

# Operation Sindoor: India's Decisive and Justified Strike Against Cross-Border Terrorism

Prof. Dr. Harikumar Pallathadka<sup>1</sup> and Dr. Parag Deb Roy<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Vice-Chancellor & Professor, Manipur International University, Imphal, Manipur, INDIA.

<sup>2</sup>Guwahati, Assam, INDIA.

<sup>1</sup>Corresponding Author: [harikumar@miu.edu.in](mailto:harikumar@miu.edu.in)

ORCID

<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0705-9035>



[www.sjmars.com](http://www.sjmars.com) || Vol. 4 No. 2 (2025): April Issue

Date of Submission: 07-05-2025

Date of Acceptance: 09-05-2025

Date of Publication: 10-05-2025

## ABSTRACT

This paper examines Operation Sindoor, India's precision counter-terrorism strike conducted today, May 7, 2025, targeting terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). The operation, launched in response to the heinous Pahalgam terror attack of April 22, 2025, represents a landmark achievement in India's counter-terrorism doctrine, demonstrating exemplary precision, rightful assertion of sovereignty, and technological excellence. By meticulously targeting only terrorist facilities while deliberately avoiding military installations, India has established a new gold standard for legitimate counter-terrorism operations that upholds international norms while decisively protecting national security interests. This study analyzes the operational brilliance including the sophisticated weaponry employed, the strategic vision behind the operation, and the strong international support from responsible global powers for India's rightful actions. Operation Sindoor constitutes a watershed moment in regional security dynamics and offers valuable lessons for counter-terrorism strategies globally, establishing India as a responsible power determined to protect its citizens from the scourge of terrorism.

**Keywords-** Operation Sindoor; counter-terrorism; strategic deterrence; precision strikes; India's sovereignty; SCALP missiles; HAMMER bombs; loitering munitions; Narendra Modi; India.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Today, May 7, 2025, India has demonstrated its unwavering commitment to protecting its citizens and territorial integrity through Operation Sindoor, a meticulously executed counter-terrorism operation targeting terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK). This decisive action, authorized by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government, follows the barbaric Pahalgam terror attack of April 22, 2025, which claimed 26 innocent lives and represented one of the deadliest terrorist incidents in India since the 2008 Mumbai attacks.

Operation Sindoor stands as a landmark achievement in India's counter-terrorism strategy for several reasons: its impeccable precision and execution, its clear targeting parameters focused exclusively on terrorist infrastructure, its deployment of cutting-edge military technology, and its strategic messaging demonstrating India's evolved military capabilities while maintaining a commitment to international norms by deliberately avoiding military installations. The operation exemplifies how a responsible democratic power under decisive leadership can effectively respond to terrorism while adhering to principles of international law.

The Modi government's resolute action has garnered significant support from responsible global powers who recognize the legitimacy of India's right to self-defense against the persistent threat of cross-border terrorism. This paper examines Operation Sindoor through multiple analytical lenses, assessing its justification, execution, strategic significance, and implications for regional security dynamics, providing compelling evidence for why this operation represents a justified and necessary response to terrorism.

## **II. BACKGROUND: THE PAHALGAM ATTACK AND ESCALATING TENSIONS**

### **2.1 The Pahalgam Terror Attack**

The roots of Operation Sindoor can be traced to the terrorist attack carried out on April 22, 2025, in Pahalgam, a popular tourist destination in Jammu and Kashmir. In what became the deadliest attack on civilians in India since the 2008 Mumbai attacks, terrorists brutally murdered 26 people, including 25 Indian nationals and one Nepali citizen. The attack specifically targeted Hindu tourists, with militants separating victims by religion before executing them.

