

1. Turkey's Drones and Pakistan's Attack on India

Why in News?

Pakistan's Drone Offensive and India's Findings

On the night of May 8–9, Pakistan launched a large-scale drone attack on 36 military and civilian sites across India's western border. Indian officials revealed that 300–400 drones were used in this operation. A preliminary forensic probe indicates that many of these drones were Turkish-made Songar armed drones, produced by the defense company Asisguard.

The Songar is Turkey's first indigenous armed drone, designed for low-intensity conflict. It was delivered to the Turkish Armed Forces in 2020 and is now confirmed to be part of Pakistan's arsenal.



Pakistan-Turkey Military Ties: A Deepening Alliance

The use of Turkish drones by Pakistan is not accidental—it reflects deep and growing defense cooperation between the two countries.

- Turkey is Pakistan's second-largest arms supplier after China.
- The two nations have a long-standing military partnership through

mechanisms like the Pakistan-Turkey High-Level Strategic Cooperation Council.

- In recent years, Pakistan has acquired:
 - Bayraktar TB2 drones
 - Kemankes cruise missiles
 - Turkish naval engineering company designed naval corvettes (small warship)
 - Submarine upgrades
- Collaborations between Pakistani and Turkish defense firms, such as Baykar (Turkish defence firm) and NASTP (National Aerospace Science and Technology Park, based in Pakistan), have also increased, enhancing Pakistan's drone and aerospace capabilities.

Turkey's Political Support for Pakistan

Turkey hasn't just helped Pakistan militarily—it has also been one of its most vocal international supporters, especially on the Kashmir issue.

- Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has regularly backed Pakistan's stance on Kashmir.

- After India's recent strike on terror sites in Pakistan and PoK, Erdogan called PM Shehbaz Sharif to express solidarity, praising Pakistan's "calm and restrained policies."
- During the ongoing crisis, Pakistan's parliament thanked Turkey, China, and Azerbaijan for their open support.

Turkey was the only West Asian country to condemn India's Operation Sindoor, further underlining its alignment with Islamabad.

Geopolitical Context: Why Turkey Backs Pakistan

The Turkey-Pakistan alliance is rooted in shared Islamic identity, Cold War-era alliances, and strategic competition with Gulf rivals like Saudi Arabia and the UAE, both of whom are now closer to India.

- Ideological alignment: Both Erdogan and past Pakistani leaders have promoted political Islam.
- Strategic competition: Turkey's outreach to Pakistan is partly to offset Saudi dominance in the Muslim world.
- Naval cooperation: Turkey is expanding its influence in the Indian Ocean Region, aligning closely with Pakistan's navy.

Erdogan's frequent visits to Pakistan and joint initiatives reflect a long-term vision for Turkey to play a bigger role in South Asia.

India's Response and Strategic Concerns

For India, Turkey's growing military and political support to Pakistan is a serious concern.

- The use of Turkish drones in direct attacks on Indian soil is seen as a red flag.
- India has traditionally enjoyed good ties with most West Asian nations, but Turkey remains an exception, often taking hostile positions.
- New Delhi is adjusting its geopolitical and defense strategies to counter the Pakistan-Turkey nexus while strengthening ties with the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and other partners.

Conclusion

Pakistan's use of Turkish Songar drones in the recent cross-border attack underlines a dangerous escalation in the region—powered by foreign military support and deep strategic ties. While India successfully repelled the incursion, the evolving defense partnership between Turkey and Pakistan poses long-term security and geopolitical challenges for New Delhi.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper II; International Relations

Source: Indian Express & The Hindu

2. What is the "Fog of War"?

Meaning

The "fog of war" refers to the confusion and lack of clarity that often surrounds military conflicts. It includes the challenges in getting accurate information during such times, especially regarding the strength, movements, and intentions of enemy forces.

Origin of the Term



The phrase was first used in 1896 by British Colonel Lonsdale Augustus Hale, who described the term as the “state of ignorance” faced by military commanders in understanding real-time battlefield conditions.

Later, the U.S. armed forces adopted the term to describe operational difficulties—including intelligence gaps and information warfare—that can affect decision-making during war.

