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Compiled & Edited by:
Haris Bilal Malik

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Strategic Vision Institute (SVI)

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Strategic Vision Institute (SVI)

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SVI Foresight

SVI Foresight is a monthly electronic journal. It has a multi-disciplinary perspective highlighting contemporary strategic and security studies. The Journal is envisioned to be a collection of policy-oriented articles written by its Research Associates, Visiting Faculty, and professional experts. The objective is to provide the readership with a concise all-round and real-time policy-oriented discourse on contemporary strategic regional and international developments, highlighting their relevance to Pakistan.

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Editor's Note

India aspires to dominate the regional security environment by enhancing both its conventional and unconventional capabilities. In this regard, while maintaining an aggressive military posture, India's major focus has been to ensure a multilayered and advanced missile defence shield. This has been materialized with the provision of both indigenous developed and foreign acquired missile systems that are capable enough of providing a non-penetrable air defence shield. These capabilities in turn would likely undermine Pakistan's strategic deterrence posture. Since India might be in a stronger position to challenge Pakistan's existing nuclear force posture by neutralizing the deterrent value of the nuclear warhead delivery systems that majorly include ballistic and cruise missiles and jet planes. This would ultimately disturb the deterrence equilibrium in the South Asian region that prevails to date primarily because of Pakistan's credible nuclear deterrence posture.

One of the contributors analyzes that in recent years, the militaries across the world are using drone technologies to keep their eyes across the borders even without getting exposed. In South Asia, with an increase in border skirmishes between India and Pakistan, the use of drone technology for surveillance has been intensified by India. In the year 2020, the continued Indian provocation at the Line of Control (LoC) through airspace violations by using spy drones has been witnessed several times. India has been using quadcopters for intelligence-gathering operations and the aerial photography of Pakistani posts. The advanced UAVs acquired by India can monitor the deployment and movement of troops and could be used in strategic or tactical missions across the border. This has increased the fears of an escalation in the region which would likely undermine Pakistan's security.

It has been opined that the clash of interests and competition among the major stakeholders has made the IOR a highly volatile region. India considers the Indian Ocean as its backyard and aspires to become the dominant power in the region. India is in pursuit of dominating the Indian Ocean in the pretext of enhancing its strategic collaboration with the regional and extra-regional players. In this regard, it has signed various bilateral and multilateral agreements and has developed indigenous programs of weapons build-up. Likewise, the approach of global powers specifically the US to empower India as a balancer against China would likely amplify an arms race in the region. This would ultimately become a boiling point for future conflicts.

In this volume of the SVI Foresight, there has been a very special focus on analyzing the recently launched EU DisinfoLab Report. It has been opined that India is involved in an active hybrid war against Pakistan. The report provides undeniable evidence of how India has been

doing all this for over years. India is using information war against Pakistan as a hybrid toll in pursuit of its broader goal of destabilizing and maligning Pakistan. The author maintains that the timing of this report is quite significant since it comes right after Pakistan's recent dossier that has been presented to the international community. This has further supported Pakistan's long-held stance about India's anti-Pakistan obsession. Even though there are multiple tools of the Hybrid war, information warfare by far is the most lethal and cost-effective tool that provides the opportunity to spread propaganda. As part of its aggressive and antagonistic approach towards Pakistan, the Indian government has been using its soft power and media to spread disinformation against Pakistan at the international level. In this regard, the report has exposed some 550 web domains, 759 fake media outlets in 116 countries that were tasked to produce fake content regarding Pakistan that could reach millions of people across the world. Furthermore, the network has re-established dead UN-accredited NGOs to work against Pakistan.

Another very important subject that has been deliberated upon by one of the contributors is Outer Space. Today nearly 2000 satellites of 50 countries are operating in outer space to enable fast communication and provide instant information and intelligence. This makes outer space an ultimate high ground for information warfare. In South Asia, India aspires to have an extensive presence in outer space. In this regard, while pursuing a rapid space program India has sent various satellites into space, a mission to Mars, and has tested the ASAT weapons. Indian pursuit of space militarization and weaponization would further disturb the regional deterrence equation that is primarily ensured by Pakistan's nuclear capability.

