

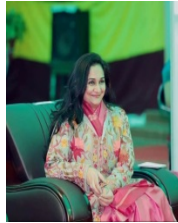


# ISSUE BRIEF

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## Pakistan Releases Dossier 2021: Propagandist Overtures



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### Introduction

The Government of Pakistan released a 131 page dossier titled *Indian Human Rights Violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (IIOJK)*, on 12th September 2021, in a press conference jointly addressed by Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi, National Security Advisor Dr. Moueed Yusuf and Human Rights Minister Shireen Mazari. The Foreign Minister announced the sharing of the dossier with the International community which consists of 113 references, including 26 from the international media, 41 from the Indian think-tanks and only 14 from Pakistan.<sup>1</sup>

It consists of **three chapters** along with audio and video "evidence" in a CD. Chapter 1 titled, **"War Crimes by Indian Occupation Forces"** includes

### Key Points

- The claims by Pakistan that India manages five ISIS training camps, were thoroughly investigated by rechecking the coordinates using Google maps and GPS, only to discover that they were incorrect.
- There are no verifiable sources for the assertions that India used chemical weapons and cluster ammunition in the Kashmir valley, and the Indian Army categorically denies them.
- Most of the war crimes accusations claimed to be committed by India are from "unverified sources" with some coming from ISPR-controlled Pakistani media sites.
- Post constitutionally approved abrogation of Article 370 by Government of India, Pakistan has been using this misinformation campaign involving falsehoods, having realised that it has no locus standi and to justify its own claim over illegally occupied parts of Kashmir (POK).
- India too needs to formulate narratives supported by videos, images, write-ups, etc. in both concise and detailed forms. The same should be multilingual, including Arabic and French, to ensure wider dissemination.
- There is a need to improve our 'communication strategy' by having an independent team with specialists and professionals to be proactive in its projections.

The Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS), New Delhi, is an independent Think Tank dealing with national security and conceptual aspects of land warfare, including conventional & sub-conventional conflict and terrorism. CLAWS conducts research that is futuristic in outlook and policy-oriented in approach.

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contents -'War Crimes by Indian Occupation Forces (IOFs)', 'Draconian Laws (Blanket Legal Cover to IOFs)', 'Genocide of Kashmiris', 'Horrors of Mass Graves', 'Torture in Custody', 'Violence against Women', 'Violence against Children', 'Enforced Displacement & Half Widows', 'Use of Pellet Guns', 'Collective Punishment', 'Use of Civilians as Human Shields', 'Use of Snipers & Cluster Ammunition', 'Indian Apartheid- Post 5 August 2019', 'Repressive Measures and Systematic Infringement of Human Rights- Case Study', and 'IIJOK New Media Policy 2020'.<sup>2</sup>

Chapter 2, **“Indigenized Kashmir Freedom Movement (KFM) and Indian False Flag Operations”** comprises - 'Evolution of KFM', 'Independent Reports on KFM', 'Indian Design to Malign KFM', 'Chronicles of Indian False Flag Operations - Fake Encounters and Fake Recoveries' and 'Nagrota Fake Encounter', 'Indian Patronage of ISIS' and 'Extra-Judicial Killings'.<sup>3</sup>

Chapter 3, **“UN Resolutions/ International Laws vis-a-vis Indian Illegal Maneuvers to Change Demographic Structure of IIOJK”**, has contents on 'UN Resolutions & International Laws Governing the Status of IIOJK', 'Demographic Apartheid and Change', 'Political Engineering', 'Grabbing Kashmiri Land' and 'Cultural Aggression'. It also contains annexures, primarily relating to the letters written by few International Non-Governmental Organisations.<sup>4</sup>

The timing of its release was a significant attempt as it was done prior to the beginning of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly (20th September 2021-24 September 2021); in an attempt to distract the international community's attention from Pakistan misdeeds in Afghanistan, as evident in its unflinching support to the Taliban and Haqqani Network <sup>5</sup> which has led to a massive humanitarian crisis.<sup>6</sup>

The dossier has many inaccuracies and false claims reflecting the true intention of Pakistan to enliven propaganda and propagate a false narrative against India. However, it is embarrassing to see that the top-level government official i.e., the foreign minister of Pakistan has stooped to chicanery, by authenticating the ill-prepared dossier containing a plethora of misinformation and unverified allegations. The dossier was also disseminated in the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), where Pakistan pushed its agenda. <sup>7</sup>

This article will debunk the dossier's significant claims by highlighting Pakistan's erroneous allegations with facts based checks and analysis:

***Allegation 1: India is training the Islamic State terrorists***

The dossier claims that India is managing five ISIS training camps, and provides the coordinates of these locations (**see figure 1**)<sup>8</sup> However, the locations were not corroborated with any evidence.