Why is “Fog of War” in the News Now?

The term is being widely used again due to the escalating tensions between India and Pakistan. Analysts and media commentators are invoking it to highlight the confusion and uncertainty surrounding recent developments, including both military actions and the information being circulated about them.

The Role of Misinformation

The “fog of war” today is not limited to the battlefield. It also applies to the spread of false or misleading information, especially on social media platforms.

Examples include:

- AI-generated videos
- Old videos reused with misleading captions
- Completely fake news stories

Some of these false claims include:

- ATMs being shut down across India
- A nationwide ban on entering Indian airports

How is the Government Responding?

To tackle the surge in misinformation:

- The Press Information Bureau’s (PIB) fact-check unit is actively debunking fake claims.
- The Indian government has used its legal powers to block online content it considers misleading or harmful.
- Several Pakistani news accounts have been blocked in India.
- X (formerly Twitter), owned by Elon Musk, announced it has complied with Indian government orders to remove over 8,000 accounts, including those of international news outlets and influential users.

Why It Matters

During such tense periods, accurate information becomes both vital and scarce. The combination of real-world conflict and online misinformation deepens the uncertainty, making it difficult even for experts to distinguish fact from fiction in real-time.

This is the modern “fog of war”—not just about what’s happening on the battlefield, but also about what people believe is happening.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper II; International Relations

Source: Indian Express

3. Why Did the IMF Give Money to Pakistan?

Why in News?



On May 9, 2025, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved a loan of \$1 billion (around ₹8,500 crore) to Pakistan. This is part of a larger \$7 billion loan program called the Extended Fund Facility (EFF), which was started in September 2024. So far, Pakistan has received \$2.1 billion from this program.

In addition, the IMF also approved a new loan of \$1.4 billion under a separate program called the Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF).

What Is the EFF? Is It a Loan or a Grant?

- The EFF is a loan, not a grant or aid.
- It is designed to help countries that cannot pay for essential imports (like fuel or food) due to serious structural problems in their economy.
- These problems may include:
 - Poor infrastructure
 - Weak education and health systems
 - High government debt
 - Underdeveloped financial systems

Since fixing these issues takes time, the IMF gives a longer period for countries to repay EFF loans.

Why Does Pakistan Qualify for the EFF?

Pakistan's economy has weakened over the decades. Despite being a nuclear power, its economic indicators have worsened:

- GDP is stagnant: In 2023, Pakistan's GDP was \$338 billion, which is lower than in 2017.
- Inflation is very high: Prices have more than doubled since 2019.
- Major economic issues:
 - Poor economic planning
 - High population growth
 - Low savings and investments
 - Weak infrastructure
 - Limited female participation in the workforce

Pakistan has borrowed not only from the IMF (28 loans in 35 years) but also from:

- China
- Saudi Arabia
- UAE

- Asian Development Bank
- Islamic Development Bank
- And several other global institutions

Why Did the IMF Approve the Latest Loan Now?

The IMF's loan was not automatic — it was approved after a detailed review of Pakistan's economic policies. The IMF said:

- Pakistan has made progress in stabilising its economy.
- Inflation has dropped sharply, hitting just 0.3% in April 2025.
- Foreign exchange reserves have improved.
- The central bank was able to cut interest rates due to better economic conditions.
- The government's 2025 budget includes key reforms, such as introducing an Agricultural Income Tax, which helped regain international confidence.

India's Response

India expressed strong objections to the IMF's decision, especially because of recent military tensions between India and Pakistan. India:

- Abstained from voting on the loan (countries cannot vote "No").
- Highlighted Pakistan's poor track record with IMF loans.
- Warned that such funds could be misused, possibly even for state-sponsored terrorism.

Conclusion

Pakistan continues to rely heavily on international loans due to deep-rooted economic challenges. The IMF's latest approval reflects some improvement in economic management, but long-term reforms are essential if Pakistan is to avoid repeated financial crises.

Relevance: GS Prelims & Mains Paper II; International Organisations

Source: Indian Express

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