It is hoped that readers will find a good blend of articles focusing on various aspects of the contemporary security discourse in South Asia.

The *SVI Foresight* team invites and highly encourages the contributions from the security and strategic community in the form of opinion based short commentaries on contemporary political, security, and strategic issues. Any suggestions for further improvements are welcome at our [contact address](#). Please see [here](#) the copy of the *SVI Foresight* electronic journal. You can find us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) and can also access the SVI [website](#).

Research Associate

Haris Bilal Malik

India's Advanced Missile Defence Shield: Implications for the Contemporary South Asian Security Environment

Haris Bilal Malik

Over the last few years, India has been carrying out an overwhelming and offensive military modernization program. This has been primarily inspired by its long term strategic goal of achieving the status of great power. At the same time, India aspires to dominate the regional security environment with the provision of a strong military outlook. In pursuit of this objective, India has been enhancing both its conventional and unconventional capabilities. In this regard, while maintaining an aggressive military posture, India's major focus has been to ensure a multilayered and advanced missile defence shield. This has been materialized with the provision of both indigenous developed and foreign acquired missile systems that are capable enough of providing a non-penetrable air defence shield. As such, this has further added to the air defence capabilities of the Indian military. These capabilities in turn would likely undermine Pakistan's strategic deterrence posture. Consequently, the Indian military modernization drive with a more focus on the provision of a multilayered air defence shield would bring long-lasting implications for the contemporary regional security environment in general and Pakistan in particular.

As of now, India's air defence shield is primarily based on diverse missile systems aimed at providing a multilayered aerial defence. At the indigenous level, India has developed Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) systems like the [Prithvi Air Defence \(PAD\)](#), the [Advanced Air Defence \(AAD\)](#) also known as the Ashwin missile system, and the [Akash Air Defence System](#). The PAD has been developed to provide interception against ballistic missiles at higher altitudes while the AAD is meant for the interception at lower altitudes. The Akash system, a medium-range surface-to-air missile system, is aimed at covering multiple targets at low, medium as well as high altitudes. Similarly, as a joint venture with Israel, India has developed the [Barack-8](#) missile system. Though this system is of Israeli origin, it has been jointly developed by both countries. It is a medium-range missile system that provides defence against a wide range of airborne threats including ballistic and cruise missiles, drones, helicopters, and combat jets. It is quite noteworthy that amid the recent border crisis with China in the disputed [Ladakh](#) region in June this year, India [requested](#) an emergency deployment of the Barak-8 system to Israel.

Most significantly, under a much-hyped foreign deal, India has signed an agreement with Russia for the purchase of five units of the [S-400](#) missile system back in October 2018. As per the available record, the delivery with a bit delay on account of the COVID-19 pandemic is

scheduled to start by the end of 2021, whereas all the additional units are planned to be supplied no later than 2025. The S-400 system is widely believed to be one of the most advanced missile systems currently available in the world. It has some very incredible capabilities which currently no other advanced missile system possesses. Like for instance, 8 launchers can fire some 112 diverse types of missiles having different ranges. It has an unmatched tracking range of up to 600 kilometers. Furthermore, the system can engage 80 targets at a time including ballistic and cruise missiles, fighter jets, and drones at a range of 400 kilometers. These provisions make it the most lethal and deadliest missile system that has ever been developed to date. Given the Indian aggressive military posturing against Pakistan, the S-400 system once acquired would provide India a long-range air defence shield most likely against Pakistan. Also, in wake of the recent humiliating border clashes with China, India is looking forward to receiving the system as early as possible.

It would be pertinent to discuss here that India intends to acquire the [National Advanced Surface to Air Missile-II](#) (NASAMS-II) from the US as well. It is known to be one of the advanced missile systems that are more likely to protect important cities. It can intercept and destroy medium-range aerial targets with a wide array of missiles. NASAMS-II is a sophisticated missile system with the provision of 3D radars for surveillance, robust command and control, and fire distribution centers. Though the deal has not been finalized yet, this missile system holds great significance for India vis-à-vis its notion of a multilayered missile defence shield. Another very important element that needs to be considered while analyzing this proposed deal is the recently signed India-US Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA). According to this, along with other benefits, the US would share classified geospatial and intelligence information with India. This would likely be ultimately utilized for enhancing the accuracy of the US' supplied military hardware to India including the missile defence systems which rely on satellites for surveillance and pinpoint accuracy. This very much indicates the likely significance of the US origin missile system for India which would likely boost-up the proposed deal of NASAMS-II.

