India-Pakistan War

INCIDENT
REPORT
2025

Fake News During India-Pakistan War May 7 - 10, 2025

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About Us

Fake News Watchdog (FNW) is a global initiative dedicated to identifying, analyzing, and countering the spread of misinformation and disinformation in today's digital world. We stand at the forefront of the fight for truth, empowering individuals, media professionals, academic institutions, and civil society to navigate the increasingly complex information landscape with confidence and clarity.

Our Mission

Our mission is to detect and debunk false narratives, monitor disinformation trends, and strengthen public resilience through media literacy. Leveraging artificial intelligence, advanced fact-checking tools, and rigorous research methodologies, we work to uphold the principles of transparency, credibility, and informed public discourse.

Our Vision

We envision a world where access to accurate, verified information is a fundamental right, and where communities are equipped to question, verify, and challenge misleading content. A well-informed society is the cornerstone of democracy, and we are committed to fostering a culture where truth triumphs over manipulation.

What We Do

- **Fact-Checking Services**: Verifying claims circulating in media, politics, and public discourse.
- **Reputation Management**: Monitoring digital platforms for false or misleading content about our clients and delivering timely, evidence-based rebuttals to protect their public image and credibility.
- **Research & Trends Analysis**: Studying patterns in disinformation to inform public policy and education.
- **Educational Outreach**: Promoting media literacy through training, resources, and awareness campaigns.
- **Global Collaboration**: Partnering with international organizations, journalists, researchers, and digital rights advocates to build a united front against fake news.

Get Involved

Stand with us in protecting the integrity of information. Whether you're a concerned citizen, educator, researcher, or policymaker, your voice matters. Together, we can build a more truthful, accountable, and informed world.

A Message from Our Team

At Fake News Watchdog, our mission is rooted in the belief that truth is not just a principle but a cornerstone of a thriving society. In an age where disinformation spreads faster than ever, the responsibility to uphold integrity in information is one we share collectively.

This report serves as both a reflection of the challenges we face and a call to action. It dives deep into the anatomy of disinformation, examining its sources, impact, and the societal vulnerabilities it exploits. By bringing these incidents to light, we aim to empower individuals, institutions, and policymakers with the insights necessary to recognize, combat, and prevent the spread of falsehoods.

Our work is not possible without the contributions of vigilant fact-checkers, dedicated researchers, and the trust of those who believe in a better-informed world. Together, we can build an ecosystem where truth has the power to outpace lies, fostering trust and accountability in every corner of society.

We hope this report inspires meaningful dialogue and decisive action. Thank you for standing with us in this crucial fight against misinformation.

– The Fake News Watchdog Team

Email: info@fakenewswatchdog.org

Our Team

Prof. Rehan Hasan (Patron-in-Chief)
Rehan Hasan is an accomplished Director with extensive experience in the broadcast media industry, showcasing a proven track record of excellence. Renowned for his expertise in Immersive Reality, Journalism, Media Relations, Radio, and Film Production, he brings a dynamic and innovative approach to every project. With a strong professional background and a passion for storytelling, Rehan continues to make significant contributions to the ever-evolving media landscape.

Dr. Asad Ali Shah (Co-Founder)
Dr. Asad Ali Shah is a professor, researcher, and entrepreneur. He has earned his Ph.D. in media and sociology from Canada. He has been teaching at different universities in Pakistan and Canada. He is the author of a number of publications, including a book, journal articles, and reports. After completing his doctoral degree in Canada, Dr. Shah returned to Pakistan to serve his country.

Muhammad Nasir Butt (Co-Founder)
Muhammad Nasir Butt is a seasoned journalist and academic, currently serving at Public TV. With extensive experience in media, he has previously worked with Capital TV and GNN. In addition to his journalistic endeavors, Nasir is also teaching media & communication courses at prestigious institutions including IIU and RWU. He holds an MPhil in Media & Communication and is pursuing a PhD in Media.

Sophia Siddiqui (Media Strategist & Researcher)
Sophia Siddiqui is a seasoned journalist, academic, and media strategist with extensive experience in both national and international platforms. With a decade-long career at Radio Pakistan, currently, she serves as the Manager of International Media at NDMA and She leads various media initiatives such as Taware Pakistan and Glory Media, focusing on youth, women, engagement, and environmental journalism.

Rubab Jaffery (Senior Researcher)
Rubab Jaffery holds a Master's degree in Media & Communication from the UK and brings a wealth of experience in journalism, working with several prominent media organizations, including Daily Jang.

Rashid Khan (AI Expert)
A leading expert in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Deepfake Technology, specializing in the development, analysis, and ethical implications of AI-driven content creation.

Fake News Watchdog

Truth Matters, We Verify

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Executive Summary

This report investigates the extensive disinformation campaign that accompanied the military escalation between India and Pakistan from May 7 to 10, 2025, following the April 22 Pahalgam attack. While the kinetic operations—India's Operation Sindoor and Pakistan's Operation Bunyan-ul-Marsoos—unfolded across contested regions, a parallel and highly disruptive information war played out across television networks, social media platforms, and messaging apps.

Through detailed documentation and verification, the report analyzes 31 verified instances of misinformation that emerged between May 7 and May 14, 2025, including doctored media and misleading narratives that circulated during and immediately after the conflict. These include recycled footage from unrelated global events (such as the 2020 Beirut explosion and 2021 Israel-Gaza airstrikes), AI-generated deepfake videos, false claims of pilot captures, fabricated satellite images, and fictitious foreign media endorsements. Several mainstream media outlets and verified political accounts were found complicit in disseminating unverified or manipulated content, sometimes without correction.

The report adopts a structured format—Claim, Reality, and Conclusion / Explanation—to analyze each case and evaluate the intent, reach, and impact of the disinformation. It reveals that much of the content was crafted to:

- Boost domestic morale,
- Undermine enemy credibility,
- Exaggerate battlefield victories,
- And inflame nationalist sentiment.

Notably, the rapid spread of such misinformation risked strategic miscalculations, civilian panic, erosion of media trust, and diplomatic fallout. The use of AI and recycled war imagery also highlights a dangerous new phase in modern hybrid warfare, where truth becomes a casualty of speed, virality, and propaganda.

This report concludes with an urgent call for cross-border media accountability, responsible journalism, digital literacy, and real-time fact-checking protocols. It emphasizes that in an age where information travels faster than missiles, truth must be defended as rigorously as territory.

Introduction

The brief but high-stakes confrontation between India and Pakistan from May 7 to 10, 2025, now widely referred to as the May Conflict, marked one of the most volatile military escalations in South Asia since the Kargil War of 1999. Triggered by the April 22 Pahalgam attack, which targeted Indian civilians and was attributed by Indian authorities to cross-border militant groups, the situation rapidly escalated from diplomatic protest to military retaliation.

