



Operation Sindoor

Bhay Binu Hoye Na Preeti

“Without fear, there is no respect.” A doctrine of deterrence. A strike for peace.
A lesson to those who mistook India's patience for weakness.



Timeline

April 22 – May 14, 2025

Pahalgam Terror Attack

A brutal terrorist attack in Baisaran Valley, Pahalgam (Jammu & Kashmir) resulted in the death of 26 civilians, mainly Hindus.

The attack was orchestrated by Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) operatives, with backing from Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).

As tensions surged, Pakistan test-fired a ballistic missile. India responded by cutting off all mail and trade routes with Pakistan, banning Pakistani vessels from Indian ports, and prohibiting its own ships from entering Pakistani waters.

Launch of Operation Sindoor

India initiated Operation Sindoor, a coordinated military response targeting terror camps in Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK) and mainland Pakistan. India launches Operation Sindoor, airstrikes hit 9 terror camps in Pakistan and PoK, no military facilities were targeted.

Despite India's warning of further action only in case of Pakistani retaliation, Islamabad launched drone strikes reaching Amritsar, Jammu, Srinagar, and 26 other locations. India responds with drone strikes to neutralize Pak air defences in Lahore, Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Karachi.

Pakistan launches third wave of attacks; Indian air defence responds, debris recovered.

India fired back at key Pakistani air bases, inflicting heavy damage at Murid, Rafiqui and Sargodha bases, as well as the garrison city of Rawalpindi. Pakistan's retaliatory strikes were thwarted by Indian air defence systems.

Ceasefire on India's Terms

Under U.S. mediation, a ceasefire was signed. India dictated terms: zero tolerance for terror, full accountability, and consequences for future violations.

Pakistan celebrates; India stays alert; Trump pushes Kashmir mediation, India rejects.

Digital Embargo Announced

MEITY blocked 78 Pakistan-linked propaganda websites and social handles pushing anti-India narratives.

PM Modi Visits Adampur Airbase

In an unannounced visit, PM Narendra Modi reviewed ongoing operations and boosted troop morale at the frontline Adampur Airbase.

His message: *“Strike hard, strike clean, and make them never forget.”*

Operation Sindoor Paused

Indian Armed Forces declared mission objectives achieved. All key terror nodes were neutralized, deterrence re-established. But it's not over yet.

Indian Defence Forces: Strategic Achievements

Indian Air Force

Precision Airstrikes - Mirage 2000, Rafale, and Su-30 MKIs targeted Muzaffarabad, Bahawalpur, and Balakot.

Advanced Munitions - SPICE 2000, Hammer missiles, and Crystal Maze bombs ensured deep penetration.

Air Defence - S-400 'Sudarshan Chakra' intercepted enemy UAVs and jets.

Surveillance Edge - Netra AEW&C and AWACS systems maintained airspace dominance.

Indian Navy

INS Vikrant, led the 36-ship armada to strike the Karachi port in Pakistan.

The INS Vikrant was accompanied by 8-10 warships that were forward deployed into the Arabian Sea.

They were forward deployed in the northern Arabian Sea following naval drills before the launch of the operation.

The forward deployment of the Indian Navy compelled the Pakistani naval and air units to be in a defensive posture.

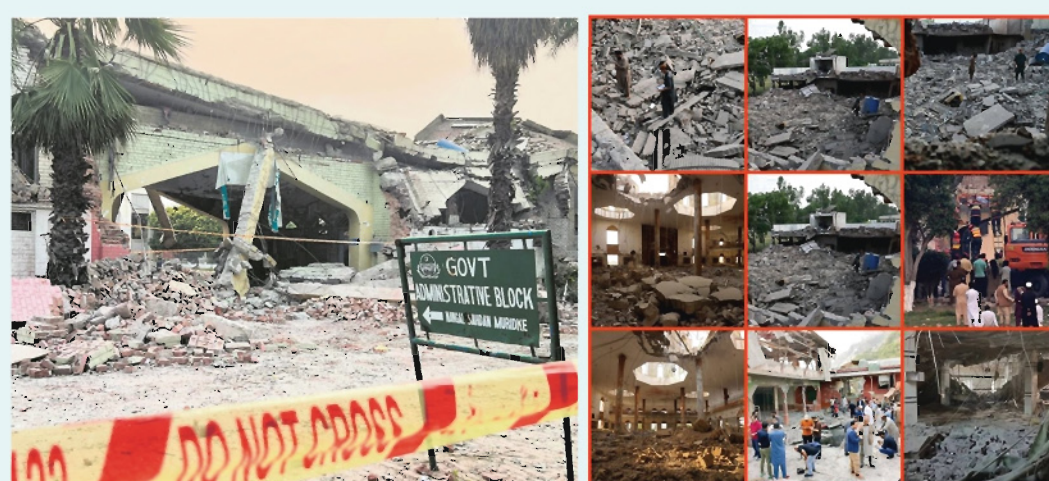
Indian Army

Special Forces Raids - Para SF units conducted cross-border raids in Neelum Valley and Leepa Sector.

Artillery Power - Pinaka, K-9 Vajra, and BrahMos were used in synchronized assaults.

Counter-Terrorism - Operation Shaantivahini neutralized 46 militants within 48 hours.

AI-Driven Warfare - Deployed loitering munitions, AI-guided drones, and smart surveillance.



Strategic and Civil Defence Highlights

Water is War: Indus Treaty Frozen

India halted Indus Waters Treaty cooperation. Flow from Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej was redirected. Message: *“You cannot bleed us and drink from our rivers.”*

Trade Cutoff

India suspended all non-essential trade, medical visas, and cultural exchange with Pakistan. Free rides ended.

Operation Abhyaas

India's largest civil defence drill on May 7 across 244 districts tested emergency readiness.

Digital Warfare

78 Pakistani propaganda handles and websites banned on May 12. Misinformation networks dismantled.

Global Exposure

India presented international dossiers on Pakistan's duplicity and exploitation of aid.



“Zero Tolerance against terrorism is the guarantee of a better and safer world”

Adversaries' Failures

Pakistan

- Operation Bunyan Crushed - Counter-offensive failed within 36 hours.
- Airspace Defended - IAF shot down three JF-17s.
- Terror Network Dismantled - Command centres in Muridke (LeT HQ), Bahawalpur JEM (HQ), 2 in Sialkot (Hizbul Camp), 2 in Muzaffarabad, 2 in Kotli and Bhimber were eliminated.
- Diplomatic Isolation - No support from global forums; India's right to self-defence upheld.

China

- Cyber Attacks Neutralized - DRDO and CERT-In thwarted PLA cyber intrusions.
- Satellite Surveillance Blocked - Chinese drones and satellites jammed by India's Anti-Satellite Command.
- Diplomatic Silence - Beijing failed to rally support for Islamabad.

Turkey

- Drone Diplomacy Backfired - Supplied Bayraktar TB2 drones and advisors to Pakistan.
- Naval Posturing Failed - A Turkish Navy frigate entering the Arabian Sea backed off after being intercepted by the Indian Navy.
- Exit in Embarrassment - Turkey withdrew silently after India's overwhelming show of force. *“Stay in your hemisphere,”* was India's reply.



“The India That Speaks The Language Of Peace, But Is Fluent In The Grammar Of Power”.



