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# INDIA COUNTER TERRORISM STRATEGY- OPERATION SINDOOR TOWARDS A ZERO-TOLERANCE APPROACH ON CROSS-BORDER THREATS - A CRITICAL ANALYSIS

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R. A. Monishwaran<sup>1</sup> & Asst. Prof. Ragupathi<sup>2</sup>

## ABSTRACT

This Research Paper aims to analyse the zero-tolerance attitude of India on cross-border terrorism on the Global stage. The role of Operation SINDOOR in shaping the world with social harmony, Justice, Fairness to victims' families, and security of the state. To destroy the terrorist activities worldwide. The International Laws, Treaties, and Conventions on Cross-Border Terrorism should be made through uniting the nations in the United Nations to make laws. Global-level terrorist activities are threatening the peacefulness and security of the state. The Pahalgam terrorist attack on April 22, 2025, resulted in the deaths of 26 civilians and was orchestrated by three Pakistani terrorists affiliated with Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and India. To destroy the terrorist organization, principles and ideology have to capture the lands, cross-border movements, pose a threat to national security, unlawful activities, and other matters. Operation SINDOOR marks a milestone in India's journey towards technological self-reliance in military operations and India's counter-terrorism strategy to neutralize the cross-border threats. In this paper, the Impact of Operation SINDOOR on the Global Stage, the development of Nation-building, ensuring tolerance in Cross-border Terrorism, and India's growing technological self-reliance are discussed. An important role in Operation SINDOOR by the Indian Military and the People of the Country towards the Government of India.

**Keywords:** Operation SINDOOR, Cross-Border, Zero-Tolerance, International Law, Peace and security, State Responsibility, Justice, United Nations.

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<sup>1</sup> BA.LL.B(Constitutional Law Honors.), Chettinad School of Law.

<sup>2</sup> Asst. Prof., Chettinad School of Law

## 1.Introduction

In recent years, India has transformed its counter-terrorism strategy, moving firmly toward a zero-tolerance stance on cross-border threats. Operation SINDOOR marks a key moment in this shift, showing India's commitment to safeguarding national security and global peace.

The operation, built on technological innovation and careful planning, highlights India's determination to dismantle terrorist networks that threaten both the country and the wider world.<sup>3</sup>

The Pahalgam terrorist attack of April 22, 2025, which claimed the lives of 26 innocent civilians, highlighted the persistent dangers of cross-border terrorism and reinforced the urgency of a coordinated national and global response. India's military launched Operation SINDOOR, guided by a doctrine of proactive defence and supported by the people's trust, to neutralise these threats and reaffirm its responsibility to protect citizens.<sup>4</sup>

Beyond national boundaries, the operation resonates with global efforts to combat terrorism under the framework of international law, treaties, and unified action through the United Nations. By advocating collective responsibility, justice for victims, and international cooperation, India's approach seeks to strengthen the global resolve against terrorism while promoting social harmony and stability. Operation SINDOOR thus embodies the intersection of national defence, technological self-reliance, and diplomatic engagement in India's pursuit of a safer and more just world.<sup>5</sup>

### 1.1 Research Methodology

The research methodology adopted in this study employs a critical analysis approach to interpret India's counterterrorism strategy, with a particular focus on Operation SINDOOR, within national and international legal, diplomatic, and technological contexts. It draws on historical background—including past incidents, case law, and the evolution of policy over time—to contextualize the contemporary challenges of cross-border terrorism. The

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<sup>3</sup> Press Information Bureau, Government of India, Operation SINDOOR: India's Strategic Clarity and Calculated Force (May 13, 2025), <https://www.pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?>

<sup>4</sup> Press Information Bureau, Govt. of India, Overall Politico-Military Objective of Operation Sindoor (July 27, 2025), <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2149356>

<sup>5</sup> Press Information Bureau, Govt. of India, A United Front Against Cross-Border Terrorism (Apr. 21, 2025), <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2128747>

methodology includes a case study method where Operation SINDOOR is examined in detail, analyzing military tactics, technological advancements such as drones and AI, and diplomatic maneuvers in the aftermath of the Pahalgam attack. An interdisciplinary perspective integrates ancient Indian philosophical principles like those found in the Mahabharata and Arthashastra, alongside modern warfare doctrines and international law to explore ethical, strategic, and legal considerations. The study further incorporates document and policy review by assessing official documents, treaties, government reports, and public statements from both Indian and international authorities to evaluate legal frameworks, diplomatic responses, and the question of state responsibility. Finally, qualitative data analysis of media reports, government briefings, and international reactions is used to assess the impact and effectiveness of Operation SINDOOR both within India and on the global stage.

## **1.2 Research Objectives**

1. To analyse India's zero-tolerance stance on cross-border terrorism and how Operation SINDOOR demonstrates this approach at the global stage.
2. To examine the role of technological self-reliance and indigenous innovations in strengthening India's military and counter-terrorism operations during Operation SINDOOR.
3. To evaluate the impact of Operation SINDOOR on international law, state responsibility, and diplomatic relations, including India's efforts to build global coalitions against terrorism.
4. To assess how justice, fairness for victims, and social harmony are pursued within India's counter-terrorism strategy, particularly in response to the Pahalgam attack and its aftermath.
5. To investigate the role of national unity, citizen participation, and government initiatives in strengthening national security and supporting a zero-tolerance doctrine against cross-border threats.

## **1.3 Research Questions**

1. How has Operation SINDOOR exemplified India's shift toward a zero-tolerance

doctrine in countering cross-border terrorism?

2. What role have indigenous technological innovations and military self-reliance played in India's counterterrorism strategy during Operation SINDOOR?
3. How has India leveraged international law, diplomacy, and global coalitions to build legitimacy and support for its counterterrorism actions post-Pahalgam attack?
4. In what ways have justice for victims and proportional response been integrated into India's counterterrorism framework following the Pahalgam attack?
5. What has been the impact of citizen participation and national unity on the effectiveness of India's zero-tolerance approach to cross-border terrorism?

#### **1.4 Statement of Problem**

Cross-border terrorism presents a persistent and escalating threat to India's national security, peace, and sovereignty—as dramatically highlighted by the Pahalgam terrorist attack on April 22, 2025, which resulted in the loss of 26 civilian lives. Despite decades of efforts, terrorist organizations with external support continue to exploit porous borders and destabilize regions, with state sponsorship (notably by Pakistan) compounding the problem. The lack of unified international legal frameworks and inconsistent enforcement complicates effective countermeasures. Operation SINDOOR emerges as a critical response, reflecting a shift towards a zero-tolerance doctrine in India's counter-terrorism policy, emphasizing proactive military action, technological self-reliance, victim justice, and global diplomatic engagement. The central issue is how to develop and implement multidimensional strategies—integrating legal, diplomatic, technological, and societal tools—to effectively dismantle cross-border terror networks, hold state sponsors accountable, and deliver justice while upholding international norms and maintaining regional and global stability.