In the early hours of May 7, India launched Operation Sindoor, a series of coordinated strikes within Pakistani territory. These strikes were positioned as part of India's right to self-defense and were executed under high-level coordination involving India's top political and military leadership. In response, Pakistan launched Operation Bunyan-ul-Marsoos, targeting Indian military installations in Jammu, Pathankot, and Udhampur, declaring its right to defend national sovereignty. Over the course of four tense days, both nations engaged in air operations, cyber allegations, and intense military posturing, bringing the nuclear-armed neighbors to the brink of broader war.

However, what distinguished the May Conflict from previous military episodes was not merely the scale of armed engagement, but the parallel war that unfolded in the digital domain. This conflict was arguably the first in the region's history where information warfare played an equal—if not greater—role than conventional military action. While airstrikes and retaliatory fire were reported and speculated upon, the battle to control public perception, domestic morale, and international narratives surged across newsrooms, smartphones, and social media timelines.

An unprecedented barrage of misinformation, fake news, AI-generated deepfake videos, manipulated images, doctored satellite visuals, recycled foreign conflict footage, and false casualty reports overwhelmed traditional media outlets and digital platforms alike. Claims of destroyed airbases, captured pilots, cyber blackouts, and even a coup in Pakistan circulated widely—many of them later proven false, outdated, or deliberately fabricated. The virality and volume of disinformation created confusion not just among the public, but also among policymakers and international observers, who struggled to distinguish fact from fiction in real time.

Crucially, both mainstream media organizations and verified social media accounts were complicit in this disinformation ecosystem. Television channels aired animated battle sequences without disclaimers, falsely passing them off as real combat footage. Politicians and influencers recycled old videos from unrelated conflicts, labeling them as live war events. Some platforms falsely attributed fabricated visuals to credible international outlets like CNN and The Daily Telegraph to give fake news an appearance of legitimacy. In the absence of

timely corrections or ethical gatekeeping, many of these falsehoods became embedded in the public consciousness.

This report provides a structured examination of the disinformation landscape during the May 2025 India-Pakistan conflict. Focusing exclusively on verifiable instances of media and digital manipulation, this report compiles 31 key cases, each documented using a three-tier structure. The findings are based on data collected between May 7 and May 14, 2025, covering both the period of direct military confrontation (May 7–10) and the following days, during which widespread disinformation continued to circulate across media platforms.

- **Claim** – What was reported or circulated;
- **Reality** – What independent verification or official sources revealed;
- **Conclusion / Explanation** – Contextual analysis of why the claim was false or misleading.

Drawing from fact-checking organizations, reverse image and video searches, satellite image authentication tools, and official government statements, this report seeks to clarify the scale, nature, and strategic use of disinformation during the conflict. The findings reveal not only a deliberate attempt by multiple actors to shape perceptions through falsehoods, but also a broader failure of media ethics, platform governance, and wartime information protocols.

Beyond chronicling the specific instances of fake news, this report serves a broader purpose: to underscore the strategic, political, and societal dangers posed by unverified information in times of war. In the digital age, where synthetic content can travel faster than traditional journalism and where perception can rapidly outpace reality, the weaponization of information has become a critical axis of modern warfare.

Therefore, this report calls for urgent reflection and reform across several dimensions:

- Media responsibility and editorial oversight;
- Platform accountability in content moderation;
- Cross-border collaboration on fact-checking;
- Public awareness and digital literacy in conflict zones.

In presenting this detailed record of media manipulation, the report does not seek to cast blame on one side or the other. Instead, it highlights the shared vulnerabilities, systemic failures, and ethical lapses that enabled falsehoods to flourish unchecked during a moment of extreme geopolitical tension.

In doing so, it aspires to contribute toward a future where truth, accountability, and responsible information practices are not casualties of war—but tools for preserving peace.

Timeline of Events: May 7–10, 2025

April 27, 2025

- **Trigger Incident:**
  A terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, kills 26 Indians. India blames Pakistan instantly without any solid evidence, and signals imminent retaliation.

May 7, 2025 – Day 1

- **India Launches Operation Sindoor:**
  India conducts precision air and missile strikes on alleged terror camps and military infrastructure inside Pakistan.

- **Official Indian Briefings Begin:**

  - Press conference held by India's Ministry of External Affairs.
  - A misidentified CCTV video from 2007 Iraq is wrongly presented as footage from the 2019 Pulwama attack.

- **Misinformation Begins to Surge:**

  - Fake videos and misattributed explosions flood social media.

    - 2020 Beirut explosion shown as Pakistani target destroyed.
    - 2023 Gaza night airstrike misrepresented as Indian assault.
    - Ukrainian drone crash video falsely labeled as Lahore strike.

May 8, 2025 – Day 2

- **Pakistan Responds with Operation Bunyan-ul-Marsoos:**
  Pakistan launches retaliatory airstrikes targeting Indian military infrastructure in Jammu, Udhampur, and Pathankot. Claims of damage and jet losses emerge from both sides, though most remain unverified or contradicted.

- **Parallel Misinformation Campaigns Intensify:**

  - Mumbai truck fire video posed as Sialkot bombing.
  - Wildfire footage from Chile misused as bombing visuals.
  - Deepfake video of PM Shehbaz Sharif falsely admitting defeat goes viral.

- ○ Misleading captions spread false claims of pilot captures and massive losses.

May 9, 2025 – Day 3

- **Peak Media Manipulation:**

  - ○ Major Indian news outlets air 2021 Iron Dome footage from Israel, falsely presenting it as Indian air defense during the war.
  - ○ India Today shows animated missile strikes as real footage.
  - ○ BJP-aligned accounts and Zee News recycle a 2016 Turkish military rescue photo, claiming it shows a captured Pakistani pilot.

- **Claims of Foreign Intervention:**

  - ○ Social media posts allege US and Israeli military aircraft landings in Jaipur to assist India. These claims are false; a diverted US cargo plane is taken out of context.

May 10, 2025 – Day 4

- **Widening Disinformation Campaigns:**

  - ○ False reports of India downing Fateh-II missiles and Pakistani jets shared widely, using a doctored image stitched from Russian conflict footage.
  - ○ Fabricated "Daily Telegraph" cover falsely praises PAF as "King of the Skies."
  - ○ Deepfake AI video of Pakistan's Prime Minister adds to psychological warfare tactics.

- **Cyber Attack Claims Debunked:**

  - ○ Pakistani media allege that a cyber attack disabled 70% of India's power grid—Indian authorities deny any such attack occurred.