Pakistan-Sponsored Terrorist Attacks in the Past

2000 Red Fort Attacks
LeT assault in Delhi

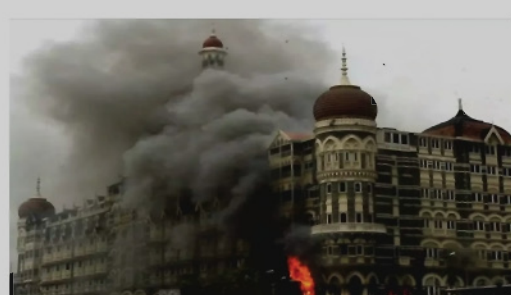
2007 Samjhauta Express Bombings
68 Killed

2016 Pathankot Attack
7 Security Personnel Martyred

2008 Mumbai Attacks
166 dead in India's worst terror attack

2016 Uri Attack
19 Indian Soldiers Martyred

2019 Pulwama Attack
40 CRPF Personnel Martyred



Peace through Strength, Justice through Action.

War is not over yet, **OPERATION SINDOOR** is still on...

JAI HIND



India's global impact post-Operation Sindoor

In the span of just a few weeks, India faced one of its gravest security challenges and emerged diplomatically stronger. *Operation Sindoor* was not a large-scale war, but it was a significant test of India's military resolve, certainly, but also of its global standing. The results are instructive. Major economies and influential blocs rallied to India's side, or at the very least, refused to indulge the usual uncertainty that once frustrated New Delhi's fight against cross-border terror. From the halls of the UN to the columns of Western media, the dominant refrain was that India had been attacked and had a right to respond. This represents a profound shift in the international narrative. India was no longer seen as a junior partner begging for global sympathy; it was viewed as a responsible power taking calibrated action in line with international law and the imperative of self-defense.

Leaders of the United States condemned the Pahalgam attack and the US embassy in India also affirmed their support to India's counter terrorism efforts. U.S. intelligence sources quietly affirmed that India's strikes hit bona fide terror hubs, including a Jaish-e-Mohammed camp tied to the 2002 murder of American journalist Daniel Pearl.

Across the Atlantic, European powers also stood shoulder-to-shoulder with India in this difficult hour. The UK condemned the horrific terrorist attack in Pahalgam and urged Pakistan to do more to rein in terror groups operating from its soil. Such language, explicitly pressing Islamabad, signaled a diplomatic shift. Germany and the European Union, through a G7 statement, jointly condemned the "egregious" Pahalgam terror attack and agreed that India had legitimate security concerns, even as they, in the same breath, cautioned against escalation.

Even tiny Netherlands saw an outspoken show of support: Dutch parliamentarian Geert Wilders went so far as to post that "Kashmir is 100% Indian" with the hashtag #PakistanBehindPahalgam, leaving no doubt where he stood.

India's diplomatic reach in 2025 extends far

beyond the traditional West-versus-East divide. Look at the Middle East, historically a stronghold of Pakistani diplomatic support. This time, an "Islamic arc of support" for Islamabad never materialized. Instead, key Gulf nations signaled sympathy for New Delhi's position. Saudi Arabia, in particular, emerged as a quiet but firm supporter of India's counter-terror stance. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was visiting Riyadh when the Pahalgam attack occurred, and the Saudis were notably empathetic toward India in its aftermath.

Irrespective of the opposition from Turkey and the refusal of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to recognize cross-border linkages to Pahalgam, India achieved this support while maintaining its cherished strategic autonomy.

It did not tether itself exclusively to any one camp. The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor, launched with fanfare alongside the United States and Gulf states, is one symbol of this new multipolar diplomacy. So is India's active role in forums like the Quad, the G20, and BRICS. In the crucible of conflict, these investments in relationships paid off. The ceasefire of May 10 was brokered in part by the United States and reportedly welcomed by China – an alignment of opposites that only a country of India's standing could inspire.

Operation Sindoor may be remembered as a watershed in India's foreign policy journey. It showcased an India that can pursue justice for its people without becoming diplomatically isolated. It also demonstrated that New Delhi's "multi-alignment" strategy – engaging all major powers without being tied down – has real-world benefits when crises strike. It also hinted at an emerging international order where India's voice carries weight in defining the difference between aggression and self-defense. For Indians, this moment of global validation amid adversity will be remembered with a sense of pride. For the world, it was a reminder that as India rises, it does so on its own terms – and increasingly, those terms are earning the world's respect.



Pashtun Rights vs. Pakistan's State Power A Crisis of Identity and Justice

Mullah Abdul Salam Zaeef, the former Taliban envoy to Pakistan, has reportedly called on Pashtuns in Pakistan to avoid involvement in the ongoing conflict between India and Pakistan, describing it as a political issue with no religious basis. His remarks, although criticized as divisive within Pakistani media circles, have once again brought to light the crisis surrounding Pashtun identity and its disconnection from the narrative of national identity promoted by the Pakistani State. Since its formation, Pakistan has prioritized Islam as the core of its identity, branding sub-national identities as 'anti-State', leading to severe repression of Pashtuns.

Demographics and Distribution of Pashtuns in Pakistan

Pashtuns are the second-largest ethnic group in Pakistan, making up about 18.24% of the population. They mainly reside in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and northern Balochistan, with notable communities in Karachi, Islamabad, Punjab, Sindh, and Azad Kashmir. Karachi has the largest urban Pashtun population worldwide. Predominantly Pashto-speaking with a distinct cultural and tribal heritage, their demographic weight makes Pashtuns a vital part of Pakistan's social and political landscape.

Colonial and historical context of the Pashtun crisis

In 1893, the Durand Line was drawn during British colonial rule, splitting the Pashtun homeland between Afghanistan and British India, which set the stage for future crises. The Pashtun regions, especially in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), faced strict Frontier Crimes Regulations (FCR) that allowed collective punishment and denied basic legal rights.

After independence, Pakistan retained the FCR, denying parliamentary or judicial intervention into cases of State-sponsored brutalities, thus relegating Pashtuns to second-class citizenship.

Pakistan's Dual Strategy and Its Impact on Pashtuns

The ISI's support for the Afghan Mujahideen during the Soviet occupation allowed many Al-Qaeda militants to use FATA as safe havens after the US invasion post-9/11. Under international pressure, General Musharraf adopted a risky strategy, supporting both US and NATO operations and the Taliban insurgents.

Pakistan's military actions in Pashtun areas, especially North and South Waziristan, allegedly to combat militancy, led to civilian casualties from drone strikes, crossfire, extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, and arbitrary detentions. The army misled US forces to target Pashtun civilians while protecting Taliban factions. From 2004 to 2013, the US carried out 330 to 374 drone strikes in Pakistan, killing 400 to 900 civilians and injuring at least 600.

Millions of Pashtuns were displaced, living in dire conditions, with Operation Zarb-e-Azb alone displacing nearly 930,000 from North



Waziristan.

Many Pashtun civilians faced unjust suspicion of harboring militants due to shared ethnic and linguistic ties, leading to movement restrictions, especially for internally displaced persons (IDPs) under increased surveillance. The conflict also disrupted the local economy, impacting agriculture, trade, and daily life.

