

A NATIONAL IMPERATIVE

Terrorism remains one of the most serious threats to India's internal security and regional stability. There must be zero tolerance for terrorism, both ideologically and operationally. This includes taking decisive and pre-emptive action against individuals, organizations, and networks involved in planning or financing terrorism. Intelligence agencies must be empowered with advanced surveillance tools, data analytics, and artificial intelligence to detect and dismantle terror networks before they strike. Intelligence sharing across central and state agencies must be seamless, secure, and real-time.

The legal framework needs to be robust and swift. While India has laws like the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and the National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act, their implementation must be strengthened. Special fast-track courts should be established for terror-related cases to ensure that justice is not delayed. Conviction rates must improve, and penalties must be stern enough to serve as a real deterrent.

Border security needs further tightening, particularly in vulnerable areas like Jammu & Kashmir, the Northeast, and the Western borders with Pakistan. The infiltration of trained terrorists and smuggling of arms and explosives cannot be allowed. Deployment of high-tech border surveillance systems, drones, and smart fencing must be accelerated. Border villages should also be supported through development programs to prevent them from becoming soft targets or being exploited by anti-national elements.

Deradicalization and community engagement are essential in the long run. Youth, especially in sensitive regions, must be protected from falling prey to extremist ideologies. The government, civil society, and religious leaders should collaborate to promote peace, tolerance, and national unity. Education, employment opportunities, and community awareness campaigns are key tools in preventing radicalization.

Diplomatic pressure must continue on nations that support terrorism, especially Pakistan. India must use every international forum to isolate such states, demand accountability, and seek sanctions where required.

Citizens must report suspicious activities and support law enforcement agencies. India's message must be clear and unwavering: terrorism will not be tolerated, and any act against the sovereignty of the nation will be met with swift and decisive action.

World Retinoblastoma Awareness Week

■ DR NAZIA ANJUM

World Retinoblastoma Awareness Week is observed globally in May, usually during the second week (11th-17th), to raise awareness about retinoblastoma. This rare and aggressive eye cancer primarily affects young children, typically under the age of five. The awareness week aims to educate the public and health-care professionals about early detection, prompt treatment, and support for affected families. A white glow in a child's eye, seen in flash photos or dim light, is the most common early sign of this cancer. Ninety percent of children are diagnosed because a parent sees this sign, but the time delay between first seeing the sign and seeking medical help is often several months or more. Ninety-six percent of children are cured today in the developed world, but many lose one or both eyes or suffer significant vision loss due to late diagnosis. Curative treatment often has lifelong physical and psychosocial impacts on young children.

The most prevalent malignant intraocular tumor in children is retinoblastoma. The estimated incidence is from 1 in 10,000 to 15,000 live births, although it varies. About 1,600 to 2,000 new cases of retinoblastoma occur in India each year, making it the country with the highest incidence. Most retinoblastoma cases are diagnosed by an ophthalmologist between 9 and 36 months of age. Approximately 60 to 70 percent of retinoblastomas are unilateral and unifocal, which are probably sporadic, whereas 30 to 40 percent are unilateral and bilateral or multifocal, which are heritable. To estimate prognosis, determine the risk of retinoblastoma in the family, and triage the frequency of screening of the contralateral eye and siblings, all par-



ents and children with retinoblastoma should have an appropriate genetic test.

White reflex (50%) and strabismus (25%) are the two most common symptoms as well as signs of retinoblastoma. Creating parental awareness that any child with an abnormal reflex or squint needs to be immediately shown to an ophthalmologist can help in early diagnosis. Coats' disease, persistent hyperplastic primary vitreous (PHPV), retinal astrocytoma, toxocariasis, and medulloepithelioma are the five most common causes of leucocoria simulating retinoblastoma. In order to diagnose retinoblastoma and identify clinical risk factors for baseline investigation

triage, a thorough examination of both eyes under anesthesia is necessary. Baseline bone marrow biopsy and cerebrospinal fluid cytology are required if clinical risk indicators are present. If the condition appears to be unilateral, a comprehensive indented examination of the retinal periphery is necessary to test for retinoblastoma in the contralateral eye.

Wide-field fundus imaging, both baseline and serial, is essential for recording the tumor's size and resolution as well as for identifying early recurrence. Ultrasound B-scan aids in measuring the tumor, locating it if it is exophytic or the media is unclear, and supporting the clinical diagnosis. Ultrasound

bimicroscopy is necessary to assess the existence and degree of ciliary body invasion if there is clinical suspicion. CT scans can be a helpful adjunct in circumstances when intraocular calcification is a supporting diagnostic sign, although they are best avoided due to the risk of radiation exposure. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is necessary for screening for pinealoblastoma in bilateral retinoblastoma and for assessing choroidal invasion, optic nerve infiltration, and extraocular extension in Group D and E malignancies. PET-CT scan can be used to test for macroscopic systemic metastases.

