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Operation Sindoor and Information Warfare

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Abstract

India launched Operation Sindoor in response to the terrorist attacks on 22 April 2025, which was the deadliest terrorist attack in recent years. Operation Sindoor is significant not only because India attacked terrorist camps located inside Pakistan Occupied Pakistan (POK) as well as terrorist camps located in Punjab province, but also because of the information warfare waged alongside it. Information warfare has been an important part of wars and conflicts, but during Operation Sindoor most Indians realized that despite ample evidence of India's success, including evidence of successful operations carried out by India in Pakistan through satellite images, India faced a major challenge in countering the widespread international propaganda. Pakistan, which failed to counter the Indian military attacks, faced little criticism from the international media. What could be the reason for India's low preparedness in countering information warfare? Are there historical reasons behind it, or could domestic political compulsions or geopolitics be the reason behind it? This research paper is an attempt to understand the factors behind this.

Key Words: Operation Sindoor, Information Warfare, India, Pakistan, Kashmir

Introduction

Following the Pahalgam terror attack on 22 April 2025, India launched an operation against terrorist camps inside

Pakistan on 7 May 2025, the operation was codenamed Operation Sindoor⁽¹⁾. In the Pahalgam terror attack, terrorists killed tourists from other parts of India who had

come to visit Kashmir. The Pahalgam terror attack was a major terrorist attack after the 2019 Pulwama attack and the cessation of Article 370(1)⁽²⁾.

The Pahalgam terror attack was clearly communal in nature, the terrorists asked the religious identity of the tourists and targeted only non-Muslims, all of whom were Hindus except one⁽³⁾. A distinctive nature of this attack was that the terrorists targeted only the male members of the victim's family⁽⁴⁾. Pakistan has denied any role in the Pahalgam terror attack, as it did during the 26/11 Mumbai attacks. India has ample evidence that the attack was carried out by Pakistan-based terrorists⁽⁵⁾. Since the 2016 Uri attack, India has been adopting a stance, unlike the previous government, wherein it does not hesitate to take military action against terrorists even if they are hiding in Pakistan. And that is why Operation Sindoor on 7 May 2025 was not a surprise to the people of India and most of the world community, it was only a question of when. However, the scope and scale of Operation Sindoor is much wider than the surgical strikes carried out after the Uri attacks in 2016 and the Balakot airstrikes after the Pulwama attack. The Government of India in its official press release said "the Indian Armed Forces launched 'OPERATION SINDOOR', hitting terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir from where

terrorist attacks against India have been planned and directed. Altogether, nine (9) sites have been targeted. Our actions have been focused, measured and non-escalatory in nature. No Pakistani military facilities have been targeted. India has demonstrated considerable restraint in selection of targets and method of execution"(6).

In Operation Sindoor, not only Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, but terrorist camps located in Pakistan's Punjab province were also targeted. This was also notable because even during the Kargil war, India had limited its military action to the Kashmir region and did not cross the Line of Control. The information war between India and Pakistan started soon after the Pahalgam attack, which intensified during Operation Sindoor and continued even after the ceasefire. In the four-day military conflict between India and Pakistan, both sides claimed military advantage over the other. Although India showed concrete evidence of air strikes inside Pakistan on 7 May, Pakistan could not show any evidence despite its claims⁽⁷⁾. And before the Pakistani Army could launch its Operation Banyan al-Marous against India on 10 May, Indian Army successfully attacked the Pakistani military bases and proved its capability once again with evidence. The presentation of evidence was part of the information war that was going on simultaneously with the military operation.

Information warfare is the strategic use of information and communication technology to gain an edge over the enemy. Information warfare includes cyber warfare, psychological operations through propaganda, deception, deliberate misinformation to confuse and demoralize the enemy. According to NATO “Information warfare is an operation conducted in order to gain an information advantage over the opponent. It consists in controlling one’s own information space, protecting access to one’s own information, while acquiring and using the opponent’s information, destroying their information systems and disrupting the information flow. Information warfare is not a new phenomenon, yet it contains innovative elements as the effect of technological development, which results in information being disseminated faster and on a larger scale”(8).

Information warfare was an important weapon of the warring factions during both World War I and World War II. K. Perusich (1997) describes how innovations in engineering technology enhanced the ability to obtain and use data as a weapon of war during World War II⁽⁹⁾. Since then, continual improvements in information and communication technology have made the battle for narrative and information even more complex.