Emergence of the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP)

Islamist militant groups, formerly supported by Pakistan's ISI in FATA, rebelled against Islamabad and united under the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) to topple Islamabad's government and establish an Islamic state. The TTP's war against the military has resulted in periodic civilian deaths, displacements, disappearances, and human rights violations. Operation Zalzal in 2008 in South Waziristan against TTP leader Qari Hussain displaced around 200,000 individuals and destroyed more than 4,000 homes in a month-long campaign, generating widespread local outrage.

Pashtun Tahaffuz Movement (PTM): Origins and Objectives

The Pashtun Tahaffuz Movement (PTM), founded by Manzoor Pashteen in 2014, emerged in response to the abuse faced by Pashtuns. Initially focused on removing landmines in Waziristan, PTM's goals expanded after the 2018 extrajudicial killing of Nageebullah Mehsud to include justice for victims of State violence, ending enforced disappearances, establishing a truth and reconciliation commission for extrajudicial killings, and stopping collective punishment at military checkpoints.

Contemporary repression by the Army-Government nexus

Pashtun activists and PTM have been confronted with violence even after taking a peaceful path. Security forces have been carrying out house raids, illegally detaining

thousands on questionable charges of terrorism, and enforcing draconian movement and assembly restrictions.

In October 2024, the PTM was banned by the government under the Anti-Terrorism Act as a national security threat. The military perceives its call for Pashtun rights as a significant threat.

A blackout on Pashtun protests in the media has been imposed, using laws such as the Prevention of Electronic Crimes Act (PECA) to silence the media. PTM's social media and international criticism have been met with disinformation campaigns, depicting activists as traitors and terrorists.

Asif Ghafoor has raised questions in 2019 about PTM's finances, asking NDS and RAW for funds on their behalf. This is a clear indication of the State trying to brand PTM as anti-Pakistan.

The suppression of Pashtun demands by the Pakistani military results in harassment, arbitrary arrest, and insecurity because of militants and military operations for locals.

Pakistan Army and government have demonstrated a complete disregard for the dignity and democratic rights of the Pashtun population, as dedicatedly voiced by the Pashtun Tahaffuz Movement (PTM) and human rights advocates.

The hardships faced by the Pashtuns—including displacement, loss, and daily indignities—have been treated as collateral damage in the Army's pursuit of dominance.

Nevertheless, the resilience exhibited by the Pashtuns serves as a blatant condemnation of a State that is more afraid of its own people than of any foreign adversary.

Author: LEA

US Military Activities in Bangladesh Weapons Transfer Reports to Myanmar Border

Recent developments suggest an escalation in US military involvement along the Bangladesh-Myanmar border, potentially reshaping the security landscape across Southeast Asia. On May 8, a four-member team from the United States Air Force landed at Dhaka's Shahjalal International Airport via Qatar Airways. The team, reportedly including logistics experts and management personnel linked to the Defense Intelligence Agency, appears to be preparing for the arrival of a "heavy cargo aircraft" in Bangladesh.

This US military presence follows closely behind Bangladesh Army Chief General Waker-uz-Zaman's two-day visit to Qatar on May 3, home to Al Udeid Air Base and the USAF's 379th Air Expeditionary Wing. The timing suggests possible coordination between US and Bangladeshi military officials. According to security sources, the USAF officers will remain in Dhaka until a cargo aircraft delivers containers reportedly containing weapons destined for the Bangladesh-Myanmar border, aligning with earlier allegations of US military aid to rebel groups in Myanmar.

The potential weapons transfer takes place against the backdrop of Myanmar's complex civil conflict and raises particular concerns regarding Rohingya militant activities. The Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), designated a terrorist organization by Myanmar following coordinated attacks on security forces in 2016 and 2017, has established a troubling operational pattern. Intelligence reports have documented ARSA's involvement in targeted killings of moderate Rohingya community leaders, forced recruitment from refugee camps, and systematic extortion of vulnerable populations. Security agencies have identified concerning links between certain Rohingya



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of State for Defense Affairs, H E Sheikh Saoud bin Abdulrahman bin Hassan bin Ali Al-Thani met Chief of Army Staff of Bangladesh Army H E General Waker-Uz-Zaman

militant factions and transnational terrorist networks, including evidence of foreign fighters and ideological radicalization.

The refugee camps housing over a million Rohingya in Bangladesh have become problematic security environments, with Bangladesh authorities periodically discovering weapons caches and training materials within these settlements. Introducing advanced weaponry into this volatile region risks not only exacerbating cross-border violence but potentially strengthening extremist elements operating beyond state control. Military analysts warn that arming such groups could create long-term security challenges similar to other historical instances where tactical support for non-state actors resulted in protracted regional instability.

The apparent US intervention could trigger responses from other regional powers protecting their strategic interests. India, particularly concerned about security along its

eastern flank, might intensify its rumored support for the Arakan Army, a powerful ethnic armed organization operating in Myanmar's Rakhine State to maintain influence in the region and counter both Chinese expansion and US encroachment. This could further complicate an already fragmented conflict landscape where multiple armed groups vie for territorial control and political legitimacy.

While independent verification of these weapons transfer reports remains challenging, the activities represent a significant potential shift in US regional strategy. For Bangladesh, traditionally maintaining a non-aligned foreign policy, facilitating such operations would mark a notable departure from its established diplomatic positioning. As major powers pursue their strategic objectives across South and Southeast Asia, the weaponization of ethnic and religious conflicts threatens to prolong Myanmar's civil strife and destabilize an already fragile region.

Author: Shruti Kaushik

IMF's 24th Debt relief package to a Terror state



On the 9th of the IMF cleared \$1 billion (around Rs 8,500 crore) funding for Pakistan. This is under the current bailout. This is the 24th debt relief package given to Pakistan. That's the most that any country has ever received.

This is under the IMF's resilience and sustainability program also known as Extended Fund Facility (EFF). Pakistan has been a prolonged borrower. India has always raised concerns over the efficacy of IMF programmes in the case of Pakistan, given its poor track record, and also on the possibility of misuse of debt financing funds for state-sponsored cross-border terrorism. India has opposed the IMF's proposal to extend fresh loans of USD 2.3 billion to Pakistan, saying they could be misused for financing state-sponsored cross-border terrorism.

The International Monetary Fund is bankrolling Pakistan's military offensive and terrorist factories, and this is a matter of concern. Pakistan's army plays an outsized role in its economy. The military runs Pakistan's

biggest conglomerate.

Pakistan has been standing on the precipice of a disastrous bankruptcy, with its external foreign debt at a staggering \$130 billion. Pakistan's loans stood at \$6.2 billion as of March 31, 2025, according to the IMF website & The World Bank also provided over \$48 billion in assistance.

It's surviving on dole from China, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar, along with the IMF and World Bank. The IMF needs to take a hard look to understand where this dole is being utilised.

Who is the biggest contributor to the IMF?

The US is the biggest contributor to the IMF. (Chart attached). India's quota is 2.76% and China's is 6.41%, while the U.S.'s quota is 17.46 % (translates to a vote share of 16.52%), giving it a unique veto power over crucial decisions at the IMF, many of which require a supermajority of 85%.

