



Bunyan-ul-Marsoos & Maarke-e-Haq

An Assessment of Geo-Strategic Changes
Presented by **CLAS**



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One year since the launch of Operation Bunyan ul Marsoos, commemorated in Pakistan as Marka-e-Haq, the episode remains a defining moment in the brief but intense 2025 India–Pakistan crisis. This day reflects on a decisive military engagement that reshaped the strategic contours of South Asia. The operation was launched in response to escalating cross-border provocations, demonstrated Pakistan’s resolve to defend its territorial integrity against what it termed unprovoked aggression against India. As the first anniversary is observed, the operation stands as a testament to a coordinated national effort, where air, land, sea forces along with cyber operators and media warriors converged to repel a multifaceted threat, ultimately securing a victory that reaffirmed the country’s defensive capabilities and strategic autonomy. Within this framing, the response has been presented as a calibrated yet firm assertion of deterrence, highlighting Pakistan’s intent to maintain territorial integrity while avoiding uncontrolled escalation between two nuclear-armed neighbors.

What led to Operation Bunyan al Marsoos (an Unbreakable Wall)?

In the pre-dawn hours of May 7, 2025, India carried out missile and air strikes inside Pakistan under the codename Operation Sindoor. Some 125 fighter jets from both sides clashed for over an hour in one of the most significant dogfights of recent times. Against the backdrop of an unfortunate militant activity that killed 26 civilians in the Indian illegally occupied Jammu and Kashmir’s Pahalgam, India relentlessly challenged Pakistan’s deterrence and resilience. In less than 24 hours, India blamed Pakistan for the heinous attack. Pakistan demanded for an international investigation, a call publicly backed by Turkey, China, Malaysia, Switzerland, and Greece. India, however, has rejected the proposal. Pakistan rejected these assertions, maintaining that the strikes caused civilian casualties and constituted a violation of its sovereignty.

In turn, Pakistan mounted a comprehensive, multi-domain counteroffensive and launched Operation Bunyan-ul-Marsoos on 10 of May 2025 as a retaliatory measure and to show the world its effective deterrence posture. The conflict produced the largest aerial dogfight since the Second World War, involving more than 125 fighter jets, along with drone swarms, cruise missiles, and extensive electronic warfare (EW) measures. Pakistan hit 26 places within 5 hours, while India confirmed damage to several bases. The strikes involved drones and missiles aimed at disrupting infrastructure in northern India. The response reflected elements of multi-domain operations, combining conventional military actions with parallel cyber and information campaigns. The war was not merely an aerial or land combat, but cyber and information warfare played an equal and significant contribution. This synchronization across domains; kinetic, cyber and information enabled an integrated response designed to impose costs while managing escalation. The rapid US-brokered ceasefire on May 10, 2025, validated Pakistan's deterrent posture, Pakistan successfully raised the cost of Indian escalation and reaffirmed its ability to fight and survive a conventional confrontation with a larger neighbor.

Timeline of Events (April–May 2025)

Initial Incident & Immediate Reactions

April 22, 2025

- Pahalgam Attack: 26 civilians killed and 17 injured

April 23, 2025

- India (Cabinet Committee on Security Meeting)
- Suspension of Indus Waters Treaty
- Border closures
- Visa cancellations
- Reduction in diplomatic presence
- Pakistan's official condemnation of the attack

April 24, 2025

- Pakistan (NSC Meeting)
- Suspension of trade with India
- Closure of airspace
- Closure of Wagah border
- Downgrading of diplomatic relations.