The horrific nature of the attack was evident in its execution. Armed with AK-47s and M4 carbines, five militants entered the Baisaran Valley meadow near Pahalgam and deliberately targeted non-Muslim tourists. According to survivor accounts, the terrorists asked tourists to identify their religion and forced some to recite Islamic verses to segregate them. In several cases, Hindu men were shot point-blank in front of their wives, including newly married couples. The attackers even told Hindu women they were being spared so they could narrate the horrors to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

### **2.2 Attribution and Investigation**

The Resistance Front (TRF), a known offshoot of the Pakistan-based terrorist organization Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), initially claimed responsibility for the attack, stating it was in opposition to non-local settlement resulting from the abolition of Kashmir's special status. Though they later retracted this claim, Indian intelligence agencies established clear links between the attack and Pakistan-based terror groups.

India's National Investigation Agency (NIA) promptly launched an investigation into the attack. Based on eyewitness accounts, the Jammu and Kashmir Police released sketches of three militants linked to Lashkar-e-Taiba, with at least two identified as foreigners. Digital traces led to safe houses in Muzaffarabad and Karachi, with forensic evidence and intelligence intercepts suggesting support from operatives based in Pakistan.

The investigation team determined that one of the identified Pakistani militants, Hashim Musa, had previously served in Pakistan's paramilitary forces before joining Lashkar-e-Taiba. This finding strengthened India's assertion of state-supported terrorism emanating from Pakistani soil. The NIA investigation further revealed that the attack was carried out under directives from senior operatives of Pakistan's intelligence agency, the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI).

### **2.3 Diplomatic Measures and Rising Tensions**

In the aftermath of the Pahalgam attack, India implemented several diplomatic and strategic measures to hold Pakistan accountable. These included suspending the Indus Waters Treaty, terminating visa-free travel regimes, and closing the Attari border crossing. Prime Minister Narendra Modi vowed to pursue the perpetrators "to the ends of the earth" and inflict punishment "beyond their imagination."

Pakistan responded by rejecting India's suspension of the water treaty, warning that any attempts to alter Pakistan's Indus River flows would be considered "an act of war." Islamabad also closed Pakistani airspace to Indian commercial airlines, suspended special visa regimes for Indian citizens, and halted bilateral trade.

The situation escalated further with India and Pakistan exchanging fire across the Line of Control daily following the attack. The United Nations Security Council convened emergency closed consultations on May 5, 2025, under the agenda item "The India-Pakistan question," reflecting the gravity of the situation.

## **III. OPERATION SINDOOR: PLANNING, EXECUTION, AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**

### **3.1 Strategic Objectives**

Operation Sindoor was launched by the Indian Armed Forces at 1:05 AM on May 7, 2025, as a decisive response to the Pahalgam attack. The operation was meticulously planned with specific objectives:

1. Eliminate terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and PoK
2. Degrade the operational capabilities of terror groups targeting India
3. Send a clear deterrent message against cross-border terrorism
4. Maintain strategic restraint by avoiding Pakistani military installations

### **3.2 Operational Execution**

The tri-service operation involved coordinated efforts by the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force, demonstrating India's joint operational capabilities. In just 25 minutes, between 1:05 AM and 1:30 AM, Indian forces executed 24 precision missile strikes on nine terrorist targets across Pakistan and PoK.

The operation targeted nine specific locations housing terrorist infrastructure:

Location	Function / Affiliation
Markaz Subhan Allah, Bahawalpur	Jaish-e-Mohammed Headquarters
Markaz Taiba, Muridke	Lashkar-e-Taiba Base
Mehmoona Joya, Sialkot	Hizbul Mujahideen Camp
Markaz Ahle Hadith, Barnala	LeT-linked Religious Indoctrination Hub
Syedna Bilal Camp, Muzaffarabad	Jaish-e-Mohammed Training Centre
Shwawai Nalla Camp, Muzaffarabad	Lashkar-e-Taiba Operations Unit
Makaz Raheel Shahid, Kotli	Hizbul Mujahideen Centre
Markaz Abbas, Kotli	JeM Safehouse
Sarjal Facility, Tehra Kalan	Weapons and IED Storage

3.3 Technology and Weaponry

The operation employed sophisticated military technology, with Rafale jets serving as the primary delivery platforms for a carefully selected array of precision weapons. Recent reports confirm that three main weapons systems were used in Operation Sindoor: SCALP cruise missiles, HAMMER precision-guided bombs, and loitering munitions (kamikaze drones) (Business Today, 2025; Assam Tribune, 2025; The Tribune, 2025).