If detected early, retinoblastoma can typically be successfully treated. A child may lose some or all of their vision in the damaged eye, but the goal of treatment is to eradicate the malignancy. Key determining factors for treatment are the size of the cancer, the site of the cancer, whether it has spread, and how old and healthy the child is. The child may need to receive more than one type of treatment at the same time. Mild to severe adverse effects are possible with retinoblastoma treatments. Treatment options are medical and surgical, such as cryotherapy, laser therapy, chemotherapy, radiotherapy, and surgery. It is important to detect it early by the parents and grandparents. A white reflex in the eye should be considered as retinoblastoma until proven otherwise. Retinoblastoma cannot be prevented, although children with a family history of the condition need to undergo regular eye exams from birth. The likelihood of survival is greatly increased, and the disease can be identified early in this method.

(The writer is Assistant Professor, Department of Ophthalmology, AIIMS Jammu)

Indian strikes on Pakistan damaged six airfields, Post analysis finds

■ IMOGEN PIPER, EVAN HILL, MAHAM JAVAID, RICK NOACK

Indian strikes Saturday on Pakistan damaged runways and structures across at least six airfields, according to a visual analysis by The Washington Post, which experts said were the most significant attacks of their kind in decades of simmering conflict between the South Asian rivals.

The review of more than two dozen satellite images and aftermath videos found that the strikes heavily damaged three hangars, two runways and a pair of mobile buildings used by the air force. Some of the sites hit by India were as deep as 100 miles inside the country.

The strikes marked "the most extensive Indian air attacks on Pakistani military infrastructure since the 1971 war," according to Walter Ladwig, a senior lecturer in international relations at King's College London and an expert in South Asian security issues.

"High-profile targets were hit in precision strikes with the aim of severely degrading Pakistan's offensive and defensive air capabilities," according to William Goodhind, a geospatial analyst at Contested Ground, a research project that uses satellite imagery to track armed conflict.

Jeffrey Lewis, director of the East Asia non-proliferation program at Middlebury College, assessed that the air bases "suffered some damage, but not of the sort that would disable them."

After the strikes, India claimed to have hit 11 bases in Pakistan, including the sites where The Post confirmed damage. It characterized its actions as "measured" and "calibrated."

Pakistan's chief military spokesperson, Lt. Gen. Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry, originally told reporters there had been infrastructure damage to bases, although he did not specify how many. Six members of Pakistan's air force were killed, the military said Wednesday.

Chaudhry told The Post on Wednesday that Pakistan's military intercepted most Indian missiles.

"A few managed to sneak in," he acknowledged. The military confirmed hits on five bases and one civilian airport. Chaudhry said one aircraft suffered "minor damage." He added that Pakistan has full confidence in its air defenses.

"The satellite evidence is consistent with the claim that the Indian military inflicted meaningful - though in my view not devastating - damage on the Pakistan air force at a number of bases across eastern Pakistan," said Christopher Clary, an associate professor at the University at Albany and author of a book on the India-Pakistan rivalry.

The Indian strikes on Saturday prompted swift Pakistani counterstrikes. Islamabad said it struck numerous military targets in its retaliatory attacks, including several air bases in Indian-administered Kashmir and in the Indian state of Punjab. New Delhi has either denied those claims or refused to confirm losses.

India has also made no public comment on Pakistan's claims to have downed five of its warplanes during an initial wave of strikes on May 7. A Post analysis found at least two Indian fighter jets appear to have crashed during the operation.

The rapid escalation on Saturday alarmed Washington, where officials feared the nuclear-armed powers were dangerously close to all-out war. The fighting ended hours later with the announcement of a ceasefire by President Donald Trump.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said his side had "paused" its operations but was prepared to strike Pakistan again in the event of another militant attack like the one in Indian-administered Kashmir on April 22 that killed 26 civilians and set off the latest round of conflict. New Delhi said the attack was linked to Pakistan; Islamabad denied any involvement and called for an international investigation.

At Nur Khan air base in Rawalpindi, just outside Islamabad, two mobile control centres were destroyed, Goodhind said after reviewing satellite imagery. Video from a parking lot nearby showed smoke billowing from the damaged area. The



Nur Khan air base is one of the most important in Pakistan, another military researcher said, because it is the military's central transport hub. The base is also in close proximity to the Strategic Plans Division, the unit responsible for safeguarding the country's 170 nuclear warheads - stored in facilities across Pakistan.

The military's General Headquarters and the Joint Staff Headquarters are also housed in Rawalpindi, near Nur Khan. "Such an attack could have been mistaken as an attempt to destroy the control center of the country," said the military researcher, speaking on the condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

At the Pakistani air force's Bholari and Shabbaz air bases, satellite imagery showed severe damage to buildings used as aircraft hangars. A large hole nearly 60 feet wide is visible in the roof of a hangar at Bholari, which experts said was consistent with a missile impact. Debris was strewn across the pavement outside and a wall appeared to have toppled over an adjacent building.

The Bholari hangar typically houses a Saab 2000 Airborne Early Warning and Control System aircraft - a surveillance plane worth tens of millions of dollars - according to the military researcher. It's unclear if the aircraft was in the hangar at the time of the strike.