Author: LEA

Member	Quota (Millions, SDR)	Quota Share (%)	Votes	Vote Share (%)
United States	82994.2	17.46	831407	16.52
Japan	30820.5	6.48	309670	6.15
China	30482.9	6.41	306294	6.09
Germany	26634.4	5.6	267809	5.32
France	20155.1	4.24	203016	4.03
United Kingdom	20155.1	4.24	203016	4.03
Italy	15070	3.17	152165	3.02
India	13114.4	2.76	132609	2.64
Russian Federation	12903.7	2.71	130502	2.59
Brazil	11042	2.32	111885	2.22

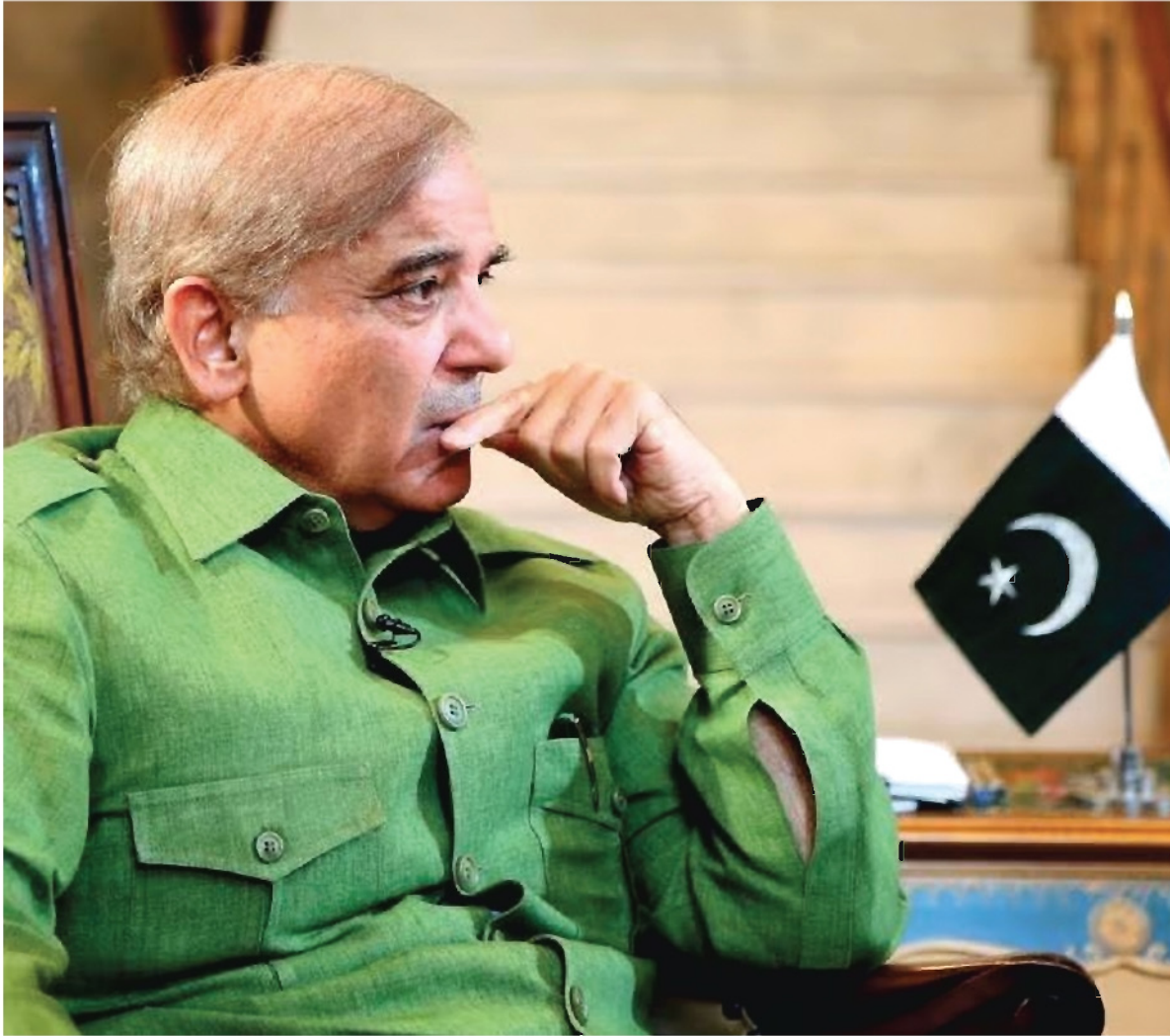
Operation Bunyan Ul Marsoos

A Grand Illusion Broken by Indian Resolve

On May 10, 2025, Pakistan launched what it called Operation Bunyan Ul Marsoos—an ambitious retaliatory strike intended to answer India's precision offensive, Operation Sindoor. The name, drawn from Quranic imagery meaning "an unbreakable wall," was meant to signal defiance and invincibility. But in execution, it crumbled like a house of cards. What was projected as a powerful response turned into a stunning example of strategic miscalculation and overreach. On May 10, 2025, Pakistan launched what it called Operation Bunyan Ul Marsoos—an ambitious retaliatory strike intended to answer India's precision offensive, Operation Sindoor. The name, drawn from Quranic imagery meaning "an unbreakable wall," was meant to signal defiance and invincibility. But in execution, it crumbled like a house of cards. What was projected as a powerful response turned into a stunning example of strategic miscalculation and overreach.

India had launched Operation Sindoor following a brutal terror attack in Pahalgam that left 28 civilians dead. The surgical response targeted militant infrastructure deep inside Pakistan and across the LoC. It was clean, precise, and unapologetic. For Islamabad, the pressure to act was immense. Operation Bunyan Ul Marsoos was conceived not just as a counter-strike, but as a performance—meant to reclaim face, rally internal support, and signal parity. But in reality, the mission revealed how poorly Pakistan understood the battlefield it was walking into.

Planned missile and drone strikes on 25



Indian sites across Gujarat, Punjab, Rajasthan, and Jammu were intercepted and neutralized almost entirely. India had been watching. Its military and cyber-intelligence units had picked up early chatter movements around Bahawalpur and Sargodha, unusual drone signal loops, and heat signatures near known launch pads. The message was simple: India was not waiting to react; it had already moved into a state of quiet readiness.

The incoming threats were met by a fortress of defenses. S-400 systems lit up in the western sector, drone jamming systems scrambled frequencies, and radar shields in Barmer and Ambala tracked trajectories in real-time. Not one strategic asset was compromised. Most of the drones didn't even make it close enough to see a silhouette. And when a few managed to enter Indian airspace, they were disarmed or redirected without causing impact. The airbases stood untouched, the weapon depots intact, and the message delivered.

Pakistan's over-reliance on symbolism and outdated technology became its undoing. It was a mission designed more for headlines than actual results. While Islamabad painted it as a heroic operation, the world saw what it truly was: a desperate show of muscle that lacked both coordination and consequence. Meanwhile, India said very little. It didn't need to. Its silence, precision, and readiness spoke volumes.

The most significant part of this episode isn't the failure of a strike. It's what it revealed about India's posture. No longer reactive, India is strategically proactive. It knows what is being

plotted, and it sees what is coming a long before the first move is made. The failure of Operation Bunyan Ul Marsoos isn't just a military misstep for Pakistan; it is a reminder to adversaries and observers alike that India is not a soft state anymore.

New Delhi doesn't need to thump its chest. It simply acts with clarity and consequence. India today stands for peace, but from a position of strength. And if that peace is tested, as Operation Sindoor and the failure of Bunyan Ul Marsoos have shown, the response will be decisive, silent, and unstoppable.

