

## Operation Sindoor in Kashmir and India's Response

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### **Abstract**

*Operation Sindoor represents a significant development in India's counter-terrorism strategy and regional security policy in South Asia. Conducted in May 2025, the operation involved precision strikes by the Indian Armed Forces targeting terrorist infrastructure located in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). The operation was launched in response to the Pahalgam terror attack that resulted in the deaths of several civilians and security personnel. This paper examines the background, objectives, execution, and strategic implications of Operation Sindoor. It also analyses the operation in the broader context of India-Pakistan relations, counter-terrorism policy, and regional security dynamics. The study highlights how India has increasingly adopted proactive military responses to cross-border terrorism while attempting to avoid large-scale military escalation.*

### **Keywords**

*Operation Sindoor, Counter, Terrorism, India, Pakistan Relations, South, Asian, Security, Precision.*

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**Introduction:** The Kashmir region has remained a major source of conflict between India and Pakistan since the partition of India. The region has witnessed several wars, frequent ceasefire violations and persistent militant activities. In recent decades, cross-border terrorism has become one of the most important security concerns for India. In 2025, a terrorist attack in Pahalgam kills several civilians and security personnel. India said the operation was aimed at pre-disarming and pre-preventing cross-border terrorism, particularly in the wake of the April 22, 2025, Pahalgam attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Baisran valley, in which 26 civilians, among them 25 Indians and one Nepali, were killed. The incident triggered strong condemnation across the country, and the Indian government sanctioned Operation Sindoor as a decisive military response against the militant group responsible for the attacks. The operation is an important step in India's growing anti-terrorist doctrine, which combines precision strikes, intelligence-driven targeting, cyber defence, and integrated air defence systems.

**Objectives Strategy:** The primary objective of Operation Sindoor was to dismantle terrorist camps and logistical bases believed to be located in Pakistan-administered Kashmir. Among the most prominent militant organisations involved in such activities are Lashkar e Taiba (LeT), Jaish e Mohammed (JeM), and HizbulMujahideen. Indian intelligence agencies indicated that militant organisations such as Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba were involved in planning and supporting attacks in the Kashmir valley. The group initially claimed responsibility for the attack and later denied it was a "cyber intrusion". Coordinated strikes by the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force were involved, using advanced surveillance systems and precision-guided munitions in the operation. According to government sources, targets were carefully selected to minimize civilian casualties while effectively destroying militant infrastructure. The strategy reflects India's increasing reliance on precision-based military operations to combat terrorism. These groups have been linked to numerous attacks against India, including the 2008 Mumbai Attacks, in which terrorists trained in Pakistan carried out coordinated attacks in Mumbai.

### **Rising Terrorism in Kashmir**

The Kashmir region has long been at the centre of political conflict and security challenges in South Asia. Since the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, terrorism and militancy have significantly affected the socio-political environment of the region. Even though Security measures have reduced the number of large-scale violent incidents over time, incidents of terrorism continue to challenge peace, stability and development. Historical, political, social and external factors need to be examined to understand the rise of terrorism in Kashmir.

**The Pahalgam Terror Attack (2025):** On 22 April 2025, militants attacked tourists and civilians in Pahalgam, a popular tourist destination in Kashmir. The 26 people were killed, including civilians and security personnel and several others were injured. Intelligence reports linked the attackers to terrorist groups operating from Pakistan-based camps. The attack triggered widespread outrage in India and calls for decisive action against the perpetrators. After diplomatic efforts and warnings failed to yield cooperation from Pakistan against the militant groups, India decided to conduct precision military strikes.

#### **Political and strategic implications**

From India's perspective, Operation Sindoor had significant political and strategic implications, demonstrating the country's determination to respond strongly to acts of terrorism and prevent militant organisations from operating with impunity across the border. However, this operation heightened tensions between India and Pakistan. Pakistan condemned the attacks and argued that they violated its sovereignty. After the operation, the military alert level increased along the de facto border control line that divides the Kashmir region. The incident drew international attention amid concerns over tensions between the two nuclear-armed neighbors.

**Launch of Operation Sindoor:** Operation Sindoor was launched in the **early hours of 7 May 2025**. The operation involved modern missile technology and precision-guided weapons designed to hit intended targets while minimizing damage to nearby civilian areas. According to the Indian government, the operation followed three important principles. These included accurate targeting of terrorist camps, avoiding Pakistani military sites, and keeping the operation limited in order to prevent wider conflict.

