



**TATHASTU**  
Institute Of Civil Services

# DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

8th May 2025



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The Hindu Analysis- 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025

- Indian forces hit Pakistan terror bases
- Strokes of justice : India must be prepared for escalatory action by Pakistan
- Pakistan's complex web of terror networks
- India shuts Kartarpur Corridor, puts border districts on high alert

### Indian forces hit Pakistan terrorbases

24 precision strikes hit infrastructure across nine sites used to train terrorists in Pakistan and PoK.

Targets destroyed without harming any civilian population, as per plan, says Defence Minister.

**OPERATION  
SINDOOR**

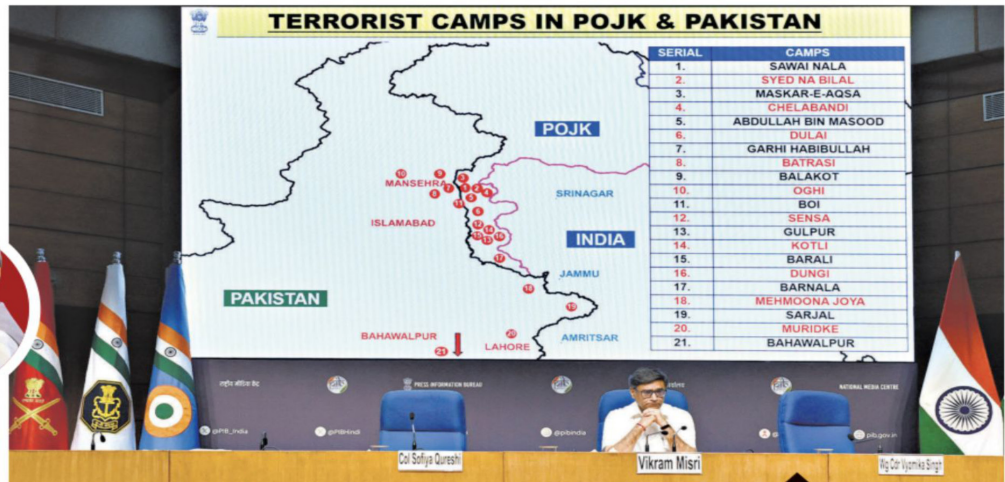
## Strategic targets

Armed forces carry out 24 precision strikes on targets in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir under **Operation Sindoor**



The Indian armed forces scripted history last night... Through Operation Sindoor India used its 'right to respond' to attack on its soil

**RAJNATH SINGH,**  
Defence Minister



Targeted sites in Pakistan belong to terror groups across the border at distances ranging from

**6 km to 100 km**

Action limited only to the camps and infrastructure used for training terrorists, with the aim of breaking their morale, says Defence Minister

'Precision capability' strikes conducted between 1.05 a.m. and 1.30 a.m. on Wednesday

**5 sites hit** in PoK and 4 across the International Border

**Swift action:** Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri at a press briefing on the military strikes on terror bases in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir on Wednesday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR





### What Happened?

India carried out a surprise military operation called **Operation Sindoor**. In just **25 minutes**, Indian forces hit **24 terrorist camps** across **Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK)**. These camps belonged to terror groups like **Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed, and Hizb-ul-Mujahideen**.

The Indian strikes targeted places like **Bahawalpur (headquarters of Jaish-e-Mohammed)** and **Muridke (main base of Lashkar-e-Taiba)**, both terrorist groups supported by Pakistan.

The action was a **response to a terrorist attack in Pahalgam** (Jammu and Kashmir) on April 22.

### How Was It Done?

- The strikes happened **between 1:05 a.m. and 1:30 a.m.**
- Targets were chosen carefully, based on **solid intelligence**.
- The Indian Army and Air Force both took part.
- Advanced missiles like **SCALP** and **HAMMER** were likely used, without crossing the border

### What Was Pakistan's Reaction?

Pakistan claimed **31 people died** and **57 were injured**, and warned that it would respond “at a time and place of its choosing”.

### Historical Context

This is the **third major strike** by India on Pakistani terror infrastructure in the last 10 years — after the **Uri surgical strikes (2016)** and **Balakot air strikes (2019)**.

