



TERROR TRACKER

Newsletter by Counter Terrorism Centre



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



TERRORISTS **KILL 11 CIVILIANS** IN KASHMIR

Combining Operations against Terrorists in Poonch Nearing Completion

OVER **135 SHIAS KILLED** IN 2 AFGHAN MOSQUE BLASTS

IS-K May Attack the West in 6-12 Months: The Pentagon

BRITISH **MP STABBED TO DEATH** BY RADICAL ISLAMIST

UK Home Secretary Priti Patel Reviews Security of Legislators

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KASHMIRI TERROR GROUP CLAIMS 11 CIVILIAN LIVES

ETHNIC MINORITIES, MIGRANT WORKERS FEAR RETURN OF 1990s VIOLENCE



Terrorists in Kashmir have killed more civilians than security personnel this year. — PTI

As many as 11 civilians were killed in the month of October 2021, pointing to a new trend in which more civilians than security forces have fallen victim to terrorist violence in Jammu and Kashmir. This has created an uproar and a sense of despair among civilians from ethnic minorities and migrant worker in the valley who now fear the return of 1990s kind of militancy.

On October 17, terrorists fired indiscriminately on a group of people, killing two non-local labourers, a police spokesperson told reporters. Raja Reshi and Joginder Reshi from Bihar died on the spot. Chun Chun Reshi Das, also from Bihar, sustained multiple injuries and was being treated at the Government Medical College in Anantnag. This incident was the third attack on non-locals in Kashmir in two days.

Earlier, Arvind Kumar Sah, a resident of Banka in Bihar, was shot at close range by militants in Srinagar's Eidgah area on Saturday, while Sageer Ahmad, a carpenter from Saharanpur, was killed at Litter in Pulwama district. On October 7, two teachers – Supinder Kaur, principal of the Government Boys Higher Secondary School, and Deepak Chand, a teacher at the same school in Srinagar's Eidgah – were shot dead by gunmen inside the school.

On October 5, three civilians – Makhan Lal Bindroo, a well-known pharmacist in Srinagar; Virender Paswan, a street vendor from Bihar's Bhagalpur; and Mohammad Shafi Lone, head of a taxi union in Bandipora district – were killed in terror attacks. On October 2, two civilians, Majid Guroo and Mohammad Shafi, were shot dead by militants in Srinagar. – *The Hindustan Times*, *BBC*

COMBING OPS IN POONCH ZERO IN ON FOREST CAVES



REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE

The final stages of a search operation is underway for taking out a group of alleged Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists, which likely infiltrated into Jammu and Kashmir in late September/early October and has claimed the lives of nine Army soldiers till now.

It is reported that the combing operation, in the thick Nar Khas forest of the Poonch district in the Jammu region, has been beefed up with the induction of additional troops and Special Forces of the Army.

The operation is reportedly focusing on a number of caves located on the rear part of the forest. Soldiers have been combing each cave, some of which are large enough to easily hide four to five terrorists, and “sanitising” them by using several bursts of fire and grenade explosions, sources said.

— [The Print](#), [India Today](#)

US MILITARY FEARS IS-K ATTACK ON THE WEST IN 6-12 MONTHS



US Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, Colin Kahl

The Islamic State-Khorasan (IS-K) could be capable of carrying out attacks on the United States in 6-12, the Pentagon's top policy official said on 26th of October 2021.

Speaking before the Senate Armed Services Committee, Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, Colin Kahl, said that although the IS-K does not have the ability to carry out such an attack right now, but "we could see IS-K generate that capability in somewhere between six or 12 months." He added that al-Qaeda would take a longer time, maybe a year or two to rebuild that capability.

The estimates from the intelligence community are based on there being no intervention from the US or allies, Lt. Gen. James Mingus, the Director of Operations for the military's Joint Staff, told the hearing. - [CNN](#), [Reuters](#)

TWO AFGHAN MOSQUE BLASTS KILL OVER 135

IS-K CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR KILLING SHIA WORSHIPPERS



The aftermath of the suicide blast at the Kandahar mosque – AP

Islamic State-Khorasan (IS-K) has claimed responsibility for conducting two suicide bomb blasts in Kunduz and Kandahar provinces on 8th October 2021 and 15th October 2021, respectively.

The group attacked Friday congregation prayers at the Shia Gozar-e-Sayed Abad (Kunduz) and Imam Bagh-e-Fatemieh (Kandahar) mosques.

According to Al Jazeera news, at least 72 killed and over 140 injured in the Kunduz blast. In the second instance, 63 people were reportedly killed.

IS-K has long targetted Afghanistan's Shia minorities, having deemed them as "heretics." Shia community comprises almost 20 percent of the total populace and has historically suffered marginalisation and violence at the hands of varying armed factions.

The subsequent attacks against the Afghans have occurred in the backdrop of the formation of the Taliban's interim government and its claims of being in control of the country's security landscape.

Amaq, an Islamic State-linked news agency claimed the Kunduz blast was retribution against the Taliban for complying with China's demands about expelling the East Turkestan Movement militants.

Analysts have claimed that such incidents are attempts by ISK to foment sectarian conflict in a Sunni-majority country.

These blasts appear to be part of a series of coordinated attacks (some of the previous ones occurring in Kabul and Jalalabad) after the withdrawal of the international coalition. – [AP](#), [Al Arabiya News](#), [Al Jazeera](#) and [The Times of India](#)

UK LEGISLATOR STABBED TO DEATH BY RADICAL ISLAMIST

BRITISH MP SIR DAVID AMESS KILLED BY YOUTH OF SOMALI DESCENT



Sir David Amess (left) was attacked by a youth of Somali descent Ali Harbi Ali (inset) at Belfairs Methodist Church in Leigh-on-Sea, Essex (Picture: Rex/w8media)

On 15 October 2021, British MP David Amess was stabbed “multiple times” during an event in his local constituency in southeast England, the BBC reported.

