

# Chorus of 'Jai Hind' across party lines as leaders hail 'Operation Sindoor'

**PTI, NEW DELHI:** Leaders across party lines on Wednesday rallied to hail the armed forces for missile attacks on nine terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir under 'Operation Sindoor', posting patriotic slogans of 'Bharat Mata ki Jai' and 'Jai Hind' on their social media handles.

"Bharat Mata ki Jai," said Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, while Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath greeted Operation Sindoor with "Jai Hind" and "Jai Hind ki Sena".

The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, said he was proud of the armed forces and signed off with the slogan "Jai Hind".

Maharashtra Deputy CM and Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde posted on X, "Jai Hind. Operation Sindoor." Congress leader Randeep Surjewala echoed, posting "Jai Hind."

LJP (Ram Vilas) leader and Union minister Chirag Paswan said, "Satyamev Jayate. Jai Hind ki Sena." RJD leaders hailed the armed forces for their befitting response to Pakistan-based terrorists, greeting them with "Bharatiya Sena Zindabad. Jai Hind." Terror headquarters of banned Jaish-e-Mohammed, Lashkar-e-Taiba and Hizbul Mujahideen were targeted under 'Operation Sindoor' with IAF carrying out night raids on the nine hideouts located in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir, officials said here on Wednesday.

Among the targets hit in a precise operation were Markaz Subhan Allah at Bahawalpur, Sarjal at Tehra Kalan, Markaz Abbas in Kotli and Syedna Bilal camp in Muzaffarabad (all of the banned Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorist group).



A general view of a damaged structure of an Islamic seminary after Indian strikes in Ahmedpur Sharqia, about 7 kilometres from Bahawalpur in Pakistan's Punjab province. India and Pakistan exchanged heavy artillery along their contested frontier



## INDIA, WORLD LEADERS REACT

“The precision strike on Pakistani terror camps is a moment of great pride  
—Narendra Modi, PM

“This operation was aimed at dismantling those (terror) very foundations, (signals) a strategic shift in India's counter-terror posture  
—Droupadi Murmu, President

“It's a shame. They've been fighting for a long time. They've been fighting for many, many decades and centuries, actually, if you really think about it. I just hope it ends very quickly  
—Donald Trump, US President

“We are deeply concerned about the intensifying military confrontation between India and Pakistan after the terrorist attack near the city of Pahalgam. We call on the parties involved to exercise restraint in order to prevent further deterioration of the situation in the region  
—Maria Zakharova, Russia Foreign Ministry spokesperson

“Rising tensions between India and Pakistan will be of serious concern for many across Britain. We are engaging urgently with countries, as well as other international partners, encouraging dialogue, de-escalation and the protection of civilians  
—Keir Starmer, British Prime Minister

“Very concerned about the Indian military operations across the Line of Control and the international border. Urge for maximum military restraint from both countries. The world cannot afford a military confrontation between India and Pakistan  
—Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary-General

“The UK has close and unique relationships with both countries. I have made clear to my counterparts in India and Pakistan that if this escalates further, nobody wins. The UK was clear in its condemnation of the horrific terrorist attack in Pahalgam last month. We need all sides to work urgently to see regional stability restored and ensure protection of civilians  
—David Lammy, UK Foreign Secretary

“India is justified in striking terrorist infrastructure. There can be no impunity for terrorists  
—Rishi Sunak, UK former prime minister

“Restraint, de-escalate tensions, and avoid further escalation that could threaten regional and international peace  
—Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE Deputy Prime Minister of Foreign Affairs

“We understand India's desire to protect itself against the scourge of terrorism, but we obviously call on both India and Pakistan to exercise restraint to avoid escalation and, of course, to protect civilians  
—Jean-Noel Barrot, French Foreign Minister

“Beijing stands ready to work with the international community to continue to play a constructive role in easing the current tensions  
—Lin Jian, Chinese foreign spokesman

