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India Allegedly Revives Staged Encounters Post-Operation Sindoor Setback

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Following the perceived failure of Operation Sindoor, Indian forces are accused of resuming staged encounters in Kashmir to suppress dissent and bolster political credibility. This article examines these claims and the need for accountability in the region.

Indian security forces killed three suspected militants in a gunfight in Dachigam, near Srinagar, under Operation Mahadev, as reported by the Indian Army's Chinari Corps on X. Pakistani sources, including Radio Pakistan, allege these were “fake encounters,” claiming India is using detained individuals to stage killings and portray them as terrorists to mask

the shortcomings of Operation Sindoor, launched after the April 2025 Pahalgam attack that killed 26 people. The operation, aimed at targeting terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), faced criticism for failing to capture key assailants, with Indian opposition leader Gaurav Gogoi noting in parliament that the government “has not been able to catch those five terrorists” 100 days later, per ANI.

Pakistani security officials, cited by Dawn, claim Operation Mahadev involves illegally detained Pakistanis and Kashmiris being executed to suppress the freedom movement in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK). They reference a history of such tactics, with India’s National Human Rights Commission reporting 555 fake encounters between 2008 and 2013. Posts on X, like those from @WorldPTV, amplify these allegations, decrying human rights violations. India’s Press Information Bureau (PIB) has dismissed similar claims as “Pakistan-sponsored propaganda,” urging reliance on official sources.

The controversy highlights tensions in IIOJK, where local governance must prioritize transparency over centralized narratives. India’s firm stance against terrorism is undeniable, but unverified operations risk escalating distrust. Provincial authorities should strengthen oversight and engage communities to counter militancy without alienating Kashmiris. As accusations of staged encounters persist, India must address these claims head-on to maintain credibility and ensure justice, avoiding further destabilization in a volatile region.