life and property, were recovered from Kupwara.⁴

18 March 2006

Car bomb at Rawalpura

Nine soldiers and one woman were injured in a powerful car bomb blast at Rawalpura in Srinagar. The Hizb-ul-Mujahideen claimed responsibility for the attack. The explosion took place on the Old Airport Road when an Army convoy passed through the area and hit one of the vehicles. The Army vehicle was partially damaged.⁵

30 March 2006

IED at Soura in Srinagar

The Hizbul Muzahideen ultras blew up a CRPF vehicle with an Improvised Explosive Device, which killed a jawan and injured five others, including an Assistant Commandant of the force. The IED, planted by militants on Ali Jan Road at Soura, was set off when the vehicle of 123rd battalion of CRPF was on way to Soura from Safakadal. It was attacked near Soura medical institute.⁶

4 April 2006

Union Water Resource Minister shot dead

An unidentified gunman attacked the Union Water Resources Minister and senior Congress leader Saif-ud-Din Soz's associate, Wali Mohammad War, near a shrine in Baramulla. He was Congress party's elected Councillor from Ward No: four, Khwaja Sahib in the Baramulla Municipal Council.⁷

⁴ "Three LeT militants killed; 6 civilians hurt in Sopore grenade blast," *Daily Excelsior*, 14 February 2006

⁵ "Jawans injured as ultras blast explosive-laden car," *Hindu*, 19 March 2006

⁶ "Hizbul Ultras strike again, CRPF jawan killed and five injured," *Daily Excelsior*, 31 March 2006

⁷ "Third Congress Councillor dead," *Daily Excelsior*, 5 April 2006

14 April 2006

Series of Explosions by militant groups

Terrorists triggered out seven grenade blasts in Srinagar, which killed five civilians and injured 44 persons, including 14 SF personnel. The Jamiat-ul-Mujahedin, the Islamic Front, the Jaish-e-Mohammad and Al-Mansoorian claimed responsibility for the attacks. They said the security forces were the targets.⁸

25 April 2006

Grenade attacks in Pulwama and Kupwara

One person was killed and 32 injured in militant attacks and clashes between political parties on 25 April, in Pulwama and Kupwara districts, during by-elections in the four Assembly segments in the State.⁹

27 April 2006

Grenade attack injures tourists

Eight tourists were among the 20 people wounded in a hand grenade blast at a bus stand in Pahalgam in South Kashmir on 27 April. The unidentified militants hurled a hand grenade towards security forces but missed the intended target and exploded on the roadside causing injuries to 20 persons. Most of the injured persons were discharged from the hospital after giving them first aid.¹⁰

1 May 2006

Massacre of Hindus and Gujjars in Doda

35 Hindu villagers were killed in two separate terror strikes in the districts

⁸ Shujaat Bukhari, "Five killed in 7 explosions in Srinagar," *Hindu*, 15 April 2006

⁹ Shujaat Bukhari, "One killed, 32 injured in election violence in Jammu and Kashmir," *Hindu*, 25 April 2006

¹⁰ "8 tourists among 20 injured," *Daily Excelsior*, 28 April 2006

of Doda and Udampur, northeast of the city of Jammu. 22 residents of the mountain hamlets of Kulhand and Tharva, including a three-year-old girl, were shot dead outside their homes late at night. Thirteen shepherds were shot dead north of the Lalon Galla, a high-altitude meadow above the town of Basantgarh.¹¹

13 May 2006

Grenade attack on a procession by BJP workers in Doda

Two BJP activists were killed and 41 others sustained injuries in a grenade attack on a procession taken out jointly by the BJP workers and the people, who had shifted from Kulhand after the killing of Hindus on 1 May, at New Bus Stand in Doda town.