Hence at present, the South Asian security environment remains in a state of influx due to India's ongoing aggressive military modernization drive. In this regard, the indigenous development of BMD systems and the acquisition of some of the most advanced missile systems from countries like Russia and the US are a clear attempt to undermine the contemporary regional security environment. With such acquisitions, India might be in a stronger position to challenge Pakistan's existing nuclear force posture by neutralizing the deterrent value of the nuclear warhead delivery systems that majorly include ballistic and cruise missiles and jet planes. This would ultimately disturb the deterrence equilibrium in the South Asian region that prevails to date primarily because of Pakistan's credible nuclear deterrence posture. To address this security dilemma, Pakistan, for the time being, might continue to rely on its MIRV capabilities to penetrate the Indian sophisticated missile defence

shields. However, in the longer-term, the prospects of acquiring the same missile systems are needed to be considered and cannot be entirely ruled out. This seems to be a difficult but plausible way out since Pakistan might be compelled to follow the same suit.

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/14122020-indias-advanced-missile-defense-shield-implications-for-contemporary-south-asian-security-environment-oped/>

Significance of Drone Technology and Enhanced Surveillance between India and Pakistan

Sher Bano

With the advent of drone technology in warfare, surveillance and reconnaissance at the borders have become more efficient by using unmanned aerial vehicles, commonly known as drones. In recent years, there has been a major shift in warfare with the technological advancements in which drones play a dominant role. Now, the militaries across the world are using drone technologies to keep their eyes across the borders even without getting exposed. This perhaps appears as one of the reasons that drone or unmanned warfare has become the order of the day. In South Asia, with an increase in border skirmishes between India and Pakistan, the use of drone technology for surveillance has been intensified by India. In the year 2020, the continued Indian provocation at the Line of Control (LoC) through airspace violations by using spy drones has been witnessed several times. This has increased the fears of an escalation in the region. All such advances by India are a violation of the existing air agreement between both countries. The advanced UAVs acquired by India can monitor the deployment and movement of troops and could be used in strategic or tactical missions across the border. Hence these capabilities can be detrimental to Pakistan's security.

India has been using quadcopters for intelligence-gathering operations and the aerial photography of Pakistani posts. In [September 2020](#) an Indian quadcopter was shot down by Pakistani military troops at the Chakothi sector along the LoC. This was the 11th Indian quadcopter that was shot down by the Pakistan Army during this year. This was not the first time India has violated the ceasefire agreement, in fact, it has become routine practice. Moreover, there are reports that the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) serving at the LoC would be armed with [anti-drone](#) systems. This would increase the capacity of the Indian military to detect the lone flying object or group of UAVs and target them within 10 seconds. Apart from this, the state-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) of India has also signed a [memorandum](#) of understanding with the Israel Elbit system for the joint-development of rotary military drones. India is also about to acquire 30 armed General Atomics MQ-9B drones from the US under a [3 billion dollar](#) deal which would further enhance its surveillance even at the coastal boundaries. All such military developments would embolden the Indian military to complement its self-proclaimed surgical strikes inside mainland Pakistan without the risk of the lives of any military personnel. Moreover, the unmanned vehicles also facilitate the Indian temptations to attain its strategic objective efficiently.

In the South Asian context, drone technology for surveillance and reconnaissance has become extremely sophisticated. Pakistan has been compelled to enhance its unmanned surveillance capabilities vis-à-vis India. In this regard, Pakistan is in process of negotiating a [deal](#) with Turkey to buy mini drones such as S-250 and S-350. It has been dealing with Turkish companies such as Bogazici Savunma for the acquisition of neutralization systems and ILTER drone detection. The Prevention system and ILTER drone detections are the latest features in drone technology with automatic detection, deception, and stopping features against the drones that use ISM bands while communicating. The relatively small size of these drones also makes them difficult to be shot down. To consolidate its defensive capabilities, Pakistan has also [bought](#) 48 Wing Loong-II drones from China back in 2018. Furthermore, quite recently Pakistan is in talks with China to buy [CH-4 drones](#) to be deployed along the LoC in order to thwart any border intrusion initiated by India. The high maneuverability and agility benefits of the swarms of advanced armed drones acquired from China and Turkey would likely provide Pakistan a decisive edge over India.