The SCALP missile (also known as Storm Shadow in the UK) is an air-launched, long-range cruise missile designed for deep penetration strikes against high-value fixed targets. With a weight of 1,300 kg, including a 450 kg warhead, and a range exceeding 250 km, the SCALP's sophisticated navigation system combines INS, GPS, and terrain referencing capabilities, allowing for exceptional precision while maintaining a low flight profile to evade detection (India.com, 2025; Outlook India, 2025). Its "fire and forget" design means that once launched, it guides itself to the target using onboard systems without requiring further input. The missile offers multiple detonation options, including airburst, impact, and penetrative, making it highly effective against hardened structures.

For mid-range targets, the HAMMER (Highly Agile Modular Munition Extended Range) precision-guided bombs provided versatile striking capabilities. With a range of up to 70 km depending on launch altitude and speed, HAMMER bombs are highly resistant to jamming and can navigate over challenging terrain (The Tribune, 2025). Their modular design allowed the Indian Air Force to tailor the guidance and warhead types to specific mission requirements. Notably, in February 2025, Safran Electronics & Defense and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) established a partnership to manufacture HAMMER bombs in India, enhancing the country's indigenous defense capabilities (Outlook India, 2025).

Complementing these conventional strike weapons were loitering munitions, or "kamikaze drones," which provided both surveillance and precision strike capabilities. These unmanned systems can loiter in airspace over potential targets, offering real-time intelligence and the ability to engage targets of opportunity with minimal collateral damage (Assam Tribune, 2025).

3.4 Impact and Casualties

Indian sources reported that more than 70 terrorists were killed and over 60 wounded in the strikes, significantly degrading the operational capability of terror outfits. Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Maulana Masood Azhar reportedly claimed that 10 members of his family and four of his aides were killed in the strikes.

3.5 Symbolism of the Name "Operation Sindoor"

The name "Operation Sindoor" carries profound symbolic significance. Sindoor (vermilion) is worn by married Hindu women as a symbol of marriage. Prime Minister Modi reportedly chose this name as a tribute to the women who lost their husbands in the Pahalgam terror attack. The official image released by the Indian Army had "Operation Sindoor" written in block letters, with one "O" depicted as a bowl of vermilion with some spilled over, symbolizing the ruthlessness that snatched away the life partners of 25 women. The caption "Justice is served. Jai Hind" reinforced India's resolve to avenge the innocent lives lost.

IV. STRATEGIC RESTRAINT AND DOCTRINAL EVOLUTION

4.1 Measured Approach and Strategic Restraint

What sets Operation Sindoor apart from previous military actions is the measured and focused approach taken by India. The Ministry of Defence described the operation as "focused, measured and non-escalatory" in nature. India deliberately avoided targeting any Pakistani military facilities, demonstrating considerable restraint in the selection of targets and methods of execution.

At a press briefing following the operation, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri, accompanied by Colonel Sophia Qureshi and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh, emphasized that the operation was a "measured and proportionate"

response to the April 22 terror attack. The involvement of two women officers in the briefing highlighted India's progressive military ethos.

#### **4.2 Legal and Moral Justification**

India's justification for the strikes was firmly grounded in its right to self-defense against cross-border terrorism. The government highlighted that more than 350 Indian civilians had succumbed to cross-border terrorism in the past decade, with 800 injured in terrorist acts. Additionally, over 600 security personnel had laid down their lives and more than 1,400 were injured while protecting the nation from the "scourge of cross-border terrorism".

#### **4.3 Comparison with Previous Operations**

Unlike previous operations such as the 2016 Uri surgical strikes and the 2019 Balakot airstrikes, Operation Sindoor was markedly different in scale, scope, and technological sophistication. While the earlier operations were limited in their objectives, Operation Sindoor was technologically robust and expansive, representing an evolution in India's strategic posture.

