

Op Sindoor: 9 Strategy & History Lessons For Trolls

To social media warriors mourning what is clearly India's ongoing victory: When nations act not in anger, but with quiet resolve, they don't just settle scores. They reshape the world

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In *The Godfather*, Mario Puzo wrote, "Revenge is a dish that tastes best when served cold." Meaning, true retribution demands patience, calculation, and the discipline to set aside rage. In this context, it's almost comical to see some of our social media warriors mourning what is clearly India's ongoing victory. Let me break it down in nine points – much like our first strikes on May 7.

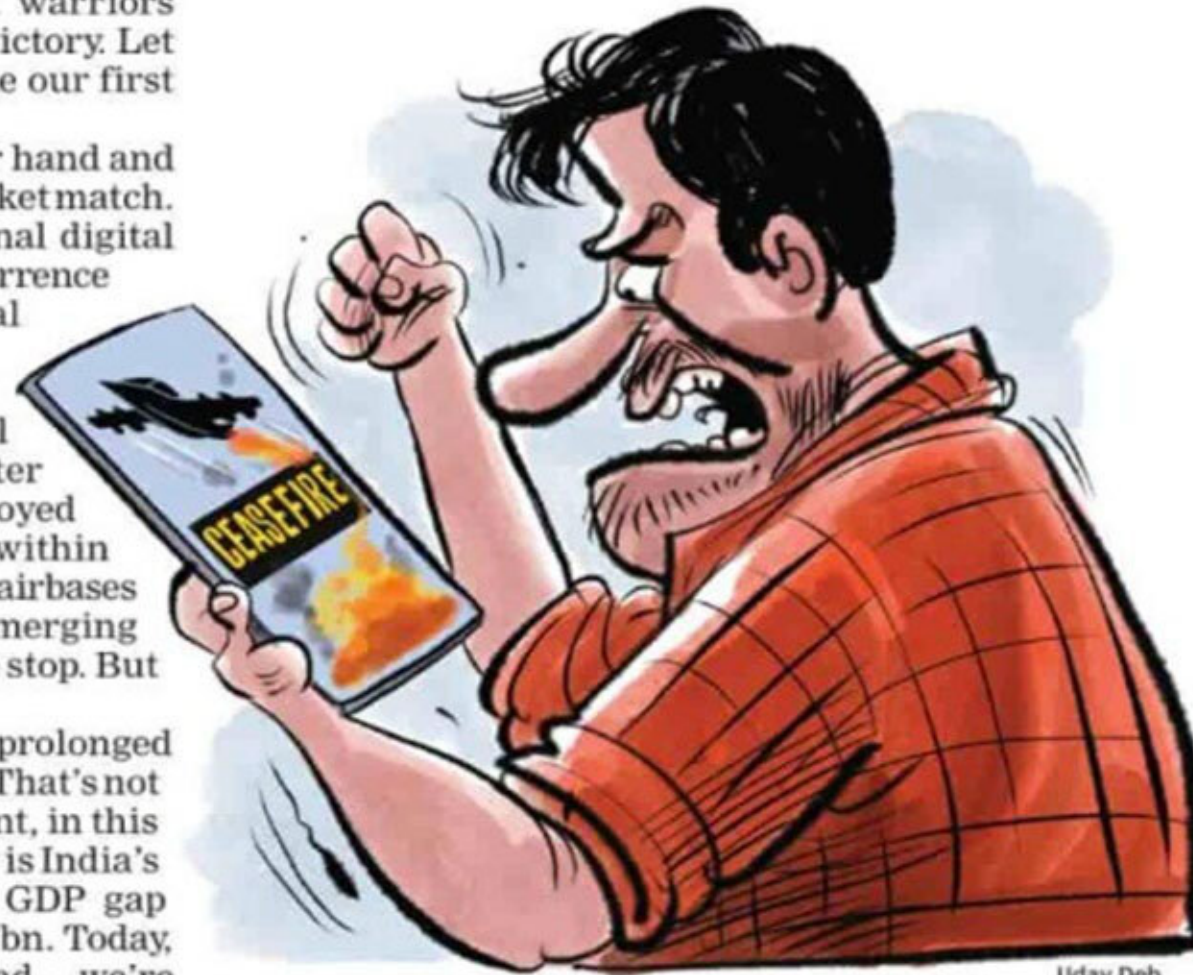
- Critics argue that India had the upper hand and didn't go for the jugular – as if this were a cricket match. Some were bothered by Pakistan's delusional digital warriors claiming victory. But strategic deterrence isn't measured in online applause. The goal wasn't to flatten cities – it was to rewrite the playbook. After 26/11, we sent dossiers and did little else. After Uri, we launched surgical strikes. After Pulwama, we hit Balakot. After Pahalgam, nine terror camps were destroyed with precision missile strikes deep within Pakistan. After Pakistan's drone swarms, its airbases were swiftly and decisively hit. The emerging pattern is clear: we act, we calibrate, and we stop. But only when you do.

