



S Jaishankar with his Danish counterpart Lars Lokke Rasmussen in Denmark | PTI

Pahalgam attack shows extreme religious outlook of Munir, says Jaishankar

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EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has linked the Pahalgam terror attack, where tourists were targeted and killed based on their religion, as the “extreme religious outlook” of Pakistan’s army chief Asim Munir.

In a sharp statement during an interview with Dutch broadcaster NOS, Jaishankar said, “Tourists were murdered in front of their families after ascertaining their faith, and it was done in a way to harm tourism, which is the mainstay of the Kashmir economy, and to create a religious discord.”

The attack has reignited concerns over the role of religious extremism in cross-border terrorism. Indian authorities see the attack as a calculated move not only to instill fear but also to disrupt the peace and economic recovery in the region.

Jaishankar said that such acts of terror are not isolated,

but rather influenced by Pakistan’s military leadership. “And to understand that, you’ve got to also see the Pakistani side — you have a Pakistani leadership, especially their army chief, who is driven by an extreme religious outlook, so there is clearly some connect between the views that were expressed and the behaviour that was done,” he said.

Jaishankar’s comments reflect India’s growing frustration with what it views as continued support for terrorism by Pakistan’s establishment.

The remarks also come amid broader regional tensions and at a time when India has been actively promoting Kashmir as a safe and attractive destination for tourists and investors. Jaishankar has also clarified that the recent understanding reached between India and Pakistan was the outcome of direct talks between the two countries, and not the result of any third-party mediation.