**Figure 1: Five ISIS Training Camps**

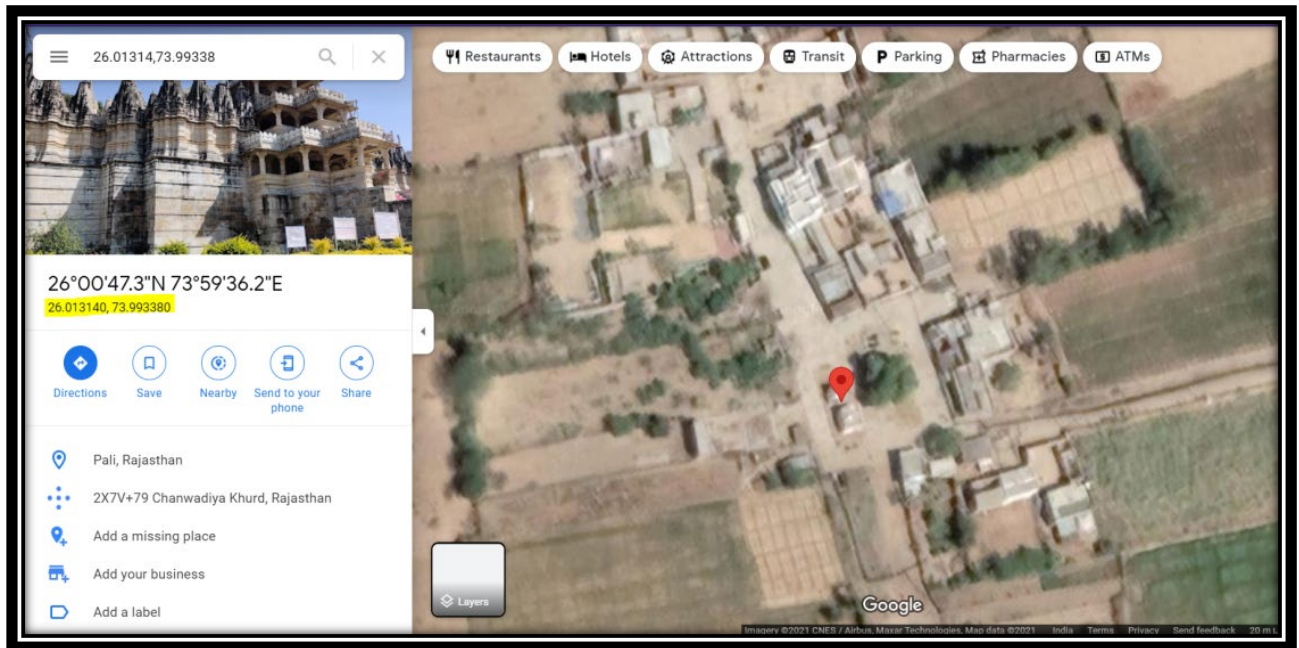
Serial	Cities	Location
i.	Raipur (Rajasthan)	(26.01314, 73.99338)
ii.	Jodhpur (Rajasthan)	(26.29193, 73.05574)
iii.	Anupgarh & Bikaner(Rajasthan)	(29.17252, 73.20101)
iv.	Chakrata (Uttarakhand)	(30.67764, 77.86572)
v.	Gulmarg (J&K)	(34.05996, 74.37457)

*Source: Pakistan's Dossier 2021: Indian Human Rights Violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir*

**Comment:** Verification of these coordinates on Google Maps or Global Positioning System (GPS) exposes the misinformation:

The first alleged ISIS training camp location **(26.01314,73.99338)** is actually an open area near Ranakpur Jain Temple in Rajasthan as shown on the left side of the figure (**see figure 2**).

