



Update

Indo-Pak Standoff and Pakistan's Response

May 2025

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[Updated 1400 Hours Pakistan Time – Thursday, 8 May 2025]

PAKISTAN

- Pakistan's response to the unprovoked attack has demonstrated its military strength and resolve. India made a grave mistake by launching an attack. It will have to pay the price for this aggression **[PM Address to the Nation]**.
- A National Security Council (NSC) meeting was called on Wed, 7 May after coordinated missile, air and drone strikes launched by the Indian armed forces during the night of May 6–7.
- Termed the attacks as "unprovoked, cowardly, and unlawful acts of war."
- Emphasized that Pakistan reserves the right to respond under Article 51 of the UN Charter.
- Confirmed PAF had downed five Indian fighter aircraft (Rafael, SU-30, and MiG-29) and one drone (Heron) during its defensive operations.
- Authorized the armed forces to undertake corresponding actions in response to Indian airstrikes that targeted multiple civilian areas.
- DG ISPR termed India's targeting of Nauseri Dam, part of the Neelum-Jhelum Hydropower project as "dangerous escalation" and warned of its implications.
- Defense Minister Khawaja Asif said in a statement "if India backs down, we will definitely wrap up this tension."
- The Indian media portrayed this gesture of de-escalation from Pakistan as fearing global isolation after "Operation Sindoor."
- Some Pakistani cities are still on Indian radar as a possible target for a next strike. Even at this moment, in one or two cities there have been calls for black-out. We will not be at the receiving end and will retaliate **[Khawaja Asif – Geo News – 2240 hours]**.
- Pakistan leadership and media is rightly putting out the narrative that Pakistan itself is a victim of terrorism and that India is sponsoring terrorism inside Pakistan through its proxies - BLA and TTP.

- Pakistan media is also highlighting that despite India's conventional superiority, PAF forced Indian forces to retreat while also downing 5 aircraft and several drones. The Downing of Rafael aircraft was also confirmed by the French officials on Wednesday evening.

INDIA

- Indian Army held a press conference outlining strategic objectives and outcomes of the operation.
- PM Modi chaired a Cabinet Meeting on successful execution of "Operation Sindoor."
- India briefed the permanent and non-permanent members of the UNSC to share details of the operation.
- India has no intention to escalate **[NSA Ajit Doval – NDTV X post]**.
- Indian Media is calling the missile strikes as "**Revenge with Restraint**" and is putting the onus of escalation on Pakistan while also blaming it for ceasefire violations across LoC and targeting Civilians **[NDTV – 2215 hours]**.
- Pakistani analysts and officials are reiterating on all media platforms that Pakistan has and will not attack the civilian population in India which is also reflective from our response in terms of targeting military infrastructures only.
- India should be hitting beyond just terrorist camps/hide-outs and target the mainland Pakistan **[Lt Gen Satish Dua (Retd), Former GoC 15th Corps – India Today – 2030 hours]**.
- Indian media is also overplaying the statement by Jaish-e-Mohammad Chief Masood Azhar – that 10 of his family members have been killed - to further their narrative that the targeted sites were indeed terrorist camps.

Latest Assessment

- Pakistan's operational response has displayed qualitative edge of PAF and AD technology. On moral and professional fronts Pakistan so far has achieved ascendancy.

- The civilian casualties in Indian missile attacks have caused anger in Pakistan eliciting criticism of India by all segments of society. The crossing of nuclear Rubicon by India has dented stability of nuclear deterrence in sub-continent. The shrill rhetoric and jingoism in India betoken a war hysteria which show no signs of subsiding.
- In order to restore the nuclear deterrence Pakistan is constrained to respond.
- India instead of opting for de-escalation is further escalating the tensions by sending surveillance drones and loitering munitions like Harop which have targeted AD sites in Lahore injuring 4 Pakistani officers. On night 7/8-night drones were sent to several areas like Karachi, Lahore, Sheikhpura, Rawalpindi, Gujranwala, Attock, Miano, Shor, and Bahawalpur. One Pakistani citizen in Miano-Sindh got killed by drone too. Pakistan armed forces have so far shot down 25 Indian drones through soft and hard kill. The very small cross section and size of the drones being used makes those difficult to be tackled through radar guided kills but other means have been used very effectively to thwart Indian attempts to attain any worthwhile objectives through this provocative use of drones.
- India is escalating the tensions by sending these drones and loitering munitions and it may be perceived that likely Pakistani response either through missiles or drones would further escalate the situation. The Pakistani response however would be in response to Indian missile and drone attacks aimed at restoration of the strategic deterrence.
- India and Pakistan's National Security Advisor level contacts have been established but the outcome so far is not visible in operational domain.
- The international community needs to take cognizance of this serious standoff between two nuclear nations by convening an emergency session of the UN Security Council to stop further escalation and order an immediate ceasefire and resolution of the contentious issues through negotiations. If possible international community should offer mediation support to both countries.

Recommendations

- The deterrence stabilization efforts of Pakistan should be accompanied by diplomatic maneuvers to defuse the situation through international allies.
- P5 countries, especially China and Russia to play their role in defusing the crisis through a binding resolution of UN Security Council.