A government source noted, "The sheer scale of militant loss sent a strong message to terrorist networks and their handlers. India now reserves the right to strike preemptively, and no location is beyond reach." This indicates a significant departure from prior doctrine and demonstrates India's commitment to proactively addressing security threats.

## **V. INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE AND STRONG SUPPORT FROM GLOBAL POWERS**

In the wake of Operation Sindoor, India has received significant support from responsible global powers who recognize the legitimacy of India's actions as justified self-defense against the persistent threat of cross-border terrorism.

#### **5.1 Strong Support from Strategic Partners**

Israel has been particularly vocal in its support for Operation Sindoor. Israel's Ambassador to India, Reuven Azar, posted on social media: "Terrorists should know there's no place to hide from their heinous crimes against the innocent. #OperationSindoor" (India Today, 2025). This statement reflects Israel's recognition of India's legitimate right to defend itself against terrorism, drawing on Israel's own experiences in counter-terrorism operations.

Russia, as India's longstanding strategic partner, has maintained its traditional support for India's security concerns. In line with their defense partnership, which includes the supply of advanced military technology, Russia has historically backed India's position on counter-terrorism. The Indian National Security Advisor Ajit Doval reportedly briefed Russian counterparts along with officials from Britain, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates about the operation (France24, 2025), highlighting the importance India places on keeping its strategic partners informed about its security actions.

#### **5.2 Wider International Understanding**

The United States, while calling for restraint, has implicitly acknowledged India's right to self-defense. U.S. President Donald Trump stated, "I guess people knew something was going to happen based on a little bit of the past" (Reuters, 2025a), reflecting an understanding of the context that necessitated India's response. The U.S. State Department has engaged with national security advisers from both nations, demonstrating the U.S. commitment to regional stability while not questioning India's fundamental right to protect its citizens.

According to CNN (2025), "A senior Indian government official told CNN that New Delhi had briefed its international counterparts on the steps it had taken – including the US, UAE, United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia and Russia." This proactive diplomatic outreach demonstrates India's commitment to transparency with the international community, further legitimizing the operation.

Several Gulf states, including the UAE and Saudi Arabia, have maintained balanced positions that respect India's concerns about terrorism. Their measured responses, avoiding criticism of India's actions, reflect the growing strategic partnerships between India and Gulf nations.

#### **5.3 Global Recognition of India's Counter-Terrorism Leadership**

Operation Sindoor has cemented India's position as a leader in the global fight against terrorism. The operation's precision, professionalism, and restraint have set a new standard for counter-terrorism operations worldwide. By focusing exclusively on terrorist targets while explicitly avoiding military installations, as stated in India's official statement that "No Pakistani military facilities have been targeted" (PIB, 2025), India has demonstrated how major powers can effectively combat terrorism while adhering to international norms.

The wider international community's response underscores a growing recognition that cross-border terrorism requires decisive action. India's approach - exhausting diplomatic channels before resorting to military means, ensuring precision in targeting, and maintaining strategic communication throughout - offers a model for responsible power projection in the 21st century.

## VI. STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE AND FUTURE IMPLICATIONS

### 6.1 A New Paradigm in Counter-Terrorism

Operation Sindoor represents a watershed moment in counter-terrorism strategy for several compelling reasons:

1. **Doctrinal Excellence:** The operation established a new paradigm in proactive counter-terrorism measures, with India demonstrating both the will and the capability to strike terrorist infrastructure preemptively. Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri explicitly framed the operation as India exercising "its right to respond and pre-empt as well as deter more such cross-border attacks" (The Tribune, 2025). This represents a significant advancement in protecting Indian citizens from terrorism.
2. **Technological Brilliance:** By deploying advanced precision-guided weaponry and sophisticated intelligence gathering, India has showcased its military modernization and technological capabilities at the highest level. The successful execution of 24 precision strikes across nine terrorist facilities in just 25 minutes demonstrates an operational sophistication that places India among the world's most capable military powers (SSB Crack Exams, 2025).
3. **Strategic Clarity:** The operation sent an unmistakable message that India will not tolerate cross-border terrorism and possesses the means to target terrorist infrastructure with precision, regardless of location. As noted by one government source, "The sheer scale of militant loss sent a strong message to terrorist networks and their handlers. India now reserves the right to strike preemptively, and no location is beyond reach" (NDTV, 2025).
4. **Responsible Power Projection:** Despite the significant scale of the operation, India's deliberate avoidance of military targets demonstrated strategic maturity and commitment to international norms. In the official briefing, the Foreign Secretary emphasized that these actions were "measured, non-escalatory, proportionate, and responsible" (The Tribune, 2025), reflecting India's status as a responsible global power.

The operation carried a powerful message encapsulated in the video shown at the government briefing: "No More". This simple yet potent declaration, following a montage of terrorist attacks from the 2001 Parliament attack to the 2025 Pahalgam tragedy, indicated India's firm resolve to end the cycle of cross-border terrorism (NDTV, 2025).

### 6.2 Reestablishing Regional Stability Through Strength

Operation Sindoor has fundamentally altered the security dynamics in South Asia by establishing a clear deterrence against terrorism. By demonstrating both the capacity and the will to strike terrorist infrastructure with precision and force, India has created a powerful disincentive for state and non-state actors that might consider supporting or harboring terrorists.

This robust assertion of India's security interests creates the foundation for genuine stability in the region. The operation exemplifies the principle that true peace can only be achieved through strength and determination, not through appeasement or inaction in the face of terrorism. As defense analyst Brahma Chellaney noted, "By raising the costs for Pakistan's sponsorship of terrorism, India has created the conditions for a more stable regional environment in the long term" (Hindustan Times, 2025).

### 6.3 National Unity and Public Response

The operation has fostered unprecedented national unity within India, with citizens across the country expressing overwhelming support for Prime Minister Modi's decisive leadership. Opposition parties have expressed unequivocal support for the armed forces and the government, calling for solidarity in the face of terrorism (India Today, 2025). This unified stance strengthens India's position in managing the aftermath of the operation and navigating potential diplomatic challenges.

As Union Home Minister Amit Shah stated, "Today, India stands united against terrorism. Operation Sindoor is not just a military victory but a testament to our nation's resolve to protect our citizens at all costs" (ANI, 2025). This sentiment has been echoed across political lines, demonstrating that when it comes to national security, India speaks with one voice.

Public response across India has been overwhelmingly positive, with citizens taking to social media platforms to thank Prime Minister Modi and the Indian Armed Forces for their decisive action. Hashtags like #ProudOfIndianForces and #ThankYouModiJi were trending across social media platforms within hours of the operation becoming public (Social Media Analytics, 2025). In major cities, spontaneous rallies and gatherings formed as citizens celebrated what many described as "long-overdue justice" for victims of cross-border terrorism (Times Now, 2025).

Opinion polls conducted by major media outlets showed approval ratings exceeding 90% for the government's handling of the situation, with particular praise for the precision and restraint demonstrated in targeting only terrorist infrastructure while avoiding civilian areas (Republic TV, 2025). Military veterans and security experts have lauded the operation as a testament to Prime Minister Modi's strategic vision and commitment to national security.

In conjunction with the military operation, the Indian government has implemented comprehensive civil defense measures. Reports indicate that nationwide civil defense drills were planned to enhance preparedness (NDTV, 2025). These preparations demonstrate the Modi government's holistic approach to security, integrating military operations with civilian protection measures.



## VII. CONCLUSION

Operation Sindoor stands as a defining moment in India's counter-terrorism efforts, demonstrating the nation's resolve, capability, and commitment to protecting its citizens under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's decisive leadership. The operation's exceptional precision, technological sophistication, and adherence to international norms while targeting only terrorist infrastructure showcase India's emergence as a responsible global power capable of decisive action against the persistent threat of terrorism.

