



#Static#GK

# Military Operations of India

By Dr. Gaurav Garg



## Operation Polo

Operation Polo was the code name of the Hyderabad "police action" in September 1948 by the then newly independent Dominion of India against the Hyderabad State

It was a military operation in which the Indian Armed Forces invaded the Nizam-ruled princely state, annexing it into the Indian Union.

The idea of Hyderabad arming itself aided by Pakistan did not go down well with the Indian Government.

In 1947, Home Minister Sardar Patel requested Osman Ali Khan Asaf Jah VII, the last Nizam of the princely state of Hyderabad, to join India, but he refused. Instead, he declared Hyderabad as an independent nation on August 15, 1947.

Sardar Patel described the idea of an independent Hyderabad as "an ulcer in the heart of India which needed to be removed surgically."

This operation was named "Operation Polo" and it is also referred to as "Operation Caterpillar" at times.

Though it was only a five-day war that began in September 13 and lasted till September 18, it was significant as the Indian Army took over a powerful state and Hyderabad was attached to India

## Operation HAT

The covert mission by India and America - to install a 125,000 pound tracking device powered by a nuclear snap generator atop the **Nanda Devi** at 27,000 feet.

The snap generator was powered by Plutonium-238 which has a half life of 87.7 years.

If installed successfully, this device would help the US intelligence to gather critical information on China's rapidly expanding nuclear capabilities and track their nuclear war-heads.

## **Operation Brasstacks (1987)**

The army moved tens of thousands of troops to the western border, along with armoured columns, artillery and rocket systems, in an overwhelming show of military.

Operation Brasstack was the brainchild of then army chief, General Krishnaswami Sundarji.

# Operation Good Samaritan

humanitarian tasks in Manipur/Nagaland

## Operation Vijay (1961)

The **Annexation of Goa** was the process in which the Republic of India annexed the former Portuguese Indian territories of **Goa, Daman and Diu**, starting with the armed action carried out by the Indian Armed Forces in **December 1961**.

The "armed action" was code named **Operation Vijay** (meaning "Victory") by the Indian Armed Forces.

In India, this action is referred to as the "Liberation of Goa".

In Portugal, it is referred to as the "Invasion of Goa". Following the end of Portuguese rule in 1961, Goa was placed under military administration headed by Kunhiraman Palat Candeth as Lieutenant Governor.

On 8 June 1962, military rule was replaced by civilian government when the Lieutenant Governor nominated an informal Consultative Council of 29 nominated members to assist him in the administration of the territory

## Operation Steeplechase

In July 1971, Indira Gandhi took advantage of President's rule to mobilise the Indian Army against the Naxalites and launched a colossal combined army and police counter-insurgency operation, termed "Operation Steeplechase," killing hundreds of Naxalites and imprisoning more than 20,000 suspects and cadres, including senior leaders

The **paramilitary forces** and a brigade of para commandos also participated in Operation Steeplechase.

The operation was choreographed in **October 1969**, and Lt. General J.F.R. Jacob was enjoined by Govind Narain, the Home Secretary of India, that "there should be no publicity and no records"

## Operation Blue Star

It was the codename of an Indian military action carried out between 1 and 8 June 1984 to remove militant religious leader Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale and his followers from the buildings of the Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple) complex in Amritsar, Punjab.

Operation Blue Star took birth after the rise of Khalistan movement in India.

The Khalistan movement was a political Sikh nationalist movement which aimed at creating an independent state for Sikhs inside the current North-Western Republic of India.

Five months after the operation, on 31 October 1984, Indira Gandhi was assassinated in an act of revenge by her two Sikh bodyguards, Satwant Singh and Beant Singh.

## Operation Woodrose (1984)

Operation Woodrose was a military operation carried out by the Indira Gandhi-led Indian government in the months after Operation Blue Star to "prevent the outbreak of widespread public protest" in the state of Punjab.