In the light of the growing Indian warmongering rhetoric and brinkmanship, the probability of false flag operations against Pakistan has considerably increased. In this regard, the likelihood of Indian drones invading Pakistan's airspace across the LoC might become more relevant. There is a dire need for Pakistan to enhance its capabilities in the detection and deterrence of drones by employing an effective Counter Unmanned Aerial System (C-UAS). Since the drones have become faster and smaller new solutions would be required to incapacitate them. Furthermore, anti-drone technology has to be more credible and reliable as the latest drones are now equipped with wide-field cameras and advanced tactical sensors for higher altitudes. Hence, Pakistan needs to strengthen its capacity of intercepting and targeting the drones because both drones and anti-drone technologies have evolved simultaneously.

In the present circumstances, the use of unmanned technology has become a turning point in the way military operations are conducted. In a way, it is an indication of the increased usage of drone technology as part of hi-tech warfare. In such operations, drones serve as the best alternative to achieve the strategic objective without the loss of human life. Hence, to prevent border espionage across the LoC Pakistan also needs to enhance its surveillance capabilities by indigenously developing and acquiring drone technologies from its strategic partners. Moreover, under such circumstances where situational preparedness is the key to critical readiness, there is also a dire need for Pakistan to strengthen its anti-drone capability to overcome the ever-increasing Indian threats in this regard.

<http://southasiajournal.net/significance-of-drone-technology-and-enhanced-surveillance-between-india-and-pakistan/>

India's Strategy of Naval Dominance in Indian Ocean

Ahyousha Khan

In recent years, the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) has significantly become a bone of contention between India and China. India considers the Indian Ocean as its backyard and aspires to become the dominant power in the region. This appears to be one of the reasons behind India-China growing tensions in this region. Moreover, the Chinese presence in the Indian Ocean is countering the Indian ambitions of hegemony in the region. This has also put various littoral states under a dilemma vis-à-vis their defense and security relationships with these two countries. Since India believes the Indian Ocean as its backyard, this equation has put it in confrontation with China and the countries that support the Chinese presence in the region for economic and security interests. The clash of interests and competition among the major stakeholders has made the IOR a highly volatile region. This, in turn, would affect the major economic and trade activities conducted in or through the Indian Ocean.

In wake of this confrontation, India has negotiated [several agreements](#) with different littoral states of the Indian Ocean. This is primarily aimed at obtaining military access to their bases. Like for instance, very recently India's National Security Advisor Mr. Ajit Doval went to a [trilateral Maritime Security Meeting](#) between India-Sri-Lanka and Maldives. The trilateral maritime security meeting was in-line to discuss issues relating to the security situation in the IOR. The meeting is quite significant since India holds a massive influence on both of these South Asian island states. However, the nature of this relationship has been full of ups and downs for a long time. India intends to develop a stable relationship with both these island states in pursuit of successfully asserting its strategy of naval dominance. As opposed to this, in the past, both Sri-Lanka and Maldives had maritime security relations with China, which paved the way for Chinese naval presence in the region. Since India is not in a position to counter China on its own therefore it is following two kinds of strategies; one alliance and security partnerships with countries of the IOR and the second is with extra-regional powers that hold significant influence in the Indian Ocean most notably the US.

In this regard, India has made agreements with Indonesia to access strategically located (deep-sea) Sabang Port, Oman's Damuq Port and in the same vein is in negotiations with [Bahrain](#) to formalize maritime security partnership. Recently, the Indian Minister of External Affairs has [visited](#) Bahrain and both sides agreed to elevate strategic partnership within the domains of defense and maritime security. Moreover, India has significantly enhanced its strategic partnership with extra-regional powers as well. In this regard, its partnership with the US, Australia, and Japan under "Quad" is quite notable. India has signed various logistic cooperation agreements with [France](#) and the [US](#) separately. These agreements allow the Indian naval forces to access the US military base in Diego Garcia and the French base in the Reunion

Island. Since the western countries and the US in particular consider the growing Chinese influence in the world a threat to their shared common interests. Therefore, India has been designated as a balancer by the US that would serve their mutually beneficial interests. In this vein, the US has signed several strategic agreements such as LEMOA, COMCASA, and BECA with India that would significantly enhance their military cooperation. Also, France has proposed the “Paris-New Delhi-Canberra Axis” in the newly created “Indo-Pacific” region.