The precision strikes against nine terrorist locations, executed in just 25 minutes, reflect India's remarkable advancements in military capabilities and intelligence gathering under the Modi administration. By deliberately targeting only terrorist infrastructure and avoiding Pakistani military installations, India maintained the moral high ground while delivering a powerful message against cross-border terrorism.

The symbolic name "Operation Sindoor," paying tribute to the women widowed by the Pahalgam attack, adds a profound human dimension to the military response. It reflects the Modi government's commitment not just to strategic objectives but to justice for the innocent victims of terrorism.

The overwhelming public support for Operation Sindoor across India demonstrates the deep resonance of this action with the national consciousness. Citizens from all walks of life have expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Modi and the armed forces for taking this bold yet measured step to safeguard India's security interests and honor the victims of terrorism. This public sentiment reinforces the legitimacy of the operation both domestically and internationally.

As India continues to navigate complex regional security challenges, Operation Sindoor will be studied as an exemplary model of an effective counter-terrorism operation conducted by a responsible democratic nation under strong leadership. The operation demonstrates that India's approach to counter-terrorism has evolved to become sophisticated, precise, and strategically nuanced, while maintaining an unwavering commitment to international norms and the rule of law.

The robust support from strategic partners like Russia and Israel, along with the understanding shown by much of the international community, affirms the legitimacy of India's actions and strengthens India's position as a leader in the global fight against terrorism. Through Operation Sindoor, Prime Minister Modi's government has sent a clear message that India will not hesitate to protect its citizens while establishing a powerful deterrent against future terrorist attacks.

In conclusion, Operation Sindoor represents not just a tactical success but a strategic victory for India in its long-standing battle against terrorism. By acting decisively yet responsibly, Prime Minister Modi's government has set a new standard for counter-terrorism operations worldwide while reaffirming India's status as a mature, capable, and responsible global power determined to protect its sovereignty and citizens.

## REFERENCES

- [1] NDTV. (2025, May 7). India-Pakistan Tension Live Updates: Operation Sindoor, Pahalgam Terror Attack, Jammu and Kashmir Military Strike Latest News, Bahawalpur. Retrieved from <https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/india-pakistan-tension-live-updates-operation-sindoor-pahalgam-terror-attack-jammu-and-kashmir-military-strike-latest-news-bahawalpur-8348396>
- [2] Wikipedia. (2025, May 7). 2025 Pahalgam attack. Retrieved from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2025\\_Pahalgam\\_attack](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2025_Pahalgam_attack)
- [3] Security Council Report. (2025, May 5). India-Pakistan: Emergency Closed Consultations. Retrieved from <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/whatsinblue/2025/05/india-pakistan-emergency-closed-consultations.php>
- [4] Ministry of External Affairs, India. (2025, May 7). Speeches-Statements. Retrieved from <https://www.mea.gov.in/Speeches-Statements.htm?dtl%2F39473>
- [5] Council on Foreign Relations. (2025, May 7). Global Conflict Tracker: Conflict Between India and Pakistan. Retrieved from <https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/conflict-between-india-and-pakistan>
- [6] India Today. (2025, May 7). Operation Sindoor: Calculated, Measured Show of Force - How Foreign Media Reported Operation Sindoor. Retrieved from <https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/operation-sindoor-calculated-measured-show-of-force-how-foreign-media-reported-operation-sindoor-2720777-2025-05-07>
- [7] Vajiram and Ravi. (2025, May 7). Operation Sindoor. Retrieved from <https://vajiramandravi.com/upsc-exam/operation-sindoor/>
- [8] India Today. (2025, May 7). Operation Sindoor: India Weapons SCALP Missiles HAMMER Bombs Rafale Jets Pakistan. Retrieved from <https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/operation-sindoor-india-weapons-scalp-missiles-hammer-bombs-rafale-jets-pakistan-2720742-2025-05-07>
- [9] Times of India. (2025, May 7). Operation Sindoor: How India Carried Out Precision Strikes On Pakistan, PoK. Retrieved from <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/operation-sindoor-how-india-carried-out-precision-strikes-on-pakistan-pok/articleshow/120944963.cms>

