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

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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

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 Rawalpora
Nine soldiers and one woman were injured in a powerful car bomb blast at Rawalpora 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

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 Pahalagam 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

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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
8 Shujaat Bukhari, “Five killed in 7 explosions in Srinagar,” Hindu, 15 April 2006
10 “8 tourists among 20 injured,” Daily Excelsior, 28 April 2006
of Doda and Udhampur, 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.\textsuperscript{11}

\textbf{13 May 2006}

\textbf{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.\textsuperscript{12}

\textbf{21 May 2006}

\textbf{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.\textsuperscript{13}

\textbf{22 May 2006}

\textbf{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.\textsuperscript{14}

\textbf{23 May 2006}

\textbf{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.\textsuperscript{15}

\textbf{24 May 2006}

\textbf{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.\textsuperscript{16}

\begin{footnotesize}
\item[12] Daily excisior, 14 May
\end{footnotesize}
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

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

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17 “4 killed in attack on tourists,” Hindu, 26 May 2006
18 Shujaat Bukhari “Tourists attacked again,” Hindu, 1 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 July 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.\(^{27}\)

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\(^{23}\) Shujat Bukhari, “5 killed, 41 injured in J&K grenade attack,” *Hindu*, 9 July 2006


\(^{25}\) “Insurgents kill six including 5 Hindus in Poonch and Doda,” *Daily Excelsior*, 13 July 2006

\(^{26}\) “Gulmarg too underattack, 7 tourists injured,” *Daily Excelsior*, 13 July 2006

\(^{27}\) “Two HM activists among Six exfiltrators arrested,” *Daily Excelsior*, 16 July 2006