#### **2. Historical Background of Cross-Border Terrorism**

Cross-border terrorism has deep historical roots both in India and globally, evolving alongside political, religious, and territorial conflicts that have shaped nations and international relations. In the Indian subcontinent, the origins are closely tied to the partition of 1947, which resulted in significant upheaval, communal violence, and lasting territorial disputes—especially over

regions like Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistan's refusal to recognise India's sovereignty in certain areas has perpetuated militancy, with material support and sponsorship of terrorist activities often flowing across porous borders to destabilise states and communities.<sup>6</sup>

Globally, the concept of cross-border terrorism gained prominence during the 20th century, when tactics developed during total wars and revolutionary movements began to be used by non-state actors across boundaries. Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, state sponsorship of terrorism became a strategic tool, with countries using militant groups to further political agendas, as seen in the Middle East, South Asia, and Africa. International responses evolved slowly, and definitional disputes made collective action difficult, despite high-profile attacks and assassinations that captured global attention.<sup>7</sup>

Modern cross-border terrorism encompasses not only armed incursions and attacks but also sophisticated financial and technological networks that support insurgency, create panic, and threaten both national and global security. Efforts to counter such threats have involved coordinated actions, treaties, and the development of international law, although challenges remain in unifying definitions and legal frameworks across nations.

Cross-border terrorism in India stems from historical territorial disputes and is exacerbated by external support, while the global phenomenon reflects broader trends of political violence, state sponsorship, and increasingly complex transnational networks.

### **3. Ancient Thought in Operation SINDOOR**

The Mahabharata provides a normative framework where warfare is not just physical conflict but a moral and philosophical journey, emphasising proportionality, rules of engagement, and avoidance of unnecessary violence. India's restraint in Operation SINDOOR reflects this ethos, balancing firm action with foresight and ethics akin to Vidura's counsel in the epic.<sup>8</sup> Rajnath Singh noted parallels between Lord Hanuman's burning of Ashok Vatika in the Ramayana and

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<sup>6</sup> Ashley J. Tellis, "History of Conflict in India and Pakistan," Arms Control Center (June 8, 2025), <https://armscontrolcenter.org/history-of-conflict-in-india-and-pakistan/>

<sup>7</sup> Jacob N. Shapiro, "32 Terrorism and State Sponsorship in World Politics," in *The Oxford Handbook of Terrorism* (Mar. 13, 2019), <https://academic.oup.com/edited-volume/28267/chapter/213434506>

<sup>8</sup> Bibek Debroy, *How Dharma Shapes Strategic Thought on War in the Mahabharata*, Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, April 2024, <https://www.idsa.in/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/op-62-How-Dharma-Shapes-Strategic-Thought.pdf>

the focused targeting of terrorist infrastructure in Operation SINDOOR, symbolising precise, purpose-driven military action within a righteous framework.<sup>9</sup>

Kautilya's Arthashastra influences India's strategic clarity in identifying terrorists and their state sponsors, targeting to dislocate and disrupt networks rather than purely seek territorial gains, reflecting dharma yuddha (righteous war) principles.<sup>10</sup>

Operation SINDOOR embodies a "civilisational statecraft" approach where śāstra (ancient sacred and strategic knowledge) and śakti (sovereign power) are integrated to combat terrorism with calibrated force, respecting international norms but maintaining resolute national defence.<sup>11</sup>

This approach contrasts with classical power politics, indicating an Indian paradigm where the sword is drawn only when necessary and wielded with moral clarity, strategic restraint, and a long-term vision for stability and peace.

#### **4.Modern Thought in Operation SINDOOR**

The operation employed long-range, precision-guided munitions such as French-origin SCALP cruise missiles and BrahMos supersonic missiles to target terrorist camps with surgical accuracy, minimising collateral damage and avoiding full-scale war escalation.

Integration of air, land, cyber, space, and information domains was evident. India used electronic warfare to jam adversary air defence, employed UAVs and AI-driven surveillance, and maintained a high operational tempo through tri-service coordination.

Indigenous innovations played a pivotal role, including drone warfare capabilities, counter-UAS systems, layered air defence with Akash missile systems, and real-time C4ISR (Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance, and

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<sup>9</sup> Rajnath Singh, Operation Sindoor: Rajnath Singh Reveals the Lord Hanuman Connection, Economic Times, May 6, 2025, <https://economictimes.com/news/defence/operation-sindoor-india-used-its-right-to-respond-after-its-people-were-attacked-on-their-own-land-says-rajnath-singh/articleshow/120963904.cms>

<sup>10</sup> Nitin Pai, Reading the Arthashastra: On Internal Security, July 26, 2008, <https://www.nitinpai.in/2008/07/27/reading-the-arthashastra-on-internal-security/>

<sup>11</sup> Kallol Chakrabarti, An Analysis of Operation Sindoor as a Manifestation of Ancient Indian Strategic Thought (2025)

Reconnaissance) integration to enable swift and accurate strikes.<sup>12</sup>

AI was heavily used to analyse 26 years of historical data, enabling pinpoint targeting with 94% accuracy and shortening the "kill chain" with human oversight, marking Operation SINDOOR as India's first AI-enabled cross-border operation.

**Strategic Messaging and Diplomatic Engagement:** The operation was accompanied by robust global diplomatic outreach, garnering international support from nearly all UN member states except Pakistan and a few others, emphasising India's right to self-defence while promoting global unity against terrorism.

Operation SINDOOR introduced a doctrine that treats terrorism and its state sponsors as inseparable, advocating an unpredictable, credible posture, readiness for multi-domain warfare, and dominance in cognitive and digital information domains.

By limiting targets to terrorist infrastructure and avoiding direct strikes on Pakistani military establishments, India avoided triggering nuclear conflict, demonstrating modern strategic restraint.

The operation set a template for future Indian defence posture with calls for rapid modernisation, enhanced indigenous R&D, joint doctrines, AI acceleration, civil-military fusion, and reinforced border infrastructures to meet evolving threats.<sup>13</sup>

Thus, Operation SINDOOR integrates cutting-edge military technology, data-driven decision-making, diplomatic strategy, and modern warfare doctrines to establish a comprehensive and forward-looking approach against cross-border terrorism.

