

NEXT IAS

OPERATION SINDOOR

A NEW CHAPTER IN INDIA'S COUNTER TERRORISM STRATEGY



Context:

- India on **May 7, 2025** reacted strongly to the **Pahalgam attack** where cross-border terrorists gunned down 26 innocent people earlier last month.
- **Carrying out missile strikes against terror hideouts in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK)**, the Indian Army retaliated firmly to the deadly terror attack with '**Operation Sindoor**'.
- A day after **precision strikes against terrorist targets** under **Operation Sindoor**, the Indian armed forces targeted the **air defence radars and systems at a number of locations in Pakistan**.

THIS DOCUMENT IS UPDATED TILL 12:00 P.M. MAY 9TH, 2025.

OPERATION SINDOOR



What is Operation Sindoor?



- The Indian armed forces launched **Operation Sindoor** in response to the terrorist attack which took place in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam on April 22.
- The **Union Defence Ministry** stated that the Army targeted terror bases where attacks against India were planned.
- It mentioned "**Altogether, nine (9) sites have been targeted. Our actions have been focused, measured, and non-escalatory in nature.**"
- The Indian Army clearly stated that **no Pakistani military facilities were targeted** in the strikes as "**considerable restraint**" was practiced during target selection and execution of **Operation Sindoor**.
- **Operation Sindoor** was carried out with precision strike weapon systems used by three armed forces - **Army, Navy and Air Force**. The **precision weapons** included **loitering munition**, which can hover over the area and locate the target before striking.
- Conducted from Indian territory, the **attacks followed coordinates provided by intelligence agencies**.
- These locations were identified as bases of key **Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM)** and **Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT)** leadership.

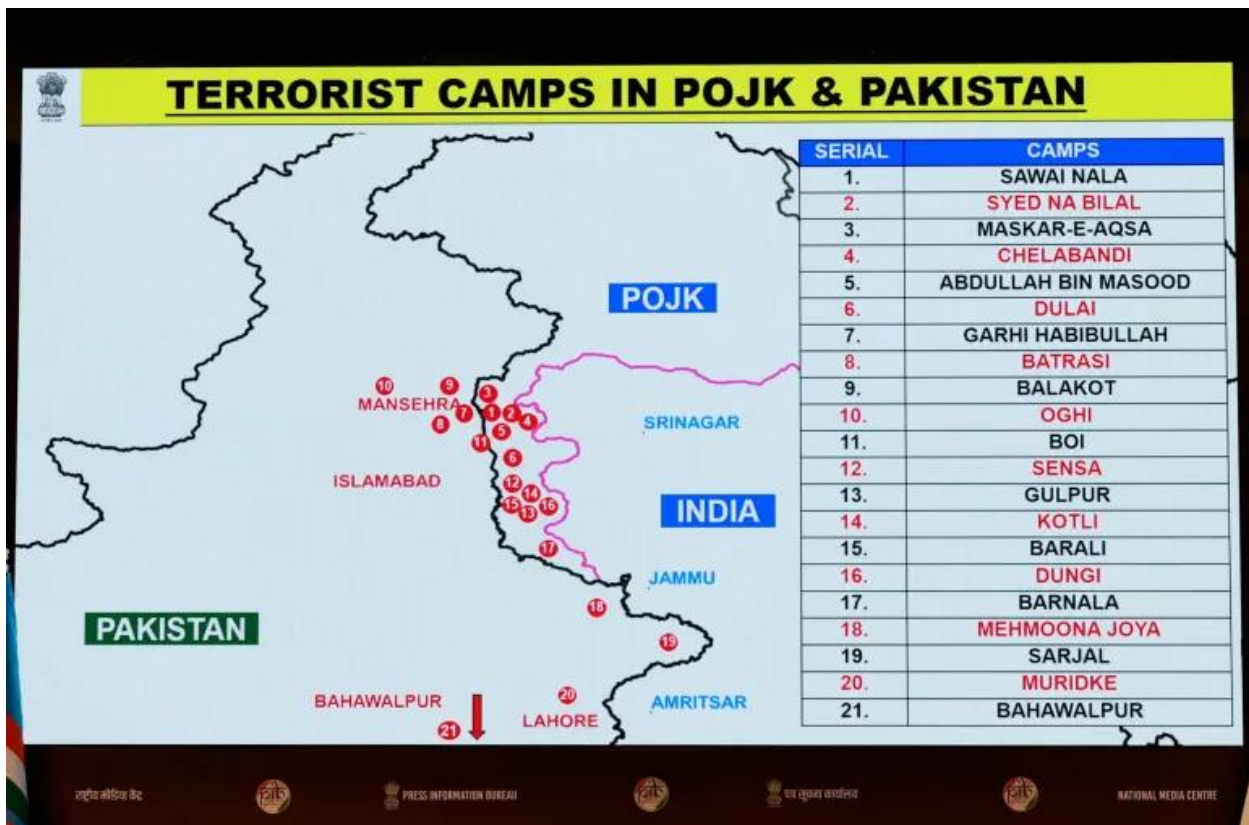
Why did India strike Pakistan?

- The missiles were **India's response** to the deadly **April 22 attack** on tourists in **Pahalgam**, during which 26 men were killed.
- An armed group called **The Resistance Front (TRF)**, which demands independence for **Kashmir**, claimed responsibility for the **Pahalgam** attack.
- India claims that the **TRF is an offshoot of Pakistan-based armed group, the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT)**.
- **Islamabad** has denied its involvement in the **Pahalgam attack** and has asked for a neutral investigation into the incident.

- Since the attack, India has suspended its participation in the **Indus Waters Treaty** that Pakistan relies on for its water supply.
- Pakistan has responded by threatening to suspend its participation in the **Simla Agreement**, a pact signed in **1972** following the **Indo-Pakistan War**.
- Both countries have also **scaled back their diplomatic ties**, and each has expelled the other's citizens.

How has India justified the attacks?

- India claims it hit “**terrorist infrastructure**”, targeting organisations including the **LeT and Jaish-e-Muhammad (JeM)**, an armed group based in **Pakistan** which claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing in **February 2019**, which killed **40 Indian paramilitary soldiers in Pulwama in Kashmir**.
- In a briefing on Wednesday, **Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri** insisted that the missile strikes “**focused on dismantling the terrorist infrastructure and disabling terrorists likely to be sent across to India**”.
- Joining **Vikram Misri** in the briefing, **Indian military officials Colonel Sofiya Qureshi and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh** detailed the operation.
- Five of the nine sites that India hit, they said, were in **Pakistan occupied Kashmir**
- The remaining four were in **Punjab (Pakistan)** – in **Bahawalpur, Muridke, Shakar Garh and a village near Sialkot**.
- During the briefing, the Indian military showed a map marking out what it claimed were **21 “terrorist camps” in Pakistan and Pakistan occupied Kashmir**



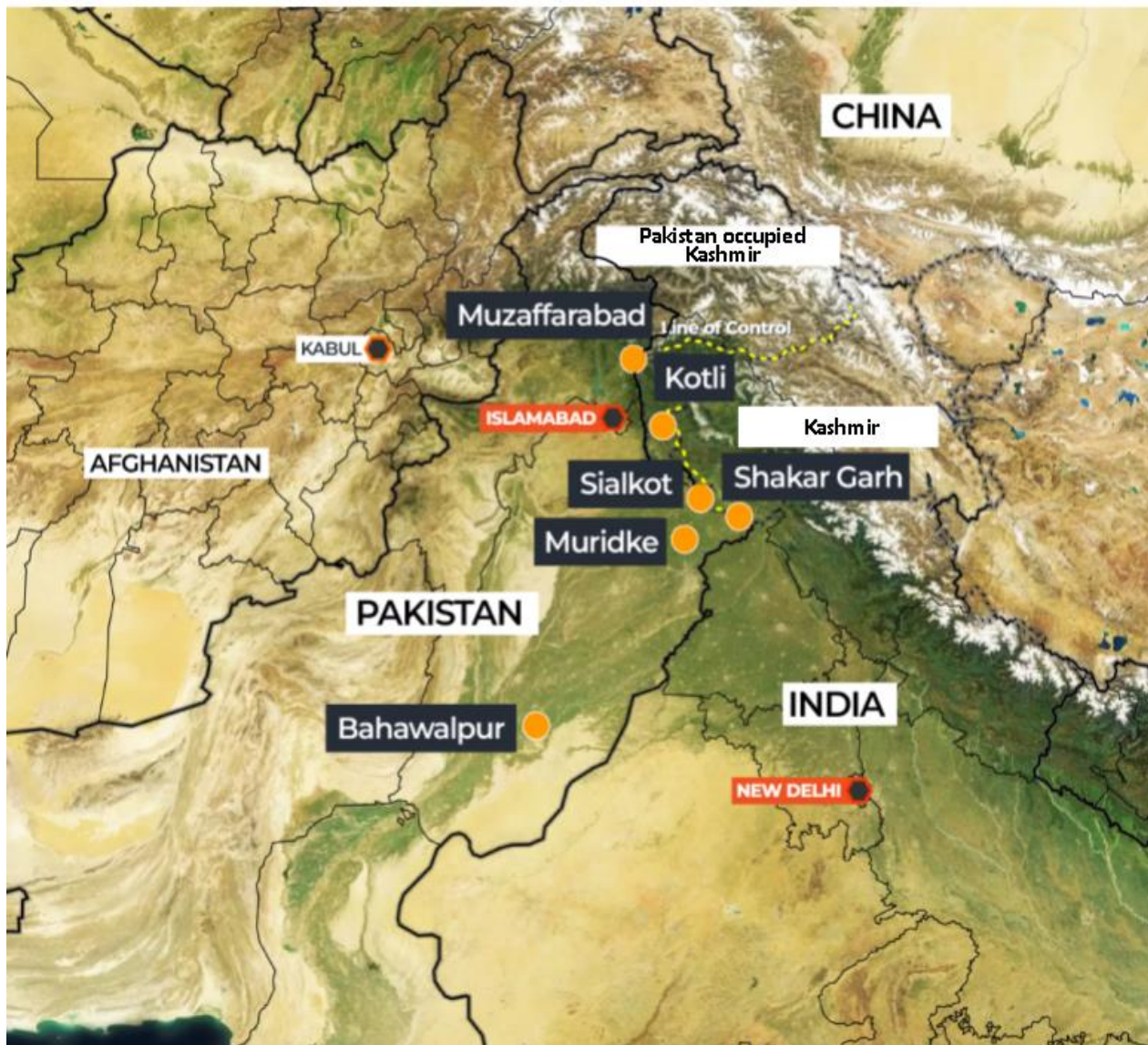
What has Pakistan said about the sites attacked?