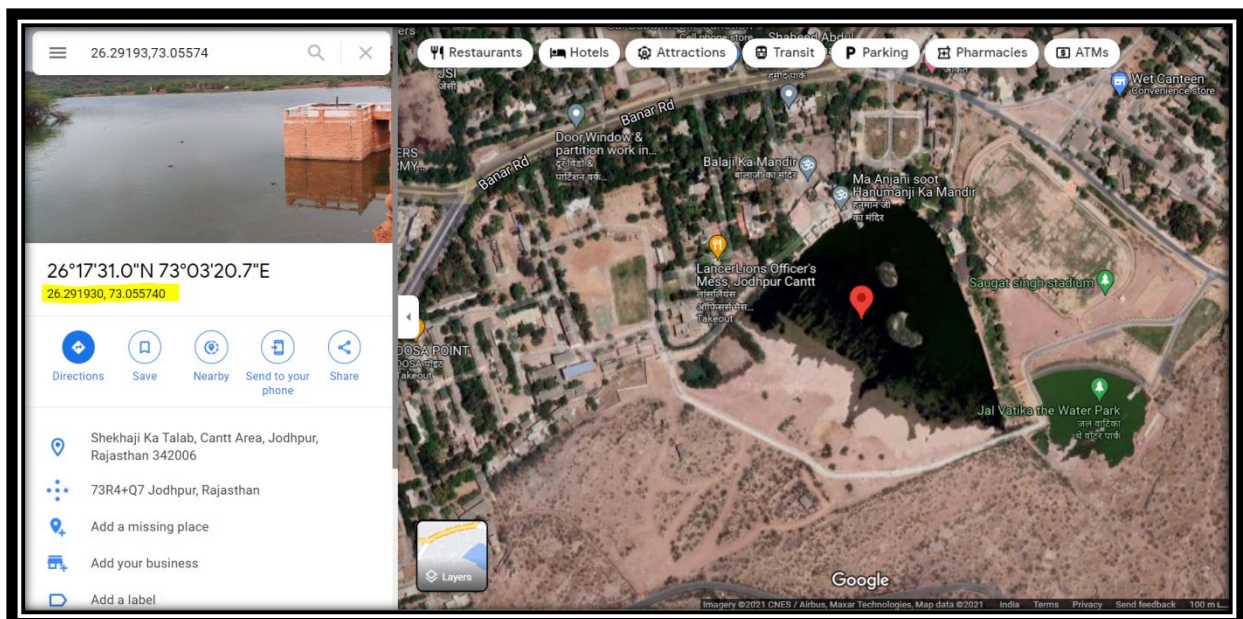
**Figure 2: Ranakpur Jain Temple in Rajasthan**



*Source: Google Maps*

The second alleged ISIS training camp location (**26.29193,73.05574**) is fallacious. The true location as per the coordinates on the google map is of Shekhaji's Lake in Jodhpur, Rajasthan (**see figure 3**).