India watches quietly, prepares silently, and strikes only when absolutely necessary — “WITHOUT MISSING”.

Author: Shruti Kaushik

How Qatar's “String of Misbaha”

has reached India's Doorstep

Author: LEA

Qatar's "String of Misbaha" policy is a deliberate, multi-pronged strategy to expand its geopolitical and ideological influence across the Muslim world through ideological alignment, targeted investments, and political support.

Qatar, driven by this policy, has already been making strategic investments in Turkey, Somalia, and Gaza, with Bangladesh as its latest target. The implications of this policy are profound, not only for Bangladesh's domestic trajectory but also for India's security and strategic interests in South Asia.

“String of Misbaha”: Name origin and significance

The phrase “String of Misbaha” is the intellectual counterpart of China's “String of Pearls” strategy and highlights Qatar's geopolitical approach pertaining to the regions of the world where Islam, Islamism, and geopolitics interact. Qatar's strategy, however, focuses more on Islamic ideology, where each “bead” represents a nation sculpted by political or ideological connections and where the metaphor “misbaha” symbolizes the religiosity and the interrelated nature of it.

“The String of Misbaha” is a new expression that came about because of Qatar's slowly evolving foreign policy that became more visible in Middle Eastern and North African nations during the 2010s.

Strategic aims

Qatar's String policy aims to promote its ideology, expand regional influence, and enhance soft power for goodwill with allies. The main focus is on supporting groups or leaders who favor political Islam, aligning with Qatar's conservative beliefs. At the same time, Qatar seeks to reduce the power of regional rivals like Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Egypt.

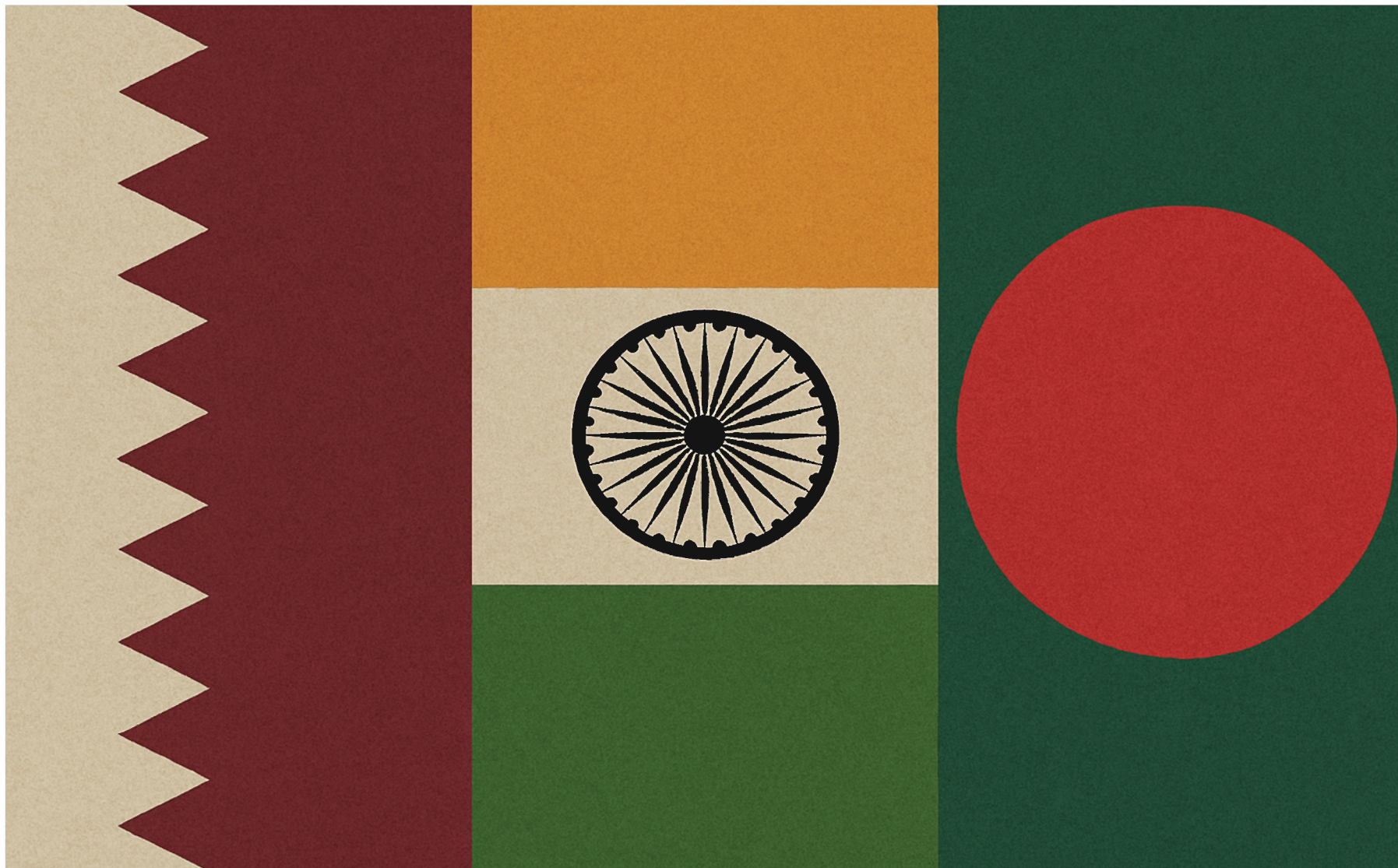
The Tools of Influence

Qatar employs a multifaceted strategy, combining financial leverage, political engineering, media power, and educational and religious outreach.

The country invests heavily in aid, infrastructure, and direct support for political figures, engages in election financing, and sometimes supports regime changes to sway political outcomes. A crucial part of this strategy is the use of Al Jazeera and other Qatari media, which help shape narratives and public perception in favor of Qatar's allies and diplomatic goals. Additionally, Qatar builds mosques, Islamic centers, and educational programs to enhance its soft power and spread its ideology across the Muslim world.

Key Countries in the “String”

Turkey is at the center of the “String” strategy, with Qatar closely aligned to President Erdoğan and the AKP, backing the Muslim Brotherhood and Islamist projects, and close political and economic relations.



Qatar has invested heavily in Somalia, supporting political rivals and Islamist-leaning sympathizers, influencing elections, and aligning with Islamist actors.

Qatar is also a principal financial supporter of Gaza's Hamas, giving it humanitarian aid, funds for infrastructure, and political support, which other Gulf states deplore.

Controversies and challenges

The String policy has led to considerable strains in relations with Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Egypt, and Bahrain, due to allegations that Qatar is destabilizing the region by supporting Islamist movements, which resulted in the diplomatic blockade of Qatar from 2017 to 2021. On the international stage, Qatar's actions have faced criticism for purported connections to extremist organizations such as Hamas and Al Qaeda. Additionally, Qatar's backing of radical Islamist factions in contemporary Bangladesh serves as another example.

Bangladesh: The Newest Bead on the String

Qatar has established close relations with Bangladesh's interim government under Muhammad Yunus, whose Prime Minister vowed “full support for Bangladesh's

development and prosperity.”

Bangladesh has extended invitations to Qatari investors to invest in its economic zones.