To implement these partnerships into something physical and concrete India has been rapidly modernizing its naval forces. For the next decade, India has planned to invest an additional 51 billion USD to build surface ships and submarines for its Navy. This announcement was made recently by the [Indian Minister of State for Defence](#) in his address to the local ship-making industry. Furthermore, India intends to expand its indigenous ship industry to a worth of [5 trillion USD](#) by 2025. Though the progress is quite slow, in reality, the Indian Navy has built nearly 140 naval warships. These include; an aircraft carrier, nuclear-capable submarines, attack submarines. Other than these, some 240 aircraft and UAVs have also been built. Recently, the Indian Navy has acquired two predatory drones on lease from the US. These drones would be used for surveillance in the Indian Ocean and the Ladakh Border. India is also investing heavily in anti-submarine warfare. It has recently bought weaponry worth [155 million USD](#) from the US. These include; AGM-84L Harpoon Block II air-launched missiles, MK 54 lightweight torpedoes, and P-81 maritime patrol aircraft. These developments indicate the Indian pursuit of a naval dominance strategy. Furthermore, this also comprehends how India is exploring new options for naval dominance.

Summarizing it all, India is in pursuit of dominating the Indian Ocean in the pretext of enhancing its strategic collaboration with the regional and extra-regional players. In this regard, it has signed various bilateral and multilateral agreements and has developed indigenous programs of weapons build-up. This Indian attitude that the Indian Ocean is only its backyard is quite dangerous for the future peace and stability in the IOR. Moreover, the approach of global powers specifically the US to empower India as a balancer against China would likely amplify an arms race in the region. This would ultimately affect the economic and security interests of small powers in the region. It would become more difficult for the regional states to accept India as the sole security guarantor vis-à-vis China in the IOR because of the adverse relations. Therefore, the growing arms race and competition in IOR would ultimately become a boiling point for future conflicts. This would ultimately have long-lasting implications for regional security and stability.

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/17122020-indias-strategy-of-naval-dominance-in-indian-ocean-oped/>

The EU DisinfoLab Report: Further Exposing India's Active Hybrid War against Pakistan

Haris Bilal Malik

In the contemporary era of warfare, Hybrid war has emerged as the most complex warfare domain. In recent years, it has irreversibly transformed the dynamics of warfare. In hybrid warfare, the irregular and non-traditional methods are used by a state against its adversary. In a way, it has extended the scope of the war from being the domains of militaries to a borderless war. Many security experts around the world perceive hybrid warfare as a 'new normal' that has altered the way wars are to be fought. The South Asian region has also become a theater of hybrid warfare where India has been involved in an active hybrid war against Pakistan. Specifically, in recent years this has gained a considerable intensification. For instance, India is using information war against Pakistan as a hybrid toll in pursuit of its broader goal of destabilizing and maligning Pakistan. In this regard, the recently launched EU Disinfo Lab Report provides undeniable evidence of how India has been doing all this for over years. This has further supported Pakistan's long-held stance about India's anti-Pakistan obsession.

In the current era, India has been actively following its grave hybrid agenda against Pakistan. In this regard, India aspires to wage a low-intensity conflict in the region by employing proxies that would harm Pakistan's interests. This is further evident from the Indian involvement in the unrest in Balochistan. Since the ongoing development because of the CPEC is not favorable for the Indian interest as of now. It serves as one of the reasons that have encouraged India to launch a sustainable hybrid campaign against Pakistan. Furthermore, the arrest of [Kalbushan Jhadav](#) who is a serving officer of the Indian Navy back in 2016 is also significant. His confession of spying and supporting terrorism is on record. In the same vein, the [Balochistan Liberation Army](#) (BLA) which is a known terrorist group is funded and backed by India. The group is reportedly behind the attacks on the [Chinese Consulate](#) in Karachi in 2018 and the terrorist attempt to attack the [Pakistan Stock Exchange](#) building in Karachi in June 2020. Similarly, the [Pashtun Tahafuz Movement](#) (PTM), a self-proclaimed and controversial ethnic group involved in anti-state activities is known to be backed by India through its intelligence agency Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) with Afghan support. All these deeds indicate that India is already vigorously trying to undermine Pakistan's security through its hybrid agenda.

