

Pakistan used 400 drones, possibly from Turkiye: India

On the LoC, heavy shelling by Pakistan continued using heavy calibre artillery guns and armed drones resulting in some losses and injuries to Indian Army personnel

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Wing Commander Vyomika Singh (left), Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri (centre), and Colonel Sofiya Qureshi at a press briefing in New Delhi on May 9, 2025 on Operation Sindoor. | Photo Credit: ANI

On Thursday (May 8, 2025) night, Pakistan attempted drone intrusions from Leh to Sir Creek at 36 locations with approximately 300 to 400 drones, possibly of Turkish origin, likely to test Indian Air Defences (AD) and later also attempted to target the Bhatinda military station with an armed drone, according to Wg Cdr Vyomika Singh. She said that Pakistan was using civil airliners as a “shield”.

In response, Indian armed forces launched strikes on four air defence sites in Pakistan. An air defence radar was destroyed by one of them, Wg Cdr Singh stated on Friday (May 9, 2025).

Also Read: Operation Sindoor LIVE: Drones sighted in Jammu, Samba & Pathankot, being engaged, Defence sources say

Meanwhile, heavy shelling by Pakistan is continuing along the Line of Control (LoC), which has resulted in fatalities and injuries among Army personnel, though the numbers were not disclosed.

Earlier in the day, Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh chaired a meeting at South Block** with Chief of Defence Staff Gen Anil Chauhan, Army Chief Gen. Upendra Dwivedi, Navy Chief Adm Dinesh K. Tripathi, Air Chief Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh and Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh to review the security situation along the western border and the operational preparedness of the armed forces. Later, Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a meeting with the Defence Minister, CDS and three Service Chiefs at his residence.

“On the intervening night of May 8-9, the Pakistan military carried out multiple violations of Indian airspace along the entire Western Border with an intent to target military infrastructure. Along the International Border and LoC, drone intrusions were attempted from Leh to Sir Creek at 36 locations with over 300-400 Drones,” Wg Cdr Singh said at a media briefing on the ongoing situation on Friday (May 9, 2025). “Indian armed forces brought down a number of these drones using kinetic and non-kinetic means.”

The possible purpose of these large-scale aerial intrusions was to test the AD systems and gather intelligence, she observed, stating that forensic examination of the drone debris is being done. “Preliminary reports suggest that they are Asisguard Songar Drones of Turkey,” Wg Cdr Singh said.

According to official sources, over 500 drones, mostly quadcopters, were launched in three waves in 36 locations across the western border on Thursday (May 8, 2025) night between 8 p.m. to 11:30-12 a.m. “The first wave was relatively less, which increased in the next two waves,” an informed source said.

Later in the night, Pakistan launched an armed Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) targeting Bhatinda military station, which was “detected and neutralised”. In response, the Indian Air Force launched loitering munitions at four air defence sites in Pakistan, sources said. Wg Cdr Singh said that one of the drones was able to destroy an AD radar.

Terming them “cowardly actions”, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said these “provocative and escalatory” actions that were taken by Pakistan last night were targeted at Indian cities and civilian infrastructure, in addition to some military targets. “The Indian armed forces responded proportionately, adequately, and responsibly,” he reiterated.

“What I want to underline is that the official and blatantly farcical denial of these attacks that Pakistan carried out by the Pakistani State machinery is yet another example of their duplicity, and the new depths that they are plumbing in their quest for disinformation,” he added.

On the LoC, heavy shelling by Pakistan continued using heavy calibre artillery guns and armed drones in Tangdhar, Uri, Poonch, Mendhar, Rajouri, Akhnoor and Udhampur in Jammu & Kashmir, resulting in some losses and injuries to Indian Army personnel. “Pakistan Army also suffered major losses in Indian retaliatory fire.”

According to sources, shelling is being done by small arms, mortars and heavy artillery including 105 mm and 155 mm artillery guns. The Indian Army is responding effectively but proportionately, a source observed. On Army fatalities, a source, without disclosing the number, said there were a few caused by heavy artillery fire.

‘Irresponsible behaviour’

Wg Cdr Singh said that Pakistan did not close its civil airspace despite it launching a failed, unprovoked drone and missile attack on May 7 at 2030 hours, stating that this is “irresponsible behaviour”.

“Pakistan is using civil airliners as a shield knowing fully well that its attack on India would elicit a swift AD response. This is not safe for the unsuspecting civil airliners, including international flights, which were flying near IB between India and Pakistan,” she stated.

She gave an instance of Airbus 320 of Flynas Aviation which originated from Dammam at 1750 hours and landed at Lahore at 2110 hours during a “high Air Defence” alert situation in Punjab sector. “The airspace on the Indian side is absolutely devoid of civil air traffic due to declared closure,” she said as Col Sofiya Qureshi, who read out the statement in Hindi before her, showed an image from the portal flightradar24. “Air Force demonstrated considerable restraint in its response thus ensuring safety of International civil carriers,” she added.

In the day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met a group of armed forces veterans for an interaction on various issues regarding the current situation. This included former Chiefs from the three services and other veterans who have extensively served the country, informed sources said.

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