Qatar is boosting technology transfer, energy partnerships, and the posting of Bangladeshi military personnel. The Qatar Foundation is promoting early childhood education through various initiatives. The first foreign office consultation between Qatar and Bangladesh is expected in early 2025.

There is a significant ideological change in the region, marked by the release of Islamist prisoners and the rise of previously fringe Islamist parties, such as Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh and Hefazat-e-Islam. This has led to increased violence against religious minorities and liberal activists. Extremist groups like Ansarullah Bangla Team, Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh, and Hizb ut-Tahrir are gaining influence, reflecting a major shift in Bangladesh's political climate. This change aligns with Qatar's support for the Muslim Brotherhood and conservative Islamist beliefs.

Implications for India

Qatar's ‘String of Misbaha’ initiative promotes Islamist ideology across the Indian Ocean, conflicting with India's goals for stability and

influence in the region. Qatar's support for conservative Islamist groups threatens to increase militancy and hinder India's counterterrorism efforts. The inclusion of Bangladesh in this initiative raises worries about radicalization, communal tensions, and a potential refugee crisis in northeastern India. Recent arrests show rising radical activities, with individuals from Bangladesh targeting Indian youth. Closer ties between Bangladesh and Qatar may also weaken India's influence in Dhaka and complicate collaboration on key issues.

Conclusion

Qatar's “String of Misbaha” policy is aimed at projecting power and shaping the political and ideological landscape across the Muslim world in alignment with Qatar's own vision. With Bangladesh now firmly integrated into this ‘String’, Qatar's influence is poised to deepen regional complexities, particularly for India, which faces heightened security and diplomatic challenges as a result. As Qatar continues to expand its network, the ripple effects of its ambitions will be felt not just in the Middle East but across South Asia and beyond, demanding vigilant responses from affected nations.

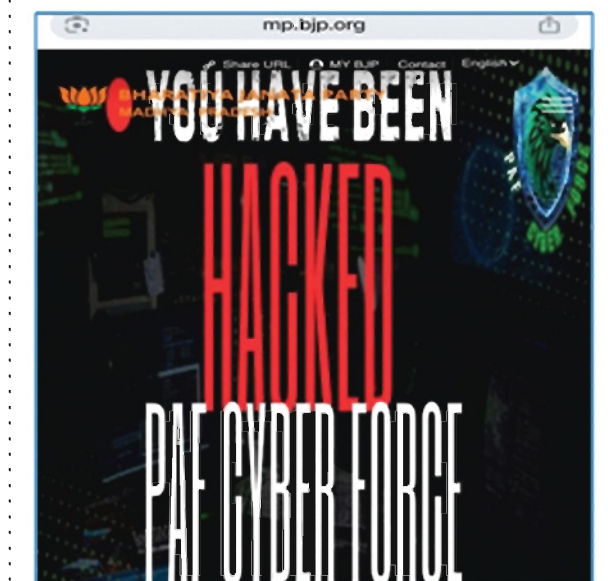
Pakistan's

Cyber Offensive

Fails to Deliver

In an aggressive but ultimately hollow show of digital retaliation, Pakistan-backed hackers launched Operation Bunyan-Ul-Marsoos following India's successful Operation Sindoor. Promoted widely across Pakistani social media channels, the campaign was executed by well-known hacking groups including Mysterious Team Bangladesh (MTB) and Team Insane Pakistan (TIP)—but the operation soon collapsed under false claims and technical failure.

MTB, a cyber collective known for targeting Indian government, finance, and transport sectors, joined forces with TIP, a religiously motivated group previously banned but now operating under new aliases. The offensive was hyped using hashtags like #TeamInsanePakistan, #FreeKashmir, and #OpIndia, aiming to create a perception of chaos in Indian cyberspace.



Yet the reality told a different story.

Claims of defacing the Mumbai University website turned out to be a misleading narrative—the actual breach occurred on a little-used subpage of the Department of German Language. Similarly, a supposed attack on the Sikkim government website only affected a non-functional folder and had no real operational impact.

Other high-profile claims—such as hacking into High Court systems, breaching BJP Madhya Pradesh's site, and leaking critical data—lacked credible evidence. Indian cybersecurity teams acted swiftly to contain attempted intrusions and debunk false narratives.

Subgroups like Cyber Group HOAX1337, National Cyber Crew, and PAF Cyber Force contributed to the misinformation campaign but failed to execute any significant disruption.

What was meant to be a cyber counterstrike quickly turned into a spectacle of fake propaganda and digital theatrics—loud online, but empty in substance.

Author: Shruti Kaushik

A Convicted Exporter, a Satellite Giant and a Deadly Oversight

In a world where data moves faster than diplomacy and pixels can point missiles, a quiet but dangerous lapse went unnoticed—until it was too late.

Obaidullah Syed, a Pakistani-American businessman once jailed in the United States for smuggling sensitive technology to Pakistan's nuclear research agency, walked out of prison in 2022. Just a year later, his company, *Business System International Pvt Ltd (BSI Pakistan)*, found its way onto the official partner list of *Maxar Technologies* imagery supports military operations, government intelligence, and disaster response across the globe.

The timing was not just awkward IT WAS ALARMING

Between 2006 and 2015, Syed orchestrated a years-long operation to illegally export high-performance computing equipment from the U.S. to the *Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC)*: an agency deeply involved in nuclear weapons and missile development.

Using front companies and false paperwork, Syed and his team of engineers and managers deceived American tech firms into believing the equipment was headed to universities or his own businesses. In reality, it was being fed directly into Pakistan's nuclear weapons infrastructure.

He was eventually caught, prosecuted, and sentenced in 2022 to just over a year in federal prison. He also forfeited nearly \$250,000 in proceeds from the scheme. That, many assumed, was the end of the story.

But it wasn't.

In 2023, Maxar Technologies quietly brought BSI Pakistan on board as a regional partner. There was no public announcement. No press release. Just a new listing that no one outside a few corporate corridors noticed until things turned dark again.

In February 2025, a sudden uptick in satellite image requests targeting *Pahalgam*, a quiet valley town in Indian-administered Kashmir, began appearing on Maxar's portal. Two months later, in April, 26 civilians were killed in a terrorist attack there—an act that shocked the region and sparked fresh diplomatic tensions between India and Pakistan.

Maxar, when questioned, said BSI did not order those images. But for many watching the case unfold, the questions aren't going away: How did a company with a documented history of helping a nuclear weapons program gain access, however indirectly, to satellite data that could map terrain, track troop movements, or plan an assault? Who else had access under that same partnership umbrella?

And most of all how did no one stop it? This isn't just a story about export violations and paperwork loopholes. It's about what happens when systems built to safeguard national security are treated as checkboxes. It's about the illusion of compliance and the very real

consequences of corporate oversight gone missing.

Satellite imagery today isn't just about pretty pictures from space, it's intelligence. It's power. And in the wrong hands, it's a weapon. Letting a company linked to a convicted exporter of nuclear-enabling technology operate within that ecosystem, even for a moment, isn't just a misstep—it's a threat. A preventable one.

Maxar has since removed BSI from its partner list. But the bigger concern remains: How many other such firms have slipped through the

cracks? How many doors are still open?

When 26 people die in a town that suddenly saw a spike in surveillance weeks earlier, questions must be asked and it's not just about who pulled the trigger, but who might have handed over the map.

