

Operation Bunyan Al Marsoos: The Unbreakable Wall and a Symbol of National Cohesion in Pakistan

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Abstract

Operation Bunyan al-Marsoos, conceived in the aftermath of the Pahalgam incident and India's aggressive posturing, stands as one of the most defining chapters in Pakistan's recent history. Drawing its name and inspiration from the Qur'anic metaphor of the "Unbreakable Wall," the operation was more than a military countermeasure; it was a manifestation of Pakistan's ideological strength, strategic foresight, and unwavering national spirit. Rooted in faith and a collective sense of duty, it mobilized the entire nation, bridging divides across political parties, provinces, ethnicities, and communities. This research paper aims to analyze the extraordinary impact of Operation Bunyan al Marsoos on National cohesion of Pakistan when it saw long-standing political adversaries uniting under a single banner, prioritizing sovereignty and national dignity over partisan interests. Further, the question like how Public sentiment surged to unprecedented levels, with citizens demonstrating their trust and solidarity toward the armed forces and state institutions, reinforcing a shared identity that transcended regional and sectarian boundaries.

On the strategic front, Operation Bunyan al-Marsoos marked a turning point in Pakistan's defense posture. It combined military readiness with cyber defense, strategic communication, and information warfare to counter Indian narratives internationally. Thus, through qualitative approach it has been inferred that at the heart of operation's success was unprecedented national cohesion: political leaders, state institutions, media, and the public stood united in purpose, projecting a single voice against external aggression. This unity not only amplified Pakistan's deterrence message but also enhanced its global image as a responsible yet capable power, proving that true strength lies in the fusion of national solidarity, discipline, and moral resolve.

Keywords: *Operation Bunyan al Marsoos, National Cohesion, Pakistan Ideology, Political Leader, Cyber Defense,*

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Introduction

History has demonstrated that a nation's true strength is tested not only by external threats but also by the internal force that keeps it together. Following a terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Indian-administered Kashmir, in April 2025, Pakistan found itself at a crossroads, facing both domestic uncertainty and hostility from

from across the border. It was during this time of increased tension that the term Operation Bunyan al-Marsoos entered the national discourse, not only as a defense operation but also as a defining metaphor: the Unbreakable Wall. (Al Jazeera, 2025)

The idea of an “**Unbreakable Wall**” represented more than just military readiness; it reflected a deeper national fabric strengthened by purpose, resolve, and identity. With the primary concern of how national cohesion is forged, expressed, and symbolized in times of national crisis, this article explores how Operation Bunyan al-Marsoos functioned as more than just a strategic response to Indian aggression; it became a visual and conceptual representation of national cohesion where provinces, political institutions, and communities stood aligned like tightly joined bricks of a wall, resilient against pressure. Using descriptive and analytical methods, the research looks at how the story of an unbreakable wall became a force of national alignment that united political actors, bridged provincial divides, and re-energized public sentiment. Although the operation was military in nature, it became a national metaphor illustrating that Pakistan is not bound by the borders but also by the architecture of collective will. (Danopoulos et al, 2004)

Background

Operation Bunyan al-Marsoos was launched by Pakistan on May 10, 2025, as a strategic and defensive military response to a rapid escalation of tensions with India. The roots of the conflict lie in the highly controversial Pahalgam incident, which many analysts and observers have described as a false flag operation orchestrated by India. This event, which involved a deadly attack on civilians allegedly tourists or local bystanders in the sensitive region of Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK), immediately triggered a wave of accusations from Indian authorities, blaming Pakistan-backed militants without any verifiable investigation. The incident raised widespread suspicion due to its timing, which coincided with major diplomatic events, including visits by the U.S. Vice President to India and Prime Minister Modi's tour of Saudi

Arabia. This led critics to believe the event was deliberately staged to shift global focus, portray India as a victim of cross-border terrorism, and rally international sympathy against Pakistan. Further suspicion grew when independent media access and international observers were denied entry to the area, and Indian mainstream media rapidly amplified the government's narrative, escalating nationalist fervor and justifying subsequent military actions.