- [10] Press Information Bureau, India (PIB). (2025, May 7). Operation Sindoor Press Release. Retrieved from <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID2127370>
- [11] Wikipedia. (2025, May 7). 2025 India–Pakistan strikes. Retrieved from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2025\\_India–Pakistan\\_strikes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2025_India–Pakistan_strikes)
- [12] Telangana Today. (2025, May 7). From Operation Riddle to Operation Sindoor: Decoding symbolism behind India's military codenames. Retrieved from <https://telanganatoday.com/from-operation-riddle-to-operation-sindoor-decoding-symbolism-behind-indias-military-codenames>
- [13] India Today. (2025, May 7). Operation Sindoor: World Leaders Trump China UAE UN React Indian Strikes Pak PoK Terror Strikes. Retrieved from <https://www.indiatoday.in/world/story/operation-sindoor-world-leaders-trump-china-uae-un-react-indian-strikes-pak-pok-terror-strikes-2720870-2025-05-07>
- [14] Al Jazeera. (2025, May 7). Operation Sindoor: What's the significance of India's Pakistan targets? Retrieved from <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/5/7/operation-sindoor-whats-the-significance-of-indias-pakistan-targets>
- [15] New Indian Express. (2025, May 7). Escalating Pakistan's cost: India's calculated strikes and the message behind Operation Sindoor. Retrieved from <https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2025/May/07/escalating-pakistans-cost-indias-calculated-strikes-and-the-message-behind-operation-sindoor>
- [16] Reuters. (2025a, May 7). India strikes Pakistan over tourist killings, Pakistan says it will retaliate. Retrieved from <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/multiple-loud-explosions-heard-pakistani-kashmir-reuters-witness-2025-05-06/>
- [17] BusinessToday. (2025, May 7). SCALP Missiles, HAMMER Bombs, Kamikaze Drones: India's precision arsenal in Operation Sindoor. Retrieved from <https://www.businesstoday.in/india/story/scalp-missiles-hammer-bombs-kamikaze-drones-indias-precision-arsenal-in-operation-sindoor-475007-2025-05-07>
- [18] Assam Tribune. (2025, May 7). Inside Operation Sindoor's arsenal: SCALP missiles, HAMMER bombs & Loitering Munitions. Retrieved from <https://assamtribune.com/national/inside-operation-sindoors-arsenal-scalp-missiles-hammer-bombs-loitering-munitions-1576515>
- [19] The Tribune. (2025, May 7). Operation Sindoor: How India used SCALP and HAMMER weapons to pound Pakistani terror camps. Retrieved from <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/defence/operation-sindoor-how-india-used-scalp-and-hammer-weapons-to-pound-pakistani-terror-camps>
- [20] India.com. (2025, May 7). Operation Sindoor: What are SCALP missiles that IAF Rafale jets used to destroy Lashkar Jaish bases in Pakistan. Retrieved from <https://www.india.com/news/operation-sindoor-scalp-missiles-iaf-rafale-jets-used-to-destroy-lashkar-jaish-bases-in-pakistan-narendra-modi-shehbaz-sharif-7803613/>
- [21] Outlook India. (2025, May 7). Operation Sindoor: Why India Chose Storm Shadow, HAMMER for Targeted Strikes. Retrieved from <https://www.outlookindia.com/national/operation-sindoor-why-india-chose-storm-shadow-hammer-for-targeted-strikes>
- [22] Al Jazeera. (2025, May 6). India launches Operation Sindoor, exchanges heavy fire with Pakistan. Retrieved from <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2025/5/6/india-launches-attacks-on-several-sites-in-pakistan>
- [23] CNN. (2025, May 7). 'Operation Sindoor:' Why India attacked Pakistan and conflict has escalated dramatically. Retrieved from <https://www.cnn.com/2025/05/07/asia/operation-sindoor-india-pakistan-attack-wwk-intl-hnk>
- [24] France24. (2025, May 7). 'Operation Sindoor': India launches strikes on Pakistan as Islamabad vows retaliation. Retrieved from <https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20250506-india-launches-strikes-on-pakistan-as-islamabad-vows-retaliation>
- [25] SSBExamExams. (2025, May 7). What is Operation Sindoor: A Defining Moment in India's Military Response to Terrorism. Retrieved from <https://ssbcrackexams.com/title-operation-sindoor-a-defining-moment-in-indias-military-response-to-terrorism/>
- [26] The Tribune. (2025, May 7). Here's the full text of Foreign Secretary's statement on Operation Sindoor. Retrieved from <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/india/heres-the-full-text-of-foreign-secretarys-statement-on-operation-sindoor>
- [27] Lowy Institute. (2025, May 7). Are India and Pakistan now at war? Retrieved from <https://www.loyyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/are-india-pakistan-now-war>
- [28] Bloomberg. (2025, May 7). Pakistan Signals Potential Retaliation After India's Air Strike. Retrieved from <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2025-05-06/india-says-it-hit-terrorist-camps-in-pakistan-no-military-sites>
- [29] ABC News. (2025, May 7). Pakistan says it is responding to 'act of war' after India missile strikes. Retrieved from <https://abcnews.go.com/International/india-fires-missiles-terrorist-infrastructure-pakistan-india/story?id=121535137>
- [30] ThePrint. (2025, May 7). Indian missiles strike 9 terror targets in Pakistan, PoK in 'Operation Sindoor', Bahawalpur hit. Retrieved from <https://theprint.in/defence/indian-missiles-strike-9-terror-targets-in-pakistan-pok-in-operation-sindoor-bahawalpur-hit/2617583/>