Impact Analysis

1. Emergence of Dual-Front Information Warfare

- With India's Operation Sindoor and in response, Pakistan's Operation Bunyan-un-Marsoos, both nations launched military and digital counter-offensives.

- The information environment became a second battlefield, used to shape perception, morale, and international sympathy.

2. Propaganda as Parallel Doctrine

- Official narratives were accompanied or even replaced by fabricated battlefield visuals, fake casualty counts, and doctored videos.

- The parallel operation names (Sindoor and Bunyan-un-Marsoos) became hashtags fueling digital nationalism and public emotionalism.

3. Blurring of Fact and Fiction

- The crossfire of state-backed and independent media disinformation made real-time understanding nearly impossible.

- Public discourse was flooded with conflicting claims: pilot captures, base destructions, coup rumors, and exaggerated kill counts—all mostly unverified or refuted.

4. Weaponized Deepfakes and Foreign Media Fabrication

- A fake Daily Telegraph front page and doctored CNN visuals represent an alarming escalation—misusing credible global outlets to boost local morale or shame opponents.

- These cases highlight a transnational manipulation strategy, not just local media failure.

5. Risks to Diplomacy and Miscalculation

- Misinformation about the nature, success, or scale of retaliatory operations may have skewed leadership decisions on both sides.

- Public calls for escalation were intensified by viral but false narratives of victory or victimhood.

6. Institutional Media Credibility Damaged

- Indian and Pakistani mainstream media outlets aired unverified or fictional content, often with no retractions or disclaimers.

- Both governments were complicit—either directly producing or failing to correct state-aligned disinformation.

7. Urgent Recommendations for Media

- These developments make it clear that conflict-zone journalism needs new standards, including:

    - Mandatory disclaimers for simulations or animations.
    - Real-time cross-border fact-checking collaborations.
    - AI-generated content detection mandates.
    - Penalties for knowingly airing disinformation.

Methodology

This report was compiled using a rigorous and multi-source data collection and verification process to identify, document, and analyze fake news disseminated during the India-Pakistan conflict from May 7 to May 10, 2025. The methodology involved the following steps:

1. Data Collection

- **Media Monitoring**: Continuous monitoring of major Indian and Pakistani news channels (e.g., Republic TV, Zee News, Times Now, Aaj Tak, News 18 India, PTV News, ARY News, Geo News) was conducted to capture breaking news, tickers, debates, and expert commentary.

- **Social Media Scraping**: Relevant content was extracted from social media platforms such as Twitter/X, Facebook, and YouTube using hashtags like #IndiaPakistan, #PAF, #IAF, #BreakingNews, #CoupInPakistan, and #CyberAttackIndia. This included posts from both verified and unverified accounts.

- **Official Statements**: Verified statements were sourced from the official social media accounts and websites of:

  - Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) – Pakistan
  - Indian Ministry of Defence
  - Indian and Pakistani political leaders
  - International agencies and fact-checking bodies

- **OSINT and Archival Tools**: Open Source Intelligence tools (e.g., reverse image search, metadata checks, video frame verification) and archival platforms (e.g., Internet Archive's Wayback Machine, InVID) were used to assess the authenticity of images, videos, and documents.

- **Crowdsourced and Local Inputs**: Tip-offs and field insights were also considered from local journalists, researchers, and fact-checking volunteers operating in conflict-sensitive areas.

2. Verification and Classification

- **Cross-Verification**: Each claim was checked against multiple independent sources. In cases where official denial was issued, such denials were prioritized

as the basis for reality status.

- **Content Categorization**: Fake news items were grouped into the following categories for clarity:

  - Fabricated Military Claims
  - Doctored or Misleading Visuals
  - Fake Political Statements or Attacks
  - Exaggerated or Unsupported Casualty Figures
  - Misinformation on Infrastructure Attacks (e.g., cyberattacks)

- **Evaluation Criteria**: To determine whether a news item qualified as "fake," it had to meet at least one of the following conditions:

  - Lack of credible source or attribution
  - Contradiction with verified facts or official statements
  - Proven use of altered, outdated, or irrelevant media
  - Intentional distortion or misrepresentation of facts

3. Documentation

- Each fake news item was recorded with three components:

  - **Fake Claim**: What was falsely reported or circulated
  - **Reality**: What actually happened, based on verified data
  - **Conclusion**: Why the claim is fake and its likely intent or impact

- Screenshots, links, timestamps, and channel names were preserved as part of a digital evidence archive.

4. Limitations

- While extensive, the data may not capture all fake news disseminated during the period due to platform algorithm limitations and rapidly deleted content.

- Language barriers and regional variations in news coverage may have limited full access to vernacular media reports.

- This methodological framework ensures that each reported fake news instance in this report is verifiable, documented, and contextually accurate to the extent possible.

Data Analysis: Fake News vs Reality

The following section presents a systematic comparison between widely circulated fake news items and the verified realities behind them. Drawing from credible fact-checking sources, official statements, and reverse image/video searches, each entry illustrates how misinformation was crafted, disseminated, and consumed during the May 2025 India-Pakistan conflict. This analysis reveals not only the scale of media manipulation but also the patterns and methods through which disinformation was weaponized to influence public perception, inflame tensions, and distort the narrative of war. The data presented below was gathered and verified from May 7 to May 14, 2025, capturing both the height of the India-Pakistan military escalation and the post-conflict media fallout

1- Iron Dome Footage Passed Off as Indian S-400 Success

Claim:
A verified X user, Tathvam -asi (@ssaratht), wrote on May 8: "India's S-400 taking good care of Amritsar. At least two JF-17 and one J-10C went down last night.   #OperationSindoor   #Sialkot #IndiaPakistanWar"

Reality:
The video attached to the claim is not from the 2025 India-Pakistan war. It has been online since August 2024 and actually shows Israel's Iron Dome intercepting rockets fired from Lebanon.

Conclusion / Explanation:
The circulating claim uses an unrelated and outdated video to support a false narrative.

The video referenced in the post is not from the 2025 India-Pakistan war. It has been circulating online since August 2024 as footage of Israel's Iron Dome defense system, and was misattributed to falsely depict Indian military action. This is a clear case of misinformation through recycled footage, aimed at exaggerating battlefield outcomes.

