

List of Military Operations of India, Name, Location, Year

March 4, 2026 • vajiramandravi.com



A Military Operation refers to activities carried out in a planned and organized manner by a nation's armed forces to achieve specific military objectives. The operations can range from large-scale conflicts to smaller, targeted interventions and can involve one or more types of forces and capabilities. Military operations are often planned and executed to achieve specific objectives, which may be tactical, operational, or strategic. Combat Military Operation aims to achieve specific tactical or strategic goals, such as defeating enemy forces or seizing territory, while a non-combat Military Operation focuses on tasks like humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, or peacekeeping.

Military Operations in India

Since Independence India had to carry out a number of Military Operations in order to maintain Internal peace, guard territory, or provide disaster relief and humanitarian assistance. Below is a list of few successful and notable operations carried out by Indian Armed Forces:

Operation Mahadev 2025

Operation Mahadev 2025 is joint counter-terror operation which was launched by the Indian security forces, Chinara Corps of Indian Army, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and the Jammu and Kashmir Police.

Operation Sindoor 2025

The most recent operation by Indian Armed Forces, targeted against terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan occupied Jammu and Kashmir to avenge the shameful **Pahalgam Terror Attack**.

Operation Polo 1948

Conducted with the goal of integrating the State of Hyderabad into the Indian Union. Spearheaded by then Home and Defence Minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

Operation Vijay 1961

Carried out to free Goa from Portuguese rule and integrate into mainland India. After the successful completion, Goa and Daman and Diu were annexed and integrated into India

Operation Cactus Lilly 1971

Conducted by Indian Air Force, **Operation Cactus Lilly** was a precursor to Bangladesh's Liberation War which ended in formation of a new nation of Bangladesh

Operation Trident 1971

Operation Trident was one of the first naval assaults against Pakistan and was part of the Bangladesh Liberation War. The thumping victory in this operation is commemorated as Navy Day on 4th December every year.

Operation Meghdoot 1984

Carried out in one of the highest battlefields of the world, Operation Meghdoot was aimed at capturing Siachen Glacier in Kashmir region. The success of this operation gave India an upper hand forever.

Operation Blue Star 1984

To deal with growing chaos in Punjab over demands of separate nation of Khalistan, Operation Blue Star was carried out to eradicate Sikh militants operating from **Golden Temple of Amritsar**

Operation Cactus 1988

India helped Maldives avert a coup against their second president M.A. Gayoom. It was a joint effort of all 3 - Army, Air Force and Navy and was a huge success.

Operation Rajeev 1987

Aimed to capture a high point in Siachen Glacier from Pakistan's control. Indian Army successfully completed the operation and named the point as Bana Post to honour Captain Bana Singh

Operation Pawan 1987

This successful operation was carried out by Indian Peace Keeping Forces to diffuse the tension caused by LTTE in Sri Lanka

Operation Vijay 1999

Codename for 2 operations - Goa Liberation and integration in 1961 and the conflict between India and Pakistan in 1999, soon turned into a fierce Kargil War wherein our forces claimed the strategic positions back from Pakistan.

Operation Talwar 1999

This was undertaken by the Indian Navy to support Operation Vijay 1999. Naval fleets strategically positioned themselves in the north Arabian Sea as part of this mission.

Operation Parakram 2001

This was undertaken following the attack on the Indian Parliament in 2001. It was a Military Standoff between India and Pakistan along the border and is considered as the biggest military drill in Asia

Operation Black Tornado 2008

This was an NSG commando Mission during the 26/11 attacks on Taj Palace Hotel in Mumbai. The main objective of this mission was to rescue the hostages. Ajmal Kasab was the terrorist who was caught alive in this operation.

Military Operations by Indian Army

Considered as one of the World's largest army, The Indian Army has over the years conducted many successful operations individually and collaboratively with other forces or with other nation's armies. Here is a detailed list about various operations

Operation	Year	Key Region
Steeplechase	1971	Red Corridor
Amalgamation of Sikkim	1975	Sikkim
Woodrose, Red Rose, Mand	1984-86	Punjab

Shivalik	1985	Multiple Indian states
Black Thunder I & II	1986, 1988	Punjab
Bluebird	1987	Manipur
Night Dominance	1990-94	Punjab
Rakshak I	1990	Punjab
Vadhi Pahar	1991	Punjab
Election	1992	Punjab
Sarp Vinash	2003	Jammu & Kashmir
All Out	1990s	Kashmir
Myanmar Strikes	2015	Myanmar
Calm Down	2016	J&K
Randori Behak	2020	J&K
Devi Shakti	2021	Afghanistan
Operation Ganga	2022	Ukraine (Evacuation)

Military Operations by Indian Navy

Indian Navy with its diverse fleet and personnel traces its roots to the 17th century and was renamed as Indian Navy in 1950. Indian Navy motto “Sham No Varunah” taken from Rig Veda and translates to “May God Varun, the God of ocean be auspicious unto us”. Here’s a list of various operations conducted by the Indian Navy.

Operation	Year	Purpose
-----------	------	---------

Vijay (Goa)	1961	Annexation of Goa
Trident	1971	Karachi naval strike
Python	1971	Follow-up strike on Karachi
Cactus	1988	Intervention in the Maldives
Talwar	1999	Naval support during Kargil
Sukoon	2006	Evacuation during the Lebanon War
Madath, Sea Waves, Castor	2004	Tsunami relief operations
Raahat	2015	Yemen evacuation
Nistar	2018	Cyclone rescue at Socotra (Yemen)
Searchlight	2014	MH17 search operation

Military Operations by Indian Air Force

Known as the Guardians of Sky, the Indian Air Force has the motto “Nabha Sparsham Deeptam” translating to “Touch the Sky with Glory” . This is derived from Bhagavad Gita and is inscribed below the eagle on IAF crest. Below is the list of successful operation over the years done by Indian Air Force

Operation	Year	Region
Meghna Heli Bridge	1971	Bangladesh Liberation
Meghdoot	1984	Siachen Glacier
Poomalai	1987	Sri Lanka
Cactus	1988	Maldives
Safed Sagar	1999	Kargil
Rahat	2013	Uttarakhand floods

Maitri	2015	Nepal
Sankat Mochan	2016	South Sudan
Insaniyat	2017	Bangladesh
Bandar	2019	Balakot
Ganga	2022	Ukraine
Dost	2023	Turkey and Syria

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/upsc-exam/military-operations-of-india/>

© Vajiram & Ravi. For personal use only.