## Strokes of justice

### Bigger Message?

India showed that it won't stay silent after terror attacks. Like in 2019 (Balakot strikes), India again used open military action, not just diplomacy or sanctions.

### What Does This Mean for Pakistan?

- Pakistan has long used terrorists to attack India while hiding behind its nuclear weapons.
- India is now showing that it can hit back even if Pakistan keeps denying involvement.

### Will This Change Pakistan?

Maybe not easily. Pakistan still supports radical groups and once even hid **Osama bin Laden**, the world's most wanted terrorist.

### What Should India Do Next?

- Keep investigating the Pahalgam attack.
- Stay alert for any **retaliation from Pakistan**.
- Make sure that **no internal communal tension** is allowed to grow, as that's what terrorists want.
- Work with **other countries** to put pressure on Pakistan to stop supporting terrorism.

## Pakistan's complex web of terror networks

Pakistan's terror infrastructure has survived for decades within its security establishment, which views these forces as strategic assets.

**Pakistan has been placed on and off the Financial Action Task Force 'grey list' since 2008** for failing to dismantle terror financing networks.







# Pakistan's complex web of terror networks

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## FULL CONTEXT

Brish Singh

**T**he Soviet-Afghan War of 1979 was the inflection point when Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), backed by U.S. funding, systematically cultivated jihadi infrastructure that evolved into today's sophisticated terror network. This deliberate cultivation created fighters with diverse objectives – Kashmir-focused aggression, control in Afghanistan, sectarian violence, and ideological warfare. Recent data has confirmed a resurgence of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism across the region. This analysis examines Pakistan's entrenched terror ecosystem through OSINT, declassified records, and academic research.

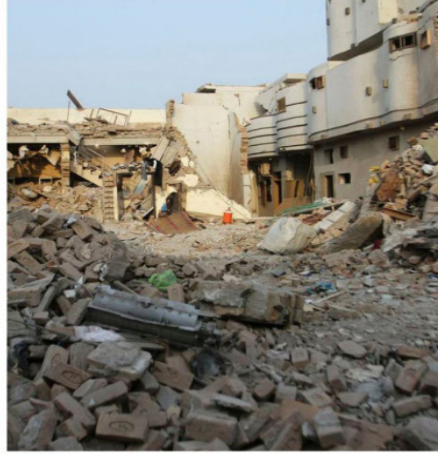
### Terrorist outfits which are said to have Pakistan support

A key outfit is the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). The LeT emerged in the 1990s as Pakistan's premier proxy organisation against India; it operates under Hafiz Muhammad Saeed – a designated terrorist operating in Pakistan despite international sanctions. Its rigid command structure includes Zafar Iqbal, Muhammad Yahiya Mujahid, and Zakir Rehman Lakhvi who was one of the masterminds of the Mumbai attacks in 2008 (he was 'arrested' but protected within Pakistan's judicial system).

LeT's infrastructure centres around its 200-acre headquarters complex, the Markaz-e-Taiba, near Lahore, with additional bases strategically positioned across Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and around urban centres including Lahore, Peshawar, and Karachi. Ideologically, the outfit adheres to the virulent Ahl-e-Hadith doctrine (a conservative faction with a strict adherence to the Koran) specifically targeting India, which it propagates through its network of 300+ madrassas across Pakistan. Intelligence confirms at least 16 documented training camps of the LeT across Pakistan and occupied territories. The group's operational sophistication is demonstrated through attacks such as the 2008 Mumbai attacks where 166 people were killed; the 2006 Mumbai train bombings (209 killed); and an indirect hand in the 2010 German Bakery bombing in Pune (7 killed), orchestrated by the Indian Mujahideen (SIMI). LeT maintains transnational reach with recruitment networks identified in 21 countries, with dedicated cells both in Bangladesh and Nepal facilitating operations against India. Its financial architecture combines direct ISI funding, estimated to be around \$25-30 million annually, gulf-based private donors from Saudi Arabia and the UAE; Pakistani diaspora contributions through Islamic charitable fronts; and business operations including commodity trading and real estate.