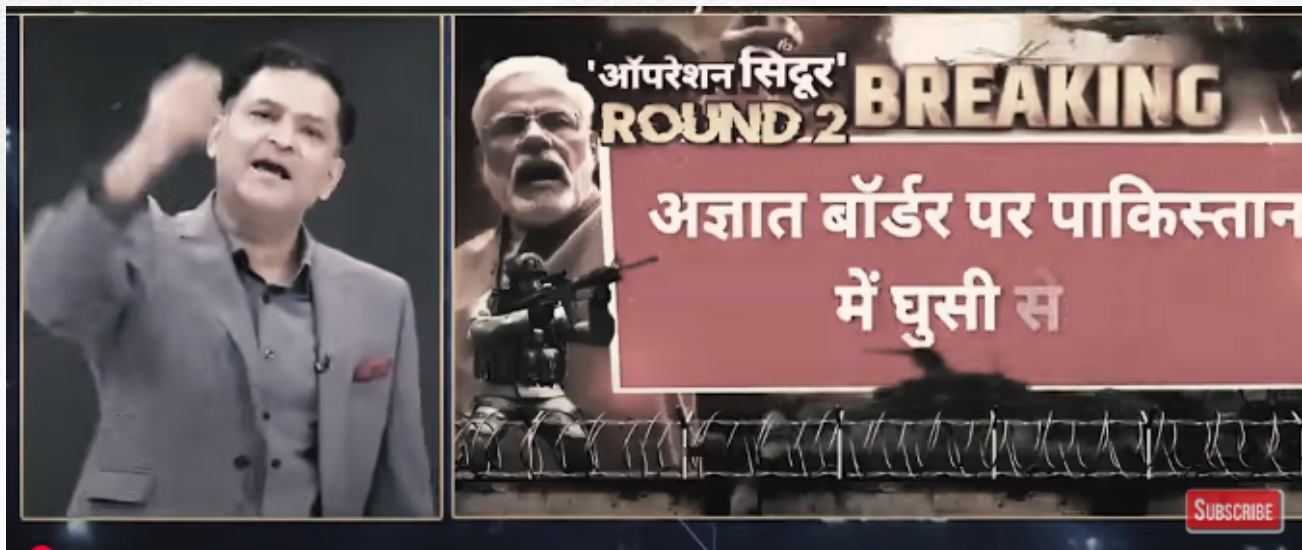## 2. False Claim of Indian Army Entering Pakistan

Claim:

An Indian news anchor and program host reported that the Indian Army had crossed the border and entered Pakistani territory during the May 2025 conflict.

Reality:

There was no official confirmation or independent evidence supporting this claim. The Indian Army made no such announcement, and no credible sources verified the anchor's statement.

Conclusion / Explanation:

This was a case of unverified and sensational reporting, likely aimed at generating viewer engagement during a time of heightened public interest. Such claims can dangerously escalate tensions, mislead the public, and create confusion in an already volatile geopolitical environment. It reflects the urgent need for editorial restraint and fact-based reporting, especially in conflict scenarios.

3. A false claim of Cyberattack that disabled 70% of India's electricity grid

Claim:
"Pakistan conducted a cyberattack that disabled 70% of India's electricity grid."

Reality:
Indian authorities categorically denied any such incident.

Conclusion / Explanation:
Pakistani media and commentators claimed that 70% of India's electricity grid had been rendered non-functional due to a cyberattack. Indian officials strongly denied any such breach. This story, though entirely baseless, gained traction on social platforms, reflecting the use of cyberwar narratives to amplify psychological pressure during conflict.

4. Fictitious Fidayeen Attack in Rajouri

Claim:
"A fidayeen (suicide) attack occurred at the Indian Army base in Rajouri."

Reality:
The Indian Army officially stated that no suicide attack occurred at the Rajouri base, dismissing false claims made in an Indian social media post as misinformation.

Conclusion / Explanation:
A claim surfaced alleging a suicide attack on an Indian Army base in Rajouri. The Indian military promptly dismissed the report, stating no such incident occurred. Despite the denial, the rumor circulated widely, showing how fake news about direct attacks is used to foster anxiety and portray vulnerability.

5. Rumors of a Coup Against General Asim Munir

Claim:
"Coup against Pakistan Army Chief General Asim Munir."

Reality:
No credible source confirmed any coup; the claim was aired by Times Now and other Indian channels without evidence.

Conclusion / Explanation:
Times Now and other outlets reported an unverified claim that Pakistani Army Chief General Asim Munir had been dislodged in a coup. There was no confirmation from credible sources, and the story faded without follow-up. This episode highlights how coup rumors can be used as destabilization tools in wartime media narratives.

6. Official Claims of 100 Terrorists Killed

Claim:
"The Indian strike killed 100 hardcore terrorists on May 8."

Reality:
Official narrative by Indian Defense Minister Rajnath Singh, although exact details of casualties are unverified independently.

Conclusion / Explanation:
Former President of BJP and current Minister of Defense Mr. Rajnath Singh claims that 100 terrorists killed in Indian strikes on May 8, 2025. At the same time the ministry of defense says "As per the plan, the targets were destroyed and no civilian population was harmed. https://t.co/MsZifgV4PQ

THE TIMES OF INDIA

100 hardcore terrorists killed in Indian strikes: Rajnath Singh to parties

7. Wrong Image Attributed to the CNN

Wrongly attributed to CNN, it was widely circulated in social media and is false in nature.

INDIA-PAKISTAN CONFLICT STATISTICS

Pakistan's strike in India, conducted by the PAF, downed 6 combat jets, including 2 Rafales and an S-400 air defense system. A total of 26 airbases were targeted inside India, including Jammu, Udhampur, Gujrat and Pathankot airbases — most of which were acknowledged by the Indian Army in a press conference.

According to Indian statements, nearly 23 airbases were targeted inside Pakistan. However, none of these claims were officially accepted by Pakistan, and India did not provide any authentic evidence till date.

SOUTH ASIA STATS

	PAKISTAN	INDIA
JET LOSS	0	6
AIRBASE AFFECTED	3	11
DRONE LOSS	78	553
SOLDIER LOSS	1	21
CIVILIAN LOSS	13	19
TANK LOSS	0	0
AIR DEFENCE LOSS	0	1

INDIA- PAKISTAN CONFLICT

TRUMP HELPS CURB INDIA'S LOSSES

CNN NEWSROOM

8. Drug Allegations Against Bilawal Bhutto Zardari

Claim:
"Bilawal Bhutto taking cocaine" — claimed by Arnab Goswami.

Reality:
No evidence provided.

Conclusion / Explanation:
Republic TV anchor Arnab Goswami alleged that Pakistani politician Bilawal Bhutto Zardari was using cocaine, without presenting any evidence. Such personal attacks are emblematic of wartime character assassination tactics aimed at undermining political credibility.

9. Attack on Islamabad

Claim:
"Attack on Islamabad aired by Zee TV."