April 25, 2025

- Cross-border firing reported along the Line of Control (LoC)
- The Resistance Front (TRF) claims responsibility, then retracts
- Indian Army Chief visits Kashmir

April 26, 2025

- Pakistan offers a neutral, international investigation
- Warns against disruption of water resources

April 30, 2025

- Continued ceasefire violations
- India calls for increased international pressure on Pakistan

Escalation Phase

May 1–3, 2025

- United States urges both sides to de-escalate tensions
- Airspace restrictions imposed and countered
- Iran offers to mediate
- Pakistan conducts a missile test
- International sanctions begin to expand

May 6, 2025

- India announces nationwide civil defense drills

May 7, 2025

- India launches “Operation Sindoor”
- Strikes reported inside mainland Pakistan
- Heavy cross-LoC shelling intensifies

May 8–10, 2025

- Global powers call for restraint
- Pakistan launches “Operation Bunyan-un-Marsoos”

Military Targets Attacked by Pakistan

1. K.G. Top Brigade HQ along LoC
2. Uri Supply Depot
3. BrahMos missile storage site, Beas
4. Nagrota BrahMos Depot
5. Udhampur Airbase
6. Pathankot Airbase
7. Adampur Airbase S-400 battery
8. (radar + control units hit) site
9. Bhuj, Gujrat - S-400 site
10. Chandigarh Weapons Depot
11. Ambala Air Force Station
13. Halwara Air Force Station
14. Srinagar Airbase
15. Anantapur Airbase
16. Bhatinda Airfield
17. Suratgarh Airfield
18. Sirsa Airfield
19. Rabtanwali Post
20. Jazeera Complex
21. Kafir Mehri
22. Shahpar-3
23. Ghadar Top
24. Artillery Positions
25. Artillery Positions, Mankot, Dehrangyari
26. Phuklian Sector Posts
27. Rajouri Training Centre
28. Poonch Radar Installation

Weapon Systems Used

Pakistan:

- CM-400AKG
- HQ-9 (Medium -Range Air Defense System)
- JF-17 Thunder (Multirole Fighter Aircraft)
- J-10C (4.5 Generation Multirole Fighter)
- PL-15 (Air to Air Missile)
- YIHA III (Loitering Munition)
- Oerlikon GDF (35mm Anti-Aircraft Gun System)

India:

- Mirage 2000 (Multirole Fighter Aircraft)
- Su-30 MKI (Multirole Fighter Superiority Fighter)
- Dassault Rafale (4.5 Generation Multirole Fighter)
- MiG-29 UPG
- BrahMos (Supersonic Cruise Missile)
- SCALP-EG (Long-Range Cruise Missile)
- Elbit-Sky striker (Loitering Munition)
- AASM-Hammer (Precision-Guided Munition)
- S-400 TRIUMF (Long-Range Air Defense System)
- Akash (Medium-Range Surface-to-Air Missile System)
- BARAK 8 (Surface-to-Air Missile System)
- Warmate (Loitering Munition)



Following the remarkable outcome of Operation Bunyan al-Marsoos, Islamabad's diplomatic clout surged markedly, transforming its standing on the world stage. The country's strategic and deterrent posture saw a tangible uplift, lending greater weight to its national security calculus. On multilateral fora, Pakistan's presence is now not merely welcomed but generously embraced and deeply admired, reflecting a new era of respect for its contributions. Simultaneously, Pakistani media has captured global attention through credible, evidence-based reporting, offering a narrative that for the first time, rivals the influence of its

1. Pakistan emerged as a disciplined, strategically mature nation and abandoned its reputation as an unreliable partner, by exercising calibrated restraint by avoiding civilian targets. This discipline reinforced Pakistan's credibility as a responsible nuclear power capable of measured response under extreme pressure. Pakistani officials presented forensic, evidence-based briefings to international media while India's claims of widespread destruction were systematically countered.
2. Operation Bunyan al Marsoos permanently shifted Pakistan's strategic trajectory from reactive deterrence to proactive, multi-domain defense. Pakistan's posture after the operation, a new paradigm emerged where cyber and space domains are treated as co-equal with land, air, and sea operations. Cyber capability of Pakistan made 70% of India's electricity grid dysfunctional, disrupted SCADA networks - while kinetic strikes destroyed military infrastructure. This integration of electronic and physical warfare represents a permanent doctrinal shift that will guide future military planning. Moving forward, Pakistan's strategic posture is now defined by full-spectrum deterrence not as a slogan but as an operationally validated reality.
3. India had attempted to establish a new normal for false flag operations and surgical strikes believing it could inflict punishment without provoking catastrophic retaliation. Operation Bunyan al Marsoos proved this assumption catastrophically wrong. Pakistan's conventional deterrence held and held decisively. Using Fatah-series missiles, beyond-visual-range (BVR) munitions, and integrated joint fires, Pakistan imposed costs so rapidly that India could not achieve escalation dominance. The crisis proved that Pakistan's conventional capabilities alone were sufficient to deter and control the conflict without nuclear signaling.
4. Pakistan's diplomatic standing underwent a remarkable elevation in the wake of the operation, with coordinated outreach across Washington, Beijing, Ankara, Riyadh, Tehran, and key international and regional players. Pakistani diplomats presented the country's perspective with unprecedented coordination. This sustained diplomatic effort directly contributed to crisis de-escalation while affirming Pakistan's commitment to regional restraint.