## **5. Law of Diplomacy in Operation SINDOOR**

The law of diplomacy in Operation SINDOOR was grounded on established principles of international law, sovereign self-defence, and a clear strategic communication approach that

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<sup>12</sup> Kallol Chakrabarti, *An Analysis of Operation Sindoor as a Manifestation of Ancient Indian Strategic Thought* 12-15 (2025)

<sup>13</sup> Kallol Chakrabarti, *An Analysis of Operation Sindoor as a Manifestation of Ancient Indian Strategic Thought* 20-25 (2025)

sought to balance assertive action with diplomatic clarity. Key diplomatic and legal dimensions include:

**Sovereign Right to Self-Defence:** India asserted its inherent right under Article 51 of the UN Charter to defend itself against terrorism following the Pahalgam terrorist attack. The operation was presented as a proportionate, calibrated response to clear violations of India's territorial sovereignty and security.<sup>14</sup>

**Diplomatic Measures Alongside Military Action:** India employed multiple diplomatic steps such as putting the Indus Waters Treaty on hold, closing the Attari Integrated Check Post, restricting Pakistani visa entries, and downgrading diplomatic personnel from Pakistan's High Commission in New Delhi, reinforcing a multifaceted response beyond the battlefield.

**International Messaging and Multilateral Support:** Throughout and after the operation, India engaged closely with global actors, communicating transparently and garnering wide international support. This included briefing over 33 countries via all-party parliamentary delegations and emphasizing that terrorism cannot be justified and must be tackled collectively.<sup>15</sup>

**Bilateral Resolution Emphasis:** India maintained its principle that any dialogue or cessation of hostilities would be strictly bilateral with Pakistan and refused external mediation, underscoring its diplomatic posture of direct engagement without third-party interference.<sup>16</sup>

**Legal and Moral Grounds:** Indian leadership highlighted that Operation SINDOOR was conducted with respect for the laws of armed conflict aimed strictly at terrorist infrastructure, minimizing civilian harm, and ensuring actions were within legal frameworks, thereby upholding India's global image as a responsible actor.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> Kallol Chakrabarti, An Analysis of Operation Sindoor as a Manifestation of Ancient Indian Strategic Thought 30-32 (2025)

<sup>15</sup> India Shares New Counter-Terror Stance With World Via All-Party Delegation, New Indian Express, May 24, 2025, <https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2025/May/25/india-shares-new-counter-terror-stance-with-world-via-all-party-delegation>

<sup>16</sup> EAM Dr. S. Jaishankar Reaffirms Ceasefire Between India & Pakistan Was Negotiated Directly, News on Air, May 21, 2025, <https://www.newsonair.gov.in/eam-dr-s-jaishankar-reaffirms-ceasefire-between-india-pakistan-was-negotiated-directly/>

<sup>17</sup> EAM S. Jaishankar, DD News, May 6, 2025, <https://ddnews.gov.in/en/operation-sindoor-eam-jaishankar-calls-for-global-zero-tolerance-on-terrorism-as-india-strikes-nine-sites-in-pakistan/>



Efforts in Global Counterterrorism Forums: Post-operation, India intensified advocacy in forums like the UN, FATF, SCO, and bilateral partnerships to harmonize international laws against terrorism, promote terror-financing crackdowns, and push for the designation of terror groups.<sup>18</sup>

Zero-Tolerance Policy Legal Backbone: The operation and diplomatic strategy together signalled India's zero-tolerance doctrine, supported by legal mechanisms seeking to isolate state sponsors of terrorism and to enforce accountability through international cooperation.<sup>19</sup>

In sum, the law of diplomacy in Operation SINDOOR manifested as a robust exercise of the right to self-defence, supported by strategic diplomatic isolation of perpetrators, transparent global communication, strict adherence to international legal norms, and reinforcement of India's position as a responsible global stakeholder combating terrorism within the framework of international law.

Negotiation by Pakistan for Ceasefire: Inflicted by this heavy damage, Pakistan's Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) called the Indian DGMO, and it was agreed between them that both sides would stop all firing and military action on land and in the air and sea with effect from 1700 hours Indian Standard Time on 10th May 2025.<sup>20</sup>

## **6.Role of Citizens in Operation SINDOOR and Towards Zero-Tolerance by Citizens**

The vital role of citizens in safeguarding the nation by people in border areas provided full support to the armed forces during Operation SINDOOR. It was proof that national security was the responsibility of every citizen, not just the government or the armed forces. During Operation SINDOOR, the Indian Armed Forces delivered a decisive response to the terror attack in Pahalgam and achieved their objectives with precision.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> India's Multi-Party Delegations Continue to Expose Pakistani Cross-Border Terrorism Globally, News on Air, May 27, 2025, <https://www.newsonair.gov.in/indias-multi-party-delegations-continue-to-expose-pakistani-cross-border-terrorism-globally/>

<sup>19</sup> Overall Politico-Military Objective of Operation Sindoor Was to Punish Terrorists, PIB, July 27, 2025, <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2149356>

<sup>20</sup> India, Pakistan Agree to Ceasefire After DGMO-Level Talks, DD News, May 9, 2025, <https://ddnews.gov.in/en/india-pakistan-agree-to-ceasefire-after-dgmo-level-talks-foreign-secretary-confirms/>

<sup>21</sup> Border Residents Extended Full Support to Armed Forces During Operation Sindoor, Say Rajnath Singh, DD News, Aug. 24, 2025, <https://ddnews.gov.in/en/border-residents-extended-full-support-to-armed-forces-during-operation-sindoor-say-rajnath-singh/>

While terrorists killed innocent people based on their dharma, India's forces destroyed those who sheltered them based on their karma. Operation SINDOOR was symbolic of New India's resolve. Another way to make India proud on national and global stages with education and sports through discipline, perseverance, hard work, and determination in the role of citizens with national pride and patriotism is uniting the people of India towards zero tolerance, and people should be aware of national development and safeguard themselves from threats and issues.

If people know about threats in their surroundings and any unlawful activities by a person or groups of persons, whether they are equipped or unequipped with weapons, people should be conveyed to the police department and the Union Ministry of Home Affairs. It will be strengthening, and Potential for country cause and counter-terror groups and persons with intentions or ideas will be zero tolerance for threats. Ensuring peace and security with ourselves. We, the people of India, have duties to uphold and protect the sovereignty, unity, and integrity of the country under the Indian Constitution Article 51A(c).<sup>22</sup> We have to protect our country from evils, enemies, and terrorists, and neutralising the groups with our support is essential to ensuring the innocent people's life and peace with security and following our duties as the primary ones in our life, which can enable the first step to zero-tolerance towards cross-border threats and unlawful activities in the state.