The information war between the US and the Soviet Union during the Cold War was also intense⁽¹⁰⁾. Because the rivalry between the two sides was ideological in nature⁽¹¹⁾. The two sides never fought a direct military war, but confronted each other through proxy wars around the world, in which both sides widely used propaganda through journalism, radio and printed materials.

After the end of the Cold War, when the US emerged as the most influential power in the world, it dominated the information war due to its media reach and powerful corporations, which helped the US achieve its goals. The best example of this is the first Gulf War between the US-led coalition and Iraq, which was fought against Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. This was the first fully televised war in modern history, broadcast live by CNN⁽¹²⁾. The US had a strong hold on information technology at the time. This helped shape the story of the entire war from the American perspective.

The US clearly had international sympathy and support after the 9/11 attacks on the US in 2001, which is why it did not have much trouble crafting a supportive narrative for its Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). But just before the second Gulf War in 2003, the US had to use the powerful influence of the media to back up its claim that Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction. In fact,

the media was a key tool in garnering support for military operations in Iraq in 2003, and the concept of embedded journalism, where reporters are attached to military units, became very popular during Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF)⁽¹³⁾. This helped hide the massive war crimes committed by the US military. This was despite the fact that experts were confident that Iraq could not have any weapons of mass destruction⁽¹⁴⁾. After the adoption of Resolution 1441 by the United Nations Security Council, Iraq was ordered to immediately allow The United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission(UNMOVIC) and The International Atomic Energy Agency(IAEA) weapons inspectors to enter the country, which Iraq complied with. And how effective this media propaganda was in America's favour can be gauged from the fact that even after the much-publicised attack on Iraq, America did not actually find any weapons of mass destruction⁽¹⁵⁾.

Since 2010, advances in information technology and the increasing access to the internet and mobile phones have made the flow of information complex and widespread. This has affected the dynamics of narrative warfare during the conflict. During Operation Sindoor and subsequent events, not only the mainstream media but also citizens of both India and Pakistan on social media were involved in exchanging

information. During the four-day conflict between India and Pakistan, old, distorted and unverified photographs and videos were widely used, mostly on digital platforms, as part of psychological campaigns in the conflict⁽¹⁶⁾. Even mainstream media on both sides used misleading headlines and thumbnails on YouTube channels. To make the event more dramatic, Indian media houses used the sound of alarm sirens in the background of news related to military tensions between India and Pakistan⁽¹⁷⁾.

Brief introduction of India Pakistan relations

Historically, there was no country or region called Pakistan before 1947. In comparison, India as a cultural and geographical identity has existed for thousands of years. What is today Pakistan was once part of India. In 1947 it was separated from India as a separate country for Muslims living in British India. The events of Partition are beyond the scope of this article, so they will not be discussed here. However, it is clear that Partition was the result of animosity between the Hindu and Muslim community, which eventually led to hostility between the two countries and has continued since 1947⁽¹⁸⁾. Superficially, the most prominent aspect of the hostility between India and Pakistan is the Kashmir issue. But the real cause of the hostility is more complex than it appears. Pakistan sees its existence as a declaration

of a Muslim identity distinct from Hindus. Just a week before the Pahalgam terrorist attack, Pakistani Army Chief Asim Munir emphasized the difference between Hindus and Muslims and urged Pakistanis to adopt the ideology that led to the creation of the Islamic Republic⁽¹⁹⁾. This complexity of relations is the reason for the existence of the Kashmir problem, and not the other way round.

The dispute between India and Pakistan is not just a border dispute but a matter of Pakistan's claim over the region due to the specific demography of the Kashmir valley, which is Muslim majority⁽²⁰⁾. This is why Pakistan sponsored terrorists asked for the religious identity of the victims of the Pahalgam terror attack before targeting them. Their main target were Hindus, who are in majority in India. The two countries have fought two major wars in 1965 and 1971 and two regional wars, one in 1947-48 and the other being the Kargil War in 1999. The issues in the 1965 and 1971 wars were much broader. The 1947-48 and 1999 wars were specifically focused on the Kashmir issue.

Information and Narrative War between India and Pakistan

One of the most notable features of independence movements in the 20th century colonised world was the use of information technology by colonised peoples to publicise their demands and raise

awareness of their causes. The most famous example of this is Frantz Fanon, who wrote extensively to raise awareness of colonialism in Africa and particularly Algeria⁽²¹⁾. Similarly, in India, there were numerous newspapers and magazines established by people engaged in the independence struggle.