The government arrested all prominent members of the largest Sikh political party, the Akali Dal, and banned the All India Sikh Students Federation, a large students' union

In addition, the Indian Army conducted operations in the countryside during which thousands of Sikhs, overwhelmingly young men, were detained for interrogation and subsequently tortured.

After the operation, the central government was criticized for using "draconian legislation" to repress a minority community

## Operation Meghdoot

Operation Meghdoot was the code-name for the Indian Armed Forces operation to capture the Siachen Glacier in the Kashmir region, precipitating the Siachen Conflict.

Launched on 13 April 1984, this military operation was the first assault launched in the highest battlefield in the world.

The military action resulted in Indian troops gaining control of the entire Siachen Glacier.

Operation Meghdoot was led by Lieutenant General Prem Nath Hoon

## Operation Rajiv

Operation Rajiv was an Indian Army operation to capture the **highest peak** in the Siachen area in 1987.

The Pakistan Army had established a post (called the Quaid Post) on the top of the strategically located peak, threatening the Indian movement in the area.

An Indian task force, led by Major Varinder Singh, launched multiple attacks to capture the Post.

After three unsuccessful attempts, a team led by Naib Subedar Bana Singh captured the Post. The peak was renamed Bana Top in honour of Bana Singh, who was awarded India's highest military award Param Vir Chakra for his courage.

The operation was named after Second Lieutenant Rajiv Pande, who had been killed during an earlier attempt to capture the peak.

## Operation Pawan (1987)

Operation Pawan was the code name assigned to the operation by the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) to take control of Jaffna from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), better known as the Tamil Tigers, in late 1987 to enforce the disarmament of the LTTE as a part of the Indo-Sri Lanka Accord

## Date of Operation - 11 to 25 October 1987

In brutal fighting lasting about **three weeks**, the IPKF took control of the Jaffna Peninsula from the LTTE, something that the Sri Lankan Army had tried but failed to do.

Supported by Indian Army tanks, helicopter gunships and heavy artillery, **the IPKF routed the LTTE** at the cost of 214 soldiers and Officers

## Operation Trishul

Operation Trishul along with Operation Viraat, was an anti-insurgency operation launched by the IPKF against the LTTE in April 1988 in Northern Sri Lanka, in the provinces of Maannar to Mullaitivu and Elephant Pass to Vavuniya.

The operation was planned as a result of the evolving doctrine among the Indian high command of conducting search and destroy missions against LTTE strongholds instead of holding key strongpoints.

## Operation Checkmate (Sri Lanka)

**Operation Checkmate** was an anti-insurgency operation carried out by the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF) against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in the **Vadamarachi area** of northern Sri Lanka in **June 1988**.

Initiated immediately prior to the elections in the North eastern provinces, **the aim of the operation was to destroy** the Tigers' capacity to hinder the electoral process, which they had called to boycott.

It ended in an IPKF victory.

## Operation Cactus (1988 Maldives coup d'état)

A group of 80-200 Sri Lankan militants from the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam (PLOTE), backed by Maldivian businessman **Abdulla Luthufi**, mounted a coup in the **Maldives in November 1988** in an attempt to overthrow the then **President Abdul Gayoom**

**President Abdul Gayoom** reached out to a number of nations, including India, Pakistan, the United States, Britain, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and other states

Under the guidance of then **Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi**, India responded with an overwhelming speed and efficiency.

At 1530 hours on **3 November 1988**, India approved the dispatch of troops to the Maldives and eliminated the terrorist leaders of PLOTE.

At the realization of the attacks failure, the terrorist group hijacked a **Maldivian freighter named MV Progresslight** and set sail towards Sri Lanka.

After the terrorists escaped, the **Indian Navy** was called for help and they intercepted and captured the mercenaries and they were brought into custody in an operation codenamed **Operation Cactus**.

## Operation Vijay (1999)

The **Kargil War**, also known as the Kargil conflict, was an armed conflict between **India and Pakistan** that took place **between May and July 1999** in the Kargil district of Kashmir and elsewhere along the Line of Control (LOC).

