

Hizbul Mujahideen (HM)



OVERVIEW

AS OF AUGUST 2025

Hizbul Mujahideen (HM), which was founded in 1989, is one of the oldest Islamist separatist groups fighting against Indian rule in Jammu and Kashmir, with the goal of merging the state with Pakistan. HM is the militant wing of Jamaat-e Islami, one of Pakistan's major political parties, and leads the United Jihad Council, an umbrella organization of anti-India terrorist groups based in Pakistan-administered Azad Kashmir and other parts of the country. During the 1990s, HM members trained alongside Afghan mujahidin groups, including Hezb-e Islami Gulbuddin, maintaining as many as 10,000 fighters at its peak. Between the late 1990s and late 2010s, internal splintering and the elimination of several key HM leaders probably disrupted the group's internal structure and membership, resulting in a notable decline in the frequency and scale of its attacks.

Operating Area

Headquartered in Pakistan; conducts operations primarily in India, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir

Members

At most 1,500 fighters, as of 2020

Tactics And Targets

HM has used small arms, grenades, and IEDs to attack Indian security forces, government officials, politicians, and occasionally civilians in Jammu and Kashmir. The group operates in small, loosely connected networks and cells, sometimes alongside other militants in Kashmir.

Terrorist Group Designation

The Department of State designated HM as a foreign terrorist organization on 17 August 2017. The group's current leader, Syed Salahuddin, was listed as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist on 26 June 2017.

KEY LEADERS



Mohammad Yusuf Shah

a.k.a. Syed Salahuddin

Amir since 1990



Hizbul Mujahideen (HM) *(continued)*

NOTABLE ATTACKS

14-19 October 2019

Kulgam district of Jammu and Kashmir, India

During a span of about five days, HM kills six truck drivers across Jammu and Kashmir using small arms and a grenade.

7 March 2019

City of Jammu, Jammu and Kashmir, India

An HM member uses a grenade to attack a bus stand, killing one person and wounding 32 others.

21 September 2018

Shupiyan district of Jammu and Kashmir, India

HM militants, along with members of Lashkar-e Tayyiba, abduct three policemen from their homes and execute them by gunfire.

1 May 2017

Kulgam district of Jammu and Kashmir, India

HM members kill seven people, including five policemen, during an attack on a bank van. The attackers take weapons but no cash during the attack.