During the Pahalgam attack, 140 crores of people stood by the country's unity, and our innocent people were killed by terrorists (LeT) in a remote area that is an advantage and has no security in a tourist place, and terrorists had easy access to their plans. Our innocent people are unaware of their moments, and terrorists target the Hindu religion. But we people of India have duties and responsibilities to promote a spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India, transcending the religious. So, we shouldn't be influenced or threatened by others. We are focusing on strengthening our sovereignty and unity among the people of India. First, we are on the right path to perform fundamental duties under the Indian Constitution Article 51A (e).<sup>23</sup> Their ideology and principles will not perform under zero tolerance, though India's strategies and state responsibility are essential under domestic law and international law, and by nature, it has a duty to protect its own citizens and its functions.

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<sup>22</sup> Constitution of India, art.

51A(c), [https://rshrc.rajasthan.gov.in/writereaddata/ActsRulesOrders/202208291219467911156Article\\_51A.pdf](https://rshrc.rajasthan.gov.in/writereaddata/ActsRulesOrders/202208291219467911156Article_51A.pdf)

<sup>23</sup> id. art. 51A(e)

## **7.Role of State and Its Responsibility**

States have a fundamental duty under international law to protect their citizens from terrorist attacks and to ensure that their territories are not used as safe havens or operational bases for terrorist groups targeting other states. Failure to prevent this may constitute a breach of state responsibility under international law.

According to the UN General Assembly's Articles on State Responsibility for Internationally Wrongful Acts (2001), a state is held accountable if it knowingly allows its territory to be used for acts violating the rights of another state, including sponsoring, harbouring, or supporting terrorist organisations.<sup>24</sup>

Case law from international courts such as the ICJ in the Corfu Channel case establishes the principle that states must exercise due diligence to prevent harm originating from their territories, even when direct control over the non-state actors is not evident.<sup>25</sup>

The state's responsibility also involves active measures such as law enforcement, criminal justice frameworks, dismantling terror networks, prosecuting perpetrators, and cooperating internationally to suppress terrorism financing and movements.

In the context of India's counterterrorism policy and Operation SINDOOR, India holds Pakistan responsible as a state sponsor that facilitates terrorism by supporting groups like Lashkar-e-Taiba, using cross-border terrorism as a tool of policy, which violates international norms and threatens peace and security.

States are expected to take positive preventive measures when they know or should know about imminent terrorist threats emanating from their territories. This includes intelligence cooperation, border controls, and international collaboration.

India advocates that states sponsoring terrorism bear legal, political, and diplomatic accountability and that such state-sponsored terror is criminal and unjustifiable, underscoring the need for a global united front against these violations.

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<sup>24</sup> Draft Articles on Responsibility of States for Internationally Wrongful Acts, UN General Assembly (2001), Commentary, [https://legal.un.org/ilc/texts/instruments/English/commentaries/9\\_6\\_2001.pdf](https://legal.un.org/ilc/texts/instruments/English/commentaries/9_6_2001.pdf)

<sup>25</sup> Corfu Channel Case (UK v. Albania), ICJ Reports 1949, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corfu\\_Channel\\_case](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corfu_Channel_case)

During Operation SINDOOR, on 22nd April 2025, an incident happened after that, India's action against Pakistan.

Suspending the Indus Waters Treaty

Closing the Wagah-Attari border post

\* Closing Indian airspace to Pakistan-operated flights

\* Blocking social media accounts linked to Pakistani entities

\* Revoking visas issued to Pakistani nationals

\* Prime Minister Narendra Modi assured full operational freedom to the Indian Armed Forces to respond to the terror attack.<sup>26</sup>

On 7th May 2025, Operation SINDOOR was launched by India for the victims of families who lost their family members, and we also lost those people of India. Our Women SINDOOR lost in the Pahalgam attack; later, the Indian military strike was named Operation SINDOOR for a brave and fearless military strike attack and counter-terrorism in Pakistan. The purpose is to punish perpetrators and planners of terror and to destroy terror infrastructure across the border.

India is concerned over innocent people and state responsibility through Operated under self-imposed restraint to avoid collateral damage, and only terrorist targets were to be neutralised, avoiding civilian harm.

Pakistani Response after Ceasefire: Even after the ceasefire, a wave of UAVs and small drones intruded into Indian civilian and military areas. These drones were successfully intercepted. The state failed its obligation by the law of diplomacy. The Indian Armed Forces gave a befitting response to Pakistan's intrusion. Further, all field commanders have been authorised to take appropriate action in case of any ceasefire violation.<sup>27</sup>

States are responsible for their own terror organisations and infrastructures, but Pakistan supported and promoted the terrorists killed in the operation SINDOOR. Pakistani Army

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<sup>26</sup> Operation Sindoor: India's Strategic Clarity and Calculated Force, Press Information Bureau, May 13, 2025, <https://www.pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=2128748>

<sup>27</sup> Overall Politico-Military Objective of Operation Sindoor, PIB, July 27, 2025

personnel have attended the funeral of the dead. It shows the support from the state, and they can't easily get into other states, disturbing the peace and breaching the security with Pakistani support. To counter terrorism through zero tolerance towards border areas, waterways, airways, and land, these ways must be ensured with security checks and a verification process. India's strategic attack on neutralising internal terror camps and infrastructures in India. The cross-border states are Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. POK was a major landmass of India's territorial jurisdiction during the First India-Pakistan War in 1947-48. Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir was a major problem in cross-border terrorism accessible to India, and since independence, India has been affected by cross-border terrorism sponsored and supported by Pakistan. Between 1988 and 2019, an estimated 44,840 incidents of terrorist violence in Jammu & Kashmir caused approximately 45,230 deaths: about 14,921 civilians, 6,530 security personnel, and 23,779 terrorists.

Terrorist-related fatalities in India show fluctuations yearly; for example, in 1992, over 1,152 fatalities occurred, whereas in recent years, like 2018, there were about 350 deaths from terrorist incidents. Major attacks include coordinated militant strikes in Jammu and Kashmir, with incidents like the 2016 Uri attack causing 23 security force deaths and multiple civilian casualties. The 2025 Pahalgam attack resulted in 26 civilian deaths, highlighting continued militant aggression. Yearly incident and casualty data reveal that cross-border terrorism remains a significant challenge, with hundreds of fatalities annually among civilians and military personnel, requiring sustained counterterrorism efforts.

### **8.Operation SINDOOR: Its Impactful on Zero-Tolerance against Terrorism**

Operation SINDOOR is impactful action against cross-border terrorism through various ways in education (NCERT), the Asia Cup 2025 Final, and India vs Pakistan (India won the Asia Cup). Cricketers said that victory goes to the victims' families and the military actions.

Operation SINDOOR's effectiveness was communicated with precision, focusing on strategic outcomes rather than sensationalism.

Indian authorities have exposed the manipulation tactics used by Pakistan-based accounts, many of which are now under scrutiny by international social media platforms.

Campaigns to educate citizens on how to identify fake news have helped create a more resilient

digital environment.