Because in a world of silent wars, the deadliest weapon is often the information we gave away without asking why.

Author: Shruti Kaushik



Escalating Tensions in Afghanistan's Badakhshan Province



The Taliban's heavy-handed approach to local governance has triggered significant unrest in Argo district, Badakhshan province, revealing deepening fissures between the regime and local populations. In a dramatic escalation on Tuesday, the group deployed over 100 fighters to suppress a local protest, resulting in widespread violence and at least 30 arrests.

The conflict stems from growing local discontent over the Taliban's aggressive poppy eradication campaign, which has devastated local agricultural economies without providing viable alternative livelihoods. Witnesses report that Taliban forces used excessive force, including beating civilians, burning personal property, and arbitrarily detaining residents, including forcibly removing a woman from her village.

The protest, initiated through a mosque loudspeaker call for resistance, highlights the simmering tensions in rural Afghanistan. Local

residents complain of systematic exclusion from decision-making processes and harsh treatment by "non-local" Taliban fighters, pointing to deeper structural issues within the group's governance model.

This incident underscores the continuing challenges facing the Taliban regime: maintaining control while managing diverse local sentiments, particularly in remote provinces with strong traditional community structures. The violent suppression of dissent suggests a continued reliance on military force over diplomatic engagement, potentially sowing seeds of long-term resistance and instability.

In the volatile landscape of Afghanistan, the Argo district stands as a stark reminder that beneath the surface of Taliban control, the embers of resistance continue to smolder.

Author: Shruti Kaushik



Why Nur Khan Airbase Is a Critical Spot in Pakistan's Defense

Nur Khan Airbase in Rawalpindi is considered a vital strategic asset and operational hub for the Pakistan Air Force (PAF)



Pakistan's military has claimed that the Indian Army carried out a late-night missile strike on three of its airbases amid escalating tensions after Pakistan continued to fire drones and projectiles into Indian territory to target

military establishments and civilian areas.

Among the reported targets was the Nur Khan Airbase in Rawalpindi, considered a vital strategic asset and operational hub for the Pakistan Air Force (PAF). The airbase is located

just 10km from Pakistan's capital, Islamabad, and serves as a highly sensitive military compound.

This airbase holds significant historical and logistical value in Pakistan's defence structure.

Nur Khan Airbase, also known as PAF Base Nur Khan, is one of Pakistan's most strategically important military air bases located in Chaklala, Rawalpindi, Punjab province. Here's why it holds significance:

Location POS 33°36'60"N 073°05'57"E ELEV 1668 ft

- Strategic Location**

Situated in Rawalpindi near the capital city Islamabad, Nur Khan Airbase is positioned in a critical area, allowing rapid deployment of forces and air assets. Its proximity to the political and military leadership enhances its role in national security.
- Key Role in Air Transport**

The base hosts multiple transport squadrons, including No.6 Air Transport Squadron (operating C-130s), No.10 Multi-Role Tanker Transport Squadron (IL-78MP), and No.52 Air Transport Squadron (CN-235M-220). These units provide logistical support, troop movement, and cargo transport, ensuring smooth operations for Pakistan's military.
- VIP and Government Transport**

Nur Khan Airbase is home to No.12 and No.41 VIP transport squadrons, which operate aircraft like the Airbus A319, Beech 350i, and Global 5000. These fleets are responsible for flying top government officials and military leadership, reinforcing its importance in state affairs.
- Air-to-Air Refueling Capability**

With IL-78MP tanker aircraft stationed here, the airbase plays a crucial role in air-to-air refueling operations, extending the operational range of Pakistan Air Force (PAF) fighter jets.

5. Training Hub

The Transport Conversion School (TCS) at Nur Khan Airbase provides advanced training for pilots, specifically for transport aircraft operations, ensuring the PAF maintains a highly skilled aircrew.

Its combination of strategic location, specialized transport operations, VIP movement, air refuelling, and historical relevance makes Nur Khan Airbase a vital component of Pakistan's air defense and governmental logistics.

The strikes on Nur Khan were not merely retaliatory; they served as a calculated signal to Pakistan about India's capability to neutralise its nuclear arsenal if the conflict escalated further.

Author: LEA

PAF Base Nur Khan				
Wing	Squadron	Name	Aircraft Type(s)	Badge
35 (Composite Air Transport) Wing	No.6 Air Transport Squadron 6(ATS)sq	Antelope	C-130B C-130E C-130J	
	No.10 Multi-Role Tanker Transport Squadron 10(MRTT)sq	Buffaloes	IL-78MP	
	No.12 Very Important Person Transport Squadron 12(VIP)sq	Globe Trainers	A319 Beech 350i Cessna 441Q2 Global 5000 G-3V/G450	
	No.41 Very Important Person Light Communication Transport Squadron 41(VLC)sq		Ce172 EH500 PA-34 PA-44 Y-1211	
	No.52 Air Transport Squadron 52(ATS)sq	Markhors	CN235M-220	
	Transport Conversion School TCS		C-130 (on loan)	

Unveiling India's Military Strength in Operation Sindoor



India has built a sophisticated arsenal of cutting-edge weapons, including precision-guided long-range weapons and drones with loitering munitions. Drones with loitering munitions and precision-guided long-range weapons are among the advanced weapons that India has amassed. Operation Sindoor showcased India's military prowess and domestic weaponry. Effectiveness was demonstrated by the D-4 anti-drone system and the Akash missile system. They also used SkyStriker loitering munitions and Nagastra-1. The strikes by BrahMos missiles forced Pakistan to look for a ceasefire.

Below are some of these that have proven themselves during Operation Sindoor:

1. Nagastra 1

Loitering munitions (also known as a suicide drone or kamikaze drone) is an aerial weapon system category in which the munitions can loiter (wait passively) around the target area

for some time and attack only once a target is located. The precision attack is dependent on its sensors. The kamikaze drone is operated in silent mode and at an altitude of 1,200m, making it a difficult target to detect. The loitering system weighs 12 kg and carries a warhead of 4.5 kg. It has an endurance of 60 minutes and offers a range of around 40 km.

2. Anti-Drone D4 System

The Anti-Drone D4 system is an Indian-developed counter-drone system designed to detect, disrupt, and neutralize drone threats using a combination of "soft kill" (jamming and spoofing) and "hard kill" (laser-based) methods. It employs a multi-sensor approach, including radar, RF sensors, and EO/IR cameras, to identify and track drones, even those with low radar cross-sections. The system can be deployed in static or mobile configurations and is equipped with a command-and-control center.

3. SkyStriker Drone

The SkyStriker is a loitering munition (LM) with a dual warhead configuration (5kg or 10kg), a range of up to 100 kilometers, and an electric propulsion system for quiet operation. It can be used for covert operations, precision strikes and is designed to be cost-effective and easy to operate, with features like one-man operation and compact storage. It can dive at speeds up to 300 knots and withstand winds up to 40 knots.

4. BrahMos missile

The missile has a flight range of up to 290 km supersonic speed through the flight, leading to shorter flight times, consequently, ensuring lower dispersion of targets, quicker engagement time and non-interception by any known weapon system in the world. It operates on the "Fire and Forget Principle", adopting a variety of flights on its way to the target. Its destructive power is enhanced due to the large kinetic energy on impact. Its cruising altitude could be up to 15 km, and terminal altitude is as low as 10 meters. It carries a conventional warhead weighing 200 - 300 kg.