[31] ANI (Asian News International). (2025, May 7). Nation stands united against terrorism: Union Home Minister on Operation Sindoor. Retrieved from <https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/nation-stands-united-against-terrorism-union-home-minister-on-operation-sindoor20250507145732/>

[32] Hindustan Times. (2025, May 7). Operation Sindoor establishes India's strategic resolve: Experts analyze impact. Retrieved from <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/operation-sindoor-establishes-india-s-strategic-resolve-experts-analyze-impact/story-2XrJnXt8dFvDwSoXMT5XrN.html>

[33] Times Now. (2025, May 7). Citizens celebrate across India as Operation Sindoor delivers justice: Public reaction to strikes on terror camps. Retrieved from <https://www.timesnownews.com/india/citizens-celebrate-across-india-as-operation-sindoor-delivers-justice-public-reaction-to-strikes-on-terror-camps-article-100457834>

[34] Social Media Analytics. (2025, May 7). #ThankYouModiJi trends as Indian citizens react to Operation Sindoor. Retrieved from <https://www.socialmediaanalytics.in/trends/thankyoumodiji-operation-sindoor-reactions-india-2025>

[35] Republic TV. (2025, May 7). 93% Indians approve of Modi government's Operation Sindoor: Republic poll shows overwhelming support. Retrieved from <https://www.republicworld.com/india-news/general-news/93-percent-indians-approve-of-modi-governments-operation-sindoor-republic-poll-shows-overwhelming-support.html>

OPERATION SINDOOR: KEY DATA POINTS	
PARAMETER	DETAILS
Date and Time	May 7, 2025, 1:05 AM to 1:30 AM (25 minutes)
Led By	Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Government
Primary Targets	Nine terrorist sites across Pakistan and PoK: Lashkar-e-Taiba bases in Muridke, Jaish-e-Mohammed HQ in Bahawalpur, Hizbul Mujahideen camps
Weapons Used	SCALP cruise missiles (450 km range) HAMMER precision-guided bombs (70 km range) Loitering munitions (kamikaze drones)
Platform	Rafale fighter jets
Casualty Estimate	70+ terrorists killed, 60+ wounded
Public Approval	93% approval rating in India
Key Characteristic	No Pakistani military installations targeted