After the blast BJP workers enforced a bandh in Doda, Bhadarwah, Kishtwar and Batote towns and shouted slogans against militants and the Government. About 200 people joined the protest demonstration demanding security for the people in Kulhand area and sophisticated weapons for the Village Defence Committees.¹²

21 May 2006

Attack on Congress rally in Srinagar

Two terrorists in police uniform attacked a rally of the Youth Congress at Sher-e-Kashmir Park in Srinagar. A total of nine persons including three political activists and two police personnel were killed and 25 persons sustained injuries. The LeT and Al-Mansoorian claimed responsibility for

the attack. Two terrorists were subsequently killed in an encounter.¹³

22 May 2006

Four grenade explosions across Srinagar

Three persons were killed and 30 persons, including 23 civilians, were injured in separate grenade attacks in Srinagar. Subsequently, the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) claimed responsibility for these attacks.¹⁴

23 May 2006

Suicide car bomb attack on BSF bus

A suicide bomber rammed an explosive-laden car into a bus carrying Border Security Force personnel at the Hyderpora colony, near the Srinagar Airport. The bomber was killed and 25 BSF men were injured. The Hizb-ul Mujahideen claimed responsibility for the attack.¹⁵

24 May 2006

Six grenade attacks in Srinagar

Militants carried out six grenade attacks that injured 38 people, including 14 security personnel. The LeT claimed responsibility for the attack. The first attack was carried out at Qammerwari, 10 km from the venue of the round table. In the second attack, militants hurled a grenade towards a CRPF jawan at Sarafkadal in Srinagar. Two civilians and the CRPF jawan were injured.¹⁶

¹¹ Praveen Swami and Luv Puri, "Serial terror strikes claim 35 lives in Doda and Udampur," *Hindu*, 2 May 2006

¹² Daily excsior, 14 May

¹³ Shujaat Bukhari, "Attack will not hamper peace process: J&K Governor," *Hindu*, 22 May 2006

¹⁴ Smita Gupta, "Gloomy Go Round," *Outlook*, 5 June 2006

¹⁵ Shujaat Bukhari, "Car bomb attack in Srinagar," *Hindu*, 24 May 2006

¹⁶ "38 injured in series of grenade attacks in Kashmir," *Hindu*, 25 May 2006

25 May 2006

Grenade attack on a tourist bus

Four tourists from Gujarat were killed and six others sustained injuries when terrorists hurled a grenade at a tourist bus on the outskirts of Srinagar. The tourists were headed for the Mughal gardens when a grenade was thrown at the bus. Two women and a child died on the spot. Another person died in hospital. No militant group has claimed responsibility for the attack.¹⁷

31 May 2006

Tourist bus attacked by terrorists

36 tourists from West Bengal sustained injuries when unidentified terrorists carried out grenade attacks on two tourist buses in the Dalgate area of Srinagar. The militants hurled two grenades at the two buses. No militant outfit claimed responsibility for the attack.¹⁸

12 June 2006

Series of grenade attacks

Militants killed 10 persons, including seven Nepalese labourers working in a brick kiln at Budroo village in Kulgam, and injured four Amarnath Yatra pilgrims, in two major strikes in Jammu and Kashmir. They segregated the Kashmiri labourers from the non-Kashmiri labourers and fired at them. Also, terrorists at Sopore in the Baramulla district killed two police personnel, Bashir Ahmed and Hilal Ahmed. A civilian was killed and 29 others are injured when terrorists lobbed three grenades in quick succession at the General Bus Stand in Jammu town. Six buses were damaged in the attack.¹⁹

14 June 2006

¹⁷ "4 killed in attack on tourists," *Hindu*, 26 May 2006

¹⁸ Shujaat Bukhari "Tourists attacked again," *Hindu*, 1 June 2006

¹⁹ "Ten killed in two militant attacks in J&K," *Hindu*, 13 June 2006

Retired Treasury Officer and relative killed

Suspected terrorists shot dead two civilians, retired Treasury Officer, Ghulam Rasool Bohru and Firdaus Ahmed Bohru, in the Bandipore area of Baramulla district.

They were residents of Nadihal, Bandipore, where they were returning from the headquarters of RR 14 Bn after attending its raising day function. Both of them died on spot.