- **Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry**, Director General of ISPR described the Indian strikes as an “unprovoked attack, targeting innocent people”.

- It was indicated that India had launched a total of **24 strikes across six locations in Pakistan and Pakistan occupied Kashmir**
- It was said that at **least 26 civilians**, including women and children, had been killed, and at least 46 people were injured.
- **Pakistan** claimed that **mosques and residential areas were targeted**, killing and injuring civilians.


India Strikes Pakistan

The Pakistani military says Indian missile attacks hit six cities in Pakistan and Pakistan occupied Kashmir early on May 7. India said it struck nine sites. The attacks killed at least eight people and wounded more than 35, according to Pakistan.



Which 9 terror sites did India target?

- Here is the list of **nine terror facility locations in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir** that have been successfully neutralised:



List of nine terror facility locations in Pakistan and Pak-occupied Kashmir that have been successfully neutralised:

1. Markaz Subhan Allah, Bahawalpur - JeM
2. Markaz Taiba, Muridke - LeT
3. Sarjal, Tehra Kalan - JeM
4. Mehmoona Joya, Sialkot - HM
5. Markaz Ahle Hadith, Barnala - LeT
6. Markaz Abbas, Kotli - JeM
7. Maskar Raheel Shahid, Kotli - HM
8. Shawai Nalla Camp, Muzaffarabad - LeT
9. Syedna Bilal Camp, Muzaffarabad - JeM

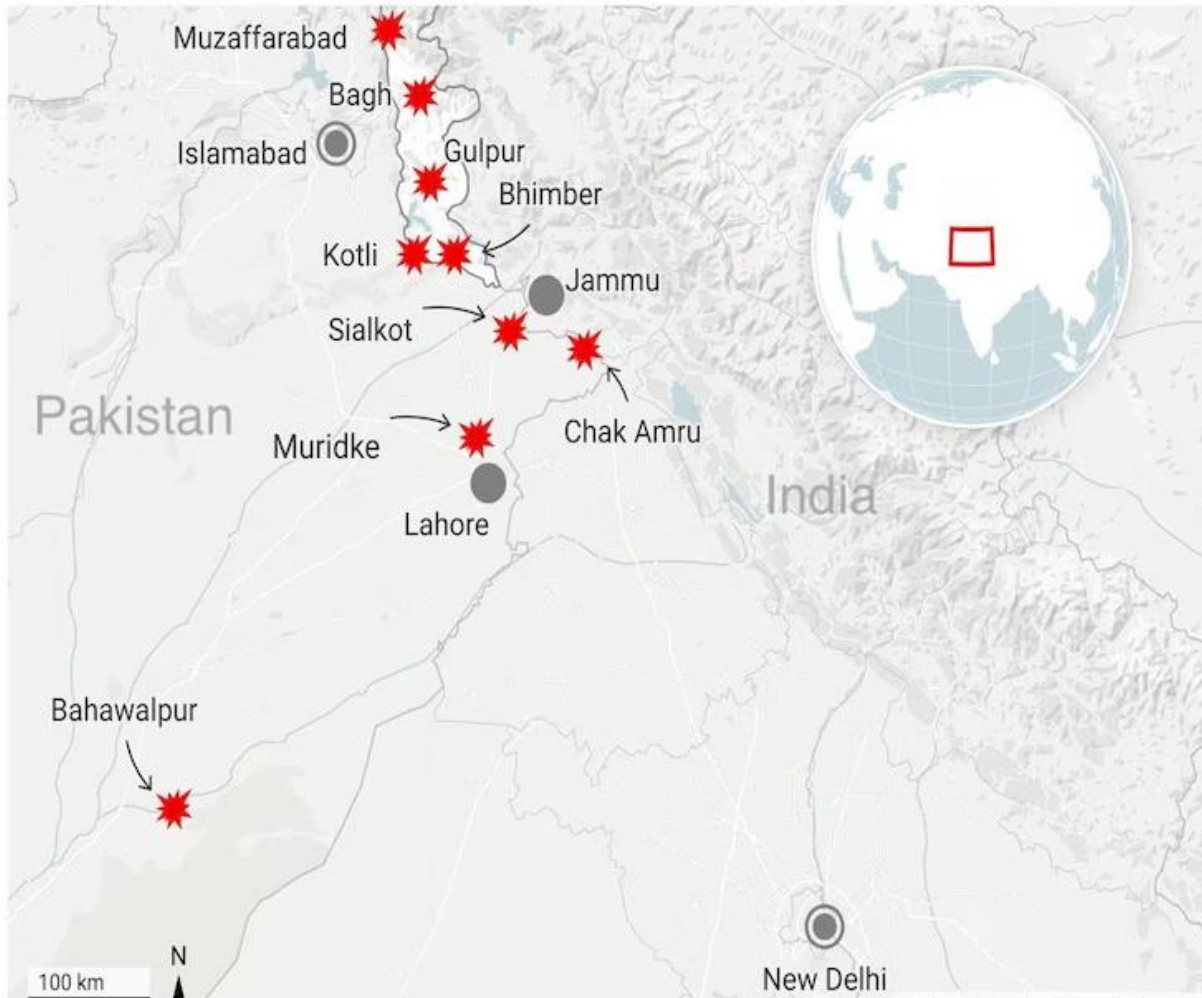
Operation Sindoor: Details of Attack

No.	Terror Camp Location	Approximate Time (IST)	Significance
1	Abbas Terrorist Camp, Kotli	1:04 AM	Nerve centre for training Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) suicide bombers; key infrastructure for 50+ terrorists.
2	Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) Camp, Muridke	1:06 AM – 1:10 AM	Headquarters and largest training centre of LeT; multiple strikes to ensure complete destruction.
3	Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) HQ, Bahawalpur	1:12 AM	Primary base for JeM's planning and operations in the region.
4	Terror Camp, Sialkot	1:15 AM	Training and logistics hub for cross-border terrorist infiltration.
5	Terror Camp, Muzaffarabad	1:17 AM	Important site for militant training and arms storage.
6	Terror Camp, Bhimber	1:19 AM	Used for recruitment and training of militants.
7	Terror Camp, Chak Amru	1:22 AM	Tactical base for launching infiltration attempts.
8	Terror Camp, Gulpur	1:25 AM	Storage and training camp for terrorist operatives.
9	Additional LeT Camp, Muridke	1:28 AM	Secondary facility within Muridke complex, targeted to ensure no operational capability remained

What's the significance of the sites targeted by India?


India Hits Pakistan Terrorist Camps


The strikes followed April 22, 2025 attack that killed over two dozen in Pahalgam, Kashmir ▼






- The **Indian missile strikes** represent the **most extensive attacks on Pakistani soil** outside the four wars that the **nuclear-armed neighbours** have fought.
- They also mark the **first time since the war of 1971** that India has attacked **Punjab**, **Pakistan's most populated province and historical and economic hub**.
- Unlike **previous aerial attacks by India in Pakistan** or in **Pakistan occupied Kashmir**, some of these strikes targeted large population centres.

- **Muridke** is next to **Lahore**, Pakistan's second-most populous city.
- **Sialkot** and **Bahawalpur** are major cities, too.
- But many of the sites chosen as targets by India also hold **specific strategic importance**, at least from New Delhi's perspective.
- Here's a breakdown:

Sites	Significance
Muridke, Punjab	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Muridke is a city in Punjab's Sheikhpura District, peppered with totems of historical memory from the Mughal, Mauryan and Gupta eras. • The town, according to India and much of the international community, hosts the headquarters of the Jamat-ud-Dawa, a charity organisation that New Delhi insists is a front for the LeT led by Hafiz Syed. • Indian missiles struck the LeT's Markaz Taiba camp in Muridke. • The Indian army claimed that key perpetrators of the 2008 Mumbai attack – including Ajmal Kasab, the sole gunman who was captured alive after that assault on India's financial capital, were trained at this camp. • David Coleman Headley, one of the masterminds of 26/11, also received training at this camp. 