Most recently, a European non-governmental organization (NGO) [EU DisInfo Lab](#), based in Brussels in its latest research, 'Indian Chronicles' has exposed a massive Indian hybrid campaign against Pakistan. The report has exposed one of the largest ever networks of

disinformation against any country while covering an operational era of 15 years since 2005. It highlights that during this period, the Indian entities like the [‘Srivastava Group’](#) and some think tanks have been given the task to discredit Pakistan’s interests at the international level. It further exposes that the entity was involved in influencing the decision making at the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHCR) and the European Union (EU) Parliament. In pursuit of this objective, the entity has used some 550 web domains, 759 fake media outlets in 116 countries to produce fake content that could reach millions of people across the world. Furthermore, the network has re-established dead UN-accredited NGOs to work against Pakistan. The EU DisinfoLab has rightly termed their research as a deeper dive into a 15- year operation that has targeted the UN and the EU to work for the Indian interests and damage Pakistan.

It would be quite pertinent to highlight that the 2020 Report is in continuation of an assessment that was carried out by EU Disinfo Lab in [2019](#). As per last year’s report, a [network of 265](#) fake media outlets along with notorious think tanks and NGOs was discovered. It was involved in reproducing negative online content regarding Pakistan. Surprisingly, it was disclosed that some fake European Parliament magazines were established. These were aimed at serving the Indian interests and undermining Pakistan in the European Parliament. In this regard, magazines like, ‘Magazine for the European Parliament’, ‘Times of Geneva’, and the press agencies like the ‘4 News Agency’, and ANI are quite significant. Their main activities were to publish and broadcast the anti-Pakistan agenda to trap the Members of the European Parliament (MEPs). This in turn would further add to the voice of the Indian lobbying against Pakistan at the forums like the EU Parliament and the UN. It was the 2019 report in which very surprising and shocking facts were revealed. Consequently, this had compelled the EU DisinfoLab to conduct deeper research on the matter once again in the year 2020. This indicates the rapid augmentation of the Indian hybrid agenda that is aimed at destabilizing Pakistan at any cost.

Hence it becomes quite apparent that India is actively involved in waging a grave and an active hybrid war against Pakistan. The recently launched report provides evidence of how India over the years has been using disinformation campaigns as a major hybrid tool against Pakistan. Apart from this, other dynamics also indicate how India has been using a deliberate disinformation campaign against Pakistan at various international forums. For instance, the Indian lobbying against Pakistan at the FATF that Pakistan is a sponsor of terrorism appears to be in-line with the Indian active hybrid campaign against Pakistan. Contrary to this, the fact remains the other way around as India itself is involved in support of terrorism. This has become more evident from the [US Department of Treasury’s FinCEN](#) recent report of 2020 in which it has been exposed that India is involved in financial support of terrorism. Furthermore, the timing of this report is quite significant as well since it comes right after Pakistan’s dossier that has been presented to the international community. The dossier provides evidence of how

India has been running a terror campaign against Pakistan over the years. Last but not the least, a strong manifestation of exposing the Indian hybrid agenda in front of the international community would further strengthen Pakistan's principled stance in this regard.

<http://southasiajournal.net/the-eu-disinfo-lab-report-further-exposing-indias-active-hybrid-war-against-pakistan/>

India's Propaganda War against Pakistan

Sher Bano

The South Asian region is one of the most unstable regions in the world. This is primarily because of the hostile relations between India and Pakistan. Both the countries have indulged in the continuous military, economic and political tensions over the years. This has been intensified in recent years since the Indian hostilities towards Pakistan have evolved into new forms and dimensions. Like for instance, India has been using a propaganda war strategy against Pakistan. The information war as part of the hybrid war has now begun to penetrate through the borders of both the states. Even though there are multiple tools of the Hybrid war, information warfare by far is the most lethal and cost-effective tool that provides the opportunity to spread propaganda without being noticed. As part of its aggressive and antagonistic approach towards Pakistan, the Indian government has been using its soft power and media to spread disinformation against Pakistan at the international level. In recent years, Prime Minister Modi's government has used it as a strategic weapon to attain its strategic objective of damaging Pakistan.

