# India conducts missile tests amid rising tensions with Pakistan after Kashmir attack



India’s navy conducted missile test-firings on Sunday, demonstrating its capability to execute “long-range, precision offensive” strikes amid escalating tensions with Pakistan following a recent terrorist attack in Indian-administered Kashmir that killed 26 civilians. The Indian Navy announced on X (formerly Twitter) that its ships had successfully completed multiple anti-ship missile firings intended to reaffirm the operational readiness of its platforms, systems, and crew for precision strikes over long distances.

This military display comes in the wake of a terrorist assault at a tourist site in Kashmir, identified as the deadliest attack on civilians in the region in 25 years. Prime Minister Narendra Modi responded to the attack in his monthly radio address, vowing a “harsh response” and expressing that “every Indian’s blood was on the boil.” Modi reiterated his earlier commitment to pursue the perpetrators relentlessly, pledging to “hunt down the attackers to the ends of the Earth” and to reduce terrorist hideouts “into dust.”

The missiles tested by the Indian Navy are designed for long-range and high-precision offensive operations. The navy emphasised the exercises’ significance for sustaining operational readiness amid intensifying military rhetoric between the two nuclear-armed neighbours.

Over the weekend, Pakistan’s railway minister, Hanif Abbasi, made statements emphasising the country’s nuclear arsenal, which exceeds 130 missiles. He warned that these ballistic missiles “are not kept as models” but are specifically “aimed only for India.” This rhetoric has further inflamed concerns about the potential for a broader conflict between the two nations.

India and Pakistan have a history of three wars, two of which centred on Kashmir—a region both nations claim in full but administer in part. The area has repeatedly approached the brink of wider conflict, contributing to its description by former US President Bill Clinton as the world’s “most dangerous place.”

The two countries maintain contrasting military doctrines: Pakistan’s “Full Spectrum Deterrence” encompasses the use of tactical nuclear weapons to counter conventional military threats, while India’s “Cold Start” doctrine is designed to enable rapid conventional strike capabilities to prevent escalation. Experts have expressed concerns that any confrontation stemming from their differences could quickly escalate beyond control.

Michael Kugelman, a foreign policy author and analyst, commented on the situation, telling The Guardian that “from Delhi’s perspective, given public pressure, the egregiousness of last week’s attack, and a desire to restore deterrence, some type of military response is quite likely. And if it happens, Pakistan, not wishing to look weak, would most certainly retaliate.” Kugelman clarified that an all-out war remains unlikely, noting India’s likely focus on “limited options like degrading anti-Indian terrorists and restoring deterrence.” However, he acknowledged the risks of miscalculation, particularly given the nuclear capabilities of both countries.

India has accused Pakistan of having links to the recent attack, targeting Hindu civilians, although it has yet to present public proof. It has, however, pointed to Pakistan’s historical support for terrorist groups operating against India.

In response, India has taken several diplomatic and treaty-level actions, including suspending the Indus waters treaty, expelling Pakistani diplomats, and cancelling visas for Pakistani nationals. Pakistan reciprocated by expelling Indian diplomats, cancelling Indian visas, closing its airspace, and suspending the 1972 Shimla agreement, a key bilateral dialogue mechanism.

While Modi’s recent address reaffirmed India’s commitment to retaliatory measures, Pakistan’s Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif adopted a more conciliatory tone, expressing willingness for cooperation with "any neutral investigators" and reiterating Pakistan’s “strong desire for peace.” Nonetheless, Sharif affirmed that Kashmir remained Pakistan’s “jugular vein,” echoing a long-standing stance first articulated by Pakistan’s founder, Muhammad Ali Jinnah.

The military tensions have manifested on the ground as well, with Indian and Pakistani forces exchanging fire along the Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir for a third consecutive day on Sunday, the LoC being a frequently contested and volatile boundary.

India’s information ministry issued an advisory cautioning media outlets against live broadcasting any military operations, a measure aimed at preventing real-time disclosure of sensitive military movements. This advisory recalls similar restrictions implemented during past crises, such as the 1999 Kargil war and the 2008 Mumbai attacks.

On the security front in Kashmir, Indian forces are intensifying operations targeting suspected terrorists and their infrastructure. This campaign has included the demolition of at least ten homes linked to militants, part of a broader effort described by Indian authorities as dismantling the “terrorism ecosystem.” Human rights groups have expressed concern over these measures, with reports indicating that approximately 1,500 young men have been detained or questioned in connection with the investigations.

Further exacerbating the situation are disputes over water resources. India’s release of water from the Uri Dam has caused the Jhelum River to flood areas of Pakistan-administered Kashmir. This action followed India’s suspension of the treaty regulating water flow through the region's rivers. Pakistan has issued warnings that interference with water supplies could be considered an “act of war.”

The Guardian is reporting that these developments mark a period of heightened military preparedness and diplomatic tension between India and Pakistan, rooted in the recent terrorist attack in Kashmir and compounded by longstanding issues over territory, security, and resource management.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

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