1. Nine Terror Camps Eliminated: India successfully destroyed nine major terror launchpads in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK), targeting Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed, and Hizbul Mujahideen facilities. Over 100 terrorists were killed in action.

2. Cross-Border Precision Strikes: India redefined the rules of engagement, striking deep into Pakistan's heartland, including Punjab province and Bahawalpur, once considered out of bounds even for U.S. drones. India made it clear: neither the LoC nor Pakistani territory will remain untouched if terror originates from there.

3. A New Strategic Red Line: Operation SINDOOR drew a new red line – if terror is state policy, it will be met with a visible and forceful response. This marked a shift from deterrence to direct action.

4. Equal Punishment for Terrorists and Their Sponsors: India rejected the artificial separation between terrorists and their backers, striking both simultaneously. This ended the impunity enjoyed by many Pakistan-based actors.

5. Exposure of Pakistan's Air Defence Weaknesses: The Indian Air Force bypassed and jammed Pakistan's Chinese-supplied air defence systems, completing the mission in just 23 minutes using Rafale jets, SCALP missiles, and HAMMER bombs, demonstrating India's technological edge.

6. India's Air Defence Superiority Displayed: India's multi-layered air defence, including the indigenous Akashteer system, shot down hundreds of drones and missiles. This also showcased India's growing capabilities in exporting advanced defence systems.

7. Precision Without Escalation: India avoided civilian or non-terror military targets, showcasing its zero-tolerance for terror while containing the situation from escalating into full-scale war.

8. Elimination of Key Terror Commanders: Multiple high-profile terrorists on India's most wanted list were neutralised in a single night, crippling key operational modules. High-value

targets eliminated include Yusuf Azhar, Abdul Malik Rauf, and Mudassir Ahmad. These individuals were linked to the IC-814 hijack and the Pulwama blast.

9. Airstrikes on Pakistani Military Installations: On May 9–10, India became the first country to strike 11 airbases of a nuclear-armed nation in a single operation, destroying 20% of Pakistan's air force assets. High casualties were inflicted at Bholeari Airbase, including the death of Squadron Leader Usman Yusuf and the destruction of key fighter jets.

10. Coordinated Tri-Service Action – The Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force worked in full coordination, demonstrating India's growing joint military prowess.

11. A Global Message Delivered – India showed the world that it does not require anyone's permission to defend its people. It reinforced the idea that terrorists and their masterminds can't hide anywhere, and if Pakistan retaliates, India is prepared for a decisive counterstrike.

12. Widespread Global Support – Unlike in previous conflicts, this time, multiple global leaders backed India, rather than calling for restraint. The shift showed India's improved global standing and narrative control.

13. Kashmir Narrative Reframed – For the first time, India's actions were seen purely through the lens of counter-terrorism, with the Kashmir issue completely decoupled from the strike narrative. This was made possible by the precision and clarity of Operation SINDOOR.<sup>28</sup>

India conducted retaliatory strikes on radar installations in Lahore, and radar facilities near Gurjanwala were destroyed.

#### Pakistan Punished Through Military and Non-Military by India

Operation SINDOOR was a significant demonstration of India's military and strategic power, executed through a combination of military and non-military means. This multi-dimensional operation effectively neutralised terrorist threats, deterred Pakistani aggression, and firmly enforced India's zero-tolerance policy towards terrorism. The operation maintained strategic restraint while gaining international support.

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<sup>28</sup> Operation Sindoor: India's Strategic Clarity and Calculated Force, PIB, May 13, 2025, <https://www.pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=2128748>

## **9.Shri.Prime Minister Narendra Modi: Decision on Operation SINDOOR**

In the wake of this situation, a moment of national crisis demanded not just resolution but remarkable leadership. Rising to this challenge was Prime Minister Narendra Modi, whose decisive role in Operation SINDOOR marked one of India's boldest military responses in recent history. Despite being overseas on a pre-scheduled diplomatic visit, PM Modi swiftly assumed command, orchestrating a response that balanced strategic restraint with assertive action. He displayed remarkable restraint under immense pressure to react quickly and ensured that every step, from suspending the Indus Waters Treaty to military action, was well-planned and precisely timed.

Strategic planning and targeted response underlined the operation's framework. Rather than rushing into an emotional or reactive strike, Prime Minister Modi created strategic unpredictability to prevent Pakistan or its terror proxies from preparing for retaliation. The strikes were meticulously focused on terror infrastructure, and this clarity of objective was appreciated across party lines, including by opposition leader P. Chidambaram, who praised PM Modi for targeting only high-value terror installations, avoiding civilian areas entirely.

Throughout the developments with Pakistan, the focused objective against terrorism remained unchanged. PM Modi stayed focused on delivering a firm and clear response. His consistent efforts against terrorism, viewed as a global threat, helped India garner widespread international support. Under his leadership, India firmly established the principle that terrorism and its sponsors will be treated alike.

With a measured yet powerful response, it was ensured that no harm was inflicted upon Pakistani civilians, despite repeated provocations from Pakistan. India's military actions were limited to terror camps and specific military facilities aiding terrorism. This careful targeting showed both India's capability and its commitment to responsible warfare.

Addressing long-standing concerns, PM Modi's decision to suspend the Indus Waters Treaty was a historic move, not only harming Pakistan's interests but also benefiting India. He established a new national security doctrine: any future terror attack will be treated as an act of war. This eliminated the false distinction between terrorists and their state sponsors.

Addressing the nation on the eve of 12th May, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made it clear



that 'OPERATION SINDOOR' is not just a name but is a reflection of the feelings of millions of people in the country and an unbroken pledge of justice. He said, "We remain committed to taking strong steps to safeguard India and its people. On the battlefield, we have always defeated Pakistan, and this time. Operation SINDOOR has added a new dimension."

The Prime Minister outlined the following points in relation to Pakistan and cross-border terrorism.

First, if there is a terrorist attack on India, a fitting reply will be given.

Secondly, India will not tolerate any nuclear blackmail. India will strike precisely and decisively at the terrorist hideouts developing under the cover of nuclear blackmail.

Thirdly, we will not differentiate between the government sponsoring terrorism and the masterminds of terrorism. We will continue to take decisive steps to protect India and our citizens from any threat.

India's stand is very clear... Terror and talks cannot go together... Terror and trade cannot go together.... Water and blood cannot flow together.