- 5.** The most dramatic geopolitical consequence was the fundamental reset in Pakistan-U.S. relations. U.S. trust in Pakistan as a reliable strategic partner was rebuilt primarily through Pakistan's demonstrated military professionalism and restraint during Operation Bunyan al-Marsoos, which showcased its ability to manage high-intensity conflict without escalation. President Trump bashed India several times over air combat claims revising figures to state that "seven or eight" Indian jets were downed and repeatedly crediting himself and Pakistan's military leadership for saving the region from nuclear war, a narrative that humiliated India and solidified Pakistan's position as a central pillar in Washington's South Asia strategy.
- 6.** At multilateral fora, Pakistan's diplomatic as well as strategic posture enhanced, its words gained influence and the world got to see its enhanced international image. Pakistan's successful military diplomacy played a crucial role in its defence agreement with Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Pakistan's presence at the Gaza Peace of Board upon the Special invitation of President Trump made the world realized that India no longer remains a stakeholder in world's decision-making platforms. A remarkable and most powerful diplomatic event 'Islamabad Talks' to mediate between the U.S. and Iran shows Pakistan's elevated diplomatic position around the world.
- 7.** The balance of power in South Asia has shifted from Indian presumed hegemonic dominance to a bipolar configuration. Operation Bunyan al Marsoos delivered a decisive blow to India's ambitions of unchallenged regional hegemony. On the regional front, India's military exercises and ceasefire violations revealed sustained escalation tendencies, yet Pakistan's global military ranking improved and security partnerships expanded. Operation Bunyan-un-Marsoos provided Pakistan with a strategic window to reinforce deterrence credibility. Pakistani forces struck twenty-six Indian military targets across five states while downed the most powerful; five fighter jets of India including the Rafale and Su-30MKI. For the first time since 1971, India faced a conventional military reversal that it could not spin away.
- 8.** A direct and measurable consequence of the operation was the surge in demand for Pakistani military equipment, particularly from countries operating in S-400 deployment zones. According to a report by Bloomberg, China's AVIC Chengdu Aircraft Corporation, the maker of J-10C aircraft used by Pakistan to down India's French-made planes Rafale in May last year, has reported a significant surge in demand and profits. The operation effectively served as a marketing demonstration for Pakistan's defense industry, transforming it from a net importer to an emerging exporter.
- 9.** The success of this operation stands as a textbook example of Multi-Domain Operations, in which Pakistan made remarkable moves across five interconnected domains: air, land, sea, cyber, and information. Critically, these domains were not operated in silos but featured real-time situational awareness and joint targeting cells coordinating strikes simultaneously across all domains.
- 10.** India maintains that Operation Sindoor is still ongoing, a stance that risks renewed escalation along the border and keeps the two nuclear-armed states in a perpetual state of alert. Pakistan's longstanding issues with India remain constant, including the suspension of the Indus Water Treaty (IWT) and diplomatic renunciation of bilateral ties, leaving no formal engagement mechanism in place. Furthermore, India's reliance on non-state actors and the use of proxies in Pakistan's backyard, Afghanistan, fueling a surge in terrorism and insurgency across Pakistan. This escalation necessitated the launch of Operation Ghazab Lil Haq, compelling Islamabad to divert its military resources toward internal counterinsurgency operations rather than toward conventional deterrence.



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