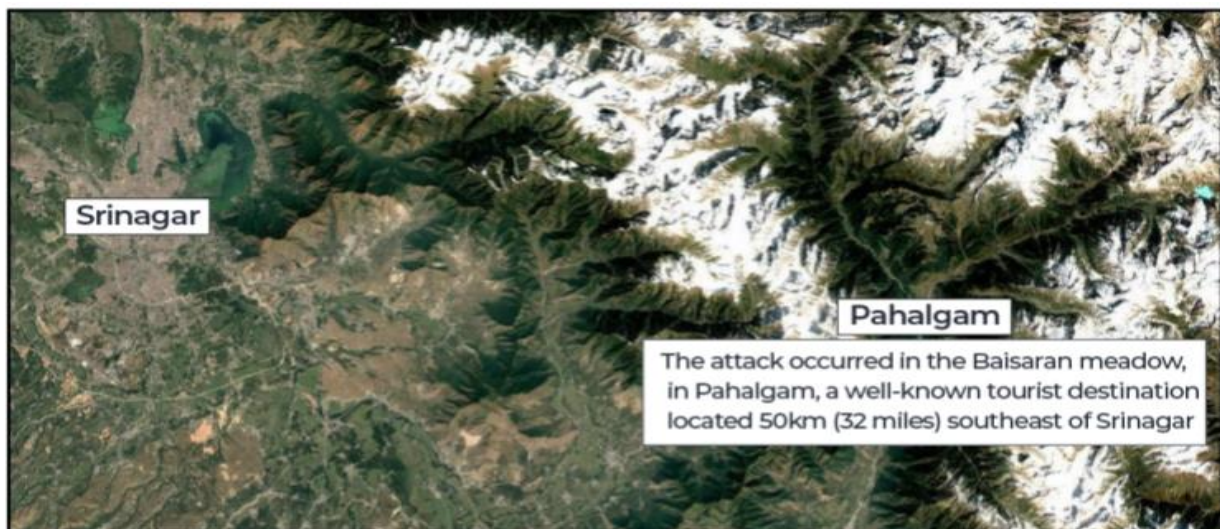
<p>Bahawalpur, Punjab</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located around 100 km from IB, it was the JeM headquarters, used for recruitment, training, and indoctrination of JeM terrorists. • India hit the headquarters of the JeM, called Markaz Subhanallah. • The facility was frequently visited by the terrorist commanders including Masood Azhar, who issued directions to their cadre from this camp. 
<p>Muzaffarabad, Pakistan occupied Kashmir</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Muzaffarabad is the capital city of Pakistan occupied Kashmir, located at the confluence of the Jhelum and Neelum rivers. • India hit a LeT training centre, Sawai Nala camp in Muzaffarabad, 30km (19 miles) away from the Line of Control (LoC), the de facto border that separates India and Pakistan occupied Kashmir. • Those responsible for multiple attacks, including the April 22 Pahalgam killings, were trained at this camp.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Indian military officials also said they attacked a Jaish-e-Muhammad “staging area”, the Syedna Bilal camp in Muzaffarabad. • A staging area refers to a place where people, vehicles and equipment are assembled and readied before being assigned a mission.
Kotli, Pakistan occupied Kashmir	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kotli is a city along the Poonch river and is an agricultural and tourist hub. • India hit a LeT base, Gulpur camp, about 30 km (19 miles) away from the LoC. • The Indian army added that it also struck what it called the Abbas camp in Kotli, 13km (8 miles) away from the LoC, where up to 15 “terrorists” could be trained at a time.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India has also hit Mehmoona Joya, which is described as a facility of the Hizbul Mujahideen (HuM), a rebel group based in Kashmir.
Bhimber, Pakistan Occupied Kashmir	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bhimber is south of Kotli, located 9 km from the LoC opposite Rajouri-Poonch sector.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India struck what India called the Barnala camp in Bhimber, a site where fighters were trained in using weapons, improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and in jungle survival.
Sialkot, Punjab	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sialkot is one of Pakistan's most important industrial centres for the manufacture of surgical items, sporting goods and leather products. India had struck what they called the Sarjal camp in Sialkot. <div style="background-color: yellow; text-align: center; padding: 2px;">TERRORIST CAMP : SARJAL SIALKOT (PAK)</div>  They claimed this was the training centre for those responsible for the killing of four police officers in March this year in Kashmir. <div style="background-color: yellow; text-align: center; padding: 2px;">TERRORIST CAMP DESTROYED : SARJAL SIALKOT</div> 

What happened during the Pahalgam attack?

- On April 22, armed men opened fire on a group of tourists in **Kashmir**, killing **26 men** in one of the deadliest attacks on tourists in decades.
- The attack occurred in the **Baisaran meadow**, in **Pahalgam**, a well-known tourist destination located **50km (32 miles)** southeast of the regional summer capital, **Srinagar**.
- The **Resistance Front (TRF)**, a little-known armed group, which India insists is a proxy for the **Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba**, claimed responsibility for the attack.
- India has implied that **Pakistan has supported and sponsored the Pahalgam attack**.



Indian police officers stand guard at a checkpoint following an attack near Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, on April 22, 2025 [Stringer/Reuters]



Why did PM Modi name India's Pahalgam Response Operation Sindoor?

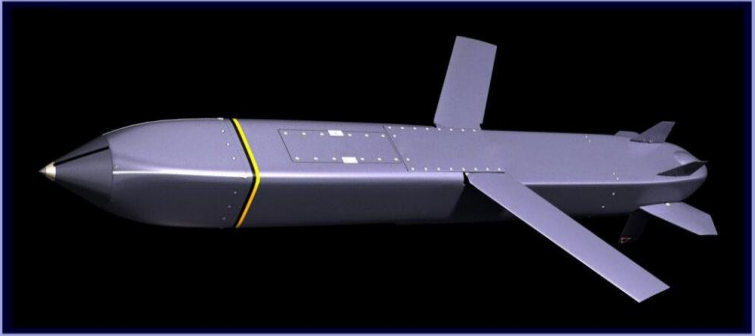

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** chose the name **Operation Sindoor** for **India's counter strike** against **terror bases in Pakistan** in retaliation for the **Pahalgam terror attack**.
- The name, **Operation Sindoor**, is heavy with **symbolism**.
- Hindu **women put sindoor meaning vermilion** on their head as a symbol of marriage.
- The Pahalgam terror attack, in **which 26 innocents were killed in cold blood**, destroyed as many families.
- The **victims** were rounded up, **asked their religion** and **shot dead in front of their wives and children**.
- It is, therefore, **fitting that the operation to avenge their deaths is named 'Sindoor'**.
- An image put out by the Indian Army has **Operation Sindoor** written in block letters.
- One 'O' in Sindoor is a bowl of vermilion.
- Some of it has **spilled over, symbolising the ruthlessness that snatched away the life partners of 25 women**.
- The caption read: **"Justice is served. Jai Hind."**
- Visuals of **Himanshi Narwal**, a **newly-married woman** with her **wedding chooda still on her hands**, beside the **body of Indian Navy officer Lieutenant Vinay Narwal** did the rounds on social media, plunging the nation into grief.
- From **Shailesh Kalathiya's wife Shital** to **Bitan Adhikari's wife Sohini**, **Shubham Dwivedi's wife Aishanya** to **Santosh Jagdale's wife Pragati Jagdale**, the **tears of each woman who lost her partner** in the attack made the nation cry.



What weapons did India use to strike Pakistan terror camps?

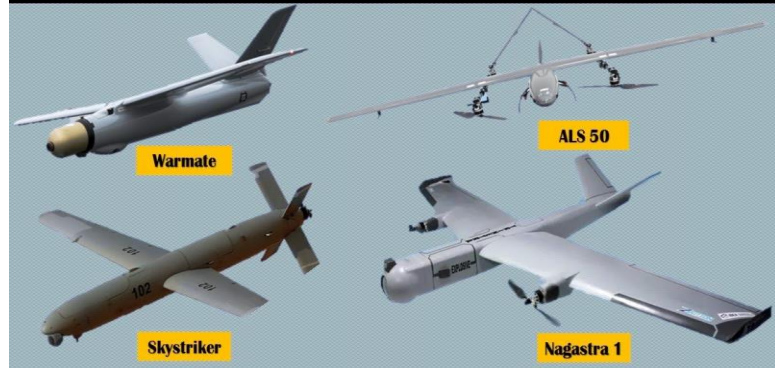
- India employed a range of **high-precision, long-range strike weapons** during **Operation Sindoor**.

Weapons	Description
SCALP (Storm Shadow)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SCALP missile, also known as Storm Shadow, is an air-launched, long-range cruise missile with a range of over 250 kilometres, specifically designed for deep-strike operations against high-value targets. <p>The UK and French components behind Storm Shadow/Scalp</p> <p>Graphic: Bob Haslett Source: MBDA; FT Research © FT</p>

	
<p>HAMMER (Highly Agile Modular Munition Extended Range)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HAMMER smart bomb was deployed to target hardened structures, including reinforced bunkers and multi-storey buildings utilised as training and logistical centres by LeT and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM). • A precision-guided, stand-off munition, the HAMMER is capable of hitting targets at distances of 50-70 kilometres, depending on the launch altitude. 
<p>Loitering Munitions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Often referred to as "kamikaze drones," loitering munitions were employed for surveillance, target acquisition, and terminal strike missions.

- These drone systems hover over designated areas and, either **autonomously or under remote control**, identify and **neutralise threats**.

Rapid induction of Loitering Munitions Into Indian Armed Forces



Enlist features of drones used by India to attack Pakistan?

HAROP INDIA'S SUICIDE DRONE

From surveillance to strike, these can eliminate threats across the LoC

Combination of an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) and a missile

Can hover over an area before attacking its target

ENDURANCE
6-9 hours

MAX SPEED
400 km/h

PAYLOAD
16-23 kg explosive warhead

GUIDANCE
Electro-optical, IR seeker

WINGSPAN
3 m

LENGTH
2.5 m

LAND AND NAVAL APPLICATIONS

ATTACK AND ABORT CAPABILITY

COMMUNICATION RANGE
200 km

OPERATIONAL RANGE
1,000 km

ALTITUDE
4,600 m

The image shows a 3D model of the HAROP drone, which has a distinctive V-shaped wing design, a small tail, and a sensor pod mounted on the nose. It is shown from a side-on perspective, highlighting its compact and stealthy profile.

