

3.2.2. Lashkar-e Taiba (LeT)

Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) is an Islamic Salafist militant group established in 1986[344] as an armed wing of the Sunni Islamist organisation Markaz-ud-Dawa-wal-Irshad.[345] While seeking exclusive Pakistani control over the Kashmir region,[346] it is known to harbour more wide-reaching hostility towards India,[347] striving to establish Islamic rule across the Indian subcontinent.[348] It has collaborated with other Kashmiri-oriented[349] groups such as Jaish-e Mohammed (JeM) and Harakat ul-Mujahideen (HuM) and supported al-Qaeda.[350] At the same time, the group has refrained from attacks inside Pakistan and condemned anti-state militancy in the country, at times even providing assistance in neutralising militants.[351] While Pakistan's ISI had strong institutional, albeit covert, ties with LeT in the past, there has been less clarity as to the current extent of state support for the group.[352] There was even some controversy during the reference period as to whether the group was active[353] or defunct.[354] Sources estimated that the group had 'several thousand'[355] up to 5 000 members.[356] The group's headquarters are reportedly located in the city of Muridke in Pakistan's Punjab province.[357] Disputed allegations held that LeT played a role in a major deadly attack in Pahalgam (Jammu and Kashmir) in April 2025 that was initially claimed by The Resistance Front (TRF), a group possibly identical with LeT.[358] Following the Pahalgam attack, India launched missile strikes against the alleged LeT headquarters.[359]

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