Reality:
No such attack was confirmed or acknowledged by credible sources.

Conclusion / Explanation:
Zee TV aired what it described as a strike on Islamabad. No such event was reported or confirmed by Pakistani or independent sources. This false reporting reflects how wartime propaganda can be presented as breaking news without editorial restraint.

10. Faked Satellite Image of Sargodha Air Base

Claim:
"Sargodha Air Base destroyed — satellite image proof."

Reality:
Image used was tinted, lacking source or attribution.

Conclusion / Explanation:
India claimed that the Sargodha Air Base was destroyed, using a tinted satellite image without providing source attribution or image credits, raising questions about the credibility and authenticity of the evidence presented.

11. Madrasa Teacher Mislabelled as Terrorist

Claim:
A madrasa teacher killed in Poonch shelling was labelled a 'terrorist' by some Indian media outlets.

Reality:
Fact-check investigations confirmed that Qari Mohammad Iqbal was not linked to any terror activity. He was a religious teacher who lost his life in cross-border shelling.

Conclusion / Explanation:
Verified reports clarified that Qari Mohammad Iqbal was an innocent victim. This case underscores the dangers of media misreporting and highlights the need for responsible journalism, especially in conflict-sensitive regions.

12. False Damage to Rahim Yar Khan Runway

Claim:
"Rahim Yar Khan runway damaged — viral video."

Reality:
No credible source confirmed the incident; video authenticity is questionable.

Conclusion / Explanation:
A video claiming to show destruction at Rahim Yar Khan airport was widely shared. However, no official confirmation supported it, and the footage's authenticity was in question. This is an example of how fabricated content is used to simulate strategic victories.

13. Unverified Claims of PAF Jets Downed Near Srinagar

Claim:
"PAF jets downed near Srinagar."

Reality:
Unconfirmed by independent or military sources.

Conclusion / Explanation:
Some Indian sources claimed Pakistani Air Force jets were shot down near Srinagar, yet no credible confirmations were available. The report likely served propaganda purposes, playing on public desire for quick retribution and success.
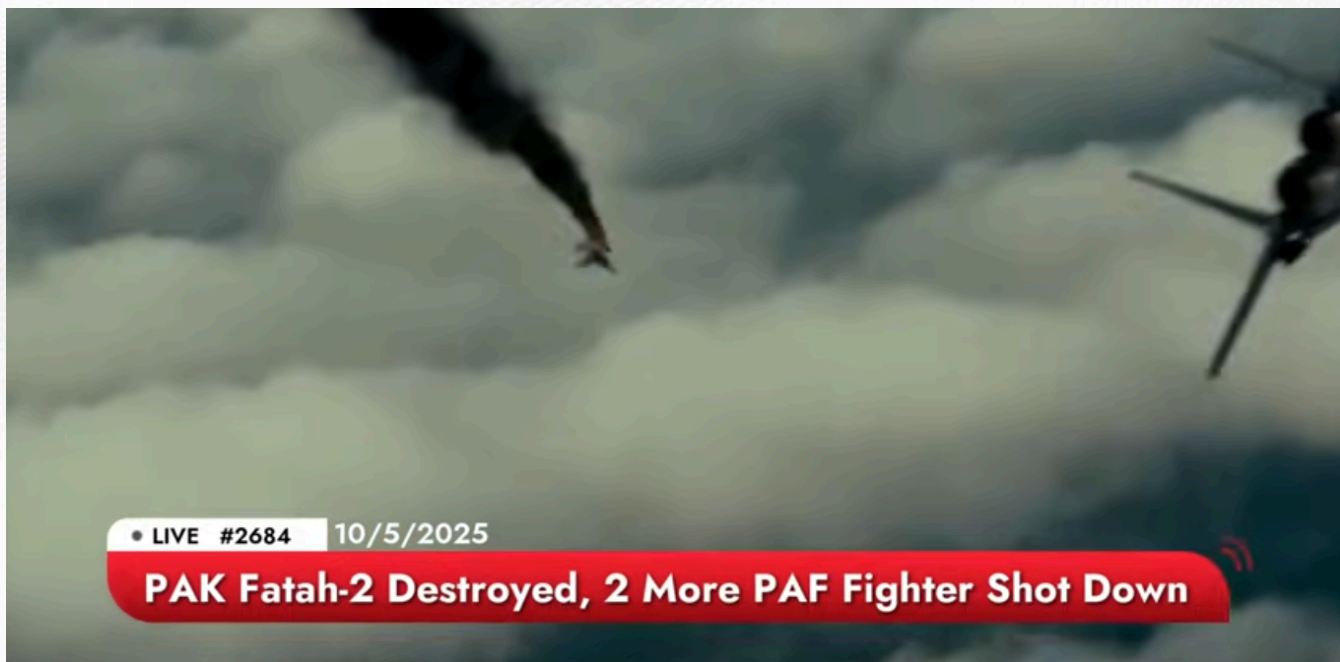
14. Fake Composite Image of Downed PAF Fighters

Claim:
"Fateh II destroyed, and two PAF jets downed" — May 10.

Reality:
Image used was a fake composite of an earlier Russian plane being downed + AI-generated clouds.

Conclusion / Explanation:
On May 10, 2025 Indian channel claim Pakistan Fateh II were intercepted and two more PAF fighter short down, there is no information where this incident happened nor it was mentioned that what type of aircraft they were. Upon further investigation it was reveiled that the image is the combination of earlier shooting down of Russian plane (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ECE3LcS1XJ4) and clouds generated by App.

LIVE #2684   10/5/2025
PAK Fatah-2 Destroyed, 2 More PAF Fighter Shot Down

15. Fabricated Report of Indian Air Defence Success

Claim:
"Two JF-17s and one F-16 shot down — India Today TV."

Reality:
No credible evidence presented; the claim was deemed false.

Conclusion / Explanation:
A false report aired live on India Today TV which is the part of widely circulated magazine India Today, that two JF 17s and one F-16 shot down by Indian air defense system, which found false and part of the misinformation usually spreading during wartime.

16. Misleading Animation Presented as Real Footage

Claim:
"India Today aired footage showing the S-400 striking F-16."

Reality:
The footage was fully animated and not disclosed as such.

Conclusion / Explanation:
On May 9, 2025, India Today aired a misleading and fabricated animation that misrepresented a fictional military engagement between India and Pakistan. The segment depicted what appeared to be a Russian-made S-400 air defense system deployed by India targeting a Pakistani F-16 fighter jet. However, the animation was presented without any disclaimer or clarification that it was computer-generated, potentially misleading viewers into believing the visuals represented actual footage.