Then there is the Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM). Established in 2000 by Masood Azhar following his 'release' during the IC-814 hijacking, the JeM represents Pakistan's suicide terrorism capability. Azhar maintains direct control over the outfit along with his brother, Abdul Rauf Asghar, by handling operations through specialised wings – the *Askar* (military) wing for direct operations; *Dawati* (missionary) wing for recruitment and radicalisation; and the intelligence wing for reconnaissance.

JeM's infrastructure centres around its fortified headquarters in Bahawalpur, Punjab, with satellite facilities. It also has



**Breaking point:** A building that was hit by an Indian missile, near Bahawalpur, Pakistan on May 7. AP

seven major training camps in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) province, four in PoK, and has recently re-established camps in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan. The Balakot training complex, targeted by Indian airstrikes in 2019 but subsequently rebuilt, specialises in suicide attack training. Its ideology combines Deobandi fundamentalism (a movement within Sunni Islam) with an apocalyptic worldview glorifying martyrdom operations.

JeM's operational history includes the 2008 Indian Parliament attack, and the 2019 Pulwama suicide bombing where 40 security personnel were killed. The group pioneered *Jadayein* (suicide) attacks in Kashmir and have demonstrated sophisticated capabilities with respect to vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and military installation infiltration.

JeM's financing includes the Al-Rehmat Trust front charity, which collects \$10-15 million annually; trading companies and commodity businesses; protection rackets in Bahawalpur and surrounding areas; documented ISI funding through intermediaries; and real estate holdings valued over \$30 million.

### Supporting players and state support

Some of the less mainstream players in Pakistan's terror network include the Haqqani Network which operates as a semi-autonomous ISI extension along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border. Led by Sirajuddin Haqqani – now Afghanistan's interior minister despite a \$10 million U.S. bounty – the network serves as both an ISI proxy in Afghanistan and a facilitator for anti-India operations.

Then there is the Islamic State-Khorasan (ISIS-K), which emerged from Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) defectors, with operational bases in eastern Afghanistan and Pakistan's tribal areas. Though ideologically opposed to Pakistani objectives, evidence suggests elements within Pakistan's security establishment tacitly allow certain ISIS-K

operate through sophisticated mechanisms designed for plausible deniability. Religious charities serve as the primary collection points, with 40+ identified front organisations raising \$150-200 million annually. Other sources include state funding through classified budget allocations (estimated \$100-125 million annually); money laundering operations through *Kusala* networks, with major hubs in Dubai, Karachi, and Peshawar; narcotics trafficking along the Afghanistan-Pakistan-India corridor generating an estimated \$75 million annually; and cryptocurrency, with inputs indicating \$15+ million moved through crypto channels in 2023.

Despite FATF pressure forcing some regulatory changes, Pakistan has preserved these financial pipelines by simply renaming organisations while maintaining core networks.

Apart from the financial infrastructure, Pakistan's terror network also relies on a sophisticated radicalisation apparatus. Pakistan has over 30,000 madrassas, with 10-15% of them directly linked to extremist organisations. Other modes through which terrorism is encouraged include curriculum in religious schools which often promote violent jihad, particularly against India; publications, websites, and social media channels disseminating extremist ideology; and a targeted recruitment of vulnerable youth from economically disadvantaged regions. This creates a self-sustaining radicalisation pipeline continuously replenishing terrorist ranks.

### Evolution of the network

Pakistan's terror infrastructure demonstrates remarkable adaptability. It first made its appearance in the 1990s through direct insurgency in Kashmir through the LeT and HUM. Then by the early 2000s, the JeM had also emerged as a specialised suicide attack outfit.

However, post-9/11, operations of such terror groups became more sophisticated with greater plausible deniability; they started integrating cyber capabilities and information warfare. The Taliban's 2021 return to power in Afghanistan significantly emboldened this infrastructure. There has been a re-establishment of training facilities in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan; an increase in infiltration attempts along the Line of Control (2023-2024); and enhanced operational coordination between LeT, JeM, and Taliban-affiliated groups.