After the great revolt of 1857, some Muslim intellectuals like Sir Syed Ahmad Khan emerged who were advocating Muslims to cooperate with the British instead of fighting them. And for this Sir Syed Ahmad Khan wrote books, magazines and newspapers to propagate his ideas⁽²²⁾⁽²³⁾. After the Bengal partition in 1906, the Muslim League was founded, which was the main organisation behind the demand for Pakistan before the partition and was adept in the art of using narrative language to achieve its goal. It published books and documents and organised rallies and meetings to create a favourable psychological atmosphere⁽²⁴⁾. After 1947, Pakistan adopted similar narrative war strategies to garner support for its sovereign rights over Kashmir⁽²⁵⁾.

The modern government of Pakistan uses propaganda for two main purposes; first, to establish a heroic image of its army among the general public, which it has been using since the 1965 war. The CIA report on the 1965 war also states that India won the war, but the Pakistani army spread a false

narrative of victory to fool its public⁽²⁶⁾. Second, it tries to create confusion and a positive image abroad by fabricating stories for the international media. To understand this, consider the incident right after the Balakot airstrikes, when the Pakistani army took the international media on a tour of the sites of the airstrikes a few days after the airstrikes to refute India's claim of any casualties⁽²⁷⁾. The purpose of these media tours was to build confidence in its public about the strong image of the army and to inform the world about the defense capabilities of the Pakistani army.

The Pakistani establishment is well aware of the importance of narrative warfare, which is why it has tried to increase its influence in the Indian media as well. Former diplomat Abdul Basit once named an Indian journalist who was used by them to spread a pro-Pakistan narrative on Kashmir in the Indian media⁽²⁸⁾. Pakistan, on the other hand, openly dehumanises the Hindu community in its media, which they associate with India's identity. During Operation Sindoos, a large Pakistani spy ring was also busted, which included many YouTubers and social media workers⁽²⁹⁾. This shows how actively the Pakistani establishment is using new media in the information war, especially in the art of storytelling and creating a positive image of Pakistan.

Information warfare during Operation Sindoos

Soon after the Pahalgam attack, an information war broke out between India and Pakistan. A round of accusations and counter-accusations began, as has been going on for many years. As usual, Pakistan denied any involvement in the Pahalgam attack. Just as it did after the 26/11 Mumbai attack, which failed due to Ajmal Kasab being caught alive. There was strong evidence of Pakistan's involvement from day one of the Pahalgam terror attack. A terror group called The Resistance Front (TRF) has claimed responsibility for the attack⁽³⁰⁾. Indian security forces consider TRF to be an ally of Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba. However, when pressure mounted on the Pakistani government, TRF denied any involvement in the attack⁽³¹⁾. However, after the ceasefire, the Indian government acted smartly and managed to get the US State Department to declare The Resistance Front (TRF) a Foreign Terrorist Organisation (FTO) and a Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT)⁽³²⁾. But behind the scenes, Pakistani hackers were busy hacking official websites of the Indian government and putting pro-Pakistan messages on them. Pakistan, as usual, played its tune around the long-standing Kashmir problem, the same region which the Pakistani army chief had called

Pakistan's jugular vein just days before the Pahalgam attack⁽³³⁾.

The real information war started after 7 May 2025 when India launched its Operation Sindoor. A narrative war was started between India and Pakistan through the media. As India informed the world about its successful attack on a total of 9 terrorist camps inside Pakistan, including areas outside Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, Pakistan started claiming that it had shot down six Indian fighter jets including the Rafale, which is the highly coveted fighter aircraft⁽³⁴⁾. Which was later directly denied by the CDS during his press interview given to the foreign media, visiting Singapore from 30 May to 1 June, where he attended the 22nd edition of the Shangri-La Dialogue, which is organized annually by the International Institute for Strategic Studies⁽³⁵⁾. However, the denial of the big claims made by Pakistan of shooting down 6 Indian aircraft should have been given earlier. Which again was part of the information war as seen when Pakistan launched the initial attack on Amritsar and tried to activate the separatist lobby in Punjab and Punjabi diaspora abroad by blaming the Indian government for the attack on Amritsar⁽³⁶⁾. The conflict between India and Pakistan intensified on 10 May 2025, when India successfully targeted Pakistan Air Force bases at Pakistan's Nur Khan Airbase in Rawalpindi, Rafiqui,

Murid, Chaklala and Rahim Yar Khan Airport. The attacks also targeted military sites in Sukkur and Chunian, a radar installation in Pasrur, Sialkot Aviation Base and other air bases in Skardu, Sargodha, Jacobabad and Bholari.