5. Akash Air Defense System

The Akash Air Defence System is a medium-range, surface-to-air missile system developed in India. It's designed to protect against various aerial threats, including aircraft, helicopters, and drones. The system features a high level of automation and can engage multiple targets simultaneously. The Akash system is designed to protect vital areas from aerial attacks. It can strike targets at distances of up to 45 kilometers and altitudes between 4 and 25 kilometers.

Author: LEA



Puppets and Profits How China's Pakistan Stunt Blew Up Beijing's Economy

China's grand experiment in economic theaterparading Pakistan as its battle-test laboratoryhas spectacularly imploded. What was pitched as a strategic showcase of Chinese weaponry through a lavishly orchestrated Pakistan cooperation has backfired, revealing nothing but smoke, mirrors, and staggering failure.

At the center of this charade was AVIC Chengdu Aircraft, promoted as China's triumph in aerospace engineering. Behind closed doors, Beijing struck deals with Islamabad to field-test the J-10 and JF-17 jets in "live" scenarios against Indian forces. State media rolled out grainy footage and breathless bulletins: Pakistani squadrons flying supersonic escorts of these jets, claimed to have shot down multiple Indian fighters. Investors gobbled it upuntil reality intervened. AVIC's shares, briefly inflated by 40%, have now collapsed over 12%, dragging its market valuation down to CNY36.92 billion.

advertised as the S-400's equal. But when Pakistani technicians attempted coordinated drills, the system's radars lost track of multiple incoming targets. Electromagnetic interference and software bugs forced Islamabad to limit exercises, undermining Beijing's orchestrated narrative of invincible air dominance.

• **PL-15 "Sky Slasher" Missile**- Launched from Pakistani Su-30MKIs in staged drills, the PL-15 was supposed to outrange every adversary. Instead, faulty guidance and vulnerability to jamming caused multiple mid-flight self-destructs. Pakistan quietly grounded its missile batteries, while China's state press scrambled to revise range estimates downward.

Pakistan's role was simple: provide venues and pilots to authenticate China's defense exports. In return, Beijing funneled subsidized weapons and loans into Islamabad's military budget. Yet when Indian Prime Minister



Junk of Chinese Propaganda: Debris of HQ-9, J17 Fighter Jet, PL-15 Missile and Kamikaze drones

This puppet show rested on three marquee systemseach debunked in turn by mounting evidence of subpar performance:

• **JF-17 "Iron Brotherhood" Fighter**-Marketed as affordable and battle-hardened, the jet was sent to Pakistani squadrons for front-line duty. Instead of decisive victories, pilots reported frequent engine flameouts and radar glitches during training missions. International buyers balked at the unscribed truth, leaving Pakistan as China's sole—and now reluctant—operator.

• **HQ-9 "Dragon's Shield" Air Defense**-Installed at key Pakistani airbases, the HQ-9 was

airbases, he exposed empty hangars and deactivated launchers—exposing the entire spectacle as fiction.

The markets responded mercilessly. The Hang Seng China A Aerospace & Defence Index has slumped nearly 4% in two days. Export contracts vanished, investor confidence evaporated, and China's military-industrial boom turned to bust.

Beijing gambled on Pakistan to legitimize its bleeding-edge hardware. Instead, the façade collapsed under scrutiny. The curtain has fallen on this geopolitical cabaretand China is left with a bankrupt stage and no willing audience.

Author: Shruti Kaushik

China's Tiandu-1 Sets New Benchmark in Space Targeting



China has demonstrated the world's first daylight laser ranging to a satellite in Earth-Moon space. The April 2025 test, conducted by the Deep Space Exploration Laboratory (DSEL), successfully bounced infrared laser pulses off the Tiandu-1 satellite—over 130,000 km away—even under full sunlight. This is a major leap in optical tracking technology, previously limited to nighttime due to solar interference.

The core technology, called Satellite Laser Ranging (SLR), allows precise measurement of a satellite's distance by timing a laser pulse's round trip. While widely used for Earth orbit satellites, achieving this over lunar distances in daylight is unprecedented. It enables centimeter-level tracking of spacecraft regardless of lighting conditions—critical for deep-space navigation and scientific missions.

However, this breakthrough carries serious military implications.

Daylight laser ranging effectively extends China's **space domain awareness** into the cislunar region 24/7. This means China can continuously track satellites, spacecraft, or any object with a retroreflector in Earth-Moon space. Such capability erodes the concealment advantages of sunlit orbits, offering China a surveillance edge over rival space assets.

Moreover, this tech lays the foundation for **optical targeting systems**, including potential use in counterspace operations. The same precision laser systems, if adapted, could be used to blind or disrupt sensors on foreign satellites. Combined with timing and positioning enhancements, it also supports future Chinese **systems** in deep space—beyond the reach of GPS denial.

While framed as a scientific advance, China's daylight SLR milestone signals a strategic shift. It highlights the dual-use nature of emerging space technologies and raises the stakes in the growing race for control over the cislunar domain.

Author: Shruti Kaushik

The India-Pakistan Conflict A New Era in Modern Warfare



The recent tensions between India and Pakistan have highlighted the crucial importance of cutting-edge technology in contemporary warfare, especially regarding the deployment of drones and air defense mechanisms. During a significant aerial assault carried out by Pakistan, around 300 to 400 drones were launched into Indian airspace. Nevertheless, the Indian Armed Forces showcased efficient tactics that integrated both kinetic and non-kinetic measures. India's air defense effectively countered the drone incursion and retaliated by striking Pakistan's radar installations using its own drones.

Modern technology, such as the S-400 air defence system, Akash missiles, and anti-drone tools like lasers and radar jammers, strengthens India's military arsenal. Furthermore, India's MQ-9B Predator drones and Heron unmanned aerial vehicles are powerful tools that can be used for a variety of tasks. On the other hand, Pakistan's drone capabilities are much less effective due to its reliance on Chinese-made technologies. During real-time testing, the Chinese drone technology, specifically the GIDS Spider system, failed and showed limited range. The current scenario indicates that although India is establishing itself as a military power prepared for the future, Pakistan's dependence on inadequate technology poses significant risks to its defense strategy.

Takeaways

• The conflict highlights the critical role of technological advancement in contemporary warfare. Countries need to invest in cutting-

edge military technologies to gain an advantage in upcoming conflicts.

• Pakistan's military capabilities may be limited due to its reliance on Turkish and Chinese technology. This relationship poses significant risks, particularly given the reported gaps in Chinese systems.

• India's use of both kinetic and non-kinetic strategies exemplifies modern military thinking, emphasising the importance of using multiple approaches to effectively neutralise threats. The efficacy of India's air defence strategies, particularly the successful deployment of advanced radar and missile systems, serves as a benchmark for future military readiness.

• The underperformance of Chinese military equipment prompts serious concerns regarding the procurement strategies of countries reliant on foreign technology.

• The conflict's emphasis on technological developments and reactions suggests that the balance of power in South Asia may be changing significantly, with India seeming better equipped to handle potential threats. It has been underlined that military strategies must be continuously adjusted and improved in response to changing threats, meaning that defence forces will continue to need to take a proactive stance.

Author: LEA