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Pakistan Airbase Remains Closed After Indian Strikes

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Pakistan's Rahim Yar Khan airbase in Punjab province will remain closed until August 22, 2025, following damage from Indian airstrikes conducted in May under Operation Sindoor. The base, previously expected to reopen by August 6, sustained damage to its runway and operational facilities, limiting its functionality within Pakistan's air defense network.

The Pakistani Civil Aviation Authority issued an updated Notice to Airmen (NOTAM), confirming the extended closure. Open-source analyst Damien Saymon reported on social media that the airbase “remains offline until August 22, 2025, following the strikes in May.”

Operation Sindoor was launched by India in response to a terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, on April 22, 2025. According to an official statement from the Indian government, the operation aimed to neutralize key military and terrorist infrastructure while minimizing civilian impact. Among the nine targeted locations across Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) was the Rahim Yar Khan airbase.

The Indian Air Force carried out the strikes as part of broader security measures along its borders. The closure of the airbase has required Pakistan to rely on alternative facilities, some of which are located farther from key operational zones, potentially affecting response time and strategic flexibility.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the operation in a public statement, emphasizing India’s commitment to national security and its response to cross-border threats. He noted the airbase suffered damage during the strikes, highlighting India’s ongoing efforts to maintain security along its borders.

Analysts suggest the extended closure reflects the operational challenges faced by Pakistan in restoring damaged military infrastructure and underscores the strategic significance of precision strikes in regional security dynamics.

Operation Sindoor has drawn attention to broader tensions between India and Pakistan, particularly concerning border security and counterterrorism efforts. Both countries continue to monitor the situation closely, with regional and international observers noting the importance of avoiding escalation while addressing security concerns.

The strikes and subsequent closure of the airbase illustrate the complex security environment in South Asia and the ongoing efforts by both nations to respond to perceived threats. While no additional attacks have been reported, the situation continues to influence military readiness and strategic planning in the region.