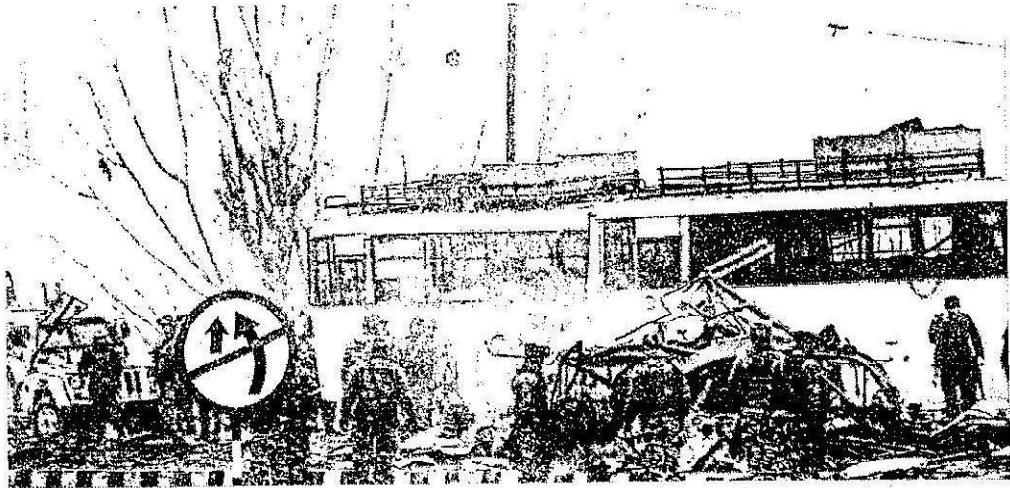


Nadda cites Chaudhry's statement to hit out at Rahul

BJP chief J P Nadda on Thursday hit out at Rahul Gandhi after Fawad Chaudhry's statement, saying the Congress MP always attacked the morale of the forces by questioning the authenticity of the surgical strikes. "The Congress has always been busy attacking the morale of the armed forces. The Congress always takes critical views of the surgical strike, airstrike in Pakistan, Galwan clashes and Article 370," said Nadda. He said the admission of the fact in the Pakistan Assembly on circumstances leading to the release of Wing Commander Abhinandan clearly affirmed India's punitive actions against Pakistan.

Pak minister admits role in Pulwama attack

Fawad Chaudhry brags about 'Imran govt's success' in Pulwama



Pakistan has repeatedly denied its hand in the February 2019 Pulwama attack in which 40 CRPF men were martyred | FILE

PUSHKAR BANAKAR @NewDelhi

IN a clear admission of Pakistan's involvement in the Pulwama terror attack on February 14 last year, a senior minister of the country, Fawad Chaudhry, on Thursday boasted that the killing of 40 CRPF personnel was "a great achievement of the Imran Khan government".

"Humne Hindustan ko ghus ke maara (We entered India and hit them hard). Our success in Pulwama is a success of the people under the leadership of Imran Khan. You and we are all part of that success," Chaudhry said in the National Assembly.

The Science & Technology Minister, however, realised his blunder when some lawmakers objected to his statement. Appearing to backtrack, Chaudhry rephrased his remarks as, "After the Pulwama incident, when we hit India in their home."

Pakistan has repeatedly denied its role in the Pulwama

attack. Chaudhry's comments could leave the Imran Khan government red-faced, especially as it comes days after the global terror finance watchdog FATF has retained the country in its grey list.

In a tweet that was apparently aimed at damage control, he said, "We do not show bravery by killing innocents n we condemn terrorism."



Humne Hindustan ko ghus ke maara (We entered India and hit them). Our success in Pulwama is a success of the people under the leadership of Imran Khan — Fawad Chaudhry, Pak minister

India had retaliated to the Pulwama attack by carrying out an airstrike on a terror camp in Balakot in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir. Islamabad had sent jets in response, which the IAF had blocked. However, Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman was captured after his Mirage 2000 was shot down. He was released two days later.

Chaudhry's admission of Paki-

stan's role in the terror attack that triggered this entire chain of events came during a debate over Opposition leader Ayaz Sadiq's comments over a meeting between foreign minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi and army chief General Qamar Bajwa.

"I remember Qureshi was in the meeting which Imran Khan had refused to attend

and Gen Bajwa came into the room. His legs were shaking and he was perspiring. The foreign minister said, 'for God's sake, let Abhinandan go; India's about to attack Pakistan at 9 pm'," Sadiq said.

His comment caused a furore with the foreign office clarifying the officer was freed as a friendly gesture and not because the establishment was scared of Indian attack.