Immediately after the Indian missile attacks, Pakistan launched a retaliatory action, codenamed Operation Banyan-um-Marsoos. Pakistan had planned its operation at 4 am after prayers, but India's attack on its military installations including Nur Khan Air Base at midnight on the same day shocked the Pakistani authorities⁽³⁷⁾. In its Operation Banyan-um-Marsoos Pakistan claimed that it attacked military installations including 15 air bases in Suratgarh, Sirsa, Nalia, Adampur, Bhatinda, Barnala, Halwara, Avantipur, Srinagar, Jammu, Udhampur, Mamun, Ambala and Pathankot and caused heavy damage to them⁽³⁸⁾. Pakistan also claimed that Brahmos storage facilities in Beas and Nagrota were destroyed and two S-400 systems in Adampur and Bhuj were disabled by the Pakistani Air Force. India denied any claim made by Pakistan and showed proof of its successful attack on the Pakistani military base, on the other hand Pakistan could not show any proof of its claim⁽³⁹⁾.

Pakistan claimed to have captured Indian soldiers and an Indian pilot. During the four-day conflict, pro-Pakistan social media handles and even journalists in

Pakistan flooded digital platforms with fake statements, doctored and manipulated videos. The most shocking thing was the involvement of the international media in spreading the Pakistani narrative. Reuters, the international news agency headquartered in London, United Kingdom, published a report citing the Pakistani military's claim that five Indian aircraft were shot down in response to Operation Sindoor, without any concrete evidence⁽⁴⁰⁾. Similar reports were published by Turkey's state-funded international news outlet TRT World, Chinese state-run media outlet CGTN (China Global Television Network), Global Times, a Chinese state-run publication based in Beijing. CNN World, a leading U.S.-based news agency, also amplified the Pakistani claim without proper evidence. Argentina's AviationOnline published an extremely misleading article titled "India confirms first combat loss of Rafale fighter jet amid escalating conflict with Pakistan"⁽⁴¹⁾.

Despite its military superiority and credible attacks inside Pakistan, India appeared on the defensive before the Western media. The CDS's interview to foreign media was more defensive than confident, in which he denied the Pakistani claim of shooting down fighter jets, although he acknowledged the damage inflicted by the Pakistan Air Force to some fighter jets. This also led to a debate in the

Indian media on what was the real position of the Indian Air Force during Operation Sindoor.

The controversy resurfaced when the Indian Defence Attaché to Indonesia, Captain Shiv Kumar, made some comments at a seminar organised by the Indonesian Air Force at its Air Force University, which focused on the India-Pakistan air conflict of May 2025 and its strategic implications, and refuted another speaker's claim of the loss of Indian aircraft. He said, "I may not agree with him that India lost so many aircraft. But, I do agree that we lost some aircraft and that was only because of the pressure from the political leadership not to attack military installations and their air defence"(42). On the other hand, Pakistan also acknowledged the losses it suffered during India's military operation(43).

Analysis

In politics and international relations most of the time observations are suggestive and rarely conclusive. After the ceasefire on 10 May 2025, there was an unspoken feeling among Indians that India had won the war but lost the narrative war⁽⁴⁴⁾. We live in the information age, the narrative of every event, be it domestic or international politics, plays a vital role. To understand this we need to understand the theory of constructivism. Constructivism is a social theory that places more emphasis on ideational factors than material factors in

international relations. This theory became very important after the end of the Cold War, when both realists and liberals failed to give an accurate description of the direction of the world. Constructivism emphasizes the potential of knowledge and information in shaping modern international relations, and tells us a lot about the role of information in shaping attitudes and reality. Information becomes even more important in a situation of conflict.

Any misinformation, fake news, news based on partial truth affects the morale of the armed forces and severely impacts the confidence of citizens on the security of the country. During the four-day military conflict between India and Pakistan from May 7 to May 10, 2025, the narrative war was in full swing. The mainstream media on both sides presented misinformation in the name of news. But Pakistan was able to manipulate the Western media for most of the time during the conflict and managed to get headlines favorable to Pakistan. And India, which was the clear winner in this four-day conflict, had to struggle a lot to defend its claims and narrative in the international media despite clear evidence. Especially the Western media was more focused on reporting about the alleged losses suffered by India than what was actually happening in the conflict. But why has India not been able to effectively put forth its point at the

international and, to some extent, domestic level?