Thus, Pakistan's terror infrastructure represents a deliberate, state-supported system that has survived for decades through deep institutional support within Pakistan's security establishment, which views these proxy forces as strategic assets rather than terrorist threats. The April 2025 Pahalagam attack, killing 26 civilians and forensically linked to LeT operatives trained in Pakistan, demonstrates the enduring threat.

Such an infrastructure poses immediate danger to regional stability, particularly to India, which continues bearing the human cost of Pakistan's proxy warfare. This is not merely a bilateral issue but a global challenge which threatens the rules-based international order. Effectively addressing this threat requires unwavering international pressure on Pakistan to permanently dismantle – not merely rebrand or temporarily restrain – these terrorist organisations and the state apparatus that sustains them.

*Brish Singh is a senior IPS officer and author of 'The Cloud Chariot'. Views are personal.*

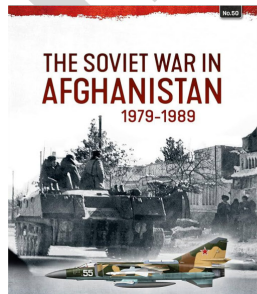
## THE GIST

▼ The LeT emerged in the 1990s as Pakistan's premier proxy organisation against India; it operates under Hafiz Muhammad Saeed – a designated terrorist operating in Pakistan despite international sanctions.

▼ The Jaish-e-Mohammed's operational history includes the 2001 Indian Parliament attack, and the 2019 Pulwama suicide bombing where 40 security personnel were killed. The group pioneered *Jadayein* (suicide) attacks in Kashmir and have demonstrated sophisticated capabilities.

▼ The April 2025 Pahalagam attack, killing 26 civilians and forensically linked to LeT operatives trained in Pakistan, demonstrates the enduring threat.

The Soviet-Afghan War of 1979 was the inflection point when Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), backed by U.S. funding, systematically cultivated jihadi infrastructure that evolved into today's sophisticated terror network.





**Terrorist outfits which are said to have Pakistan support**  
**Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT)** is a major terrorist group supported by Pakistan, mainly used to target **India**. It started in the **1990s** and is led by **Hafiz Saeed**, a globally wanted terrorist who still lives freely in Pakistan despite being under international sanctions.

- **Zakiur Rehman Lakhvi** – One of the key planners of the **2008 Mumbai attacks**.
- **Zafar Iqbal** and **Yahya Mujahid** – Senior leaders in the group.



Hafiz Saeed



Zakiur Rehman Lakhvi

#### Where It Operates:

- Main base: **Markaz-e-Taiba**, a large **200-acre** headquarters near **Lahore**.
- Other bases in **Pakistan-occupied Kashmir** and cities like **Peshawar, Lahore, and Karachi**.

#### Ideology:

- Follows a **strict religious belief** (Ahl-e-Hadith) and spreads hatred against India.
- Runs over **300 madrassas (religious schools)** in Pakistan to promote its ideas.

#### Attacks by LeT:

- **2008 Mumbai attacks** – 166 people killed.
- **2006 Mumbai train blasts** – 209 people killed.
- **2010 Pune German Bakery blast** – 17 killed (linked through another group, Indian Mujahideen).

**Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM)** is a **Pakistani terrorist group** founded in **2000** by **Masood Azhar**, who was released from an Indian jail after the **IC-814 hijacking**.

#### Leadership & Structure:

- **Masood Azhar** and his brother **Abdul Rauf Asghar** directly control the group.
- JeM has 3 main divisions:
  - ◆ **Military wing** (carries out attacks)
  - ◆ **Missionary wing** (recruits and radicalises people)
  - ◆ **Intelligence wing** (gathers information)



#### Where It Operates:

- Main base: **Bahawalpur** in Pakistan's Punjab (heavily guarded).
- Training camps in:
  - ◆ **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK)** – 7 camps
  - ◆ **Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK)** – 4 camps
  - ◆ **Afghanistan** (recently rebuilt camps)
- The **Balakot camp**, destroyed by India in 2019, was rebuilt and trains suicide bombers.







### **Ideology:**

- Follows **Deobandi Islam** with a focus on **suicide attacks and martyrdom**.