If there are talks with Pakistan, it will be only on terrorism, and if there are talks with Pakistan, it will be only on Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (POK).<sup>29</sup>

### **10. India's Approaches on Cross-Border Terrorism at Pakistan Occupied Kashmir**

India's approach to cross-border terrorism in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (POK) is characterised by a combination of resolute military action, diplomatic pressure, and strategic policy measures aimed at dismantling terrorist networks and securing its borders. Following the Pahalgam terrorist attack on April 22, 2025, India launched Operation SINDOOR, a precise military campaign targeting nine terrorist camps across Pakistan and POK to neutralise terror infrastructure while minimising civilian casualties. This operation marked a strategic shift, emphasising zero tolerance for terrorism and state sponsors of terrorism, with India vowing no

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<sup>29</sup> Press Information Bureau, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Operation SINDOOR: India's Strategic Clarity and Calculated Force (May 14, 2025), <https://www.pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=2128748>

distinction between terrorists and their handlers.<sup>30</sup>

Alongside military actions, India has employed diplomatic efforts to garner international support against Pakistan's state-sponsored terrorism and demanded accountability at global forums like the UN. The government revoked visas of Pakistani nationals, closed trade and transit points such as the Wagah-Attari border, and suspended the Indus Waters Treaty to pressure Pakistan.

Politically, India abrogated Article 370, integrating Jammu and Kashmir fully with the Union of India to curb separatism and terrorism's local support base. Security forces continue to implement "zero terror" plans and area domination strategies, combining intelligence, counter-insurgency operations, and development initiatives to stabilise the region.

India consistently maintains its stance that terrorism emanating from POK is a direct threat to its sovereignty and regional peace, affirming firm military readiness and diplomatic persistence to ensure lasting security and justice for victims.

## **11. India's Strategic and Technology Advancement in Operation SINDOOR**

On the night of 07-08 May 2025, Pakistan attempted to engage a number of military targets in Northern and Western India, including Awantipura, Srinagar, Jammu, Pathankot, Amritsar, Kapurthala, Jalandhar, Ludhiana, Adampur, Bhatinda, Chandigarh, Nal, Phalodi, Uttarlai, and Bhuj, using drones and missiles. These were neutralised by the Integrated Counter UAS (Unmanned Aerial Systems) Grid and air defence systems.

India's Air Defence Systems, combining assets from the Army, Navy, and primarily the Air Force, performed with exceptional synergy. These systems created an impenetrable wall, foiling multiple attempts by Pakistan to retaliate. The Integrated Air Command and Control System (IACCS) of the Indian Air Force brought all these elements together, providing the net-centric operational capability vital for modern warfare.

The Indian Air Force bypassed and jammed Pakistan's Chinese-supplied air defence systems, completing the mission in just 23 minutes, demonstrating India's technological edge.

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<sup>30</sup> Press Information Bureau, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Operation SINDOOR: India's Strategic Clarity and Calculated Force (May 14, 2025), <https://www.pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=2128748>

Evidence of Neutralised Threats Operation SINDOOR also produced concrete evidence of hostile technologies neutralised by Indian systems: • Pieces of PL-15 missiles (of Chinese origin) • Turkish-origin UAVs, named "Yiha" or "YEEHAW"

Long-range rockets, quadcopters and commercial drones These were recovered and identified, showing that despite Pakistan's attempts to exploit advanced foreign-supplied weaponry, India's indigenous air defence and electronic warfare networks remained superior.

Preparedness and Coordination: Since precise strikes on terrorists were conducted without crossing the Line of Control or International Boundary, it was anticipated that Pakistan's response would come from across the border.

A unique blend of Counter Unmanned Aerial Systems, Electronic Warfare assets, and Air Defence Weapons from both the Army and the Air Force

Multiple defensive layers from the International Boundary inward:

a) Counter Unmanned Aerial Systems

b) Shoulder-Fired Weapons

c) Legacy Air Defence Weapons

d) Modern Air Defence Weapon Systems This multi-tier defence prevented Pakistan Air Force attacks on our airfields and logistic installations during the night of May 9-10.

These systems, built over the last decade with continuous government investment, proved to be force multipliers during the operation. They played a crucial role in ensuring that both civilian and military infrastructure across India remained largely unaffected during enemy retaliation attempts. ISRO's contribution: At an event on May 11, ISRO Chairman V Narayanan mentioned that at least 10

ISRO's contribution: At an event on May 11, ISRO Chairman V Narayanan mentioned that at least 10 satellites are continuously working round-the-clock for the strategic purpose of ensuring the safety and security of the citizens of the country. To ensure the safety of the country, the nation has to serve through its satellites. It has to monitor its 7,000 km seashore

areas. It has to monitor the entire northern part continuously. Without satellite and drone technology, the country can't achieve that.

### **Drones at the Centre of Modern Warfare**

The integration of drone warfare into India's military doctrine owes its success to years of domestic R&D and policy reform. Since 2021, the ban on imported drones and the launch of the PLI (Production Linked Incentive) scheme have catalysed rapid innovation. The scheme of Production Linked Incentive for drones and drone components of the Ministry of Civil Aviation was notified on 30th September, 2021, with a total incentive of Rs 120 crores spread over three Financial Years (FYs), FY 2021-22 to FY 2023-24.<sup>10</sup> The future lies in autonomous drones with AI-driven decision-making, and India is already laying the groundwork.

Defence exports crossed the record figure of about Rs 24,000 crore in the Financial Year 2024-25. The aim is to increase the figure to Rs 50,000 crore by 2029 and make India a developed nation and the world's largest defence exporter by 2047.<sup>31</sup>

Intelligence and Target Selection:

- Carried out a microscopic scan of the terror landscape
- Identified numerous terror camps and training sites<sup>32</sup>

## **12. The Indian Armed Forces and Its Impact**

Operation SINDOOR significantly demonstrated the Indian Armed Forces' operational prowess, strategic coordination, and technological advancement, reinforcing their critical role in safeguarding national security. By executing precision strikes against nine terrorist camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, the Armed Forces showcased their capability to carry out calibrated military responses without escalating conflict. This operation enhanced the Indian military's credibility and deterrence posture, signalling a clear message to state sponsors

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<sup>31</sup>Press Information Bureau, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Operation SINDOOR: The Rise of Aatmanirbhar Innovation in National Security (May 14, 2025), <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2127670>

<sup>32</sup>Press Information Bureau, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Operation SINDOOR: India's Strategic Clarity and Calculated Force (May 14, 2025), <https://www.pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=2128748>

of terrorism that cross-border aggression would be met with resolute and effective retaliation.

Operationally, the integration of the Army, Air Force, and Navy in a seamless joint operation reflected improved interoperability and strategic planning, hallmarking India's modern military doctrine. The use of indigenous technologies like BrahMos missiles, UAV surveillance, and AI-enabled targeting underscored the growing self-reliance of Indian defence capabilities, boosting confidence in homegrown innovations.<sup>33</sup>

Furthermore, the Armed Forces' disciplined conduct during Operation SINDOOR—ensuring minimal civilian casualties and adherence to international norms—contributed to India's international reputation as a responsible military power. The operation invigorated morale within the forces and among the public, fostering a collective sense of security.