India refused to talk and launched missile and drone strikes on many Pakistani military installations and civilian centers, saying it was a preemptive strike, despite Pakistan's categorical denial of involvement and demands for an unbiased international probe. This attack was viewed as a clear infringement of Pakistani sovereignty and was highly denounced throughout the country. Under the direction of General Asim Munir, the Pakistani military initiated a prearranged rapid response plan, which resulted in the start of Operation Bunyan al-Marsoos, which was named after the Qur'anic phrase meaning "Unbreakable Wall." The operation was intended to represent strategic resolve and national unity (Paradigm shift ,2025)

As a result, the Pahalgam episode was the direct result of a larger trend in which India sought to externalize its internal problems, particularly those related to the turmoil in Kashmir. In addition to being well-calculated and professional, Pakistan's response through Operation Bunyan al-Marsoos sent a strong message that, despite its commitment to peace, it will not hold back from using force in proportion to the threat to its territorial integrity and the lives of civilians.

Literature Review

National unity is often tested and reinforced during times of external conflict, with military operations becoming instruments of national consolidation and collective identity. In Pakistan, the armed forces have played a pivotal role in shaping narratives of patriotism, ideological resilience, and unity (Rizvi, 2000; Siddiqa, 2007).

The use of religious symbolism, such as Qur'anic terminology like "Bunyan al-Marsoos" (The Solid Structure), reflects a deliberate effort to link military strength with Islamic values and spiritual resolve (Esposito & Voll, 2001).

This synthesis of faith and defense reinforces public confidence and fosters emotional alignment across diverse regions and communities. According to Mueller (1970), the "rally-around-the-flag" effect describes how perceived external dangers inspire short-term national unity, quell internal dissension, and garner widespread popular support. Operation Bunyan - Al - Marsoos exemplifies

the solid structured and unbreakable wall in Pakistan . The resilience and strength seen in this operation same as in Kargil War(1999) and Pulwama incident(2019) that demonstrates the military's ability to rally the nation under one flag that symbolizes the stability and patriotism . This operation demonstrates that the external aggression galvanizes through collective national identity. Operation Bunyan – Al – Marsoos demonstrates the nations determination to protect the nation's pride and sovereignty at international forums . The operation brought political actors together, and overcame provincial boundaries by appealing to both Islamic ideals and patriotic resolve. The research on conflict-driven solidarity also emphasizes how external threats can temporarily unify diverse groups by diminishing and suspending the ethnic, political, and regional divisions, and promoting internal unity among them and they also respects there military after observing the hardships that our military faces to protect there nation from enemy (Hashmi, 2013; Fair, 2018).

Operation Bunyan al-Marsoos in Pakistan evolved from a military reaction to a cultural and political symbol of resiliency that was widely reflected in public discourse and media accounts. This shows that such operations create collective memory, strengthen national identity, and promote long-term cohesion in such emergency crises where the security of the citizens under the danger . However, much of the existing literature overlooks how military operations evolve into enduring symbols of ideological and national unity, particularly in multi-ethnic states like Pakistan. Our study investigates that how this remarkable Marke – Haq became a unifying metaphor that highlighting its role in fostering a collective sense of purpose among Pakistanis through shared Islamic identity and patriotic values.

Research Methodology

In order to fully evaluate the impact of Operation Bunyan al-Marsoos, it is necessary to examine how a military operation became a living representation of national cohesion rather than merely evaluating its tactics on the battlefield. This study utilizes the qualitative , analytical and descriptive method for the deep and comprehensive method of understanding the operation's dual nature ,its symbolic significance and operational dynamics . The research draws on diverse resources from media reports, Think Tanks analyses and as well as peer reviewed literature on islamic identity and national integration and military symbolism ensuring a rigorous analyses of operation's impact .

To ensure accuracy ,the findings were cross checked through various reliable and authentic sources to guarantee their reliability and objectivity that provide a solid evidence based conclusion rather than relying on personal opinion. This methodological integration of descriptive and analytical method sheds light on Operation Bunyan -Al- Marsoos and captures how this operation transcended its military goals in fostering ideological tenacity ,ultimately strenghtening Pakistan's unity and bolstering the nation's resolve during the time of crisis .