### **Major Attacks:**

- **2001 Indian Parliament attack**
- **2019 Pulwama attack** (40 Indian soldiers killed)
- Known for **suicide bombings** and **infiltration of military bases**

### **Other Terror Groups:**

- **Haqqani Network:**
  - ◆ Operates near the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.
  - ◆ Led by **Sirajuddin Haqqani**, now a **minister in Afghanistan**, even though the U.S. has a **\$10 million reward** on him.
  - ◆ Works closely with Pakistan's spy agency (**ISI**) and helps with **anti-India operations**.
- **ISIS-K (Islamic State Khorasan):**
  - ◆ Formed by former **Taliban members**, based in eastern **Afghanistan** and **tribal Pakistan**.
  - ◆ Even though they oppose Pakistan, some **Pakistani officials** quietly allow their operations.
- **Harakat ul-Mujahidin (HUM):**
  - ◆ Helps **recruit people** for terror groups like **LeT** and **JeM** through **religious schools** in Pakistan.

### **Pakistan's State Support:**

- Pakistan's involvement with terrorism is not just a claim — it's backed by proof, witness accounts, and intelligence reports.
- Pakistan's spy agency (**ISI**) supports terrorism through:
  - ◆ **Funding and planning** (via the "**S-Wing**")
  - ◆ **Help from retired soldiers**
  - ◆ **Supplying weapons, training, and information**
- Pakistan **pretends to fight terrorism**, but actually **makes a distinction**:
  - ◆ "**Good terrorists**" — those who serve **Pakistan's goals**, like attacking India.
  - ◆ "**Bad terrorists**" — those who attack **Pakistan itself**.

### **Global Evidence:**

- Pakistan has been placed on the **FATF "grey list"** many times (2008–2022) for **failing to stop terror financing**.
- Even **Pakistan's own leaders** admitted this:
  - ◆ **Musharraf** said they trained terrorists for **Kashmir**.
  - ◆ **Nawaz Sharif** confirmed state support for terror groups.
  - ◆ Recent ministers said Pakistan did the "**dirty work**" for the **West**, referring to support for terror groups in exchange for foreign help.

### **How Terror Groups Get Money:**

- **Religious charities** are used as fronts — **40+ fake charities** collect **\$150–200 million** a year.
- Pakistani government secretly gives funds (around **\$100–125 million annually**).





- **Illegal money transfers (hawala)** move funds through cities like **Dubai, Karachi, and Peshawar**.
- **Drug trafficking** across Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India earns about **\$75 million a year**.
- **Cryptocurrency** is also used — over **\$15 million** was moved this way in **2023**.

Even though the global watchdog **FATF** pressured Pakistan to act, they just **renamed** the banned groups and **kept the funding alive**

#### **How Radicalisation Happens:**

- **Over 30,000 madrassas (religious schools)** exist in Pakistan.
  - ♦ **10–15%** are directly tied to **terror groups**.
- These madrassas often:
  - ♦ **Teach extremist ideology** and promote **violence against India**.
  - ♦ Spread ideas through **books, websites, and social media**.
  - ♦ Recruit **poor, vulnerable youth**, who are easy targets for brainwashing.

This creates a **cycle** where new terrorists are constantly **trained and recruited**, keeping the network alive. This isn't just **India's problem** — such **state-backed terrorism** is a **threat to world peace**.

The world must **push Pakistan** to **shut down these groups completely**, not just **rename or hide them**.

#### **India shuts Kartarpur Corridor, puts border districts on high alert**

**Security has been increased** in Punjab, especially near the **India-Pakistan border**.

The **Kartarpur Corridor** (which allows Indian pilgrims to visit a holy site in Pakistan without a visa) was **shut temporarily** by the Indian government due to security concerns.

The Kartarpur Corridor had been opened in **2019** for pilgrims to visit **Gurdwara Kartarpur Sahib** (the final resting place of Guru Nanak Dev) in Pakistan.

**5,000 pilgrims a day** are normally allowed, but on Wednesday, those who came to the corridor were **sent back**.

No **'Beating Retreat'** ceremony (a daily military event) was held at the **Attari border** in Amritsar.