- The **Indian military** on May 8, thwarted attempts by **Pakistan forces to hit several military targets in 15 cities** in the country's north and west using missiles and drones, and **targeted Pakistan's air defence network** at several locations in that country with the **one in Lahore being destroyed in the counter-attack**.
- **Israeli-made HAROP drones** were used by India to attack Pakistan. Developed by **Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI)**, HAROP is a **next-generation loitering munition system**, the HAROP, which combines the capabilities of **unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs)** with **precision-guided munitions**.

Features	Description
Dual-role weapon system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The HAROP acts both as a surveillance drone and a lethal missile. It loiters over target areas and then dives into targets upon detection, making it highly effective against time-sensitive threats.
Combat-proven performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HAROP has a strong track record of operational success, with remarkable mission results in real-world combat situations, particularly in Suppression of Enemy Air Defenses (SEAD) roles.
Developed by Israel aerospace industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HAROP is a product of IAI's decades-long experience in loitering munition systems, building on earlier platforms like the HARPY. It's the second-generation member of IAI's loitering munitions family.
Long-endurance and extended range	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The drone boasts an impressive endurance of up to 9 hours and an operational range of up to 1,000 km, enabling deep standoff operations without exposing operators to frontline threats.

Autonomous with human control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> While HAROP operates autonomously to search, identify, and track targets, it retains a man-in-the-loop capability through a two-way data link, allowing human operators to make real-time decisions.
Abort and re-loiter capability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the event of changing battlefield conditions, an operator can abort an attack, allowing the drone to return to loitering mode - minimizing the risk of collateral damage.
Advanced targeting systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HAROP is equipped with electro-optical (EO), infrared (IR), and forward-looking infrared (FLIR) sensors, along with a color CCD camera and anti-radar homing capabilities, providing comprehensive target detection and identification.
Versatile applications across domains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designed for multi-mission flexibility, HAROP is suitable for land and naval use, urban warfare, counter-terror missions, and both high and low-intensity conflicts.
Massive warhead payload	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The drone carries a 23 kg (51 lb) explosive payload, enabling it to neutralize a wide range of high-value and mobile targets, including radars, missile systems, and enemy hideouts.
Launched from canister, ready to strike	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The HAROP is launched from a sealed canister, making it easy to deploy and capable of immediately transitioning from surveillance to strike mode, offering a powerful “situational awareness and weapon” solution in one.

What is the S-400 missile system that stopped Pakistan missile attacks on 15 Indian cities?

- The **Indian Air Force** used its **S-400 air defence systems** to stop an aerial attack launched by Pakistan.
- The Pakistani attack, aimed at military targets in **north and west India**, was in response to India's **Operation Sindoor**.
- According to defence officials, Pakistan used drones and missiles to target fifteen locations including **Awantipora, Srinagar, Jammu, Pathankot, Amritsar, Ludhiana, and Bhuj**.
- The Indian Air Force responded by deploying its **S-400 systems**, which intercepted and neutralised the incoming threats.

S-400 MISSILE SHIELD DEAL

5 SQUADRONS
of S-400 Triumf anti-aircraft, anti-missile systems

COST

\$5.43 BN
(₹ 40,000 crore)

PLAN

- ➔ Induct 1 squadron of S-400 in 2 years after the contract is signed, and the remaining in 5 years
- ➔ IAF will integrate S-400 with IACCS (integrated air command and control system) network of sensors and weapons

CHARACTERISTICS

- ➔ Can destroy hostile strategic bombers, stealth fighters, missiles and drone up to 380km range
- ➔ Radars (primary acquisition one has 600 meter range) can track hundreds of missiles simultaneously
- ➔ 4 kinds of missiles to intercept targets in different ranges
- ➔ Russia says S-400 can radar-lock and shoot down 5th Gen stealth fighters like US F-35 jets

CHINA

Signed a \$3 billion deal for integrating six S-400 batteries in 2014

Features	About
Sudarshan Chakra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The S-400 system, called “Sudarshan Chakra” by the Indian military, is made in Russia and can track targets up to 600 kilometres and intercept them at distances of up to 400 kilometres.
Five S-400 squadrons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India has procured a total of five squadrons of the Russian-made S-400 Triumf air defence missile system, known in Indian service as “Sudarshan Chakra.” Of these, three squadrons are already operational, while the remaining two are expected to be delivered by 2026.
Inspiration from Hindu Mythology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The name draws inspiration from Hindu mythology, where the Sudarshan Chakra is a powerful spinning weapon used by Lord Vishnu. Similarly, the S-400 system is seen as a powerful tool in India’s defence arsenal, capable of swiftly detecting and neutralising aerial threats.
Developed by	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The system is manufactured by Russia and is among the most advanced air defence systems globally.
Components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It consists of three main components: missile launchers, a powerful radar, and a command centre. It is capable of targeting aircraft, cruise missiles, and even high-speed intermediate-range ballistic missiles.
Capabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Track targets up to 600 km away. Intercept aircraft, drones, and missiles at ranges up to 400 km The S-400 system is capable of engaging multiple targets simultaneously, including

aircraft, cruise missiles, and ballistic missiles, at varying ranges and altitudes.

- India has so far deployed four squadrons of the **S-400 system** to cover key regions including **Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, and Gujarat.**
- The **S-400 can spot and shoot down aerial threats** from far away, making **India's air defence** much stronger and improving its national security.

S-400 TRIUMF **INDIA'S SKY SHIELD**

India's frontline air defence against enemy drones and missiles

TYPE

Mobile surface-to-air
defence system

OPERATIONAL RANGE

400 km

UNIT COST

\$1.25 bn

DEPLOYMENT TIME

5 min

CAN DETECT

Aircraft, drones,
cruise missiles,
and ballistic missiles

SURVEILLANCE RANGE

360 degree



S-400 RANGE WITH DIFFERENT MISSILES

9M96E		120 km
48N6E2		200 km
48N6DM		250 km
40N6E		400 km

DEADLY MISSILE SHIELD

DEAL | 5 squadrons of S-400 Triumph anti-aircraft anti-missile systems from Russia

COST | ₹39,000cr

CHARACTERISTICS

- S-400 can destroy hostile aircraft, stealth fighters, missiles & drones at 400-km range
- Radars (primary acquisition one has 600-km range) can track hundreds of targets simultaneously
- 4 kinds of missiles to intercept targets at different ranges
- Can intercept even ballistic missiles with velocity of 4,800 meters per second
- Russia boasts S-400 can even "radar lock & shoot down" 5th-Gen stealth fighters like American F-35 jets

PLAN:

- Induct 1st S-400 squadron in 2 years after contract inked. All 5 in 5 years
- IAF will integrate S-400 with its IACCS (integrated air command and control system) network of sensors & weapons

CHINA:

inducting six S-400 batteries under a \$3 billion deal with Russia in 2014



S-400 Russian air defense complex

S-400 is a Russian air defense system of long and medium range.



Each self-propelled rocket launcher carries 4 transport-launch containers with anti-aircraft missiles. The stated range of the latest missiles is up to 380 km.

S-400 missiles are designed to combat long-range airborne warning and control systems, strategic bombers, ballistic targets, etc. The S-400 missile travels at up to 4,000 km/h.

In addition, the developer claims that the S-400 complex can simultaneously work with 80 air targets, launching 2 missiles at each. One complex can comprise of up to 40 launchers in total.

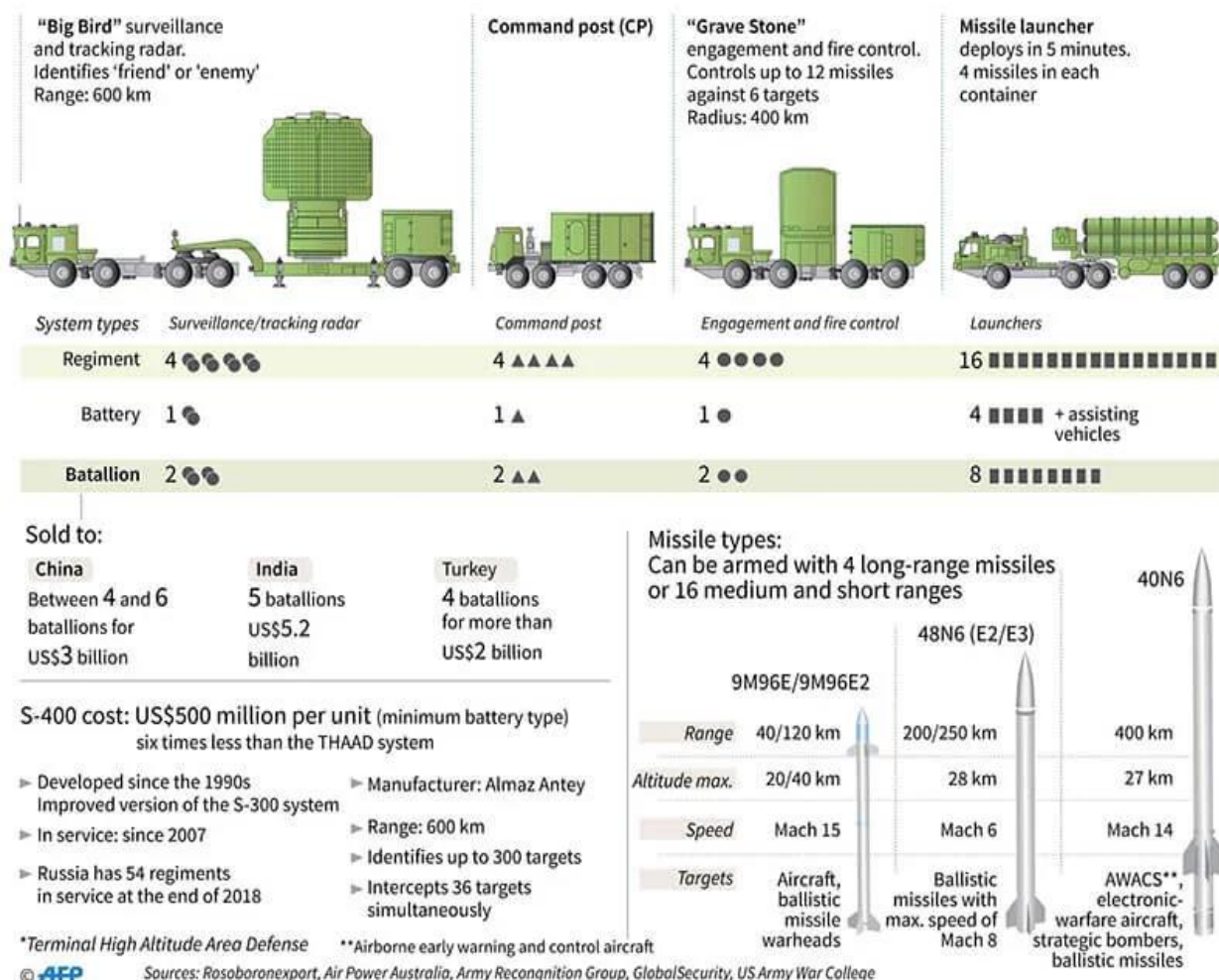
Visually, the S-400 is similar to its predecessor S-300. The Triumph system inherited the radar station, launchers, and means of target detection.

