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Custodial killings, detentions and demolitions
haunt Kashmir after Pahalgam p. 56

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THE CARAVAN

The inevitability of escalation

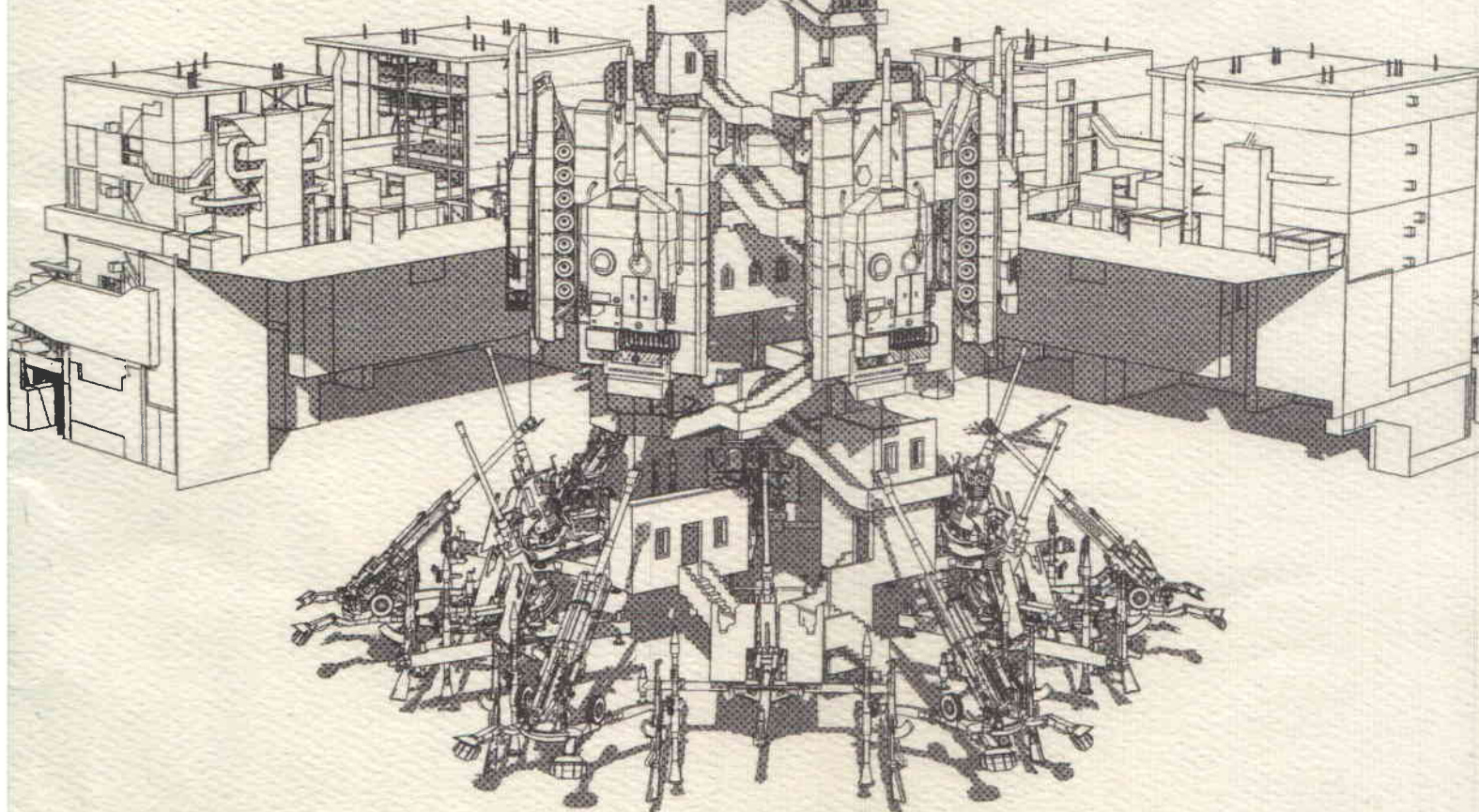


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Operation Sindoor and the
delusion of deterrence

SUSHANT SINGH

Operation Sindoor was meant to dispense what Prime Minister Narendra Modi called "a new form of justice" after the Pahalgam attack. However, the operation and its aftermath exposed the dangerous gap between Modi's bombast and India's strategic limitations, between the projection of power and its responsible exercise. Under domestic political compulsions and Pakistan's provocations, the Modi government appeared to climb the escalation ladder without a clear plan of what came next, bringing the world, as a US diplomat put it, "closer to a nuclear exchange than at any point since the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962." Modi and his Pakistani counterparts were incentivised to do so because escalation strengthens their political power, with an uncritical media acting as cheerleaders rather than holding them to account. Meanwhile, the perpetrators of Pahalgam remain at large, and no one has been held responsible for the security lapses. Ordinary Kashmiris are instead bearing the brunt, with a wave of detentions, demolitions and custodial killings sweeping the valley.



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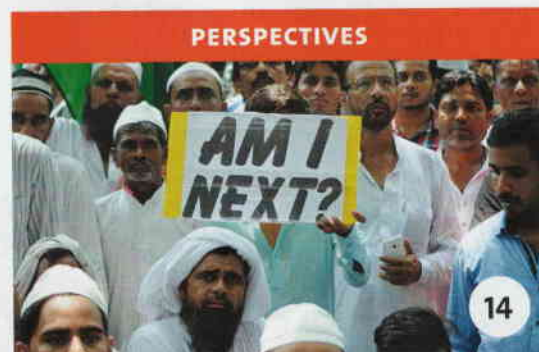


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