Operation Bunyan - Al- Marsoos : The National Resolve In Action

Operation Bunyan - Al- Marsoos launched on 10 May ,2025 was a robust military reaction that has been recognized as one of the most substantial in Pakistan's recent history. The operation which was planned as a calculated and defensive response to India's missile and drone strikes after the contentious Pahalgam incident, served as a symbol of Pakistan's unity as well as a demonstration of its military readiness. This action, in contrast to earlier escalations, was carried out in accordance to the pre- planned rapid response strategy rather than being a impulsive reaction .The operation's military dimension was notable for its accuracy and justification military given the severity of India's aggression .

In the hours following the Pahalgam incident, India launched a series of missile and drone strikes targeting Pakistan's military bases and urban centers. Several key airbases, including those in Bahawalpur and Multan, came under heavy fire, resulting in damage to aircraft hangars and radar installations. Drone swarms targeted communication towers and civilian infrastructure in Lahore and Sialkot, leaving entire neighborhoods without power for days. Tragically, dozens of civilians were killed, while hundreds were injured, many of them women and children. Hospitals in affected areas reported overwhelming casualties, while schools and marketplaces were temporarily shut down due to security concerns. Strikes were strongly denounced as an unwarranted escalation and a flagrant violation of sovereignty throughout Pakistan. The Pakistan Air Force launched 112 aircraft, including cutting-edge JF-17 Block III fighters and F-16s, within hours of India's opening attack, in what commentators subsequently referred to as one of the biggest aerial battles of the twenty-first century. Pakistan prevented significant damage to civilian areas by successfully neutralizing 77 hostile drones using a combination of ballistic strikes and electronic jamming. At the same time, most of India's BrahMos and surface-to-surface missiles, including a number of hypersonic versions, were intercepted by the nation's integrated air defense systems.Later,

independent satellite information verified that 26 key Indian military locations, including radar installations, command centers, and missile stockpiles, were the focus of Pakistan's retaliatory strikes. (Al Jazeera ,2025)

Pakistan's military capabilities extended beyond conventional combat and showcased significant proficiency ,highlighting its adaptability. Coordinated digital offensives by cyber units disabled official government portals and interfered with Indian intelligence agencies' operational networks. By countering India's propaganda and demonstrating advanced electronic warfare capabilities Pakistan solidifies its emerging status as a key player . In addition, a psychological campaign led by state media and promoted online emphasized Pakistan's defensive stance and dedication to peace, refuting India's victimization narrative. Beyond its military objectives ,the operation success was clearly measured by its impact that projected in a positive manner both with Pakistan and at global level. Our undefined military had play their significant role both in the time of peace and also had the will and courage to act forcefully for Pakistan during the time of crisis and at that time when our country threatened by external force. Pakistan's public under the emotion of patriotism gave their intense emotions for their military and raise the standards of military . This multifaceted operation showcase the nation's resolve and unity and country's resilience in the face of adversity through its carefully crafted strategic and symbolic components . From busy streets of Karachi to the alpine valleys of Gilgit-Baltistan, common people nationwide demonstrated their support for the military at demonstrations and prayer meetings. Large digital displays in public squares in Lahore and Islamabad showed real-time battlefield updates, attracting masses of people who waved the national flag and yelled patriotic slogans. The sense of togetherness was heightened by the trending hashtags **#UnbreakableWall** and **#PakistanUnited** on social media sites like Facebook and Twitter. Universities and schools conducted special assemblies to honor the soldiers, and citizens even arranged blood drives for those hurt in the Indian strikes. The collective response reflected not just anger at India's aggression, but pride in Pakistan's decisive defense. Analysts compared this wave of unity to the national mood during the 1965 war, noting that the public's resilience became an unspoken moral weapon that strengthened the armed forces resolve.(Reuters,2025)

The crisis also brought about unprecedented political and provincial unity, which was equally important. The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), and Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP), which are sometimes sharply divided, united in Parliament to

approve a resolution endorsing Operation Bunyan al-Marsoos. Pakistan's sovereignty transcends partisan lines, according to leaders who had been embroiled in political disagreements for months. The provinces put aside long-standing regional and ethnic grievances. Baloch leaders in Quetta openly denounced Indian invasion and vowed to fully support the military, while the provincial parliament of Sindh held special sessions emphasizing the importance of national unity. Tribal elders in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa organized jirgas to show support for the army and to emphasize that guarding Pakistan's borders was their shared duty. The sight of provinces rallying as one action sent a resounding message to the international community Pakistan strength lay not only in its military might but also in the unity of its people.(Castillo,2014)

