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## India Kills 3 Militants Tied to Kashmir Massacre, Pakistan Clash

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India's Home Minister announced that three Pakistani nationals allegedly responsible for the April 2025 Pahalgam massacre were killed in a joint security operation near Srinagar, intensifying tensions between India and Pakistan.

On July 28, 2025, Indian security forces eliminated three suspected militants accused of orchestrating the April 22, 2025, attack in Pahalgam, Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir. The massacre claimed 26 lives, mostly Hindu tourists, and was described by Indian officials as the deadliest civilian assault in the region in more than two decades. According to Home Minister Amit Shah, the suspects were killed on the outskirts of Srinagar in a joint operation involving the Indian Army, paramilitary units, and the Jammu and Kashmir Police. Shah, speaking before India's Lok Sabha, stated that forensic tests

confirmed the militants' link to the earlier attack, with recovered cartridges matching those used in Pahalgam.

The April massacre triggered “Operation Sindoor” on May 7, 2025, a cross-border strike by India targeting alleged militant camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-administered Kashmir. Pakistan strongly denied any involvement in the attack, with Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif labeling the Indian strikes as “unprovoked.” The situation escalated rapidly, culminating in a four-day military confrontation that reportedly resulted in at least 31 deaths in Pakistan and 15 Indian civilian casualties due to shelling, as reported by the BBC. A U.S.-mediated ceasefire on May 10, 2025, brokered with intervention from President Donald Trump, brought an end to the violence. Trump later commended both sides for showing restraint.

Minister Shah noted that local residents had allegedly provided shelter and assistance to the militants in the days before the Pahalgam incident. Their bodies were later identified by those same villagers, though Indian authorities have not confirmed whether the locals will face charges. Meanwhile, Pakistan has accused India of staging the gunbattle, a claim India firmly denies. Indian officials have linked the attackers to Pakistan-based groups including Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM). The Resistance Front (TRF), considered a proxy for LeT, initially claimed responsibility for the massacre but later withdrew the statement, according to publicly available sources.

The operation near Srinagar reflects India's ongoing campaign against militancy in Kashmir, a territory claimed in full by both countries since the 1947 Partition. Critics in Pakistan, including Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, argue that India's May 7 strikes caused civilian harm, an allegation India refutes, insisting the targets were limited to militant infrastructure. Domestically, the operation is likely to bolster Prime Minister Narendra Modi's national security platform amid prior criticism over delays in capturing those responsible for the Pahalgam killings.