




114 Rafales:

India's Post-Sindoor Insecurities

How the May 2025 conflict reshaped regional airpower perceptions ?

Erosion of Conventional Superiority

- The May 2025 India-Pakistan war challenged India's long-standing belief in conventional dominance.
- Seven months later, military decisions reflect post-conflict insecurity.
- **7 Aircraft Downed**  **4 Rafales**



Rafale Procurement: Optics or Operational Necessity?

Induction of
114 Rafales



\$39 Billion Deal



25-30%
"Make in India"



4.5 Generation



Global Signalling Strategy

- Two-Front Focus. Pakistan & China
- High-profile Optics
- **Rising Military Power Perceptions**
 - Reinforcing deterrence narratives
 - Shaping regional threat assessments



Domestic Drivers of Insecurity

- Failed to Achieve Air Superiority
- IAF Credibility Gaps
- Deterrence Urgency



**IAF
Credibility**



**Deterrence
Urgency**



**Tejas Mk II
AMCA Issues**

Regional Airpower Balance

- PAF Retains First-Shot Capability
- Doctrine, Training & EW Define Outcomes
- Numerical Superiority \neq Escalation Dominance
- Air Advantage Remains with Pakistan.

Strategic Outlook: Capability integration outweighs fleet expansion.