



INDIAN CHRONICLES : AN EYE OPENER FOR THE WORLD COMMUNITY

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January 14, 2021

(Views expressed in the brief are those of the author, and do not represent those of ISSI)



India's desire to malign and isolate Pakistan is no more a secret and therefore, statements like "We will isolate you. I will work for that,"¹ or India will ensure "complete isolation" of Pakistan² do not come as a surprise anymore. But what comes as a surprise is the extent of recourses and time used to achieve this objective as has been exposed by recently released report "Indian Chronicles" by Brussels based reputed NGO EU Disinfo Lab.

The Indian Chronicles is a follow up to a report that was released in November 2019 which had unearthed 265 local media outlets in more than 65 countries busy in furthering Indian interests.³ The current report which has been named as "Indian Chronicles" is a further and deeper investigation and has exposed a 15 year long campaign to harm Pakistan's interests and spread India's narrative in every corner of the world.

At the very outset, the authors of the report expressed their shock at the magnitude and level of deception that was unearthed during the course of their investigation. Dead media personnel, fake think tanks and NGOs were resurrected and so were people who were used to impersonate regular media or press agencies such as EU Observer or The Economist. Using the letterheads of the

¹ - "Modi says India will work to 'isolate' Pakistan internationally," *Dawn*, September 24, 2016, <https://www.dawn.com/news/1285839>

² "Pulwama Attack : India will 'completely isolate' Pakistan," *BBC News*, February 15, 2019, bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-47249133

³ "Uncovered: 265 Coordinated Fake Media Outlets Serving Indian Interests," *EU Disinfo Lab*, November 26, 2019, <https://www.disinfo.eu/publications/uncovered-265-coordinated-fake-local-media-outlets-serving-indian-interests>

European Parliament, fake websites were registered with fake phone numbers and fake addresses were provide to the United Nations.

The previous report by Disinfo Lab discusses in detail how some members of European Parliament used Magazine for the European Parliament in Brussels to share their views, particularly those views which served Indian interest at the cost of Pakistan's interest. The same MPs also attended United Nations side events, press conferences or demonstrations in Geneva that were organized by minority rights groups, especially those residing in Pakistan. All such activities were then picked up by another fake media "Times of Geneva" along with a fake Geneva based press agency "4 News Agency" for publishing written material and video content. The same content was then reused multiple times by NGOs and disseminated through global fake media as well as the Indian Press Agency Asian News International (ANI). All this activity was linked to the New Delhi based Srivastava Group which in collaboration with Women's Economic and Social Think Tank (WESTT) arranged the trip of 27 MEPs to Illegally Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK) so that they could convince the world falsely that situation there was normal and the Kashmiri people had actually welcomed the Indian government's decision of revoking Article 370 and 35 A.

It is also interesting to mention here that ANI is considered to be one of the biggest news agency in India and is the only agency which extensively covers the activities of questionable NGOs in Geneva. Any news or views, particularly those serving Indian interests that appears on EU Chronicles, which is yet another fake media with fake journalists that provides a platform for members of European Parliament to express their views is picked by ANI and which in turn is picked by 'Big News Network' and 'World News Network'- a network of more than 500 fake local media in 95 countries.

Thus, Pakistan was maligned across the globe through this massive disinformation campaign. To quote one example, Centre for Environmental and Management Studies that was founded in New Delhi worked for industrialists and educationists and focused on environmental issues back in 1980s. However, the current address given to the UN is in Canada and the domain name linked to the Centre was registered on the same day as other accredited NGOs domains names were registered i.e January 20, 2016 and hosted on the same IP address with several other Srivastava owned websites which makes it quite obvious that this centre was resurrected. News Agencies like ANI and other fake media outlets present this particular centre as a UK-based rights group headed by Amjad Ayub Mirza who claims to be an activist from Pakistan's Gilgit-Baltistan region. The Centre had not only been propagating anti-Pakistan narrative at the UNHRC but Mr. Amjad Ayub Mirza also appeared on Indian media on a prime time show where he criticized Pakistan's government and its CPEC project.

He did not hesitate in expressing his desire of Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir joining the IIOJK.⁴ Needless to say that this was not his sole appearance on Indian TV channels.

Indian Chronicles revealed interesting details on how some NGOs, like the Commission to Study the Organization of Peace (CSOP), which had been inactive since last more than four decades was not only resurrected but its Chairman, who had passed away in 2006 had apparently been attending UN Human Rights Council meetings or events organized by Friends of Gilgit-Baltistan as late as 2011. This is only the tip of the iceberg as the report then unearths a whole network of UN accredited NGOs of which at least 10 were directly related to same Srivastava group. These UN accredited NGOs work in tandem with non-accredited think tanks and minority rights NGOs in Brussels and Geneva to lobby and organize demonstrations or speak at the UN on behalf of the accredited organizations.

The report then goes on to describe how the actors behind Indian Chronicles created number of vague companies in Canada along with fake media to target South Asian community. The same actors were also involved in creating fake media in Bangladesh and Maldives as well.

In a nutshell, in the 15 long years of this onslaught on Pakistan resulted in several demonstration organized in Geneva and Brussels, posters of “Free Balochistan” appearing in Geneva, trips of Members of European Parliament specially to IIOJK were organized and efforts were made to influence the policy making of EU.

Hence, India’s efforts to damage Pakistan’s reputation and perception throughout the world started in 2005 and is still going on. With this massive campaign, India not only succeeded in harming Pakistan’s interests particularly at forums like FATF, but it has also been very successfully hiding its own wrongdoings – whether it is the massive human rights abuses in IIOJK or sponsoring terror activities in neighboring countries. The silver lining however is, that the world community has now started to understand the reality and Indian Chronicles is perhaps the first step in unveiling the nefarious designs of India. Pakistan hopes that the UN and European Parliament would take note of this report and take necessary remedial steps.

⁴ “Pakistan's Gilgit -Baltistan move backfires at UN,” *YouTube*, The Debate with Arnab Goswami, September 18, 2019, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IEoikZfjNJA>