Amess was holding a his regular weekly meeting with constituents at the Belfairs Methodist Church, in the small town of Leigh-on-Sea. He had advertised the event on his official Twitter account.

A 25-year-old youth of Somali descent Ali Harbi Ali was arrested for the murder at the scene of the killing. He also faces a separate charge of preparing acts of terrorism. It is learned that a few years ago, Ali was referred to the counter-terrorism Prevent scheme — which aims to prevent people from radicalizing. As the participation in the initiative was voluntary and not based on criminal sanction, he did not spend long in the Prevent programme.

Matt Jukes, assistant commissioner for specialist operations, told reporters that detectives have been working around the clock on the case. Searches had been carried out at several London addresses, while forensic examination had been conducted on digital devices and security camera footage reviewed, he said.

Nick Price, head of the CPS special crime and counter-terrorism unit, said lawyers would submit that Amess’ killing “has a terrorist connection, namely that it had both religious and ideological motivations”. — [BBC News](#), [AFP](#), [Daily Mail](#), [London News Today](#)

BRITISH HOME MINISTER PRITI PATEL REVIEWS SECURITY OF LAWMAKERS



PRITI PATEL

In the wake of the recent killing, MPs are pressing for more stringent security and protection during their constituency meetings, which are open to anyone.

Priti Patel, the UK’s Home Secretary, has ordered a review of security arrangements for the elected representatives in the light of given circumstances.

While expressing her condolences, Patel said that Sir Amess’ killing is “heart-breaking beyond words,” and termed the incident as a “senseless attack on democracy itself.”

While the concern surrounding the MPs’ security has been a long-standing issue of debate in the UK, the recent killing marked the second significant attack against a lawmaker after the murder of Jo Cox (Labour MP) in 2016 by a far-right extremist. — [The Guardian](#), [The Evening Standard](#)

India-Sri Lanka Conduct Joint Military Exercise to Counter Terrorism

The eighth edition of the Mitra Shakti exercise between India and Sri Lanka was conducted at Ampara in Sri Lanka from 4 to 16 October.

The 12-day-long bilateral military exercise; was aimed at countering terrorism and insurgency in semi-urban terrain. This is an annual training exercise conducted by both countries, with the location alternating between India and Sri Lanka. The previous edition was organized in Pune in 2019.

In a statement issued by the Indian Ministry of Defence, this joint exercise was hailed as contributing significantly to the growing defense partnership between the two neighbouring states, alongside improving synergy and interoperability between their armed forces. The 120-member Indian delegation was headed by Colonel Prakash Kumar. — [ANI](#), [The Hindu](#)

US Detains ‘Voice behind ISIS Videos

Mohammed Khalifa, a 38-year-old Canadian citizen who travelled to Syria in 2013 to join the terror group ISIS, has been detained by the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for providing “material support to a terrorist organisation, resulting in death.” Fluent in both English and Arabic, Saudi-born Khalifa was the lead translator for the Islamic State propaganda machine and voiced the infamous beheading videos responsible for the radicalization and recruitment of western audiences.

He was captured in 2019 by the US backed Kurdish-led militia and is now scheduled to make an appearance at a US court hearing for his alleged role as an IS fighter and for being the ‘voice’ behind the violence. — [NYT](#), [BBC News](#)

Australian imprisoned for plotting terrorism

A 22-year-old Sydney resident, Isaac El Matari, has been sentenced to seven years in prison. He has been charged with planning terrorist attacks on Australian soil and for preparing to be a foreign fighter in Afghanistan.

He pleaded guilty and admitted to being a member of ISIS in 2019. — [The Sydney Morning Herald](#)

Senior Al-Shabab commander surrenders

On 9 October 2021, the Somali National Army (SNA) said that Adan Shiniyow Ibrahim, a senior Al-Shabab official, surrendered amid intensified security operations against the terrorist group. Ibrahim had been associated with the group for 10 years. — [MTV Somali](#)

Mali accuses France of “training terrorists”

Prime Minister of Mali Choguel Kotkalla Maiga has accused France of training terrorists and colluding with terror groups from Libya, particularly an al-Qaeda-linked group Ansar al-Din.

He made this claim during an interview with RIA Novosti, a Russian state-controlled network. He also claimed that as part of their counter-terrorism operations in the Sahel region, French troops cordoned off an area in Kidal, a northern town, and prohibited the Malian army from accessing the enclave.

President Macron has emphatically refuted the claims made by the Malian premier. — [Hindustan Times](#)

ISIS finance chief nabbed by Iraqi forces

Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa Al-Kadhimi announced on 11 October 2021 that Sami Jasim al-Jaburi, former deputy of the terror group ISIS and its head of finance, has been captured by Iraqi security forces.

Considered to be a close aide of slain ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, US had put a bounty of \$5 million on Jasim’s head. Iraqi officials did not provide more details related to his arrest. — [The Guardian](#), [DW](#)

Repatriating IS brides and children from Syria

Germany and Denmark have arranged a joint repatriation mission for eight German women and 23 children, and three Danish women and 14 children, respectively. The women, and children were being held at a detention camp in Roj in northeastern Syria. — [DW](#), [Al Jazeera](#)