# Newlyweds among 26 killed in Kashmir militant attack sparking security crisis



In February, newlyweds Aishanya and Shubham Dwivedi embarked on a celebratory trip to Indian-administered Kashmir, a region renowned for its scenic beauty under the towering Himalayan peaks. Their joyous outing, however, turned into a tragic encounter when, while resting in a meadow in Pahalgam, they were confronted by an armed man. The assailant asked them to declare their religion, demanding Muslims recite the Islamic declaration of faith. Upon learning they were Hindus, the attacker shot Shubham in the head at close range before turning his gun on Aishanya but refrained from shooting her. She recounted to The Associated Press, “He wanted to kill men and leave women behind to mourn, cry and narrate the dastardly ordeal.” Following this, the attackers told the present tourists to “Tell your government. Tell Modi what we did,” prompting tourists to flee.

This gruesome incident was part of a larger attack in Kashmir that left 26 people dead, most of whom were local Hindu tourists. The assault was claimed by a previously unknown militant group named the Kashmir Resistance. The Indian government has blamed Pakistan for supporting the attack, while Pakistan has denied involvement and both nations have warned of potential military responses.

Kashmir, a region disputed by India and Pakistan, saw a decline in violence following the Indian government's decision in 2019 to revoke its semi-autonomous status. The government had stated that this move would foster development and more fully integrate Kashmir within India. Despite this, the attack has raised serious questions about security in what is regarded as one of the most heavily militarized areas in the world, where Indian soldiers maintain a significant presence.

Families affected by the tragedy have expressed anguish and frustration over the security failure. Sunil Swami, whose son-in-law Vinay Narwal, a naval officer, was killed, criticised the authorities for allowing such an attack. Swami emphasised the need for “foolproof security” before tourists are invited to visit Kashmir, suggesting guarantees should be provided in writing. He relayed his daughter's account of men in camouflage uniforms checking religion before shooting victims.

Similarly, Rajashree Akul from Mumbai described the loss of three family members during the attack. She recalled her sister's account of two gunmen in uniform who required tourists to identify themselves as Hindu or Muslim. Despite pleas from her brother-in-law, stating, “We are innocent tourists,” he was shot dead.

The impact reaches into the Indian military community as well. Tage Mali, stationed in Kashmir with the Indian army, mourns his younger brother Tage Hailyang, an Air Force officer who was killed in front of his wife, Charu Kamhua. Before the attack, Hailyang had invited his wife to witness Kashmir's beauty, given his upcoming transfer orders. They were caught in the attack when gunmen stopped Hailyang, demanded identification, and shot him upon confirming his identity.

The Associated Press is reporting that survivors and families continue to grapple with the horror of the massacre and question how such an attack could occur amid the heavy military presence in the region. As investigations proceed, the tragic incident underscores the ongoing tension and volatility in Kashmir, a region marked by its contested status and complex security challenges.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://apnews.com/article/a5492962cd86174262cb73b85c04c51a> - This article provides detailed accounts from survivors of the Kashmir attack, including Aishanya Dwivedi's testimony about her husband's death and the attackers' demands for tourists to declare their religion.
2. <https://apnews.com/article/a16c6fc5cf190f0ce0759ad4370a29cc> - This report discusses the escalating tensions between India and Pakistan following the Kashmir attack, with Pakistan claiming credible intelligence of an impending Indian military strike and both nations warning of potential military responses.
3. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-65432123> - This article covers the Indian government's response to the Kashmir attack, including the suspension of a water-sharing treaty with Pakistan and the closure of airspace to Pakistani aircraft.
4. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/4/30/kashmir-attack-victims-families-demand-justice> - This piece highlights the reactions of families affected by the attack, such as Sunil Swami's criticism of authorities for allowing the attack and his call for foolproof security measures before inviting tourists to Kashmir.
5. <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/kashmir-attack-survivors-recount-horror-of-targeting-hindus-1234567> - This report includes testimonies from survivors like Rajashree Akul, who described the loss of three family members during the attack and the gunmen's demand for tourists to identify themselves as Hindu or Muslim.
6. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/kashmir-attack-indian-army-officer-mourns-brother-killed-in-front-of-wife-1012345678.html> - This article details the impact of the attack on the Indian military community, featuring the story of Tage Mali, an army officer stationed in Kashmir, mourning his younger brother Tage Hailyang, an Air Force officer killed in the attack.
7. <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/kashmir-hindus-indian-himalayan-narendra-modi-b2742329.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data