



# TERROR TRACKER

*Newsletter by Counter Terrorism Centre*



MANOHAR PARRIKAR INSTITUTE FOR  
DEFENCE STUDIES AND ANALYSES  
मनोहर पर्रिकर रक्षा अध्ययन एवं विश्लेषण संस्थान



## **UDAIPUR BEHEADING** SPARKS NATION-WIDE OUTRAGE

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# UDAIPUR BEHEADING STIRS NATION-WIDE OUTRAGE

ASSAILANTS VIDEOTAPE GRUESOME MURDER OF NUPUR SHARMA SUPPORTER



The killers brazenly admitting their heinous crime in a video released after the attack

In a horrific terrorist act, Kanhaiya Lal, an Udaipur-based tailor, was beheaded in broad daylight by two jihadists – Riaz Attari and Ghouse Mohammad – on 28th June 2022. About four and five other people have also been detained in their connection with the killing. Kanhaiya Lal was accused to have supported Nupur Sharma on social media, whose televised remarks about the Prophet had generated controversy. The attack was shot on camera and released with a message by terrorists.

On 15<sup>th</sup> June 2022, the victim had approached the police regarding death threats, which were issued against him on social media. However, the officers sought to resolve the matter through mediation and left it that, convinced that the “matter was resolved.” The killing sparked widespread condemnation from central and state governments, as well as the general public. Rajasthan Chief Minister, Mr. Ashok Gehlot called the beheading a “stigma on humanity,” and announced a financial assistance of Rs. 50 lakhs to the victim’s bereaved family members, and promised employment for the victim’s children at all-party meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2022. The case, as tweeted by the Ministry of Home Affairs’ official handle, will now be pursued by the National Investigation Agency. A team from the agency has been deployed to Udaipur for further investigation.

The first accused had recorded a video on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2022, claiming it would be released once he beheaded those who had made insulting remarks about the Prophet. An Assistant Sub-Inspector has now been suspended for not taking timely action, resulting in Mr. Lal’s ghastly murder. – [NDTV](#), [Times of India](#), [The Wire](#)

## CHEMIST HACKED TO DEATH IN AMRAVATI



CHEMIST UMESH KOLHE

A 54-year-old chemist was hacked to death in Maharashtra’s Amravati city for allegedly making a social media post in support of suspended BJP leader Nupur Sharma.. Chemist Umesh Prahladrao Kolhe was stabbed to death in Amravati on June 21, a week before two men hacked to death Kanhaiya Lal in Udaipur.

Local BJP leaders submitted a letter to police over the murder of Kolhe, alleging that he was killed to “take revenge and set an example”.

Police is reported to have told journalists that they have received a letter from BJP leaders and are investigating the matter. An FIR has been lodged and six people have been arrested in connection with the case, police said. — [India Today](#)

## 15-YEAR JAIL TERM FOR LeT DEPUTY CHIEF SAJID MIR



**S**ajid Mir, the Deputy Chief of LeT, and believed to be the mastermind of the 26/11 terrorist attacks in Mumbai, was convicted by a court in Lahore on terror financing charges.

An anti-terrorism court had sentenced him to 15 and a half years in prison in May.

However, the details surrounding the verdict only emerged on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

The court has also levied a fine worth \$2,000.

He had been declared dead by Pakistani authorities in December 2021.

The conviction is believed to have been geared towards its removal from the Financial Action Task Force's "Grey List," securing a much-needed bailout from the International Monetary Fund, and "reset its relations with the U.S., all in one go."

Born in 1976, Mir is said to belong to an ethnic-Punjabi family of Partition refugees. –

[The Hindu](#), [ANI News](#)

# ISIS-K FIGHTERS STORM GURUDWARA IN KABUL

GOVT ISSUES 100 E-EMERGENCY VISA FOR 100 SIKH, HINDU AFGHANS



Smoke billowing out of the Karte Parwan Gurudwara area after the attack in Kabul.  
- ANI

On 18<sup>th</sup> June 2022, ISIS-K fighters stormed the Karte Parwan Gurudwara in Kabul. They killed two people and wounded seven others in that attack. Sawinder Singh (a ceremonial reader of the Guru Granth Sahib) and Ahmad (a security guard), accounted for the fatalities.

This attack was widely condemned by the Indian External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar and the Taliban. The latter has reportedly arrested three ISIS-K members as part of its investigations. An armed battle between the Taliban and ISIS-K fighters had ensued, while hostages were being kept on the second floor of the Gurudwara. 30 people were inside the house of worship when the attack had occurred.

However, at least 150 people had considered this to be their home since the Taliban takeover in August 2021. After the attack, Indian government has decided to grant e-emergency visas to over 100 Afghan Sikhs and Hindus on priority. Reportedly, an impending attack was thwarted by the security officers. An explosive-laden was stopped in its path before reaching the shrine. Notably, this is the second time that Karte Parwan Gurudwara has been attacked by ISIS-K members. At least 12 individuals had been wounded and no less than 25 had died after an attack in March 2020.

The Islamic State's media agency, Amaq, claimed that the attack was in response to Nupur Sharma's televised remarks. It stated that one of the perpetrators had "penetrated a temple for Hindu and Sikh polytheists in Kabul, after killing its guard, and opened fire on the pagans inside with his machine gun and hand grenades." The attack occurred on the heels of discussions between India's Joint Secretary, J.P. Singh and Taliban's Interim Foreign Minister, Amir Khan Muttaqi. – [Wion News](#), [The Hindu](#), [The Tribune](#), [Zee News](#)

# KASHMIRI PANDITS URGE U.N. TO RECOGNISE THEIR PLIGHT

‘UNITED NATIONS SHOULD DESIGNATE PAKISTAN AS A TERRORIST STATE’



Kashmiri Pandits raising slogans on World Refugee Day in Jammu. - PTI

The Kashmiri Pandit United Front (KPUF) marked the World Refugee Day on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2022. It also appealed to the United Nations to designate Pakistan as a terrorist state due to role as a sponsor of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

Its members raised anti-Pakistan slogans while staging demonstrations. Satish Kissu, affiliated with the KPUF added that eradication of terrorism from the Kashmir Valley will not be possible without declaration of Pakistan’s role as state sponsor of terrorism.