**Figure 3: Shekhaji's Lake in Jodhpur, Rajasthan**

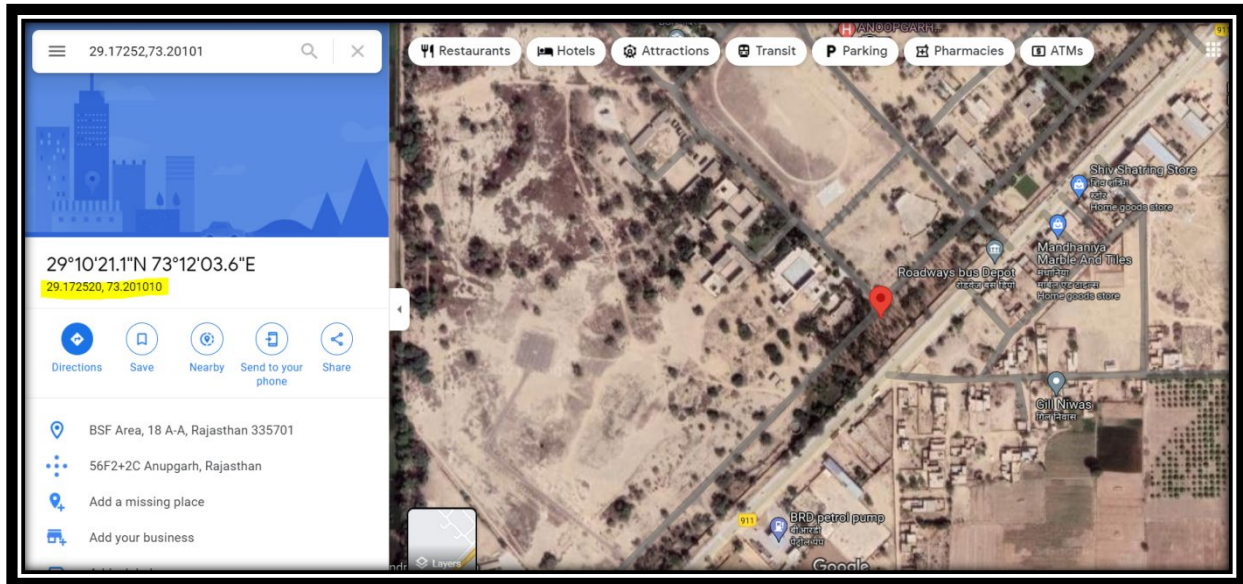


*Source: Google Maps*



The third alleged ISIS training location **(29.17252,73.20101)**, in reality is an area between a roadway bus depot and a farmhouse in Rajasthan (**see figure 4**).

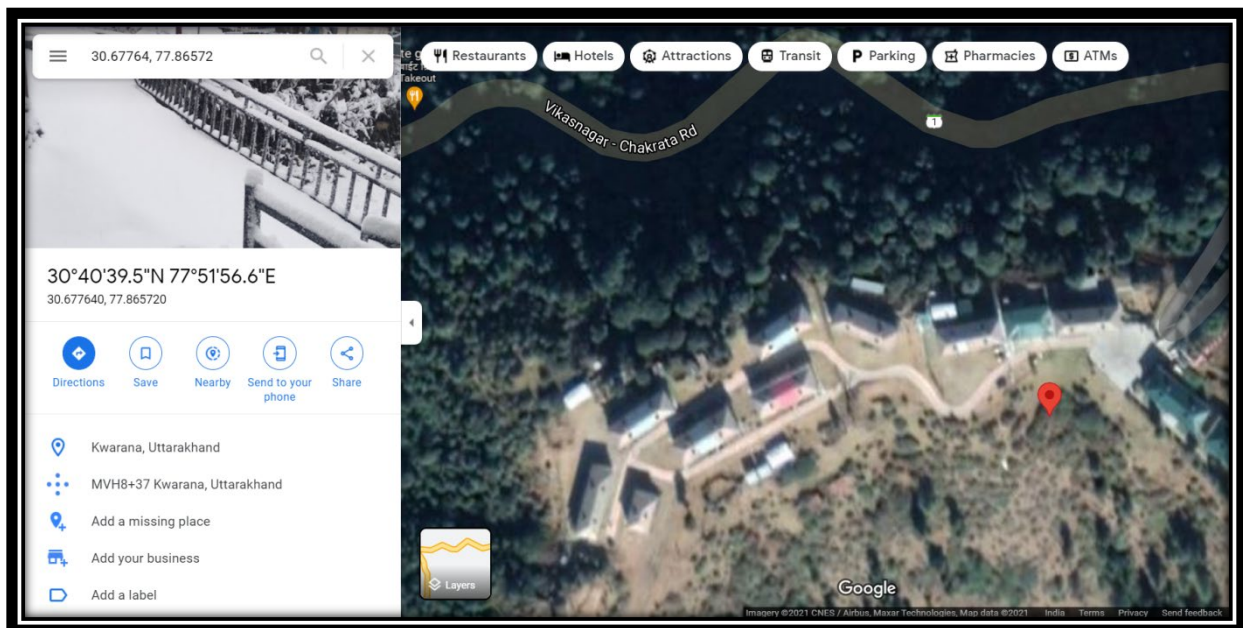
**Figure 4: Roadway Bus Depot and a Farmhouse in Rajasthan**



*Source: Google Maps*

The fourth alleged ISIS training camp location **(30.67764, 77.86572)** is fictitious as it is actually a bonafide government military training centre located at Chakrata, Uttarakhand.