Strategically, Operation SINDOOR reaffirmed the Armed Forces' pivotal role in executing India's zero-tolerance policy on terrorism while supporting diplomatic initiatives for peaceful regional stability, making it a landmark campaign in India's contemporary defence history.

### **13.Global Stage on Cross-Border Terrorism**

Operation SINDOOR, launched by India in May 2025 as a decisive counterterrorism strike against Pakistan-based terrorist camps, elicited a wide spectrum of international reactions reflecting the global consensus on fighting terrorism and respect for India's right to self-defence. Key global players, including the United Kingdom, Russia, Israel, the United States, France, the Netherlands, and Japan, expressed their support for India's calibrated use of force to target terrorist infrastructure while emphasising the importance of regional stability and dialogue. Gulf nations such as Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar acknowledged India's concerns about terrorism emanating from Pakistan and stressed the need for coordinated international measures against terror financing and safe havens.<sup>34</sup>

Meanwhile, nations like Iran and Palestine highlighted the complex geopolitical context but recognised the imperative to combat violent extremism. The European Union reaffirmed

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<sup>33</sup> Press Information Bureau, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Operation SINDOOR: Forging One Force 18 May 2025

<sup>34</sup> Press Information Bureau, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Operation SINDOOR: India's Strategic Clarity and Calculated Force (May 14, 2025), <https://www.pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=2128748>

collective solidarity with India's efforts to uphold security and justice.

Smaller states, including Sri Lanka, the Maldives, and Panama, extended diplomatic support in multilateral forums, underscoring the global consensus that terrorism, wherever originating, poses a threat to peace and development. The international response reflected India's successful diplomatic engagement post-operation, creating a united front against cross-border terrorism while encouraging continued dialogue and multilateral cooperation to prevent escalation in South Asia. Operation SINDOOR thus not only marked a military milestone but also underscored India's expanding role as a responsible global security actor.

In response to the U.S. offer to mediate on Kashmir, India firmly reiterated that the only issue to be addressed is the return of Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK). India made it clear that no dialogue is possible unless Pakistan takes concrete action against cross-border terrorism. Rejecting any third-party mediation, India asserted that Kashmir is a sovereign and bilateral matter. New Delhi has also made it unequivocal that any future act of terror will be treated as an act of war, underscoring its firm resolve to defend its sovereignty.

#### **14. Legal Framework: International Law and Domestic Law**

The legal framework governing Operation SINDOOR and India's counterterrorism efforts incorporates important principles from both international law and domestic law, ensuring lawful conduct and legitimacy in state action.

Under international law, India's actions are grounded in the inherent right of self-defence as enshrined in Article 51 of the United Nations Charter<sup>35</sup>, permitting proportionate use of force in response to armed attacks. Operation SINDOOR targeted terrorist infrastructure while strictly avoiding civilian areas and Pakistani military installations, thus aligning with the laws of armed conflict, particularly the principles of distinction and proportionality under International Humanitarian Law. Moreover, India's diplomatic engagements following the operation reinforced the importance of multilateral cooperation for combating terrorism, consistent with various UN Security Council resolutions aimed at counterterrorism and state responsibility for preventing non-state actors from carrying out attacks.

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<sup>35</sup> Charter of the United Nations art. 51, Oct. 24, 1945, 59 Stat. 1031, T.S. No. 993

Domestically, India's constitutional provisions guarantee the state's duty to safeguard sovereignty and protect its citizens from terrorism. Laws like the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA)<sup>36</sup> and relevant provisions in the Indian Penal Code empower the government and security forces to act decisively against terrorist threats. Parliamentary approvals and legal oversight ensure that military actions and strategic responses conform to national laws.

Together, the interplay of international legal norms and robust domestic legislation creates a comprehensive legal framework that legitimises Operation SINDOOR while sustaining India's commitment to justice, security, and international peace.

### **15.Strengthening National Security and Nation-Building**

Strengthening national security and nation-building are central objectives of India's strategic approach, particularly as demonstrated through initiatives like Operation SINDOOR.<sup>37</sup> National security is fortified by reinforcing the capabilities of the armed forces with advanced indigenous technology, ensuring readiness and precision in counterterrorism operations. Precision military actions decisively neutralise threats while minimising collateral damage, thus protecting civilians and maintaining public confidence.

In parallel, nation-building efforts focus on integrating vulnerable regions, like Jammu and Kashmir, through constitutional reforms, development projects, and promoting social harmony to undercut the roots of terrorism. Improved infrastructure, economic opportunities, and educational advancement contribute to stabilising the region and fostering inclusive growth.

Diplomatic outreach amplifies national security by garnering international support, forging coalitions against terrorism, and reinforcing India's image as a responsible global power. Effective governance, transparent legal frameworks, and victim justice contribute to the legitimacy and resilience of the state.

Together, strengthening national security through robust defence and enhancing nation-building by socio-economic integration, justice, and diplomacy creates a synergistic model that

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<sup>36</sup> Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, No. 37 of 1967, Acts of Parliament, 1967 (India), <https://www.mha.gov.in/sites/default/files/A1967-37.pdf>

<sup>37</sup> Press Information Bureau, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Operation SINDOOR: India's Strategic Clarity and Calculated Force (May 14, 2025), <https://www.pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=2128748>

safeguards India's sovereignty, promotes peace, and advances sustainable development.

## **16.Role of Political Impact on Cross-Border Terrorism**

The political impact on cross-border terrorism is profound, shaping both the genesis and responses to such conflicts. Politically, cross-border terrorism is often exploited as a strategic tool by states or non-state actors to destabilise rival nations, exert influence, and promote ideological or territorial ambitions. Political agendas can drive proxy wars, where sponsoring states covertly support terrorist groups to achieve geopolitical objectives without direct conflict.

At the domestic level, political narratives around terrorism influence public opinion, national unity, and policy-making, sometimes leading to heightened security measures or restrictive legislation. Politicisation of terrorism can affect democratic discourse, minority rights, and civil liberties, often complicating the state's counterterrorism efforts.

Conversely, political leadership plays a crucial role in formulating and implementing counterterrorism strategies. Effective political will and diplomacy can foster international cooperation, strengthen laws, and enable decisive military actions, as seen in India's response through Operation SINDOOR after the Pahalgam attack. Political stability and inclusive governance reduce the vulnerability of regions to terrorist ideology and recruitment.

Hence, political impact functions both as a catalyst and a deterrent in cross-border terrorism dynamics, with governance quality, international diplomacy, and policy coherence being key determinants of success in counterterrorism efforts.