**Military Forces Involved:** Operation Sindoor was a joint operation by the three branches of the Indian Armed Forces. The Indian Army focused on intelligence gathering and coordination along the Line of Control, while also providing artillery support. The Indian Air Force played a leading role in conducting airstrikes and precision missile strikes. At the same time, the Indian Navy monitored maritime activity and maintained readiness in the Arabian Sea. The cooperation between these three services clearly demonstrated India's ability to perform effective tri-service operations.

**Major Targets of Operation Sindoor:** Nine major terrorist infrastructure sites were reportedly targeted. The operation was organized in Kotli Terror Camp (PoK) that was training facility for suicide bombers linked to **Lashkar e Taiba**.

**2. Muridke Headquarters:** The town of **Muridke** is widely known as the headquarters of Lashkar-e-Taiba. This facility reportedly served as recruitment centre, Training camp, Operational planning hub

**3. Bahawalpur Base:** The city of Bahawalpur houses the headquarters of Jaish e Mohammed. This base was considered one of the main locations for planning terrorist attacks against India.

**4. Sarjal Camp (Sialkot):** Located near the border with India, this camp was used for Training militants, storing weapons, planning infiltration operations and Mehmoona Joya Camp

**Strategic Objectives Operation Sindoor:** Operation Sindoor was conducted with several strategic goals in mind. The first objective was to create deterrence by sending a strong message that terrorist attacks would be met with firm military action. The operation also intended to prevent future attacks by damaging the training camps and operational bases of militant organisations. In addition, it demonstrated the advanced capabilities and coordinated strength of the Indian armed forces in conducting precision-based military operations. **Pakistan's Reaction:** Pakistan strongly criticized the operation, describing it as a violation of its sovereignty. Officials from the Pakistan army claimed that the strikes caused casualties and stated that Pakistan reserved the right to respond militarily. After the operation, Pakistan temporarily closed parts of its airspace for about 48hours. Tensions also increased along the line of control, and reports indicated exchanges of artillery fire in border regions such as Poonch and Rajouri.

**Air Defence and Counter-Attack Prevention:** After the operation, Pakistan attempted retaliation using drones and missiles. India activated its air defence systems across **1,800 km of airspace**, including integrated Counter-UAS Grid, surface-to-air missile systems, and electronic jamming technology

**International Reactions:** The international community closely monitored the situation. Countries such as **United States, United Kingdom, Russia and China**

**Strategic Significance of Operation Sindoor:** Operation Sindoor marked an important shift in India's military strategy. The operation demonstrated India's ability to carry out precise strikes against terrorist targets. It also showed strong coordination among the branches of the Indian armed forces. In addition, the operation strengthened India's deterrence policy against terrorism and reflected the growing use of advanced technologies such as drones and satellite intelligence in modern warfare.

**Criticism and Concerns:** Despite the support, some analysts raised concerns.

i. **Risk of Escalation:** India and Pakistan are both **nuclear-armed states**, so military operations between them carry the risk of escalation.

ii. **Civilian Casualties:** Pakistan claimed civilian casualties, although India stated that only terrorist facilities were targeted.

iii. **Diplomatic Tensions:** The operation increased tensions between the two countries.

**Concluding Observations:** Operation Sindoor can be considered one of the most important counter-terrorism operations carried out by India in recent years. The operation was launched after the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, which created serious concern about security in the region of Jammu and Kashmir. The main aim of the operation was to destroy terrorist infrastructure located in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir that was believed to support attacks against India. Through Operation Sindoor, India demonstrated its capability to conduct precise, well-coordinated military operations. The use of modern technology, intelligence systems, and cooperation among different branches of the Indian Armed Forces played an important role in the operation. This also shows how modern warfare increasingly depends on advanced technology and accurate intelligence. At the same time, the operation highlights the continuing security challenges in South Asia. The relationship between India and Pakistan has often been affected by political tensions and disputes over Kashmir. Since both countries possess nuclear weapons, any military confrontation between them must be handled very carefully to avoid a larger conflict. Although the operation succeeded in targeting several militant camps, it also reflects the region's complex political and strategic situation. Overall, Operation Sindoor demonstrates how India is addressing terrorism by combining military strength, technological advancement, and careful strategic planning.

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