Very recently a European non-profit organization EU Disinfo Lab released a [report](#) which revealed that for years India has been involved in subversive activities against Pakistan. The report called 'Indian chronicles' revealed a network of fake media organizations and NGOs in Brussels and Geneva that remained involved in anti-Pakistan propaganda at various international forums for more than a decade. The objective of EU Disinfo Lab is to keep a check over the disinformation campaigns that are used to target and manipulate the European Union, its policies, and parliamentarians. According to the report, in a sophisticated operation, hundreds of long-dead organizations, stolen identities, and fake media outlets mostly linked with Delhi based Srivastava group have been used by India to build a negative image of Pakistan in front of the EU and the UN. It further elaborates that India in pursuit of its efforts to malign Pakistan has not only spread misinformation but has abused the international institutions. Even in 2019, the EU Disinfo Lab [report](#) uncovered 265 fake websites that were being run by a ghost company. These websites were spreading false information about Pakistan in nearly 65 countries. According to the research, these fake websites had a huge influence on the United Nations, especially the website called "Time of Geneva" which had a lot of video content and interviews against Pakistan. Suspiciously, the website has been inactive since the report came out.

It is quite noteworthy that many of these networks that published the false content and articles were using fake personas and names of dead journalists and human rights activists and were impersonating the press and media agencies of international repute. These include; the

Economist, EU observer, and Voice of America. That's the reason many members of the UN fell into this trap. According to the recent report of EU Disinfo Lab, a total of 500 local media outlets operating in 95 countries have been producing negative content about China and Pakistan.

Recently at a press conference Pakistan's Foreign Minister, Mr. Shah Mehmood Qureshi [stated](#) that India has been involved in Hybrid War against Pakistan. He has urged the United Nations to [investigate](#) the Indian campaign of nearly 15 years to undermine Pakistan. He further emphasized that the United Nations needs to scrutinize the government-owned organizations. In this regard, if they are found spreading hate and misinformation, they ought to be denied from the UN platforms. Furthermore, these campaigns by using the EU letterhead have abused the legal institution and have manipulated EU parliamentarians. This might raise questions on the credibility of the EU institutions. Pakistan also seeks a credible investigation of such manipulation of the EU legislative process by these fake organizations that were involved in anti-Pakistan propaganda.

Since Pakistan has been facing information warfare being waged by India, its print and electronic media has to act more responsibly. Though there is now a very credible regulation of media, the media outlets must further verify any suspicious news first before breaking it. Responsible media coverage is one of the keys to avoiding any foreign-imposed chaos in the country which could ultimately disturb the law and order situation in any country. That is why the enemy can use it as an effective tool to damage the external and internal security of the state. There is a need to increase the fake news busters that could further help in controlling fake news and hate content. For reference, it would be worth considering that France recently had an agreement with one of the social media giants to remove any terrorist or hate content posted on the social media site within an hour. These fake news busters would further contribute towards differentiating between real and fake news and to avoid misinformation. As a principle, three steps are needed to be further adopted: analyze, verify, and disseminate.

Summarizing it all, one of the positive outcomes of the recent EU Disinfo Lab report appears that governments all over the world have become proactive. The actions might not be what Pakistan can expect right now, at the very least it would likely lead to progress in the future that could eliminate misinformation. For instance, some of the measures taken by the major websites are e.g. Facebook and YouTube have options to report the content. All such actions have great potential to be improved in the coming times and we might have a perfect solution. Though already very robust, Pakistan needs to further strengthen the cybercrime laws and punishments.