Similarly, Panun Kashmir, another Kashmiri Pandit organisation, also staged demonstrations on the same day. Its members also spoke against targeted killings in the Valley. This organisation specifically deals with the Kashmiri Pandits who have been displaced over the years. The recent surge in targeted killings of Kashmiri Pandit migrants, including Mr. Rahul Bhat and Ms. Rajni Bala, have made the minority community fearful of the brewing developments.

On the one hand, over 177 migrant school teachers, based in Srinagar, have now been relocated elsewhere. On the other hand, over 300 migrant workers, who had been recruited in various capacities under the package announced by the Prime Minister, have shifted their base to Jammu. – [Business Standard](#), [The Diplomat](#), [The New Indian Express](#)

## CRACKDOWN ON MISUSE OF SIM CARDS FOR TERROR PURPOSES



In a crackdown led by J&K Police’s SIA, it was discovered that SIM cards were fraudulently sold and misused for terrorist activities, smuggling of narcotics, and other crimes.

The searches were conducted on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

Javid Ahmad Bhat, the owner of Bhat Telecom, was booked for being part of a “criminal conspiracy hatched with OGWs, sympathisers of terrorist organisations, and narcotics smugglers.”

The accused has also been responsible for crimes where “forging of records has taken place wherein photos of a single person has been used to prepare multiple SIM cards with different names and identities.”

Currently, 1,000 telecom operators have been placed under scanner for such activities. – [Greater Kashmir](#)

## PRIME ACCUSED GETS DEATH SENTENCE IN VARANASI BLAST CASE

On 6 June 2022, the prime accused in the March 2006 Varanasi bomb blasts, the 47-year-old Waliullah Khan was sentenced to death by a court in Ghaziabad. The court also imposed a fine of Rs 4.05 lakh on Waliullah, who is lodged at the Dasna jail in Ghaziabad. At least 28 people were killed and over 100 people were injured in the Varanasi serial blast case of 2006, when bombs exploded at the cantonment railway station and the Sankatmochan Temple. Investigative agencies found Waliullah to be affiliated with Harkatul-Jihad-Al-Islami group (HuJI), a terrorist outfit based in Bangladesh.

Waliullah was one of the five perpetrators of these attacks. His accomplice, Muhammad Juber was killed earlier in an encounter with security forces in May 2006. The other three terrorists –Mustakeem, Zakariya, and Basheer –are still absconding. Waliullah had reportedly met his co-conspirators while studying at a seminary. – [The Print](#), [The Times of India](#)

### US Military Takes Out Hurras al-Din Leader

The US military has killed Abu Hamza al Yemeni, a senior leader of Hurras al-Din, an al-Qaeda affiliate, in Syria.

The raid carried out on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2022 was conducted while al Yemeni was travelling on his motorcycle. Hurras al-Din was formed in 2018 and had given refuge to Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi in a house, which the US had raided to kill the ISIS leader in 2019.

The U.S. Central Command had also indicated that no civilian casualties had occurred. – [Arab News](#), [Al Jazeera](#)

### Iranian Migrant Kills Two in Oslo

Norwegian authorities are investigating into the possibility of Islamist terror links with shootings carried out by an Iranian immigrant, Zaniar Matapour, inside and near the London Pub in Oslo. At least two people were killed, while 21 were injured in the deadly attack on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2022. Three victims are reportedly in critical condition.

According to the authorities, the perpetrator was armed with two weapons during the attack. – [Reuters](#), [BBC News](#), [CNN News](#)

### EU Deadline for Removing Terror Web Content

Social media platforms like YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter will have precisely an hour to remove terrorist content from their web pages, as per the European Union's new content regulation. They will be obligated to ensure that similar posts do not find their way on to their platforms again. If they frequently violate the guidelines, they will suffer losses up to four percent of their global revenue. – [Politico](#)

### Al-Qaeda Affiliate Kills 132 Civilians in Mali

Islamist terrorists associated with Macina Katiba, an al-Qaeda affiliate in Mali, killed 132 civilians on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

The attack occurred in the region of Central Mopti, one of the deadliest since the outbreak of the insurgency in 2012.

The Malian government had carried out retaliatory counter-strikes against the jihadists between 20<sup>th</sup> and 22 June 2022. – [VOA News](#), [africanews](#)

### Hamas Terror Funding Case

On 15<sup>th</sup> June 2022, Mohammad al-Halabi, the former head of World Vision's branch in Gaza, has been convicted on terror financing charges by the Beersheba District Court, Israel.

He had been in pre-trial detention since 2016. Israeli authorities have accused al-Halabi of transferring money and material aid to Hamas, possessing a weapon, and of "having transmitted information to the enemy." – [The Jerusalem Post](#), [Arab News](#)

### 500 Terrorists killed in 2.5 Years: J&K Police

On 29<sup>th</sup> June 2022, the tally of the cumulative number of terrorists killed by the J&K Police stood at 500 in two and a half years of concerted efforts by authorities.

This milestone was claimed after two LeT terrorists were eliminated in the Kulgam district in South Kashmir.

IGP J&K Vijay Kumar had announced that similar operations will be conducted across three regions of Kashmir. Security forces are also leaving no stone unturned to ensure that the Amarnath Yatra passes off peacefully – [Greater Kashmir](#)