- India has far more to lose in a prolonged war – economically, diplomatically, globally. That's not a weakness; it's the burden of scale. Restraint, in this context, is strategy. Our expanding economy is India's greatest long-term deterrent. In 1971, the GDP gap between India and Pakistan was around \$57bn. Today, it's over \$3.5tn. We're not just pulling ahead – we're accelerating. A war slows that momentum. Pakistan would welcome that. India has no reason to oblige.

- A cessation of kinetic action doesn't mean other actions have stopped. India's response has been multi-dimensional. IWT is in abeyance. Trade has been cut off. Visa channels have tightened. Illegals are being deported. Talks with Afghanistan's Taliban regime have resumed. Support for the Baloch cause is no longer a

strategic taboo. FATF pressure is being quietly reignited.

- IWT is no longer sacred. For decades, India honoured it even during full-scale wars. Nearly 80% of Pak agriculture depends on the Indus system. Its drinking water, electricity, food security all flow from rivers that rise in India. So what happened to Pakistan calling IWT suspension an act of war? If that were truly the red line, why did Islamabad plead for a ceasefire,



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while India still keeps the tap half-closed? Because deep down, they know this isn't war. It's leverage. And they've never faced it like this before.

- The pause is also the perfect moment to showcase Indian defence capability – not just for deterrence but also for dollars. The live demonstration of indigenous missile systems and air defence tech was being watched around the world. Every successful strike is

also a sales pitch. And it wasn't just Pakistan that got the message. China did too. The operation signalled that India can defend itself with homegrown systems. It also warned countries buying Chinese hardware: cheap isn't always reliable.

- We need to get back on track in J&K – because that's where Pakistan always hopes the fire will spread. Every terror attack isn't just about casualties. It's about derailment – of development, trust-building, integration. But the real answer to Pahalgam is a child in Baramulla going to school without fear and a youth in Anantnag choosing a career instead of a Kalashnikov.

- The war within is the real war. Pakistan is not just across the border – some of it lurks within our own. Every act of terror requires not just a handler in Rawalpindi but also a sympathiser here: the sleeper cell, the radicalised youth, the ideological apologist. Betrayal of Siraj-ud-Daulah at Plassey, insurgency during the Khalistan movement, and the success of the 26/11 Mumbai attacks – each reveals the same brutal truth. When loyalty frays within, even the strongest defences crumble. The battle of minds is now more urgent than the battle of missiles.

- Geopolitical alignments are shifting rapidly, and India must not only respond but prepare to lead. To do that, we need time, space, focus. A full-scale war with Pakistan would be a distraction. Strategic patience isn't passivity. It's preparation.

- Pakistan's real fear? Irrelevance. What rattles Islamabad isn't India's strikes – it's being ignored. For decades, its foreign policy hinged on being a permanent problem. But the world has moved on. UAE signs deals with Israel. Saudi Arabia hosts yoga sessions. West wants semiconductors, not sermons on Kashmir. Worse, Pakistan fears something even deeper: internal fracture. The Pahalgam attack was meant to pull India back into its shadow. Instead, it showed just how far India has surged ahead. That's the coldest revenge of all.

History's lesson is clear. When nations act not in anger, but with quiet resolve, they don't just settle scores. They reshape the world.

The writer is an author of several works of fiction