In India, the conflict is also referred to as **Operation Vijay** which was the name of the Indian operation to clear the Kargil sector

The Indian Air Force's role in acting jointly with Indian Army ground troops during the war was aimed at flushing out regular and irregular troops of the Pakistani Army from vacated Indian Positions in the Kargil sector along the Line of Control.

This particular operation was given the code name Operation Safed Sagar

It was fought for **over 60 days** (between May and July 1999) and ended with India regaining control of all previously held territory.

In 60- day long conflict, the victory of Tiger Hill was one of the crucial achievements.

## Operation Parakram (2001-02 India-Pakistan standoff)

The 2001-2002 India-Pakistan standoff was a military standoff between India and Pakistan that resulted in the massing of troops on both sides of the border and along the Line of Control (LoC) in the region of Kashmir.

The military buildup was initiated by India responding to a terrorist attack on the Indian Parliament in New Delhi on 13 December 2001 (during which twelve people, including the five terrorists who attacked the building, were killed) and the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly on 1 October 2001.

In Western media, coverage of the standoff focused on the possibility of a nuclear war between the two countries and the implications of the potential conflict on the American-led "Global War on Terrorism" in nearby Afghanistan.

Tensions de-escalated following international diplomatic mediation which resulted in the October 2002 withdrawal of Indian and Pakistani troops from the international border.

## Operation Black Tornado 2008

10 members of Lashkar-e-Taiba, an extremist Islamist terrorist organisation based in Pakistan, carried out 12 coordinated shooting and bombing attacks lasting **four days across Mumbai.**

The attacks began on Wednesday 26 November and lasted until Saturday 29 November 2008.

At least 174 people died, including 9 attackers, and more than 300 were wounded.

On 29 November, India's National Security Guards (NSG) conducted Operation Black Tornado to flush out the remaining attackers; it culminated in the death of the last remaining attackers at the Taj Hotel and ended the attacks



## Operation Surya Hope

**Operation Surya Hope** was the Indian Army's Central Command response to the June 2013 North India floods in Uttarakhand.

The Indian Army's **Lucknow** based Central Command conducted the operation.

**Surya or Sun**, is the emblem of the Central Command and features prominently on the Command's formation sign and flag, which is probably why Central Command chose to name the effort Operation Surya Hope

Operation Surya Hope was the follow-up to **Operation Ganga Prahar**.

The Government of India classifies the **disaster as a tsunami**.

## Indian Army operations in Jammu and Kashmir

### Operation Rakshak

Operation Rakshak is an ongoing counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operation started during the height of insurgency in Jammu and Kashmir in June 1990.

The operation adapted itself from being merely a "show of strength" in 1990 to encompassing more areas in 1991 such as orders "not to enter the houses of civilians", "not to smoke in religious places" and "not to damage standing crops".

753 Indian army personnel died during **Operation Rakshak** between 2007 and 2015

## Operation Calm Down

Operation Calm Down was started by the Indian army in Jammu and Kashmir following the aftermath of the death of Burhan Wani in July 2016 which had led to unrest in Kashmir in which more than 90 civilians and 2 security personnel were killed and thousands injured.

## Operation Sarp Vinash

Operation Sarp Vinash (Snake Destroyer) was an operation undertaken by Indian army to flush out terrorists who made bases in the Hilkaka Poonch-Surankot area of the Pir Panjal range in Jammu and Kashmir during April–May 2003

## Operation Sadbhavana (Goodwill)

**Operation Sadbhavana**, also referred to as Operation Goodwill has been launched in Jammu and Kashmir by the Indian Army under **their Military Civic Action programmes**, which are aimed at "Winning the Hearts and Minds" (WHAM) of the people in the region.

It was officially launched in **1998**.

## Operation Megh Rahat

In **September 2014**, the Kashmir region witnessed severe flooding in many areas.

The rainfall and flooding resulted in people dying on both sides of the border. Nearly 30,000 troops were deployed.