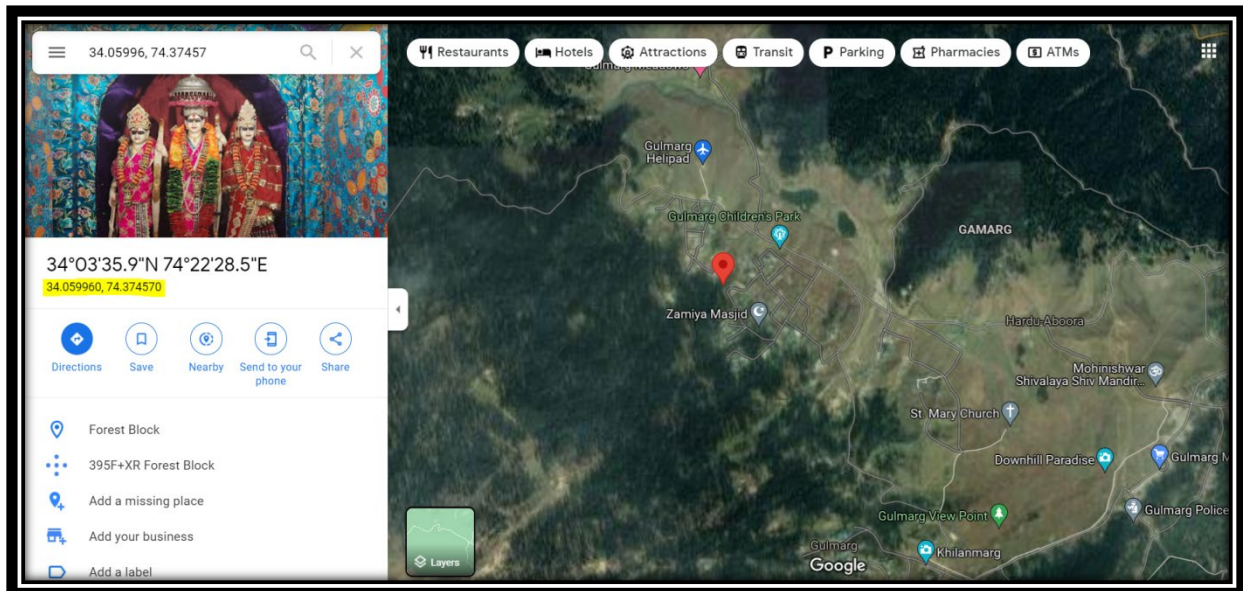
**Figure 5: Government Military Training Centre at Chakrata, Uttarakhand**



*Source: Google Maps*

The fifth ISIS training camp location (**34.05996, 74.37457**) is also false as the coordinates pinpoint at trees and surrounded by the Children's Park, Zamiya Masjid, St. Mary Church and Mohinishwar Shivalaya Shiv Mandir in Kashmir.

**Figure 6: Children's Park in Kashmir**



Source: Google Maps

### ***Allegation 2: India has been Using Chemical Weapons in Kashmir Valley***

India's security forces use an 'unknown chemical weapon' that burns the bodies and converts them into lumps of clays. The dossier falsely claims that in the last five years, "37 Kashmiris have been burnt" by the Indian security forces, "most likely by using chemical weapons." Some pictures and videos have been attached as evidence to prove the claims. (see figure 7).<sup>9</sup>

**Figure 7: Suspected Usage of Chemicals for Turning body into Lump of Clay**



*Source: Pakistan's Dossier 2021: Indian Human Rights Violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir*

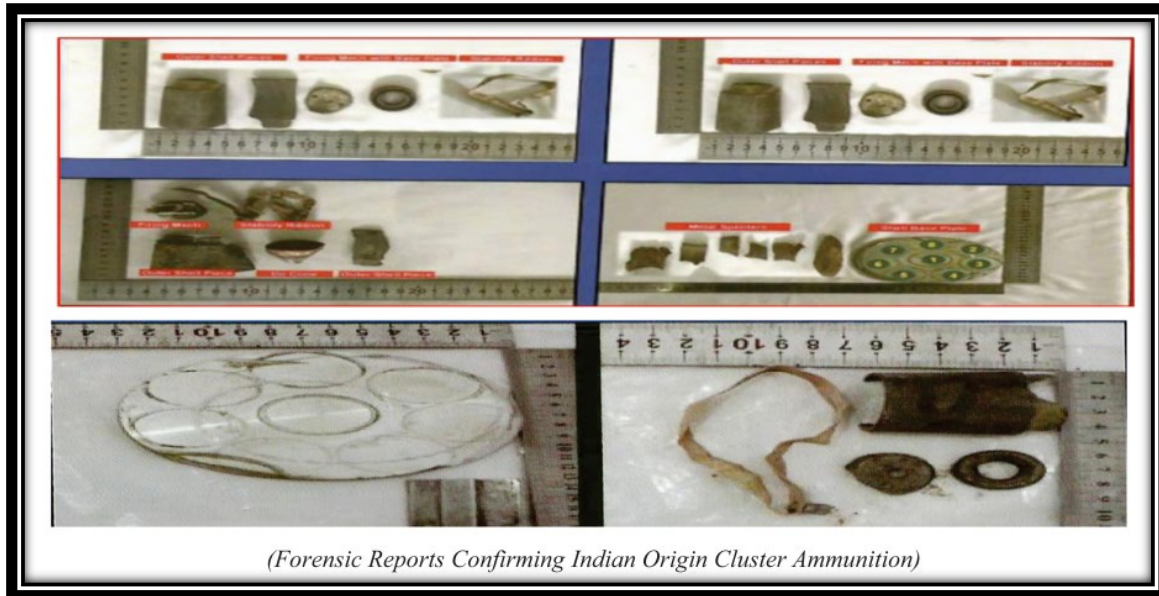
**Comment:** First, India is a signatory to the Chemical Weapon Convention and has debarred the use of chemical weapons against anyone let alone its own people.<sup>10</sup> Second, no such chemical has ever been discovered that could turn a human body into a lump of clay. Third, Pakistan has been making such accusations since the end of the Kargil war (1999), Foreign Minister Sartaj Aziz headed an investigation to validate claims of chemical weapons used by India, but the reports found no evidence to substantiate the same.<sup>11</sup>

