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MAGAZINE NOTES

One Year of Operation Sindoor: The New Normal in Deterrence

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One Year of Operation Sindoor: The New Normal in Deterrence

 **PIB Special Features** Chapter 3 · 2 min read ·

Source: New India Samachar Vol 6, Issue 21 (first-anniversary feature)

One year after **Operation Sindoor (May 7, 2025)**, the feature frames India’s tri-service precision response to the Pahalgam massacre as the template of a “new normal”: terror attacks draw direct, attributable military responses, executed with indigenous systems.

THE TIMELINE

DATE	EVENT
April 22, 2025	Pahalgam attack: 26 killed (25 Indians, 1 Nepali citizen)
April 23, 2025	CCS meets; Indus Waters Treaty placed in suspension; SAARC visas for Pakistani citizens revoked
Night of May 6-7	Nine terror hideouts destroyed; 125+ terrorists killed; India’s DGMO informs Pakistan’s counterpart at 1:22 AM
May 9	11 Pakistani airbases damaged in the counter-strike (including Noor Khan, Rahim Yar Khan)
May 10, 5 PM	Hostilities halt after Pakistan’s DGMO calls

The IAF bypassed and jammed Pakistan’s Chinese-supplied air defence systems, completing the strike mission in **23 minutes**. (Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, where some targets lay, is an integral part of India per the Government of India’s position.)

THE INDIGENOUS HARDWARE STORY

- Credited systems: **Akash** missile system, **BrahMos**, **Akash Teer** air defence control, loitering munitions against radars
- ISRO’s contribution: at least **10 satellites** worked round the clock; 7,000+ km of coastline monitored (ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan, May 11)
- **Operation Mahadev** (launched May 22, 2025): all three Pahalgam attackers neutralised after a July 22 sensor breakthrough
- **Mission Sudarshan Chakra**: a nationwide defensive shield to secure public spaces by 2035

THE DEFENCE ECONOMY IT ACCELERATED

- Defence exports: **Rs 38,424 crore in FY 2025-26** (under Rs 1,000 crore a decade ago); target Rs 50,000 crore by 2029
- Defence production target: Rs 3 lakh crore by 2029; indigenous production Rs 1.54 lakh crore (FY 2023-24)
- Private-sector share targeted to rise from 25 percent to at least 50 percent in three years
- Drones: India holds 12.2 percent of the global drone market, projected at \$11 billion by 2030

MAINS ANGLE

Doctrinal shift: Sindoor converted strategic restraint into calibrated, visible retaliation while staying below full-war thresholds; the IWT suspension added water as a coercive lever. **Questions for analysis:** escalation management with a nuclear neighbour, dependence of deterrence credibility on repeatability, and whether export-led defence industrialisation can coexist with the forces' own modernisation demands.

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THE OPERATION:

May 7, 2025: 9 hideouts, 125+ terrorists, 23-minute mission; ceasefire 5 PM May 10

Trigger: Pahalgam, April 22, 2025 (26 killed); IWT placed in suspension April 23

SYSTEMS AND FOLLOW-ONS:

Akash, BrahMos, Akash Teer, loitering munitions; 10+ ISRO satellites

Operation Mahadev (May 22, 2025): all three attackers neutralised

Mission Sudarshan Chakra: shield for public spaces by 2035

DEFENCE ECONOMY:

Exports Rs 38,424 crore (FY 2025-26); targets: Rs 50,000 crore exports, Rs 3 lakh crore production by 2029

Sources: [PIB](#), [Ministry of Defence](#)



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