The radar complex 92N6A: a panoramic radar with protection against interference, which is mounted on a Belarusian special wheeled chassis MZKT-7930.

The 92N6A radar is the eyes of Triumph. It has the ability to simultaneously track up to 100 targets and accurately track up to 6 targets.

Russia's S-400 air defence missile system

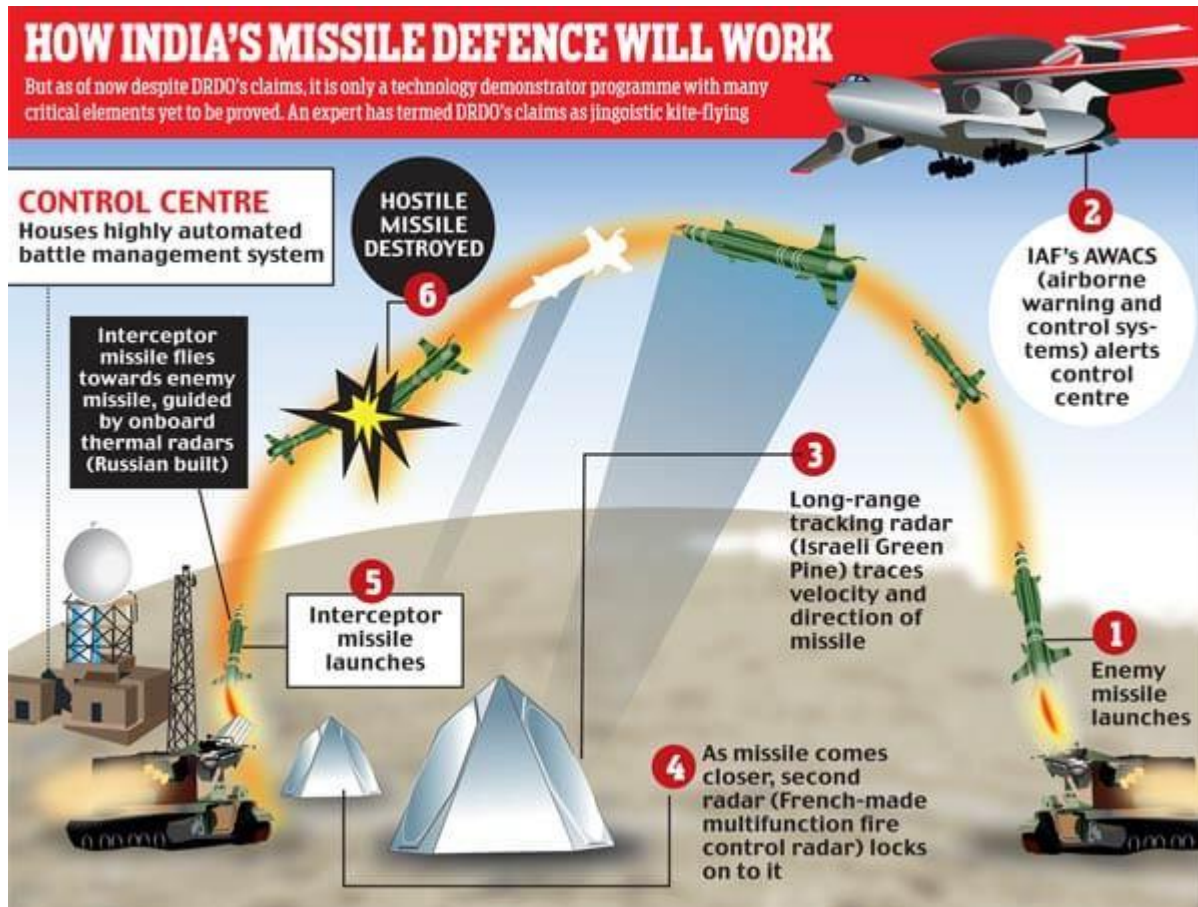
Analysts say the system developed by Russia would be superior to the THAAD* system of the United States



How Air Defence Systems work?

- A **capable and operational air defence system** protects against **enemy air strikes**, as was evident from the fact that **Pakistan** failed to inflict damage on India during last night.
- The **primary objective of an air defence system** is to take out threats from the skies — be it **enemy fighter aircraft, unmanned drones, or missiles**.
- This is done with the help of a **complex system of radar, control centres, defensive fighter aircraft, and ground-based air defence missile, artillery, and electronic warfare systems**.

- An air defence system can be sub-categorised into three interlinked operations as follows:



Operations	About
Detection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key to the success of any air defence system is its ability to detect threats in the first place. • This is typically done by radar, although satellites may be used in certain circumstances — such as an enemy launching an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM). • Radar sends out beams of electromagnetic radio waves through a transmitter. • These waves are reflected by the objects that they hit — such as an enemy aircraft.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A receiver then collects the returning radio waves — based on which it makes inferences such as the distance of the threat, its speed, and its specific nature (what kind of aircraft/ missile).
Tracking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The efficiency of an air defence system is also determined by its ability to constantly and accurately track—and not merely detect—an aerial threat. • This is typically done using a combination of radar and other sensors such as infrared cameras or laser rangefinders. • More often than not, an air defence system is not just dealing with a single threat — it has to identify and track multiple, fast-moving threats in complex and cluttered environments, which may also include friendly aircraft. • The accuracy of tracking is crucial for effectively neutralising the enemy without targeting false threats.
Interception:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once the threat has been detected and tracked, it must be neutralised. • Here, the specifics of the threat — its range, type (what kind of missile/ aircraft), speed, etc. — determine the ways in which air defences work. • All these three aspects of an air defence system have to work together as a cogent whole. • This requires what in military parlance is called “C3” or a “command, control and communication” system. • Beyond the technical capabilities of detecting, tracking, and intercepting aerial threats, superior communication and decision-making capabilities are crucial for an effective air defence.

How do the Air Defence System intercept?

- Depending on the challenges they **foresee**, **nations utilise a wide assortment of weapons to neutralise aerial threats.**
- These include the following.

Challenges	About
Fighter Aircraft:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interceptors are fighters that take on attacking enemy aircraft, especially bombers. • These agile aircraft can be scrambled at a moment's notice, and they climb quickly to altitude and neutralise an enemy aircraft before it deploys its weapons. • Interceptors are equipped for air-to-air combat with cannon, rockets, a suite of visual-range and beyond-visual-range missiles, and electronic warfare systems. • Aircraft such as the MiG-21 , an upgraded variant of which is still in service with the Indian Air Force — were dedicated interceptors; latest fighter aircraft have “multirole capabilities”. • India can deploy any of its Sukhoi Su-35s, MiG-29s, HAL Tejas, Mig-21 Bisons, and Dassault Rafales for interceptor missions.
Surface to Air Missiles (SAMS):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SAMs are the bread-and-butter of most air defence systems. • This is because they are more effective than anti-aircraft artillery (AAA), and do not put pilots in danger like interceptors. • SAMs can be used to target enemy fighters, helicopters, and missiles.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are generally radar-, infrared-, or laser-guided. • In addition to being operated from the ground, SAMs can also be launched from ships. • The three, oft-used but unofficial classes of SAMs are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Heavy long-range systems which are fixed or semi-mobile; ▪ Medium-range vehicle-mounted systems that can fire on the move; ▪ Short-range man-portable air-defense systems (or MANPADS). • Each SAM class has a different function. • The heaviest SAMs, such as the Russian-made S-400 system used by India, take on enemy ballistic missiles or aircraft at long range, as much as a few hundred kilometres. • Medium range SAMs have the capability to hit targets in the 50-100 km range but are more mobile, and can be launched in next-to-no time. • MANPADS are used for low-lying targets such as hovering helicopters or drones, or fixed-wing aircraft engaged in ground attack roles. • These are far more cost-effective than the other classes, and have been used extensively not only by militaries but also non-state actors in unconventional warfare. • India's arsenal of SAMs include the indigenously-developed medium-range Akash missiles, the medium-to-long range Barak missiles, and the long-range S-400 missiles.
--	--

Anti-Aircraft Artillery(AAA):	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Once the cornerstone of ground-based air defence systems, the development of SAMs and capabilities of modern fighter jets have greatly reduced the salience of AAA.• But augmented with automated fire-control systems, they remain crucial last-ditch defences, and are also used for specialised anti-unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) roles.• AAA fire shells rapidly, at rates of over 1,000 rounds per minute.• AAA shells are designed to explode at predetermined altitudes so as to disperse shrapnel over a wide area.• This makes an AAA battery effective even if it does not achieve a direct hit.
Electronic Warfare (EW):	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is not necessary to actually shoot down an enemy aerial threat in order to neutralise it.• EW systems are designed to disrupt, deceive, or destroy threats using the power of the electromagnetic spectrum.• In the context of air defence, EW is most often used to jam enemy radar and targeting systems, so as to impede its ability to accurately and effectively deploy its weapon. EW can confuse attack drones or prevent enemy air-to-surface missiles from homing in on targets. Several highly sophisticated EW systems are in use today.• These can operate from both land and air, including from specialised EW aircraft, such as the US Navy's Boeing EA-18G Growler, the EW version of the F/A-18 Super Hornet.