## **17.Safeguarding National Security by Self-Reliance(Make in India)**

Make in India continues to power the growth of the defence sector. India has emerged as a major defence manufacturing hub, driven by the "Make in India" initiative and a strong push for self-reliance. In FY 2023–24, indigenous defence production reached a record ₹1.27 lakh crore, while exports soared to ₹23,622 crore in FY 2024–25, a 34-fold increase from 2013–14. Strategic reforms, private sector involvement, and robust R&D have led to the development of advanced military platforms like the Dhanush Artillery Gun System, Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS), Main Battle Tank (MBT) Arjun, Light Specialist Vehicles, High Mobility Vehicles, Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas, Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH),



Light Utility Helicopter (LUH), Akash Missile System, Weapon Locating Radar, 3D Tactical Control Radar, and Software Defined Radio (SDR), as well as naval assets like destroyers, indigenous aircraft carriers, submarines, frigates, corvettes, fast patrol vessels, fast attack craft, and offshore patrol vessels.

The government has backed this growth with record procurement contracts, innovations under iDEX, drives like SRIJAN, and two Defence Industrial Corridors in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Key acquisitions such as LCH (Light Combat Helicopters), Prachand helicopters, and the ATAGS (Approval for Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System) highlight the shift towards indigenous capability. With targets of ₹3 lakh crore in production and ₹50,000 crore in exports by 2029, India is firmly positioning itself as a self-reliant and globally competitive defence manufacturing power.<sup>38</sup>

### **18. Government of India: Role of Operation SINDOOR**

The Government of India has given full freedom to the armed forces to neutralise terror infrastructures and camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Destroying the sources of unlawful activities and terrorists through the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967,<sup>39</sup> a group of 67 terrorist organisations and unlawful associations are facing a ban under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act for their role in terrorist activities against India, threatening the country's security. This Act plays a significant role in countering cross-border terrorism to neutralise the terrorists and their groups violating human rights and the peace of the state, from the post-independence major attack against India and killing people with the intention of capturing Kashmir to their freedom. India has the courage to eliminate terrorism from the world and world citizens. The Government of India has clear standards for zero tolerance of cross-border terrorism. To ensure the goals towards returning the full Kashmir (POK), which has been India's territory since Independence, which it captured illegally, and Pakistan is using weapons and the shield of religious and dominant influence through people and influence of intention of capturing Indian territory through the terrorists and their groups. Pakistan is funding the terrorist organisation. India prohibited 67 terrorist organisations from the origin of Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. India expects POK to return to its

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<sup>38</sup> Press Information Bureau, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Operation SINDOOR: The Rise of Aatmanirbhar Innovation in National Security (May 14, 2025), <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2127670>

<sup>39</sup> Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, No. 37 of 1967, Acts of Parliament, 1967 (India), <https://www.mha.gov.in/sites/default/files/A1967-37.pdf>

homeland from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. In POK, people are against Pakistan's military and its government for not fulfilling the basic needs and wants of the people. India's strategy towards POK through diplomacy and counter-terrorism. India is returning the POK to India. There is a reduction of unlawful activities when it comes to POK in Indian territory by implementing the laws in POK. The Government of India has raised funds for victims' families who lost their lives in the Pahalgam Attack, an amount of 10 lakh for each person killed in the Pahalgam Terror Attack, and the Government of India stands for justice and equality of good conscience.

**19.Research Findings:** Operation SINDOOR marked a significant evolution in India's counterterrorism strategy, establishing a zero-tolerance doctrine against cross-border terrorism, particularly aimed at Pakistan-backed terror infrastructure. The operation combined precise military force, legal restraint, and widespread diplomatic engagement, targeting nine major terrorist camps and neutralising over 100 militants, including high-profile commanders, with minimal civilian harm.

India demonstrated technological self-reliance with indigenous innovations such as advanced air defence, AI-enabled targeting, and the effective use of drones and satellites, which provided operational superiority over adversary defences.

The operation set a new strategic red line, ending the separation between terrorists and their state sponsors by punishing both, and exposed weaknesses in Pakistan's air defence systems.

India's policy coupled military actions with simultaneous diplomatic and legal pressures, including the suspension of water treaties, closure of border crossings, and global advocacy for unified international laws against terrorism.

The Indian Armed Forces displayed seamless coordination across the Army, Navy, and Air Force, reinforcing deterrence and India's credible defence posture.

Internationally, India received robust support from major powers and neighbouring states, solidifying its position as a responsible actor fighting global terror.

Domestically, the operation galvanised citizen unity, promoted national security, and advanced socio-economic integration in affected regions, all while strengthening India's sovereignty and commitment to justice for the victims.

The findings conclude that Operation SINDOOR exemplifies a multidimensional approach to counterterrorism: technologically advanced, ethically responsible, legally robust, and diplomatically active—setting benchmarks for future policy and regional stability.

## **20.Recommendations and Suggestions**

Operation SINDOOR directs the zero-tolerance against cross-border terrorism on the global stage and ensures world peace in the state's responsibility, citizens, Political influence on decision-making is an essential step in neutralising the terror attack from the grass-roots level to eradicating internal politics and internal unlawful activities and state governments are concerned over terror camps and the identification of local threats that can lead to massive causes, and state-level should be implementing the rules and regulations for unlawful activities and criminals and terrorists. There should be more policies for development for employment for uneducated people and for remote areas to raise awareness about terrorism and its impact, because innocent people are killed by terrorists. To ensure punishment and the death penalty for terror attacks, there is no compromise on capital punishment, and there is no violation of human rights for terrorists. If we are ordered to be imprisoned for a period of time, that will lead to the negotiation part when it comes to the diplomacy. Action should be justice for victims, and there is no talk of terrorists being returned. Overall, the pain of families who lost their members of family and the country's sovereignty are affected by unlawful activities, and there will be zero tolerance against cross-border terrorism. Operation SINDOOR is still in progress for women's empowerment and the sovereignty of the country and to ensure peace and security with India and world peace.

## **21.Conclusion**

Operation SINDOOR exemplifies India's transformation towards a zero-tolerance policy on cross-border terrorism, combining military precision, diplomatic engagement, and legal responsibility. The operation successfully targeted and dismantled major terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, demonstrating India's technological self-reliance and strategic prowess while minimising collateral damage. The initiative mobilised national unity, elevated the credibility of India's armed forces, and attracted significant international support, affirming India's position as a responsible actor upholding justice and global peace. The research highlights the necessity of collective international action, strong legal frameworks, and citizen participation in counterterrorism efforts, and underscores the

importance of justice for victims and deterrence for terrorist actors. Ultimately, Operation SINDOOR sets a strategic benchmark for multidimensional, ethically responsible counterterrorism operations that reinforce national security, strengthen nation-building, and sustain India's global leadership in combating terrorism.