By mid-September, over 200,000 people were rescued by the Armed forces

While the **Army's Northern Command response** was called **Operation Megh Rahat**, the Armed Forces assistance as a whole was called **Mission Sahayata**.

## Operation All Out

A joint offensive launched by Indian security forces in 2017 to flush out militants and terrorists in Kashmir until there is complete peace in the state.

Operation All-Out includes the Indian Army, CRPF, Jammu and Kashmir Police, BSF and IB. It was launched against numerous militant groups including Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed, Hizbul Mujahideen and Al-Badr. The operation was initiated with the consent of Ministry for Home Affairs Government of India following the unrest in 2016 due to the death of Burhan Wani and subsequent militant and terrorist attacks in the region.

## Operation Sunrise

Operation Sunrise – To neutralise the threat to the mega Kaladan Project, the transit project that will connect Kolkata to Sitwe port in Myanmar and finally end up linking Mizoram.

Operation Sunrise: India-Myanmar targeted insurgent groups camp in North East

## Operation Meghna Heli Bridge

It was an aerial operation of Indian and Bangladeshi allied forces during the Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971.

It took place on 9 December, when the Indian Air Force (IAF) airlifted the Mukti Bahini and the IV Corps of the Indian Army from Brahmanbaria to Raipura in Narsingdi over the River Meghna, bypassing the destroyed Meghna Bridge and Pakistani defences in Ashuganj.

# Major Navy operations

- Operation Trident (1971)
- Operation Python
- Operation Sukoon
- During 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake
- Operation Searchlight (2014)
- Operation Raahat

- Operation Nistar (2018)
- Operation Madad (2018)
- Operation Vanilla (2020)
- Mission Sagar (2020)
- Operation Samudra Setu (2020)

## Mission Sagar

India sent Indian Naval Ship (INS) Kesari, carrying food items and medical assistance teams, to countries in the southern Indian Ocean to deal with Covid-19 pandemic as part of a "Mission Sagar" initiative.

The countries including Maldives, Mauritius, Madagascar, Comoros and Seychelles had requested India for assistance in dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic.

## Operation Samudra Setu

Repatriate Indian citizen from Maldives during COVID19 crisis 5

## Operation Vanilla

To evacuate stranded Indian citizen from Madagascar (INS Airavat,  
Cyclone Diane)

## Operation Trident (1971)

Operation Trident was an offensive operation launched by the Indian Navy on Pakistan's port city of Karachi during the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971.

Operation Trident saw the first use of anti-ship missiles in combat in the region..

The operation was conducted on the night of **4-5 December** and inflicted heavy damage on Pakistani vessels and facilities.

India celebrates its **Navy Day annually on 4 December** to mark this operation. Trident was followed up by Operation Python three days later

## Operation Python

**Operation Python**, a follow-up to Operation Trident, was the code name of a naval attack launched on West Pakistan's port city of Karachi by the Indian Navy during the **Indo-Pakistani War of 1971**.

Pakistani warships attempted to outsmart the Indian Navy by mingling with merchant shipping. To counter these moves, Operation Python was launched on the **night of 8/9 December 1971**

## During 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami

- Operation Madad
- Operation Sea Waves
- Operation Castor
- Operation Rainbow
- Operation Gambhir

## Operation Sea Waves

Operation Sea Waves was a disaster relief operation undertaken by the Indian Armed Forces in the aftermath of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. Sea Waves was focused on rescue and relief efforts on the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

A similar effort, Operation Madad, was launched to focus on disaster relief on the Indian mainland states of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

## Operation Castor and Operation Rainbow

India has launched **Operation Castor and Operation Rainbow** in **Maldives and Sri Lanka** in 2004 to provide immediate assistance to these countries.

**Under Operation Rainbow**, India helped the Sri Lankan government search for and rescue fishermen and boats lost at sea

## Operation Gambhir

Navy launched **Operation Gambhir in Indonesia** in 2005 to augment the relief and rescue operations to the tsunami-hit Indonesia

## Operation Sukoon

Operation Sukoon was an operation launched by the Indian Navy to evacuate Indian, Sri Lankan and Nepalese nationals, as well as Lebanese nationals with Indian spouses, from the conflict zone during the 2006 Lebanon War.