Mention about the Indian Air Defence System?

COMPLETE LIST OF INDIA'S AIR DEFENCE SYSTEMS

CAPABILITIES, RANGE & STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE



AKASH
CAPABILITIES:
Surface-to-air missile
RANGE: 25 km



BARAK 8
CAPABILITIES:
Surface-to-air missile
RANGE: 100 km




MR-SAM
CAPABILITIES:
Surface-to-air missile
RANGE: 70 km





SPYDER
CAPABILITIES:
Surface-to-air missile
RANGE: 15 km

Type	About
Akash Air Defense System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India also used its homegrown Akash Air Defense System to ward off attacks from Pakistan. Manufactured by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the Akash is a short medium-range surface-to-air missile system (SAM). The system was developed under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is 96 per cent indigenous keeping with the government's Atma Nirbhar Bharat initiative. • The Aakash comprises launcher, a missile, a control centre, an integral mission guidance system, a multifunctional fire control radar, a system arming and explosion mechanism, a digital autopilot, C4I (command, control communication and intelligence) centres and supporting ground equipment. • The Group Control Centre (GCC) acts as the command and control headquarters for the entire system. • Each Aakash battery comes with four 3D passive electronically scanned array (PESA) radars and four self-propelled launchers with three interconnected missiles each. • It has a battery-level radar known as Rajendra and a battery control centre. • Its missiles can also self-destruct. • The Akash system can guard against aircraft, UAVs, cruise missiles and missiles launched from helicopters. • It has a range of 4.5 to 25 kilometres. • The Akash system works on mobile platforms such as battle tanks or wheeled trucks. • As per BEL, it can cover an altitude of 80 kilometres. • It can engage multiple air targets in group mode or fully autonomous mode. • It comes with inbuilt Electronic Counter-Counter Measures (ECCM) features.
--	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It can carry conventional and nuclear warheads weighing up to 60 kilos. • The DRDO is currently developing a new version of Akash – known as the Akash (NG). • India is exporting the Akash weapons system to Armenia. • A number of other countries including the Philippines, Vietnam, Egypt, and Brazil have reportedly shown interest in buying the system from India.
SPYDER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SPYDER, which stands for Surface-to-air PYthon and DERby, is developed by Israel's Rafael Advanced Defense Systems. • The SPYDER (Surface-to-air PYthon and DERby) is a short-range, quick-reaction surface-to-air missile system. • India and Israel concluded a deal for the missiles in 2009, under the previous Indian government. • It is designed to neutralize aerial threats like aircraft, helicopters, UAVs, and precision-guided munitions. 

<p>BARAK</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barak-8 is an Indo-Israeli jointly developed surface to air missile (SAM) system, designed to defend against any type of airborne threat including aircraft, helicopters, anti-ship missiles, UAVs, ballistic missiles, cruise missiles and combat jets. 
<p>VSHORADS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VSHORADS is a Man Portable Air Defence system designed and developed indigenously by Research Center Imarat in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories and Development cum Production Partners. • The missile system has the capability to meet the needs of all the three branches of the Armed Forces, viz. Indian Army, Navy and Air Force. 

Why is Operation Sindoor different from earlier strikes against Pakistan?

- **India** has carried out its **deepest strikes inside Pakistan's territory** since **1971**, successfully targeting terror camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir.
- This marks **New Delhi's most significant military action within Pakistani territory in over five decades**, news agency ANI said.

Actions	Analysis
Wide-ranging response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2019 Balakot strikes and the 2016 Uri attacks were essentially a limited action. • However, Operation Sindoor is a wide-ranging response. • The strike hit nine separate locations in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) including Muzaffarabad, Kotli, Bahawalpur, Rawalakot, Chakswari, Bhimber, Neelum Valley, Jhelum, and Chakwal. • India hit Pakistan with 24 missile strikes – the most it has ever launched in a single-day action. • Compare this to Balakot when India hit just one target of Jaish-E-Mohammed terror training camp in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in Pakistan. • The idea behind Operation Sindoor was to shake the foundation of terror coming from Pakistan. • “Over 70 militants were reported killed, and more than 60 others were injured during the coordinated assault,” the government source added.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As security analyst Aadil Mir told ANI, “India has crossed two significant thresholds... striking multiple sites and targeting Pakistan’s heartland. This goes far beyond 2019.”
Weapons systems used	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All three services, Indian Army, Indian Navy and Indian Air Force were involved in Operation Sindoor. A number of weapons including SCALP (Storm Shadow) missiles which have a range of over 250 kilometres, Highly Agile Modular Munition Extended Range (Hammer) precision bombs and loitering munitions were used. “Within less than an hour, all missiles had struck their designated targets. The strikes were synchronised to avoid detection and maximise the element of surprise. Real-time footage from UAVs confirmed the destruction of target facilities. The decision to target deep into Pakistan territory was a departure from prior doctrine and marked a new level of strategic assertiveness,” a government source said.
New red line	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moneycontrol noted that the operation is an indication that India is shifting its red line against Pakistan. A piece in The Times of India stated that the strikes had put Pakistan on notice about

	<p>the escalating price of terror from across the border.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It noted that India also focussed on terror infrastructure rather than military installations thus avoiding increasing tensions further.
Different name, different mindset	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As per Indian Express, the defence establishment has also indicated a change in mindset with its choice of the name of the operation. • Rather than seek to play up India's military firepower, the establishment instead decided to honour the Pahalgam terror attack victims. • Sources said Prime Minister Narendra Modi chose the name of the operation. • The choice was a tribute to those who lost their husbands in the Pahalgam attack which left 26 dead.

What Is 'Dance Of The Hillary'?

- According to **intelligence sources**, **Pakistan** is trying to spread a dangerous virus called '**Dance of the Hillary**'.
- This malware is being sent through platforms like **WhatsApp, Facebook, Telegram, and email**.
- It usually comes disguised as a **video or document**.
- Once opened, **it can damage your phone or computer and steal sensitive data like your bank information, passwords, and private files**.
- Experts say the virus often appears in files with names ending in **.exe, such as tasksche.exe**.

- These files might look **normal**, but they are **actually harmful**.
- Once clicked, they give **hackers remote access to your device**.
- This **cyber attack** comes as a desperate move by **Pakistan** after suffering heavy damage from **Indian military operations**.



What is the World Bank stance on the Indus Water Treaty(IWT)?



- World Bank president **Ajay Banga** met **PM Narendra Modi** and finance minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** and said the **multilateral agency will not interfere in the Indus Water Treaty** which has been put on hold by India amid rising hostility from Pakistan.

- **World Bank chief Ajay Banga** said that the financial institution is **merely a facilitator** and has no role to play beyond that.
- Signalling that **IWT** is a bilateral issue, **Ajay Banga said that it is a decision between India and Pakistan.**
- In an interview to CNBC-TV18 he said , **“We have to pay the fees of those guys through a trust fund that was set up at the Bank at the time of creation of the treaty. That’s our role. We have no role to play beyond that”.**

Is China behind Pakistan's failure?

CHINESE HQ9 FAILED TO DETECT INDIAN MISSILES

Chinese HQ-9 SAMs designed to counter Cruise & Ballistic missiles did not detect a single Indian missile used in [#OpSindoor](#) last night. [#Pakistan](#) spent \$3 Million per unit none of which worked.
1/2



- In a huge setback for Pakistan, **its radar system failed massively** to detect the Indian strikes in real time.
- Reports suggest Pakistani **airspace was guarded by HQ-9 and LY-80** air defence systems but **SCALP missiles** used by the Indian Air Force (IAF) **bypassed them.**

- **Supplied by China**, both HQ-9 and LY-80 air defence systems were **supplemented with early warning radars and electronic jammers**.
- Islamabad even promoted them as a robust shield against aerial threats.
- **Modelled after Russia's S-300**, HQ-9 is **marketed** as capable of **detecting and neutralizing threats mid-air**.
- However, during **Operation Sindoor**, **Pakistan's radar system failed to detect** or stop the incoming precision strikes.
- The **stealth coating on SCALP** made it **exceptionally hard for radar systems to detect**. In addition, **India executed** the operation **during a nationwide civil defence mock drill**, using the to ensure zero anticipation from Pakistan's air defence network.

How world leaders reacted to Indian strikes on terror camps in Pakistan?