They were among a number of civilians who had attended the raising day function of RR 14 Bn.²⁰

16 June 2006

Attack on villagers in Udhampur

A seven-member Lashkar squad targeted the village of Nehoch-Dunga, in the Gulabgarh area of the district of Udhampur, to punish villagers it believed had helped security forces eliminate terrorists in the area. The terrorists beheaded 65-year-old Abdul Ahad in the presence of the entire village, and then cut off the noses and ears of Roshan Din and Ghulam Rasool. Six other villagers received brutal beating.²¹

21 June 2006

Attack on Amarnath Pilgrims

Five Amarnath pilgrims were injured as militants hurled a grenade into the bus they were traveling near Ganderbal on their way back to Srinagar from Baltal. They had returned after visiting the holy cave.²²

8 July 2006

Grenade lobbed at Astanpur Village

Five persons, including Ghulam Nabi Dar, a former National Conference

²⁰ "Lashkar attack on Udhampur villagers," *Daily Excelsior*, 15 June 2006

²¹ Praveen Swami, "A war with three fronts," *Frontline*, Volume 23 - Issue 13 Jul. 01-14, 2006

²² P.L Bakshi, editorial: "Death of Innocent visitors," *Daily Excelsior*, 26 June 2006

MLA, were killed and 41 injured in a militant attack at a south Kashmir village. Sakina Itoo, an NC member of the Legislative Council, visited the Astanpura village in Kulgam where militants lobbed a grenade into a crowd. She was among those injured. Two persons died on the spot and three died in hospitals where the injured were rushed. Two policemen, a CRPF jawan, a Special Police Officer and two children were wounded.²³

11 July 2006

Five grenade attacks targeting tourists in Srinagar

Eight persons died and 43 sustained injuries as suspected militants carried out series of grenade attacks, targeting domestic tourists in Dalgate and Lalchowk areas of Civil Lines in Srinagar. Lashkar-e-Toiba was held responsible for these attacks and the Baramulla youth captured by the people and handed over to Police was an operative of that guerrilla organization.²⁴

12 Jul 2006

Five Hindus killed in Kashmir

Insurgents killed six people, including five Hindus, in three incidents in Poonch and Doda districts in Jammu. Terrorists struck at two houses of one civilian named Mangat Ram Sharma and killed Priyanka Sharma and Meenakshi Sharma. Terrorist also attacked Lokesh Kumar and Pankaj Kumar. No terrorist outfit claimed responsibility after the killings. Suspected Lashkar-e-Toiba militants killed a Village Defence Committee

(VDC) member Mir Chand near Bhaderwah town on the same night.²⁵

12 July 2006

Gulmarg tourists attacked

Suspected terrorists hurled a grenade towards a tourist's vehicle at Gulmarg which injured seven tourists, including three women. Two Army troopers received injuries, when militants lobbed grenade towards them in Sopore. Six tourists were inside the bus, when the grenade was thrown near general bus stand, Gulmarg.²⁶

15 July 2006

Grenade lobbed en-route to Amarnath

Militants lobbed a grenade at Beehama Chowk in Ganderbal, en-route Amarnath Yatra. One civilian was killed and six others sustained injuries. People took to streets against the attack and protested demanding identification of the killers, who were unleashing terror on civilians. A Lashkar-e-Toiba militant was killed in an encounter with troopers at Kulgam. Police also foiled an exfiltration bid in Lolab, Kupwara and arrested six persons, including two HM activists.²⁷

²³ Shujat Bukhari, "5 killed, 41 injured in J&K grenade attack," *Hindu*, 9 July 2006

²⁴ Ahmed Ali Fayyaz, "8 killed, 43 injured in 5 grenade attacks in Srinagar," *Daily Excelsior*, 12 July 2006

²⁵ "Insurgents kill six including 5 Hindus in Poonch and Doda," *Daily Excelsior*, 13 July 2006

²⁶ "Gulmarg too under attack, 7 tourists injured," *Daily Excelsior*, 13 July 2006

²⁷ "Two HM activists among Six exfiltrators arrested," *Daily Excelsior*, 16 July 2006