The Indian Armed Forces also launched a similar effort, Operation Safe Homecoming, to bring Indian nationals from Libya during the 2011 Libyan civil war.

## Operation Searchlight (2014)

The Search Operation Undertaken by Indian Navy to find the missing Boeing 777 M.H 17 Malaysian Flight

## Operation Raahat

Operation Raahat was an operation of the Indian Armed Forces to evacuate **Indian citizens and foreign nationals from Yemen** during the **2015** military intervention by Saudi Arabia and its allies in that country during the Yemeni Crisis.

## Operation Nistar (2018)

Operation by the Indian Navy using **INS Sunayna** to evacuate Indian citizens **from Yemen Island of Socotra** who were stranded by **Cyclone Mekenu**.

It successfully evacuated 38 Indian Nationals after it entered Porbandar harbour in Gujarat.

## Operation Madad (2018)

Indian Navy had launched **Operation Madad**, major rescue, and relief operation in **flood-hit Kerala**.

The operation was launched to assist state administration and undertake disaster relief operations due to flooding in many parts of Kerala.

# Major Airforce operations

- **Operation Meghdoot (1984)**
- **Operation Poomalai**
- **Operation Safed Sagar**
- **Operation Rahat (2013)**
- **Operation Maitri (2015)**
- **Operation Sankat Mochan**
- **Operation Insaniyat (2017)**
- **Operation Bandar (2019)**

## Operation Poomalai

Operation Poomalai (Flower Garland) also known as **Eagle Mission 4**, was the codename assigned to a mission undertaken by the Indian **Air Force** to **air-drop supplies** over the besieged town of **Jaffna in Sri Lanka** on 4 June 1987 in support of Tamil Tigers during the Sri Lankan Civil War.

## Operation Safed Sagar

**Operation Safed Sagar** was the code name assigned to the Indian Air Force's role in acting jointly with the Ground troops **during the Kargil war** that was aimed at flushing out Regular and Irregular troops of the Pakistani Army from vacated Indian Positions in the Kargil sector along the Line of Control.

## Operation Rahat (2013)

The Indian Air Force (IAF) on 18 June 2013 launched operation Rahat to rescue stranded pilgrims in **Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh** after heavy rains wreaked havoc in northern India on June 16

## Operation Maitri (2015)

Operation Maitri was a rescue and relief operation in **Nepal** by the government of India and Indian armed forces in the aftermath of the April 2015 Nepal earthquake.

It started on **26 April 2015** and also involved Nepali ex-servicemen from India's Gurkha Regiments for interface for guidance, relief and rescue

## Operation Sankat Mochan

Operation **Sankat Mochan** was an operation of the Indian Air Force to evacuate **Indian citizens** and other foreign nationals from South Sudan during the **South Sudanese Civil War**.

The operation was carried out in view of **2016 Juba clashes**

## Operation Insaniyat (2017)

It was a Humanitarian assistance aimed to supply relief packages to Bangladesh for migrant Rohingya Muslims following the military crackdown in violence-hit Rakhine state.

## Operation Bandar (2019)

The pre-emptive non military air strike conducted by Indian Air Force (IAF) on a terrorist training camp in Balakot, Pakistan, on 26 February 2019 was code-named Operation Bandar (Monkey).

As a response to Pulwama terror attack which claimed the lives of 40 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) security personnel.

The responsibility was taken by Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), 12 IAF Mirage-2000 fighter jets struck on JeM training camp in Balakot town of Khyber Pakhtunwa province inside Pakistan in early hours on 26 February with precision guided munitions.

## Operation Sanjeevani

Indian Air Force (IAF) launched an 18-hour operation and airlifted 6.2 tonnes of essential medicines and hospital consumables with its C-130 transport aircraft and delivered it to the **Maldives** under Operation Sanjeevani.



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