World Leaders	Reaction
United States	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reacting to the rising India-Pakistan tensions, US President Donald Trump called it a shame and hoped that it would end "very quickly." • "It's a shame, we just heard about it," Trump told reporters at the White House. • The US president added: <i>"I just hope it ends very quickly."</i> • US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said on X he was "monitoring the situation between India and Pakistan closely" while adding that Washington will continue to engage the nuclear-armed Asian neighbours towards a "peaceful resolution."

China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China has expressed concern over Indian strikes on Pakistan, urging both sides to show restraint in response to a major escalation between its nuclear-armed neighbours. • <i>"We call on both India and Pakistan to prioritise peace and stability, remain calm and restrained and avoid taking actions that further complicate the situation,"</i> a spokesperson for Beijing's foreign ministry said. • Beijing also said it was willing to play a "constructive role" in easing tensions between Pakistan and India in response to a major escalation between its nuclear-armed neighbours.
Russia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moscow has called for both India and Pakistan to show "restraint" after they exchanged heavy artillery fire following deadly missile strikes by New Delhi, in the worst violence between the nuclear-armed neighbours in two decades. • Russia's foreign ministry said it was "deeply concerned by the escalation of military confrontation", called "on the parties to exercise restraint to prevent further deterioration" and said it hoped tensions could be "resolved through peaceful, diplomatic means".
United Kingdom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UK offered to support both India and Pakistan to de-escalate tensions. • <i>"Our message would be that we are a friend, a partner to both countries. We stand ready to support both countries. Both have a huge interest in regional stability, in dialogue, in de-escalation and anything we can do to support that, we are here and willing to do,"</i> Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds told BBC radio.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Foreign Office advised British nationals against travel within eight kilometres (five miles) of the India-Pakistan border, within 16 kilometres of the Line of Control, a heavily fortified zone of high-altitude Himalayan outposts that represents the de facto Kashmir border and all travel to the southwestern Balochistan province of Pakistan.
France	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "We understand India's desire to protect itself against the scourge of terrorism, but we obviously call on both India and Pakistan to exercise restraint to avoid escalation and, of course, to protect civilians," French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot, said in an interview on TF1 television.
Israel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Israel has backed 'India's right to self-defence' after missile strikes on Pakistan. • Talking to X, Reuven Azar, Israeli Ambassador to India, said Israel "supports India's right for self-defence", adding that "Terrorists should know there's no place to hide from their heinous crimes against the innocent".
UAE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The United Arab Emirates, meanwhile, asked India and Pakistan "to exercise restraint, de-escalate tensions, and avoid further escalation that could threaten regional and international peace," according to a statement from UAE Deputy Prime Minister of Foreign Affairs Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan.
United Nations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres is very concerned about the Indian military operations across the Line of Control and the international border. • He calls for maximum military restraint from both countries.

Where is Kashmir?

- Located in the **northwest of the Indian subcontinent**, Kashmir lies at a **high altitude**, with much of the region rising over **1,500 metres (4,900 feet)** above sea level.
- It covers an area of **222,200 square kilometres (85,800 square miles)**.
- The population is **overwhelmingly Muslim**, with approximately **four million people living in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir** and about **13 million in Jammu and Kashmir**.
- The **de facto border** that divides **Pakistan Occupied Kashmir** and India is known as the **Line of Control (LoC)**.
- The line originally marked the military front when the two countries declared a **ceasefire in January 1949** after their first war over **Kashmir**.
- It was formally named the **LoC under the 1972 Simla Agreement**, signed after the **1971 war** that resulted in the creation of Bangladesh.



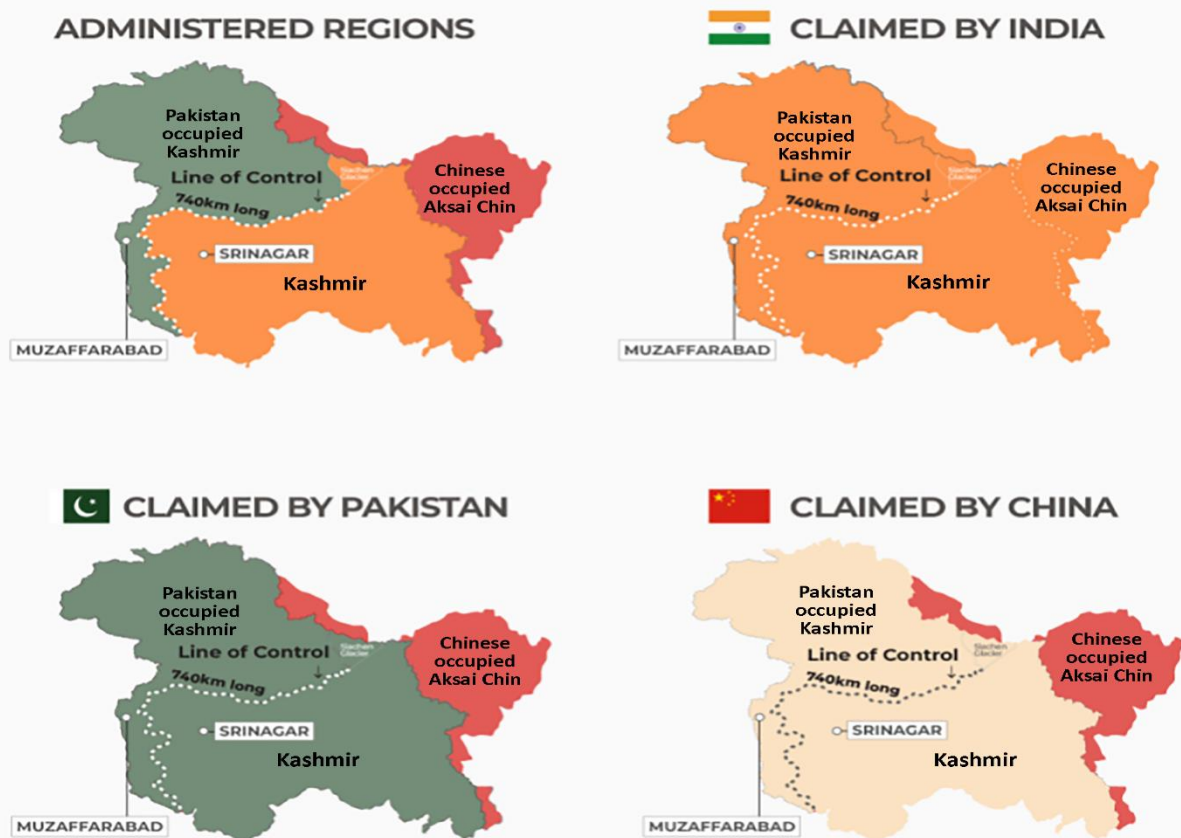
Who controls Kashmir?

- India, Pakistan and China each claim parts of Kashmir.
- Pakistan controls the northern and western portions, namely Gilgit and Baltistan and what Pakistan calls Azad Kashmir or “free Kashmir”.
- India controls the southern and southeastern parts, including the Kashmir Valley and its biggest city, Srinagar, as well as Jammu and Ladakh.
- Pakistan calls Indian-administered Kashmir as “Indian-occupied Kashmir”.

KASHMIR

Territorial claims


India, Pakistan and China each claim parts of Kashmir.



What is the timeline of tensions between India and Pakistan over Kashmir?



Timeline	About
1947-Fraught Beginnings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contention over Kashmir began nearly as soon as India and Pakistan were formed.• In 1947, Britain divided India, its former colony, into two countries.• Within months a military confrontation ensued.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Hindu ruler of Kashmir, who had at first refused to abdicate his sovereignty, agreed to make the region part of India in exchange for a security guarantee, after militias from Pakistan moved into parts of his territory. • What followed was the first war that India and Pakistan would fight over Kashmir. • Years later, in 1961, the former ruler of Kashmir passed away in Bombay. 
<p>1949-A Tenuous Cease- Fire</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In January 1949, the first war between India and Pakistan over Kashmir concluded after the United Nations intervened to broker a cease-fire. • Under the terms of the cease-fire, a line was drawn dividing the territory. • India would occupy about two-thirds of the area, and Pakistan the other third. • The dividing line was supposed to be temporary, pending a more permanent political settlement.

1965-War Breaks Out Again

- Tensions were already high between India and Pakistan in the **summer of 1965**.
- There had been a skirmish between their forces along the border earlier in the year, in an area south of Kashmir.
- **When Pakistan conducted a covert offensive across Kashmir's cease-fire line in August, the fighting quickly escalated into a full-scale war.**
- The clash was short-lived, **only about three weeks long but bloody.**
- In January 1966, India and Pakistan signed an agreement to settle future disputes through peaceful means.