Even if we keep Operation Sindoor aside, any keen observer of the international media and especially social media will point to the fact that hatred against Indians, especially the majority Hindu community in India, is on the rise⁽⁴⁵⁾. Racism against Indians on digital platforms has increased manifold. Indian culture and its people have been receiving demeaning comments online in the last few years. Completely biased and racist seminars are held against Indians in western universities. This hatred against Indians is despite the fact that Indians have made more positive contributions to western society than Pakistanis, while Pakistanis have always been a source of major offence in the western world. The Indian government has not shown any keen interest towards these online hate campaigns against Indians.

To analyse why India is lagging behind its neighbours in the information war, we need to look at some historical facts. And when we look for answers in these circumstances, we get some clear indications. First, Pakistan has always been ahead of India in the narrative war. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan has no concern for minority rights, it dehumanizes religious identities other than Islam, especially Hindus⁽⁴⁶⁾. But Pakistani officials have always been sensitive about their image in

the world and they lobby hard in the Western media to maintain their positive image. Another reason why the negative side of Pakistan is always under-reported by the Western world is that Pakistan has been an ally of the Western world, especially the US, during the Cold War. Pakistan was under British rule until March 23, 1956. During the Cold War it joined the South East Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO), a US-led group aimed at preventing the expansion of communism. During the Cold War it was a major ally of the US when the USSR invaded Afghanistan in 1979. During Operation Enduring Freedom after the 9/11 attacks, Pakistan played a key role in the US operation. Even in the second Gulf War, it was strategically important for the US. The Nur Khan airbase, destroyed by India during Operation Sindoora, was one such airbase that was under US control for a long time⁽⁴⁷⁾. It was no surprise that Donald Trump, who was vocal against Pakistan during the presidential election campaign, showed a soft attitude towards it after being elected President for a second term. When Israel attacked Iran in June 2025, a major event that grabbed media headlines was the visit of the Pakistani army chief to Washington where he met President Trump.

Not just the US, Pakistan also enjoys the support of Islamic countries due to its official Islamic identity. During the 1965 Indo-Pakistani War, Indonesia planned an

invasion of Andaman and Nicobar to divert the attention of the Indian armed forces due to Islamic ideology⁽⁴⁸⁾, while India and Indonesia had friendly relations during the Nehru era. Pakistan is a member of the Organisation of Islamic Conference, which provides it assistance and takes its side in every negotiation between the two countries. This ideological advantage of Pakistan helps it to establish a pro-Pakistan environment in international relations.

While the Pakistani political establishment is certain of its Islamic identity, India, despite being secular, has been embroiled in a tug of war between various social and political ideologies over its true national identity. Since the British Raj, serious efforts have been made to foster fraternal relations between the two major communities of the Indian subcontinent, Hindus and Muslims. Most notably, Mahatma Gandhi led the charge and the Congress Party of the time also adopted a similar approach under his leadership. But in these efforts, the Hindu community, in particular, tended to appease the Muslim community. This trend can be seen since the Lucknow Pact of 1916. The agenda of keeping the two communities in harmony was one of the main reasons why Indian politicians prioritised a secular identity for the country even after the bloodshed that followed Partition, a mark of maturity and sensitivity. And this has been the trend in

Indian politics since 1947 to create a harmonious social environment. Since 1947, the Indian political establishment has failed to counter Islamic extremism in Kashmir and has always avoided looking at the truth, which resulted in the genocide of Kashmiri Pandits in the early 1990s. Indian academics always try to hide the civilisational crime against Hindus. Although the Indian government has tried to correct these anomalies in recent efforts, a lot still remains to be done⁽⁴⁹⁾. While the Jewish community, which has faced a lot of violence in the past, has a record of injustice done to its community in the past.