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/31122020-indias-propaganda-war-against-pakistan-oped/>

India's Rapid Space Militarization and Options for Pakistan

Ahyousha Khan

The Outer Space had become the object of human fascination for civilian and military use during the Cold War. In recent years, significant scientific progress has occurred in space programs. This has led to the utilization of space for various scientific domains that have civilian and military applications. These include; Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR), communication, navigation, global positioning, remote sensing, early warning systems, and nuclear command and control systems. Today nearly 2000 satellites of 50 countries are operating in outer space to enable fast communication and provide instant information and intelligence. This makes outer space an ultimate high ground for information warfare as well. In the 21st century, the developed countries have been dominating outer space with their presence so far. The space-based assets as the force multiplier during the US-led operations like 'Desert Storm' have also encouraged the other countries to catch-up with the emergent domain. Since, states with space-based assets and satellites will have better availability of information and data for land, air, and naval forces. In South Asia, India aspires to have an extensive presence in outer space. In this regard, while pursuing a rapid space program India has sent a mission to Mars and has tested the ASAT weapon back in 2019.

Quite recently, India's Space Research Organization (ISRO) has announced to launch a [CMS-01](#) communication satellite from the second launch pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC). CMS-01 is India's [42nd](#) communication satellite in space, which would provide an extended C-band of the frequency spectrum. It would improve and expand the telecommunication coverage for Andaman and Nicobar Islands, both of the islands are of critical importance for India's missile and nuclear weapons program. As per the ISRO, it intends to launch a new launcher for small satellites with EOS-2 capability (earth observation satellite). It is also quite noteworthy that India has recently signed an agreement with the US, known as '[BECA](#)' which is the last of the foundational agreements between both states for enhanced military cooperation. BECA would enable India to acquire sensitive information, satellite data, and real-time access to the US geospatial intelligence. These developments would further increase India's space capabilities. It would further provide India an advantage over Pakistan specifically in a conflict situation. Furthermore, it would further embolden India to launch a 'preemptive strike' against Pakistan.

Though there are many peaceful uses of outer space, the growing phenomenon in this regard is the use of space by countries for militarization and weaponization. Initially, at the start of the space race, states were focused on limiting the use of outer space for military purposes but with developments in the international arena like US [withdrawal](#) from Open Skies Treaty,

creation of its Space Force, and rapid testing and development of ASAT weapons by the US, Russia, China, and India has opened ways for space militarization and ultimately weaponization. Most significantly, India has been pursuing its space program at a faster pace, which is a hostile country towards Pakistan. India's space aspirations appeared to be quite ambiguous when the former US President Mr. Ronald Regan presented his [Star War](#) program. At that time, the pioneer of India's space program Satish Dhawan asserted; "that time would tell whether Indian activities in space would remain exclusively civilian and pacifist". However, when India tested its ASAT weapon back in [March 2019](#) the decision came as a surprise to the international community that hailed India's space program as peaceful. However, India's test of ASAT was not of a surprise for Pakistan, since it had reiterated several times that India is heading towards space weaponization.

Today it is not just missiles that cross through space or target assets in space but missiles can be placed in space, and space assets can target other space-based assets. This pursuit of space for military purposes has increased the speed and quantity of information and data available to the states. Likewise, the states with space-based assets would have real-time information about their adversary. Such information could be utilized to target an adversary's military assets in a preemptive attack. Resultantly, this scenario would increase uncertainty between the rival states and create a security dilemma for those states that are still behind in space militarization. In the South Asian context, space militarization and weaponization initiated by India would further disturb the regional deterrence equation that is primarily ensured by Pakistan's nuclear capability.

Summarizing it all, Indian pursuit of space militarization and weaponization has further put at stake South Asian security. In this regard, Pakistan would be left with no choice but to develop space-based assets to further maintain a credible deterrence vis-a-vis India. Implementation of initiatives like Pakistan's "[Space Program 2040](#)" would be crucial that would enable the establishment of ground stations and ancillary facilities for the reception and use of data. Under the program, Pakistan intends to develop satellite tracking facilities; launch multipurpose satellites and development of satellites launch vehicles. These developments would require a lot of financial resources, Pakistan for the time being needs to come up with creative ideas like small satellites and small satellite launch vehicles. In the same vein, Pakistan needs to further seek agreements for satellite information sharing with China. This would likely further add to its overall deterrent posture and pave the way to coupe up with this upcoming battle ground.

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