The media played a decisive role in shaping public understanding and mobilizing national sentiment during Operation Bunyan al-Marsoos. Pakistani electronic and digital media provided round-the-clock coverage, ensuring that citizens remained informed about the unfolding events. Major channels such as PTV News, ARY, and Geo News ran continuous updates, broadcasting visuals of the Pakistan Air Force's precision strikes and the successful interception of Indian missiles. According to the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA), television viewership surged by nearly 40% during the first 48 hours of the conflict, reflecting the public's hunger for credible updates. Print media outlets, including Dawn and The News International, ran special supplements emphasizing national unity, while social media platforms amplified patriotic messaging. Hashtags like **# Bunyan-Al-Marsoos** and **#PakistanDefends** trended globally, reaching millions within hours and countering Indian propaganda. International journalists from Al Jazeera, TRT World, and Reuters highlighted Pakistan's defensive stance, reinforcing its image as a victim of aggression rather than a provocateur.

Indian media, in sharp contrast, was accused of spreading misinformation and stoking anti-Pakistan hysteria. Channels like Republic TV and Zee News were quick to label the Pahalgam incident as "Pakistan-sponsored terrorism" without providing credible evidence. False stories, such as inflated claims that Pakistani fighter jets were shot down and civilian infrastructure was destroyed, flooded Indian news cycles and were later shown to be untrue by independent fact-checking organizations. According to a report by the BBC Disinformation Unit, several viral videos circulated in Indian media were actually recycled footage from unrelated conflicts in Syria and Afghanistan. These false narratives not only misled the Indian public but also attempted to justify India's preemptive strikes Pakistani media outlets and international observers actively

refuted these claims, presenting radar data, satellite imagery, and live footage to validate Pakistan's version of events, thereby manipulating nationalist fervor. This transparency exposed the shortcomings in India's information strategy and strengthened domestic trust. In the end, the battle of narrative became significant as the military confrontation itself, with Pakistan succeeding in projecting unity and credibility in the global arena.

The world community's awareness of the serious dangers posed by the Indo-Pak conflict, particularly between two nuclear-armed governments, was demonstrated by the international response to Operation Bunyan al-Marsoos. The United States acknowledged Pakistan's defensive posture in private but urged both countries to use moderation. The U.S. State Department demanded an "immediate cessation of hostilities" in a news briefing on May 12, 2025, stressing that "credible evidence and independent investigations" were required before determining who was responsible for the Pahalgam disaster. Backchannel diplomacy was also used by US officials to warn India against aggression. The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) convened an emergency session, during which several member states, including Saudi Arabia and Malaysia, expressed deep concern over Indian aggression in Kashmir and extended moral and diplomatic support to Pakistan. Notably, despite the volatility of the situation, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) continued the release of its scheduled financial tranche to Pakistan, signaling international confidence in the country's economic stability and governance during the crisis. (The Diplomat 2025, July).

Critical Implications: Reinforcing National Cohesion and Strategic Resilience

Operation Bunyan -Al-Marsoos most important impact is its revolutionary impact on Pakistan's unity as a nation. Through bringing people together from different areas, ethnic groups, and political ideologies, the operation transformed the concept of collective identification into a long-lasting national consciousness rather than a fleeting sense of patriotism. Previously ideologically split political parties put aside their differences and united in favor of the government and its military establishment. Even though they came from different backgrounds, the people of Karachi, Lahore, Quetta, and Peshawar expressed a common message of solidarity that was evocative of the early years of Pakistan's fight for survival. This unity's theological and moral aspects were strengthened by Bunyan al-Marsoos' symbolism, which was derived from Qur'anic imagery. It also gave it an ideological durability. This unprecedented national alignment served as proof that

external aggression can become a catalyst for internal consolidation, ensuring that Pakistan presented itself to the world as one resilient, indivisible entity.