After the Nehru Liaquat Pact of 1950 India respected the right of minorities in fact India gave them equal social and political status, but Pakistan continued killing and genocide of Hindus especially in East Pakistan which is now Bangladesh⁽⁵⁰⁾. Genocide of Hindus in East Pakistan was one of the main issues during the 1971 Pakistan war but instead of calling it Hindu genocide in the media it was simply called killing of Bengalis thereby hiding the fact that targeted killing is going on. The same trend can be seen today after the coup in Bangladesh in 2024 where the Hindu community has again faced persecution but their plight rarely makes any global headlines. This may be a perfect time to counter extremism in the neighbourhood which is also influencing extremism in

India. India never realized the power of narratives in the international media during major events. During the 1993 Bombay bombings, Indian politicians cleverly lied and downplayed the plight of Hindu victims to protect Islamic terrorists from the onslaught of the majority public⁽⁵¹⁾.

International relations are dominated by Christian and Muslim countries and this works in favour of Pakistan as it is officially an Islamic country. From a cultural point of view, India finds itself isolated in international politics. Nepal, which was once a Hindu nation, is now under the influence of China after the Maoist revolution. India failed to build organisational relations with any other nation on cultural grounds like the East Asian countries or the OIC. Though India received praise and support from Israel during Operation Sindoar, it was hesitant to improve diplomatic relations with it until the early 1990s and it was only after 2014 that India-Israel relations witnessed a great warming.

Information warfare became even more complicated due to several factors during Operation Sindoar. The most important of these is the arms lobby. India is the world's leading arms importer⁽⁵²⁾. It bought Rafael fighter jets from France after the Balakot airstrike. During the Cold War India was dependent on the Soviet Union for its arms supplies; after the Cold War

Russia became India's largest arms supplier⁽⁵³⁾. Not only this, India is also emerging as a major arms exporter. During Operation Sindoor India used Russian air defense systems as well as its indigenously built missile defense system Akash, which successfully thwarted all Pakistani attempts to attack India⁽⁵⁴⁾. Former US Air Force F-15E and F-16 pilot Ryan Bodenheimer described Operation Sindoor as a breakthrough in modern aerial combat⁽⁵⁵⁾.

Any news of India's superiority over Pakistan, which has acquired most of its weapons from China and the US, will put a question mark on their efficiency. Which will ultimately affect their arms trade. This is why China also joined the information war with Pakistan to shoot down Indian aircraft, especially Rafael. The success of the Indian air defense system will also boost the Russian arms industry, which is facing sanctions from Western countries after the invasion of Ukraine in 2022. The US is constantly trying its best to pressure India to buy its F-35 Lockheed Martin fighter jets, while experts in India are in favor of the Russian-made Sukhoi Su-57.

At the 62nd convocation of IIT Madras, NSA Ajit Doval criticised the foreign media for its reporting of Operation Sindoor and challenged them to provide evidence of damage to Indian infrastructure by Pakistani attacks⁽⁵⁶⁾. But this comment has come too late that and failed to make

any global headlines. Operation Sindoor is still making headlines, President Trump claimed during a dinner at the White House that five planes were shot down during the conflict, but he did not specify which country's planes were shot down⁽⁵⁷⁾. These vague statements create confusion and in some cases even demoralize the nation. In comparison, the Israeli establishment was very proactive in dealing with any information warfare during its Operation Rising Lion. The Israeli Defense Forces were constantly posting their achievements on social media and reiterating the fact why Israel was forced to use the military option against Iran.

The intensity of the information war can be gauged from the fact that the ceasefire between the two countries on May 10 is still shrouded in mystery. And the repeated statements by US President Donald Trump on the ceasefire between India and Pakistan and the events that took place during Operation Sindoor have made this issue even more complicated.

Conclusion

If the Indian political establishment has to establish itself as a global power then it has to work smartly in the information age and this is not possible without dealing with information warfare. Both in times of conflict and peace. On 12 May 2025, when Prime Minister Modi clearly stated in his address to the nation after the ceasefire that

India will not tolerate any kind of nuclear blackmailing from Pakistan and will not hesitate to strike if Pakistan again launches any terrorist attack on Indian soil. This kind of clarity is needed by India not only in armed conflict, but also in information warfare, which has become more intense in the age of technology and it seems that India has not been able to do it yet. In an age of complex international relations, India has to develop global communication networks. India needs to be proactive with proper communication channels to counter any negative stereotypes about India and the Indian community, as well as any misleading narratives during the conflict. Because according to the official statement of the Government of India, it has only stopped Operation Sindo, not ended it. And given the current circumstances, the question is not whether there will be another armed conflict between India and Pakistan, but when it will happen.

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