“The government is closely observing the evolving situation in India and Pakistan and expresses its deep concern over the situation  
—Bangladesh's Ministry of Foreign Affairs

“We are concerned about the ongoing situation... India and Pakistan are and will always be each other's neighbours. They are both China's neighbours as well... We urge both sides to act in the larger interest of peace and stability, remain calm, exercise restraint and refrain from taking actions that may further complicate the situation  
—China's Foreign Ministry

“I am monitoring the situation between India and Pakistan closely. I echo @POTUS's comments earlier today that this hopefully ends quickly and will continue to engage both Indian and Pakistani leadership towards a peaceful resolution.”  
—Marco Rubio, US Secretary of State

“Pakistan again violates the Ceasefire Agreement by firing artillery in Bhimber Gali in Poonch-Rajauri area. Indian Army is responding appropriately in a calibrated manner  
—Additional directorate general of public information (ADGPI) of the Indian Army

“The fighter's fight begins... No stopping until the mission is accomplished! The entire NATION is with you.  
—Rajinikanth, Tamil superstar

“Fearless in unity. Boundless in strength. India's shield is her people. There's no room for terrorism in this world. We're ONE TEAM! Jai Hind,  
Sachin Tendulkar, Cricketer

## Nari Shakti shines at Delhi briefing on Operation Sindoor

**PTI, NEW DELHI:** India's 'Nari Shakti' was veritably on display during a press briefing here on 'Operation Sindoor' on Wednesday, as two accomplished woman military officers joined Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri in giving details about the precision strikes by the armed forces on nine terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir.

At the briefing held at the National Media Centre, Misri was flanked by Col Sofiya Qureshi and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh, presenting a striking image of a combination of India's prowess

in military and diplomacy.

Indian military carried out a "measured, non-escalatory, proportionate, and responsible" strike to dismantle terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan to "deter and to pre-empt" any further terrorist strikes, Misri said, hours after India retaliated the Pahalgam attack.

The precision strikes were carried out under 'Operation Sindoor', two weeks after the massacre of 26 people, mostly tourists, in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam.

After delivering the opening statement from

## Nari Shakti shines at Delhi briefing on Operation Sindoor

the government, first in Hindi and then in English, Misri announced that the two officers would be briefing on the broader details of the operation.

Col Qureshi from the Army's Corps of Signals, and Wg Cdr Singh, a helicopter pilot, shared the names and details of the sites targeted in the early hours on Wednesday.

The army officer spoke in Hindi while the IAF helicopter pilot shared the details in English, complementing each other.

The military officers took a podium each on the dais as Misri took his seat at the centre of the dais.

## Pahalgam victims' families call strike a 'fitting tribute'

**PTI, NEW DELHI:** A sense of satisfaction and relief was collectively shared by the families of Pahalgam terror attack victims after the Indian armed forces carried out missile strikes on nine terror targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir.

"I had said that such a thing (retaliatory strikes) has to be done so that no one dares to do such a cowardly act again...the strikes carried out on the terror targets will resonate in their minds forever, Rajesh said.

Married about three weeks ago, Narwal (26), accompanied by his wife Himanshi, was on a honeymoon in Pahalgam when terrorists shot him at point-blank range.

## JUSTICE SERVED

Retaliating against the terror attack on April 22, in which 26 people were killed in south Kashmir's Pahalgam town, the Indian armed forces hit the Jaish-e-Mohammad stronghold of Bahawalpur and Lashkar-e-Taiba's base in Muridke, among other terrorist targets.

Terrorists will think 100 times before acting again, said Rajesh Narwal, father of Lt Vinay Narwal, hailing India's response.

Sumathi, the mother of Manjunath Rao from Shivamogga in Karnataka who was killed in Pahalgam, said she did not want her son's "sacrifice" to go to waste.

"We had faith that Modi will make the right decision. Nothing should happen to innocents, but those who try to oppress or indulge in rogue actions against us should not be spared. My son's sacrifice should not go to waste. I feel that the right decision has been taken," Sumathi told PTI videos.