In one particular frame, the animation showed the S-400 system engaging a Pakistani aircraft, followed by another frame that showed a Pakistani F-16 being struck mid-air. The way the scene was animated gave the false impression that the India Today news crew had somehow captured the footage alongside the S-400 system in real-time. This is not only implausible but a serious lapse in journalistic responsibility. Moreover, inconsistencies in the animation, such as the unrealistic color of the sky in different frames, further highlighted its artificial and fabricated nature.

17. False Eye-Level Drone Intercept Animation

Claim:
"Drone shot down by India shown in eye-level perspective."

Reality:
Another false animation lacking real evidence.

Conclusion / Explanation:
An Indian broadcast showing a drone in an animated sequence, allegedly of Pakistani origin, being shot down by an Indian missile. Again, this animation was inaccurately rendered. It portrayed the attack from an eye-level perspective—as if filmed from ground level or by someone present at the exact location—something not feasible in an actual combat situation, especially at such high altitudes. No credible source or military confirmation accompanied the broadcast to verify the authenticity of the claims made in the animation.

This kind of presentation blurs the line between news and dramatization, contributing to misinformation and heightened tensions during a sensitive period. In conflict reporting, particularly between nuclear-armed neighbors like India and Pakistan, responsible journalism is critical. The use of animated visuals must be clearly labeled and contextualized to avoid misleading the public.

India Today's broadcast, lacking proper attribution and disclaimers, stands as a concerning example of media sensationalism, where the urgency to deliver engaging content seems to have overridden the commitment to factual and ethical reporting. Such representations not only misinform the audience but can also exacerbate geopolitical tensions and undermine public trust in media institutions.

18. Deepfake Video of PM Shehbaz Sharif Admitting Defeat

Claim:

A viral video showed Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif addressing the National Assembly, admitting defeat, citing depleted resources, low soldier morale, and lack of support from allies such as the UAE and China.

Reality:

The video was a **deepfake**, generated using **AI voiceover technology** to falsify the Prime Minister's speech. The original footage is from May 7, 2025, during which **PM Sharif actually commended the Pakistan Air Force** for its response to India's Operation Sindoor and expressed national resolve, not defeat.

Conclusion / Explanation:

This is a clear example of **synthetic media used to manipulate political narratives**. Deepfakes like this can severely distort public perception, weaken morale, and spread disinformation with alarming realism. The incident highlights the urgent need for **media literacy, real-time fact-checking, and platform accountability** to prevent AI-generated deception in high-conflict scenarios.

19. Iron Dome Footage Aired as Jaisalmer Air Battle

Claim:
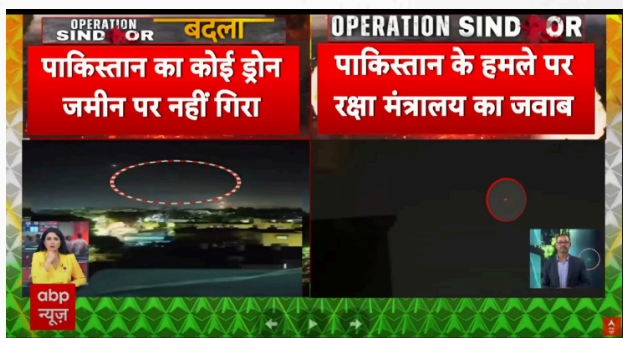"Aerial fight over Jaisalmer shown on Aaj Tak, Times Now, NDTV, etc."

Reality:
Video was from Israel's Iron Dome (May 11, 2021).

Conclusion / Explanation:
A video of 11 May 2021 from Isreal showing how Isreal Iron Dome system operates were used by almost all the Indian news channels on May 9, aired a video of aerial fight over Jaisalmer

During the airing of the video anchors claimed that this was a video of a Pakistani air attack being thwarted in Jaisalmer (Anjana Om Kashyap's show on Aaj Tak. Anchor Shweta Singh, and others) similar videos were aired by NDTV, Times Now, One India, News Nation, India TV, News18 with similar claims. No television gives any evidence from which source they got these videos. This is the classic case of disinformation and part of hybrid war.

20. Iraq 2007 CCTV Footage Misused as Pulwama 2019

Claim:
"CCTV footage of Pulwama 2019 used during Operation Sindoor."

Reality:
The footage was actually from a 2007 Iraq explosion.

Conclusion / Explanation:
In the wee hours of May 7, 2025 India carried out an attack on Pakistan with the name of Operation Sindoor, India has been planning for the attack since the Palagam incident of April 27, 2025. Videos from the live feed were shared at the military operations room at the South Block, India's top military leadership, including Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi and Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh watched the proceedings unfold. Prime Minister Narendra Modi monitored the mission from his 7, Lok Kalyan Marg residence, while Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and National Security Adviser Ajit Doval stayed at three different locations.

On the morning of May 7, India's ministry of external affairs held a press conference about the military strikes. The Press Information Bureau of India shows pre-recorded videos. During the briefing, a video of Pulwama attacks of 2019 was shown. The visuals of an explosion on a road with text saying 'Pulwama Attack, 2019 appeared on the screen.

The visuals were searched and identified as CCTV footage by a street camera. The time stamp on the screen shows the explosion happened on February 9, 2007, 3:55:26 pm, which is 12 years before the 2019 Pulwama terror attack and from Iraq, the video is available on YouTube as of today.

21. Pilot Rescue Image from Turkey Reused in 2025

Claim:
"Image of Pakistani pilot captured, used by Zee, BJP accounts."

Reality:
The image is from 2016 (Turkey), not Pakistan 2025.

Conclusion / Explanation:
Zee News on May 9 showed an image of what it claimed was a Pakistani pilot captured by the Indian Army. The same image is used by BJP MLA from Jabalpur, Panagar, Sushil Kumar Tiwari alias Indu Bhaiya, Abhishek Asthana who runs the X handle @GabbbarSingh, BJP activist Jitendra Pratap Singh and X handle @IndiaWarMonitor also use this picture.

Reverse search shows that this image was first uploaded on the Getty Images website on December 12, 2016. This photograph was taken by AFP journalist Ilyas Akengin. It shows Turkish military personnel safely evacuating a pilot from a plane near a crashed Turkish F16 fighter jet on December 12, 2016.

https://www.gettyimages.com/detail/news-photo/turkish-millitary-personnel-arrive-near-a-turkish-f16-war-news-photo/629360810?adppopup=true

22. Paraglider Video Passed Off as Captured Pilot

Claim:

"Video of pilot stuck in wires shared as PAF pilot."

Reality:

Actually a 2021 video of a paraglider in Himachal Pradesh, India.