1972-An Official Division



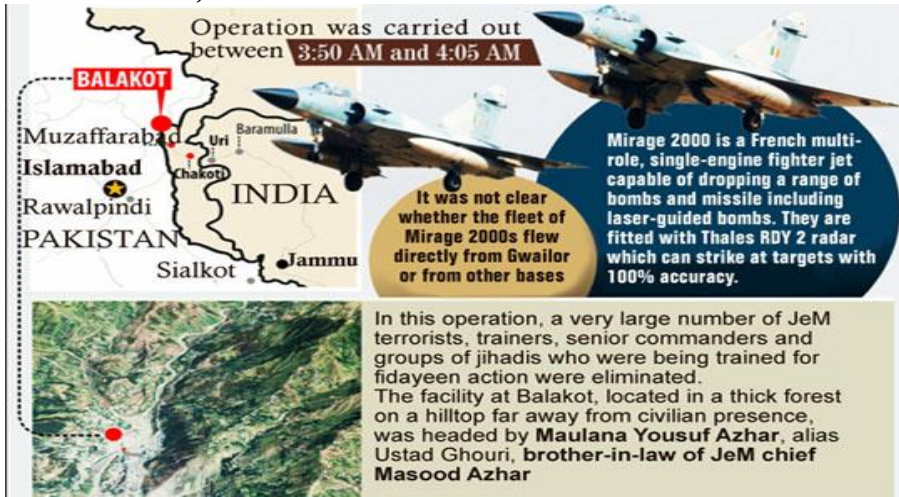
- After a **regional war in 1971** that led to the **creation of Bangladesh, Pakistan and India** decided to **revisit the unsolved issue of Kashmir.**
- In **December 1972**, the countries announced that they had **resolved the deadlock over Kashmir's cease-fire line.**
- But little changed besides the designation.
- The temporary cease-fire line from 1949 became an official **“line of control.”**
- While the **agreement did little to change the status quo in Kashmir**, it came with an aspiration to **improve the volatile relationship between India and Pakistan.**

1987-The Rise of Insurgency




	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During a period of particular political turmoil aggravated in 1987 by disputes over local elections that many thought were rigged, some Kashmiris turned to militancy, which Pakistan would eventually stoke and support. • Over the next decade or so, state police in Kashmir recorded tens of thousands of bombings, shootouts, abductions and rocket attacks. • That violence began to moderate around the 2000s, but the years of intense insurgency had further eroded the fragile relationship between Pakistan and India.
<p>1999-Kargil War</p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fighting broke out after infiltrators from Pakistan seized positions within the Indian territory. • India claimed that the infiltrators were Pakistani soldiers, which Western analysts would also come to believe.  <p>DEAD PAKISTAN SOLDIERS IN KARGIL WAR WAS BURIED BY 13 JAK RIF WITH ISLAMIC RITUALS ON POINT 4875</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The war ended when Mr. Sharif called for the infiltrators to withdraw (he maintained all along that they were not Pakistani forces and that Pakistan did not control them). • A few months later, Mr. Sharif was deposed in a military coup led by a Pakistani general who, it was later determined, had directed the military incursion that started the war.
2016- Incidence at Uri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On September 18, 2016, terrorists linked to the Jaish-e-Mohammed attacked an Army base, a brigade HQ, in fact, near the town of Uri in Jammu and Kashmir's Baramulla district. • Nineteen soldiers were killed while thirty others were injured. <div data-bbox="506 1008 1395 1470" data-label="Image"> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • British broadcaster the BBC called it 'the deadliest attack on security forces in Kashmir in two decades'. • This was during a time when terrorist activity was extremely high in the Valley. • The terror attack led to a six-hour gun battle in which all four terrorists were killed.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Army crossed the Line of Control to destroy terror launchpads in PoK. • It was a successful operation as the Army said it had made a 'pre-emptive strike' against terrorists planning to 'infiltrate and conduct terror attacks inside J&K and various metros in other states'.
<p>2019- Pulwama Incident and Balakot Strike</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On February 14, 2019, a suicide bomber in a Scorpio SUV laden with 350 kg of explosives struck one of the buses of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) convoy near Pulwama on the Srinagar-Jammu Highway, claiming lives of 40 jawans. • The convoy was carrying more than 75 vehicles and going towards Srinagar. • The car was driven by Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terrorist Adil Ahmad Dar from Kakapora of Pulwama district where the attack had taken place. • It was one of the deadliest attacks in Jammu and Kashmir's history. • On February 26, 2019 the Indian Air Force struck Jaish's biggest terror training camp in Balakot, Pakistan. <div data-bbox="509 1375 1403 1869">  <p>Operation was carried out between 3:50 AM and 4:05 AM</p> <p>BALAKOT</p> <p>Muzaffargarh, Uri, Baramulla, Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Sialkot, Jammu, PAKISTAN, INDIA</p> <p>Mirage 2000 is a French multi-role, single-engine fighter jet capable of dropping a range of bombs and missile including laser-guided bombs. They are fitted with Thales RDY 2 radar which can strike at targets with 100% accuracy.</p> <p>It was not clear whether the fleet of Mirage 2000s flew directly from Gwalior or from other bases</p> <p>In this operation, a very large number of JeM terrorists, trainers, senior commanders and groups of jihadis who were being trained for fidayeen action were eliminated. The facility at Balakot, located in a thick forest on a hilltop far away from civilian presence, was headed by Maulana Yousuf Azhar, alias Ustad Ghouri, brother-in-law of JeM chief Masood Azhar</p> </div>

	<div data-bbox="511 216 915 252" data-label="Section-Header"> <h3>THE OPERATION</h3> </div> <div data-bbox="511 254 909 453" data-label="Text"> <p>3:45 AM Strike at Jabha Top, Balakot terror camp 8 MIN: Duration of strike 4-5 explosions UNDER 1 HR: Duration of entire operation</p> </div> <div data-bbox="992 218 1386 428" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="511 468 794 504" data-label="Section-Header"> <h3>THE AMMO</h3> </div> <div data-bbox="511 506 932 667" data-label="Text"> <p>ON BOARD SPICE 2000 guided air to surface missile, can be fired from standoff distance of 60 km; Crystal Maze Mark 2 can be fired from 90 km</p> </div> <div data-bbox="987 443 1258 478" data-label="Section-Header"> <h3>THE FLEET</h3> </div> <div data-bbox="987 480 1391 667" data-label="Text"> <p>12 MIRAGE 2000 ■ 4 Sukhoi 30 MKI that did a forward sweep ■ Phalcon AWACS, Netra aircraft, Heron UAV, 2 IL-78 mid-air refuelling tankers</p> </div>
<p>2025- Terrorist Attack</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On April 22, militants shot and killed 26 people, mostly tourists from different parts of India, near Pahalgam, Kashmir. <div data-bbox="527 867 1360 1362" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="527 1369 938 1797" data-label="Image"> </div> <div data-bbox="526 1797 915 1866" data-label="Caption"> <p>Indian police officers stand guard at a checkpoint following an attack near Pahalgam in south Kashmir's Anantnag district, on April 22, 2025 [Stringer/Reuters]</p> </div> <div data-bbox="943 1369 1354 1864" data-label="Image"> </div>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seventeen others were wounded. • It was one of the worst attacks on Indian civilians in decades. • Almost immediately afterward, Indian officials confirmed that Pakistan had been involved. • Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, vowed severe punishment for the perpetrators and those giving them safe haven, though he did not explicitly mention Pakistan. • Pakistan swiftly denied involvement and said it was “ready to cooperate” with any international inquiry into the terrorist attack.
<p>Operation Sindoor</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Indian armed forces on May 7, 2025 launched precision strikes on terrorist infrastructures at nine sites in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in retaliation for the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people on April 22. 

What is the relevance of the topic for UPSC CSE?

- **Prelims:** Kishanganga and Ratle Hydro Electric Projects, Indus Water Treaty (IWT), Indus and its tributaries, Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) Pipeline.
- **Mains:** Instability in Pakistan, Opportunities and threats for India, Indus Waters Treaty and associated implementation issues, Terrorism, Targeted killings, Shimla Agreement.

SOME PREVIOUS YEARS PRELIMS QUESTIONS.

Q1. Consider the following statements. **(2023)**

1. Jhelum River passes through Wular Lake.
2. Krishna River directly feeds Kolleru Lake.
3. Meandering of the Gandak River formed Kanwar Lake.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) All three
- (d) None

Ans: (a)

Q2. With reference to the Indus river system, of the following four rivers, three of them pour into one of them which joins the Indus directly. Among the following, which one is such a river that joins the Indus directly? **(2021)**

- (a) Chenab
- (b) Jhelum
- (c) Ravi
- (d) Satluj

Ans: (d)

Some previous years mains questions.

- Q1.** “Increasing cross-border terrorist attacks in India and growing interference in the internal affairs of several member-states by Pakistan are not conducive for the future of SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation).” Explain with suitable. **(2016-12.5 Marks)**
- Q2.** Terrorist activities and mutual distrust have clouded India-Pakistan relations. To what extent the use of soft power like sports and cultural exchanges could help generate goodwill between the two countries? Discuss with suitable examples. **(2015-12.5 Marks)**

Some questions from this year and previous years interview transcripts.

Board Sanjay Verma sir:

- What is nuclear deterrence ?
- Does nuclear deterrence work only for other NWS or non NWS also?
- What is extended deterrence?
- Has nuclear deterrence worked in the case of India - Pakistan ?

Board Sanjay Verma sir:

- We are allowing too much water from Indus to Pakistan.
- Shouldn't we stop that?

Board Sheel Vardhan Singh sir:

- What do you mean by water security?
- What is the Indus water treaty?
- Tell me about some recent news of IWT and why India wants to make changes?
- Why do Pakistan have issues even if our projects are run off the river?

Board Suman Sharma mam:

- Gujarat shares a border with Pakistan, what is the border issue with Pakistan there?

Board Dinesh Dasa sir:

- You talked about the Indus Water Treaty, what is it?
- Who was the third party in it?
- Why are the people of J&K not happy with it?
- What is India doing about it?
- Your views on the treaty, what should we do?

Some questions for QUIZ

Q1. Consider the following Countries:

1. Iraq
2. India
3. Turkmenistan
4. Afghanistan
5. Tajikistan

How many of the above countries are surrounded by Pakistan?

- (a) Only two
- (b) Only three
- (c) Only four
- (d) All five

Ans: (a)

Some questions for POLL

Q1. Do you think Pakistan has the capability to retaliate to Operation Sindoor?

- (a) YES
- (b) NO
- (c) Can't say.

Q2. Are you satisfied with India's response to the Pahalgam terrorist attack?

- (a) YES
- (b) NO
- (c) Can't say