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## Pak security body vows retaliation to Indian strikes 'at time and place of choosing'

**PTI, ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan's top security body on Wednesday said the armed forces have been duly authorised to undertake retaliation "at a time, place, and manner of its choosing" to avenge the loss of lives in the Indian military strikes.

Pakistan Army spokesman Lt Gen Ahmad Sharif Chaudhry said at least 26 people were killed and 46 injured in the missile strikes launched shortly after midnight on cities in the Punjab province and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Maulana Masood Azhar's 10 family members and four close aides were killed in the attack on the outfit's headquarters in Bahawalpur.

A hurriedly called National Security Council meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and attended by cabinet ministers, chief ministers,



Pakistani soldiers and civilians attend funeral prayers to the victims of an Indian missile strike incident in Muridke, a town in Pakistan's Punjab province

all services chiefs and senior officers, described the strikes as "unprovoked and an unlawful act of war".

An NSC statement warned that in consonance with Article 51 of the UN Charter, Pakistan reserves the right to respond, in self-defence, at a time, place, and manner of its choosing to avenge the loss of innocent Pakistani lives in the Indian strikes.

"The Armed Forces of

Pakistan have duly been authorised to undertake corresponding actions in this regard, the statement said.

Addressing a session of the Parliament later, Prime Minister Shehbaz claimed that the Pakistan armed forces destroyed five Indian jets. He, however, did not provide any evidence in support of his claim.

He lauded the Pakistan Air Force and its chief "for the swift response", saying

that the armed forces had prior intelligence about India's plans.

India launched Operation Sindoor early Wednesday hitting nine terror targets in PoK and Punjab in retaliation for the terror attack in Pahalgam on April 22 that killed 26 people. Citing cross-border linkages to the horrific attack, India had promised severe punishment to those involved in the strike.

Defence Minister Khawaja Asif earlier said Pakistan is ready to "wrap up" tensions with India if New Delhi de-escalates the situation.

"We have been saying all along in the last fortnight that we'll never initiate anything hostile towards India. But if we're attacked, we'll respond. If India backs down, we will definitely wrap up this tension," he was quoted as saying by Bloomberg Television.

## India deflates Pakistan's disinformation blitz after airstrikes exposes fake videos

### Team Herald

**PANJIM:** Following the launch of Operation Sindoor, India's answer to Pakistan's Pahalgam attack, Pakistan responded by unleashing a wave of disinformation across social media platforms.

In a coordinated effort involving state media and official accounts, Pakistan spread fake news, repurposed old images and circulated misleading videos. These false claims included reports of Indian fighter jets being shot down, an attack on the Srinagar

**India reiterated that its strikes exclusively targeted terrorist infrastructure and urged citizens to rely on official channels for verified information**

airbase and the capture of Indian soldiers.

The Fact Check Unit (FCU) of India's Ministry of Information and Broadcasting swiftly exposed this coordinated disinformation campaign. The FCU debunked at least five major fake claims, including an alleged BrahMos

missile malfunction and the supposed downing of a Rafale jet near Bahawalpur, claims falsely supported by an old image from a 2021 MiG-21 crash in Punjab.

Another widely circulated video, shared by Pakistan's Minister Attaullah Tarar, falsely showed the Indian Army surrendering at Chora Post. The footage had no factual basis. Additionally, a video claimed to be an attack on the Srinagar airbase was identified as footage from sectarian clashes in Pakistan's Khy-

ber Pakhtunkhwa in early 2024.

On Wednesday alone, Indian authorities flagged 24 accounts for spreading misinformation related to Operation Sindoor. Officials condemned Pakistani political figures for amplifying false narratives and warned that such actions mislead the public and intensify the spread of disinformation.

India reiterated that its strikes exclusively targeted terrorist infrastructure and urged citizens to rely on official channels for verified information.