Conclusion / Explanation:

A video of a paraglider stuck in wires in Himachal Pradesh (2021) was shared as a Pakistani pilot being caught. This example underscores how unrelated mishaps are repackaged to fit wartime narratives.

This video was shared by X user @M_ismail_pak on May 10. viewed by over half a million times and retwitted more the thousand times. Orign of this video is from a video from Manali, Himachal Pradesh which shows a paraglider stuck in electric wires.

23. Mumbai Truck Fire Claimed as Sialkot Strike

Claim:
Video titled *"Revenge of Poonch – smoke in Sialkot, the Indian army is fully ready. This time nothing will be forgiven"* shows the Indian attack on Sialkot.

Reality:
The video was actually from a **truck accident in Mumbai** and had no relation to the conflict or Sialkot.

Conclusion / Explanation:
Old accident footage was misrepresented to stoke nationalist sentiment and simulate battlefield success.

A video of a truck fire in Mumbai was falsely circulated on social media on May 8, 2025, under the caption "Revenge of Poonch" as proof of Indian strikes in Sialkot. This rebranding of civilian accidents reflects the recklessness of wartime misinformation.

बदला - सियालकोट में धआं धंआ भारतीय सेना फल मड में है। इस बार माफ नहीं किया

Courtesy AFP Factcheck

24. Beirut Explosion Reused as 2025 Conflict Footage

Claim:
A viral video shows a massive explosion during the current war between Pakistan and India.

Reality:
The clip was from the **2020 Beirut port explosion**, not from any 2025 military activity.

Conclusion / Explanation:
Recycled footage from unrelated international events was falsely contextualized to fabricate the scale of violence.

Footage of the 2020 Beirut port explosion was circulated on social media as evidence of India-Pakistan warfare. The post features a six-second clip of a major explosion leveling buildings along a street. The recycled visuals were intended to dramatize the conflict by falsely showing large-scale destruction.

Courtesy AFP Factcheck

25. Chile Wildfire Footage Claimed as Sialkot Bombing

Claim:
A social media post claimed: *"If there is a shortage of firecrackers, take more from us. Live from Sialkot,"* showing night-time fire visuals.

Reality:
The footage was from the **2024 wildfires in Chile**, not from Sialkot.

Conclusion / Explanation:
Flame visuals used for emotional manipulation, falsely connected to active war scenes.

A video showing flames lighting up the night sky was shared as evidence of attacks in Sialkot. It was actually from the 2024 wildfires in Chile. Misappropriating disaster footage reveals a common tactic: equating natural calamities with wartime devastation.

Courtesy AFP Factcheck

26. Ukraine Drone Crash Cropped to Imply Lahore Hit

Claim:
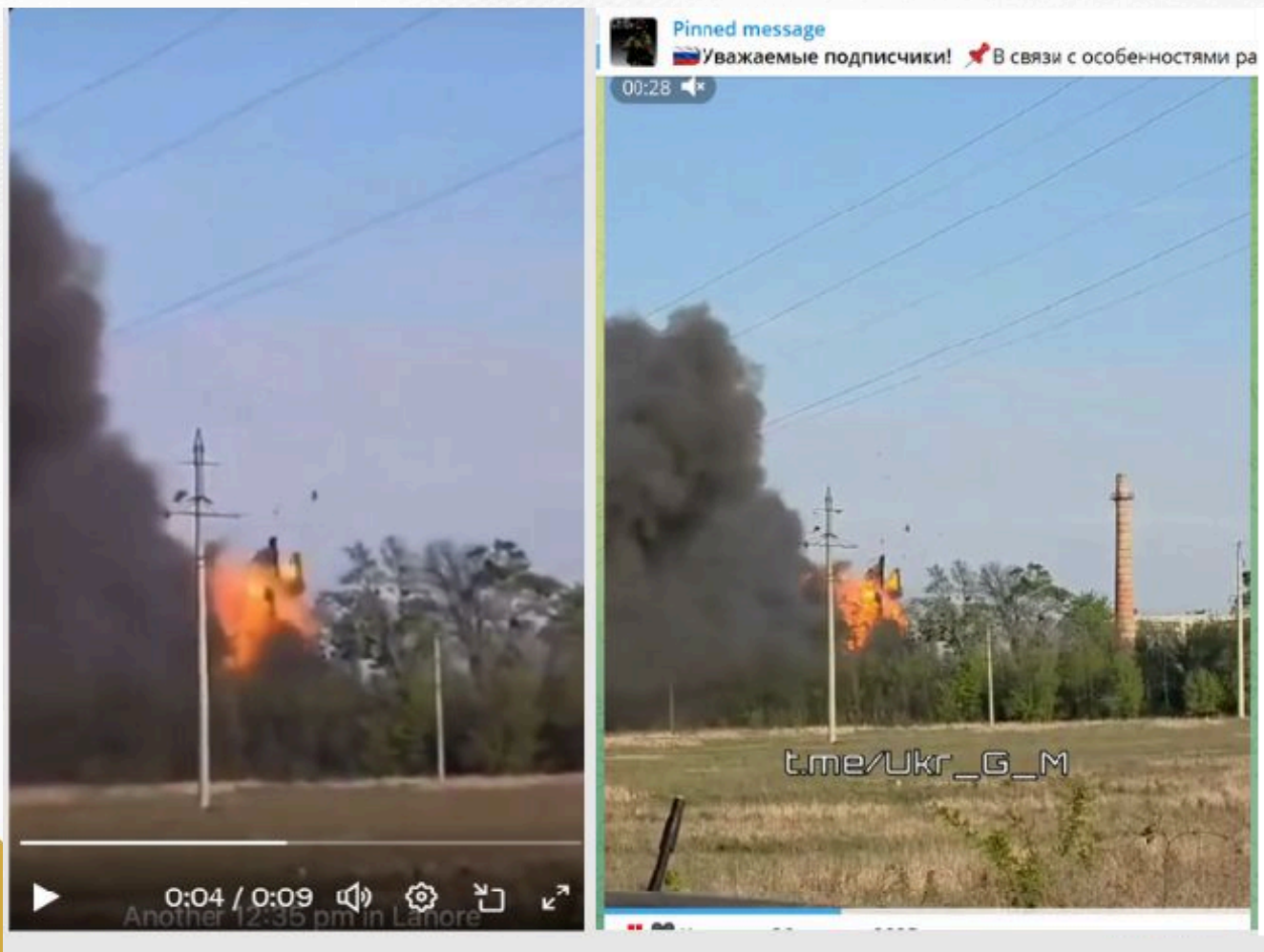Shortened video of a drone hitting Lahore used as proof of a successful Indian strike.

