



**Center for Global & Strategic Studies (CGSS),
Islamabad**

**EU DisinfoLab Report: Unveiling Indian False
Propaganda**

By Mr. Allah Nawaz, Research Intern, Center for Global & Strategic Studies
(CGSS), Islamabad



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Abstract:

A Belgium-based non-profit organization exposed disinformation campaigns against the world-renowned intergovernmental bodies. The report unveiled a 15-year-old disinformation campaign operated by an Indian group that used a large number of fake identities, media outlets, and names of dead intellectuals to target Pakistan. This article discusses the findings of EU DisinfoLab that exposed Indian disinformation campaigns. Initially, the study highlights the vicious activities of the Indian group, spreading disinformation to target Pakistan and defame its image globally.

Introduction:

In contemporary times, the war of narrative has been shifted to new fronts, and this can be termed fifth-generation warfare. In this regard, India has been indulged in belligerent moves against Pakistan for many years. The investigation operation “Indian chronicles: deep dive into 15-year operation¹” launched by Brussels-based NGO EU DisinfoLab illustrated disinformation spreading campaigns led by Indian based entity, Srivastava group. The group was further assisted by the Asian News International (ANI) that started in late 2005 and are still in progress. The prime mission of these disinformation campaigns is to discredit Pakistan and China particularly at the international level. The Srivastava group with the help of ANI, resurrected Dead

¹ Eu disinfo lab report on operation under name “indian chronicles” December 2020, <https://www.disinfo.eu/publications/indian-chronicles-deep-dive-into-a-15-year-operation-targeting-the-eu-and-un-to-serve-indian-interests/>



countries. The main motive of the fake media outlets was to spread hostile content and news against Pakistan.

Indian Chronicles:

The EU dis-info lab launched many operations against disinformation campaigns. As far as the case of Indian chronicles is concerned, a deep dive was taken by EU disinfo lab, particularly focusing on the organization named as “commission to study the organization of peace² “. After investigations, Disinfo lab found that the origin of the NGO was accredited to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) council and was inactive since the 1970s. The identity of the NGO was hijacked and resurrected in 2005. Further investigations expose that the chairman of this NGO, who passed away in 2006, appeared to attend the UN human rights council session in 2007 and attended the meetings arranged by “Friends of Gilgit-Baltistan” in 2011. Apart from this, another NGO “Canners international permanent committee” working on canned food ceased, to exist in 2007, but India hijacked the identity and this platform was used to hold debates, where anti-Pakistan and anti-China rhetoric was promoted.

In Geneva and Brussels, the involvement of about 10 UN-accredited non-profit organizations working in affiliation with the Srivastava group were found advocating the Indian interests inside and outside of UN platforms with the collaboration of many non-accredited think tanks and minority’ s rights NGOs: For instance, the European

² https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commission_to_Study_the_Organization_of_Peace commission to study the organization of peace / organisation at time of WW2 to promote formation of an international body for peace.



organization for Pakistani minorities, South Asia democratic forum and Baluchistan house³.

The cards of lobbying were effectively played by trapping the members of the European Parliament by arranging trips of Kashmir, Bangladesh, and the Maldives. Sometimes these visits were not on behalf of the European



Parliament. Furthermore, organising events and press conferences on the sideline of meetings of MEPs, injected anti-Pakistan rhetoric in the minds of EU policymakers. Fake articles in magazines and fake interviews of intellectuals and scholars were also presented to MEPs during parliaments sessions to make up their minds in favour of India. The role of Asian News International remained active by granting the status of originality to fake articles published by dubious NGOs and think tanks. The operations of ANI led investigators to unearth the vast network of 500+ fake media outlets spread across 95 countries, producing anti-Pakistan and anti-China content.

Analysis and Discussion: Uncovering True Face of India

The situation became more alarming to witness the progress of Indian chronicles after they got exposed before by disinformation lab. The expanding network should serve as an alarming call to policymakers urging them to take more strict actions to stop

³ <https://www.disinfo.eu/publications/indian-chronicles-deep-dive-into-a-15-year-operation-targeting-the-eu-and-un-to-serve-indian-interests/>



misleading the prestigious institutions. The malicious efforts of vicious actors to produce negative content by using the tags of credible sources should be checked with strict actions. India must be held accountable in front of the world for its actions and hostile activities. The investigations by DisinfoLab were mostly initiated by discovering the fake domains and registration history of websites involved in dissipating fake content. These websites were registered when users were not much concerned about the security of the website. However, now domain name and registration history are strictly kept anonymous by malicious actors. The domain's name developers need to keep check and balance on websites used for disinformation campaigns. Pakistan must do a rebuttal for such hostile activities by India on international platforms. The members of the European Parliament must be aware of such fake propaganda groups. The strict measure should be taken at EU and UN platforms against India to save the credibility of prestigious institutions.⁴

The propaganda is part of fifth-generation warfare, initiated by India to divert support of international policymakers towards the Indian side, hide Indian atrocities and human rights violations. There is a dire need to ban all illegal and fake websites, NGOs, and media entities through a collective approach.

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⁴ <https://www.disinfo.eu/publications/indian-chronicles-deep-dive-into-a-15-year-operation-targeting-the-eu-and-un-to-serve-indian-interests/>