At Shabbaz air base, which is used exclusively by the military, satellite

imagery showed another large hole in a hangar, over 100 feet wide, and damage to a control tower. To the southeast, at Sukkur Airport, which is used for both civilian and military purposes, another hangar appeared to have been collapsed by a strike and an apparent radar site was destroyed, according to Goodhind.

Indian strikes also left large craters in runways at Mushaf air base and Sheikh Zayed International Airport, according to the imagery review by The Post. At Mushaf, the craters appeared to be fixed or under repair by the day after, according to images from the satellite firms Planet and Maxar.

Five members of the air force were killed at Bholari and one at Mushaf, Pakistan's military said Wednesday.

Dawn, Pakistan's English-language newspaper, reported that the Sheikh Zayed airport's Royal Lounge, named after the late founder of the United Arab Emirates, was damaged significantly.

"Striking so many military facilities in Pakistan proper at one time reflects a deliberate shift," Ladwig said, noting that India had previously limited its air operations to Kashmir, or to remote parts of Pakistan.

Now, Ladwig said, India is "treating terrorist attacks as grounds for conventional military reprisals."

Wars benefit none

■ SUNAINA MIR

Today every Indian heart is bleeding for the departed souls of 26 innocents Indians, who have lost their most precious lives during the terror attack in Pahalgam and then for those who have sacrificed their lives for mother India during attacks from across LOC.

Friends, Life is one of the most cherishable gifts of Almighty Allah to the entire living world. It is out of our ambit to even reimburse an equivalent gratitude to Him for it. God has bent human beings as a superior mortal to live with other creatures of this globe, with his modesty, courtesy, adore, empathy, benevolence and over all justifiable approach towards others. But I am very apologetic to say that, all the above mentioned traits have diminished somewhere. Today man appears as an utmost foe of his own race. Irony is, this so called superi-

or creature is fighting, somewhere for piece of land, somewhere for property possession, somewhere for money and somewhere, just to keep his ego supreme. In the present scenario, no corner of the world is untouched with violence. Every newspaper is crammed with heart bleeding news of killings of civilians, children and women. Countries of the world are running a race of making powerful atomic bombs. This competition has fixed our globe over a big mass of atomic bombs. The moment, when one of the atomic bombs explodes, it would devastate the whole human race from the back of this planet.

Can someone answer me, what would we do of that piece of land, wealth, property possession or our shallow ego? If we would be no longer in life. Being a science student, I can well understand the struggle for food and space (as per Darwin theory) but contrary to

ancient time, today we have an ample quantity of food and newly established dwelling lands. The main reason behind this brutal violence is greed and shallow ego.

Destruction of Iraq by U.S.A is the most shameful example of abhorrence in hearts. Mere suspicion of the atomic bomb with Iraq, leads to the destruction of millions of innocent civilians, children and women by the brutal hands of the U.S.A govt. In addition to this slaughtering of innocent people of heart and mind towards its own species. The story does not end here, the most heart bleeding example of violence, on the back of this planet is our J&K. Jammu and Kashmir have been witnessing the martyrdom of innocent army men, Civilians, youngsters, children and women since 1947. It has become

the bone of contention between India and Pakistan. Greed for J&K, time and again, compelling Pakistan to invade India.

History speaks that wars benefited none. Similar is the case here, millions of precious lives were assassinated during wars between these two neighboring countries. As per written records nearly 1.2 million Hindu and Muslim fled across the borders and half a million lost their prized lives during the 1947 partition. Soon after this, on 22nd October 1947 Pakistan army along with the tribal group massacred 11000 to 14000 residents of Baramulla district of J&K. After this Pak again tried to satisfy her lust by invading J&K during the 1965 war and then during the Kargil war. Her greed for possession of piece of land was paid by the dead bodies of millions of Indians and Pakistanis.

In addition to this, the rigging of

the 1987 assembly election in J&K has given an unending start to the era of violence in our state. As per a written record of nearly 5462 army men, 4700 civilians, 31 KPs have lost their precious lives during this unrest in the state. Moving ahead the most dreadful face of violence was seen in the form of the disappearance of 3400 sons of J&K. This violence reached its peak when the Pakistan army chopped the heads of our honorable army Jawans in Mendhar district of Jammu. Our innocent women folk were also raped during this violence across the state. Irony is this; the bloodshed is still on and perishing the lives.

The question must not be that a civilian died, army men died, innocent girl, woman or old died but question should be, that a human died. A person, who is lying dead, bathed in a pool of blood in front of you, may be civilian or army Jawan,

he is surely some one's loving son, some one's loving husband, some one's loving brother. Here my heart is howling with questions.

(1)When will this unnecessary violence end in the world?

(2)When will people realize that it is not the assets, capital or ego which matters but it is the life which matters?

(3)When will people start loving, respecting and accepting others?

(4)When will abhorrence, gluttony, covetousness, intolerance and ego end from the human heart?

In conclusion, I just want to say, this is ripe time to comprehend our faults, otherwise this voracity would turn us into lysosomes (suicidal bags) of a cell, which engulf all the cell organelles and even nucleus in order to satisfy its hunger.

Likewise we ourselves would become the foundation of our obliteration and no one can save us at that time.