Reality:
The original full-length video was from Ukraine's Kharkiv region (April 26, 2025) and unrelated to the India-Pakistan conflict.

Conclusion / Explanation:
Selective video editing was used to manufacture false battlefield visuals.

A cropped video from Kharkiv, Ukraine (April 2025), was repackaged to suggest a drone hit Lahore. The intentional editing and mislabeling aimed to simulate a high-impact strike on Pakistani soil.

27. False Foreign Intervention via Jaipur Airport

Claim:

US and Israeli military planes landed in Jaipur, India, as part of the war effort.

Reality:
A **US Air Force C-17 was diverted to Jaipur** due to congestion at Delhi Airport. No military alliance operation or Israeli involvement was confirmed.

Conclusion / Explanation:
Logistical flight redirection was misrepresented to suggest foreign intervention and escalate tensions.

Reports claimed that U.S. and Israeli military planes landed in Jaipur to assist India. In reality, a U.S. Air Force C-17 was only diverted due to congestion. The false claim attempted to show global support where none existed.

US AIR FORCE PLANE LANDS IN JAIPUR, INDIA ALONGWITH ISRAEL MILITARY PLANES

28. Fake Image Used During Ministry of Defense Briefing

Claim:

During a press interaction led by Colonel Sophia Qureshi at India's Ministry of Defense, official visuals were presented as evidence of successful military operations during the May 2025 conflict.

Reality:

At least one of the images shown was found to be fabricated or manipulated, and was flagged as fake by multiple Indian fact-checking organizations. The image lacked verifiable metadata and showed signs of digital alteration, undermining its authenticity.

Conclusion:

The use of doctored visuals in an official government briefing raises serious concerns about transparency and credibility. Even unintentional dissemination of false imagery by state institutions can erode public trust and fuel misinformation. This incident underscores the critical need for rigorous media verification standards, especially during wartime communication.

29. Fake Video of Indian Female Pilot Arrest

Claim:
A video claims the **arrest of an Indian lady pilot** by Pakistan.

Reality:
There is **no official confirmation** from either side, and the visuals used were not verified as authentic or current.

Conclusion:
Unverified claim used to boost morale and imply tactical superiority without evidence.

Unverified footage claimed a female Indian pilot was captured by Pakistani forces. No confirmation came from Indian or Pakistani officials. The emotional resonance of capturing a woman pilot was exploited for propagandistic gain.

30. Fabricated Daily Telegraph Cover Praising PAF

Claim:
The Daily Telegraph published a piece calling Pakistan Air Force the *"Undisputed King of the Skies."*

Reality:
There is no such article from The Daily Telegraph. The layout was faked and poorly constructed, with typos and incorrect formatting.

Conclusion / Explanation:
A forged front page allegedly from *The Daily Telegraph* declared Pakistan Air Force the "King of the Skies." This fake image had obvious typos and layout flaws, yet went viral. This illustrates how fabricated foreign endorsements are used to boost morale and legitimacy.

This image is widely circulated in social media, Pakistan's mainstream television channels use this and the same is quoted in members of National Assembly members during the session. No one bothered to verify it from the original resource.

31. Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium 'Destroyed' in Airstrike

Claim:
Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium was destroyed in an Indian air strike during the conflict.

Reality:
No such destruction occurred. The actual incident involved a small drone being shot down near the stadium, causing minor disruption but no damage to the stadium itself. There were no casualties or structural harm.
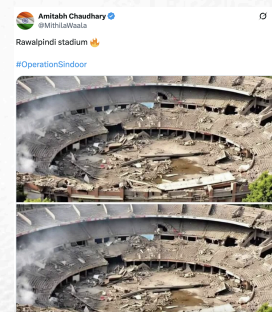
Conclusion / Explanation:
During the peak of the conflict, a viral social media post falsely claimed that Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium had been destroyed in an Indian airstrike, complete with doctored visuals of heavy smoke and structural damage. The claim quickly gained traction, being widely shared across platforms and amplified by war-related hashtags.

X handle post images of Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium., got more then llion views.
https://x.com/MithilaWaala/status/1921763250305216703?t=2cZcaO
EGdggTFO2lkGcRvg&s=08

These are fake and computer generated images

In reality, what actually occurred was a minor drone incident—a small unmanned aerial vehicle was shot down near the stadium, causing no structural damage or casualties.

This exaggerated and misleading claim exemplifies how partial truths—such as an isolated drone encounter—are amplified and distorted into dramatic battlefield narratives. It demonstrates the dangerous ease with which routine security incidents can be misrepresented to provoke fear, bolster retaliatory sentiment, or simulate high-value military successes.

Conclusion

The May 2025 conflict between India and Pakistan did not just unfold across borders and airspace—it erupted simultaneously across screens, timelines, and broadcasts. As this report has shown, the information domain became an active battlefield, weaponized through deliberate disinformation, doctored media, and coordinated narrative manipulation. The scale, speed, and sophistication of fake news—amplified by mainstream and social media alike—highlight a deeply troubling trend: truth in wartime is now fragile, contested, and dangerously disposable.

From fake satellite imagery and AI-generated videos to recycled war footage and baseless headlines, the conflict saw 31 major disinformation events, many of which went viral before being debunked. In numerous cases, media institutions, political actors, and digital influencers contributed to the spread—intentionally or through negligence—undermining the public's ability to access factual information at a time when it was most needed.

The findings of this report underscore that disinformation is not just a communications problem—it is a national security threat. If left unchecked, it can provoke miscalculated military responses, incite public panic, fracture international diplomacy, and erode institutional trust.

Recommendations

To mitigate the spread and impact of disinformation during future conflicts, this report recommends the following measures:

1. Institutional Media Accountability

- Establish editorial review protocols during crises.
- Mandate disclaimer labels for simulations, animations, and AI-generated content.
- Impose penalties for broadcasting unverified war claims.

2. Real-Time Cross-Border Fact-Checking

- Develop bilateral or multilateral platforms for joint verification of high-impact media claims.
- Encourage cooperation between civil society fact-checking organizations in South Asia.

3. Platform Responsibility

- Social media companies must invest in AI-detection tools to identify synthetic media and flag reused footage.
- Algorithms should deprioritize content flagged as unverifiable or recycled.

4. Public Digital Literacy Campaigns

- Launch targeted campaigns to help citizens differentiate between authentic news and propaganda, especially during periods of heightened tension.
- Promote media literacy in schools, universities, and through public service broadcasts.

5. Government Transparency

- Both India and Pakistan must commit to timely, transparent briefings during conflict, to counteract the void that misinformation often fills.
- Ministries of Defense and Foreign Affairs should release standardized verification bulletins to address or dismiss viral claims.