Beyond its immediate military and diplomatic outcomes, Operation Bunyan al-Marsoos also reshaped the narrative of Pakistan's internal resilience in the face of sustained hybrid threats ,beyond its immediate military and diplomatic outcomes It highlighted how strategic communication, community engagement, and mobilization of civil society could amplify the effects of a defensive operation far beyond the battlefield. Media coverage, both traditional and digital, became a unifying channel for reinforcing the operation's symbolism and countering hostile propaganda. Educational institutions, religious leaders, and local community networks played a vital role in instilling the message that national security is not the responsibility of the armed forces alone but a shared duty of every citizen. By embedding the operation's lessons into the public consciousness, Pakistan not only strengthened its immediate defenses but also laid the foundation for a more informed and resilient society capable of responding to future challenges with unity and resolve.

The operation's contribution to enhancing Pakistan's strategic adaptability on the international scene was equally significant. Pakistan proved its ability to take measured but firm action by successfully defeating Indian strikes, protecting its sovereignty, and exposing the suspect credibility of Indian assertions. In addition to raising spirits at home, this demonstrated to the world that Pakistan could protect itself without resorting to needless escalation. The operation's hybrid strategy, which combined cyber security, psychological fortitude, and military precision, established a new benchmark for Pakistan's defense policy and demonstrated the nation's readiness in a time of complex conflict .The main takeaway from Operation Bunyan al-Marsoos is that it strengthened Pakistan's reputation as a nation with a strong military and a common ideology. It demonstrated that genuine power comes from the firm determination of a unified people bonded by faith, patriotism, and a shared goal for peace with dignity, not only from sophisticated weapons.

Recommendations

To sustain the unity inspired by Operation Bunyan al-Marsoos, government and military leaders must have two way conversation that enhances the collaboration among themselves and both pursue their collective work for citizens

Incorporating the history and importance of military operations like Bunyan al-Marsoos into educational curricula can cultivate patriotism and a strong collective identity among the youth. This foundation will help nurture future generations who are committed to national solidarity and resilience.

Media outlets should report on military actions responsibly, emphasizing themes of strength, resilience, and unity without political bias. Responsible coverage can shape positive public opinion and discourage divisive narratives that threaten social cohesion.

Political leaders across party lines need to engage in inclusive dialogue and cooperative efforts to support national defense initiatives. Such bipartisan support transforms temporary symbolic unity into a lasting political consensus that strengthens the country's fabric.

Religious and cultural symbolism used in military communications should be handled with sensitivity to respect Pakistan's diverse ethnic and religious groups. Ensuring inclusivity in these messages helps foster a sense of belonging and shared values among all citizens.

Community outreach programs that connect the armed forces with local populations can build trust by mutual understanding. These grassroots efforts encourage public support for national unity, extending cohesion beyond formal political and military spheres.

Conclusion

In a significant moment for Pakistan Operation Bunyan al-Marsoos became a defining force that showcased the military's strength and strategic abilities. The operation, which was initiated in the wake of the Pahalgam event and the Indian onslaught that followed, represented more than just a military reaction; it exemplified the spirit of the "Unbreakable Wall," as described in the Qur'an. Pakistan's strength does not only depend upon the military but also the visions of the public and the perceptions of their citizens also give the courage to their military that they are ready for their country any time of crises and external threats. In spite of this fact that there are political differences and ethnic issues but all provinces and political parties rally under one flag. They appreciate the work of the military. The operation became a story of togetherness that resonated throughout the nation as a result of the state, people, and institutions coming together. Beyond its boundaries, Pakistan's reputation as a resolute yet peaceful country was molded by Operation Bunyan al-Marsoos. Pakistan's persistent demands for unbiased investigations and its calm but firm military reaction garnered considerable attention from the international community, including the United

States and other important players, despite attempts by Indian media to slant the story through propaganda(The Washington Post,2025) .

The role played by local media was also remarkable and appreciating which promoted a sense of unity among the populace, shared tales of sacrifice, and amplified citizen voices. make The common natipnal.identity and the unity of its people are moral strength enabling Pakistan to overcome adversity The unity of citizens is the moral strength for their military to fight against the external threats . The operation is therefore not simply a military triumph but also a sobering reminder that Pakistan's stability and future advancement are based on unity, faith, and resiliency.

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