### ***Allegation 3: India using Cluster Ammunition***

The Indian Army is using cluster ammunition along the Line of Control (LoC) and is violating the international ban on the use of cluster ammunition<sup>12</sup> (**see figure 8**). Cluster ammunitions are weapons that open in the air and scatter large numbers of explosive "bomblets" over a large area.<sup>13</sup>



**Figure 8: Alleged Cluster Ammunition**



*Source: Pakistan's Dossier 2021: Indian Human Rights Violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir*

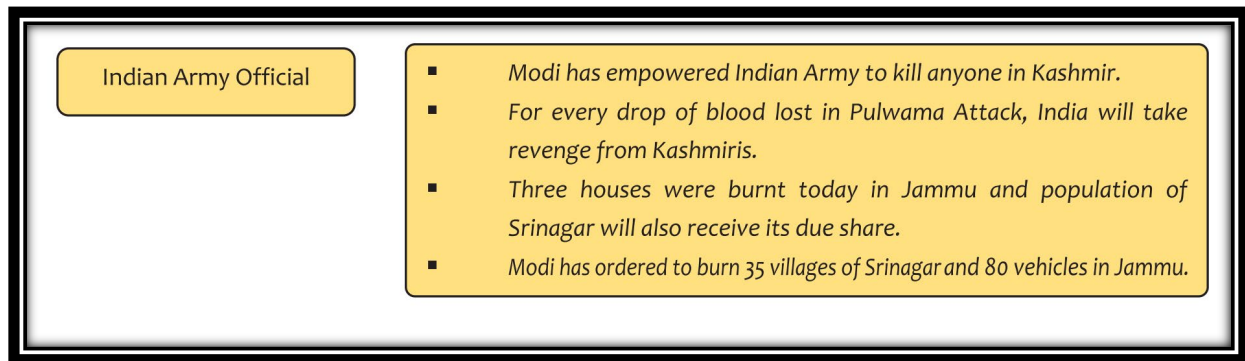
**Comment:** A similar claim was made in August 2019, which the Indian Army had categorically refuted. A top Army official had responded by saying that the photographs were of mortar shells and not cluster bombs. India fires these mortar and artillery in response to the ceasefire violations involving Pakistan's mortar and artillery firing. Furthermore, mortar and artillery shells are only aimed at military targets and infiltrating terrorists whom the Pakistan Army persistently assists.<sup>14</sup>

#### ***Allegation 4: Long-List of War Crimes***

The Indian security forces have committed 3,432 war crimes, wherein 1,128 security personnel were involved including "1 Major General, 4 Inspectors General, 7 Deputy Inspectors General, 5 Brigadiers, 31 Colonels and 188 Majors/ Captains, 118 Units of Indian Army, since 1989. Asifa Bano, an 8-year-old Kathua inhabitant, was raped, with suspicions that Indian security forces were involved. To back up the fake trials and encounters, audio recordings of Indian Army officials were produced (fig 9). Another case study of the Nagrota Encounter was considered fake.<sup>15</sup>



**Figure 9: Transcript of the Audio Conversation**



*Source: Pakistan's Dossier 2021: Indian Human Rights Violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir*

**Comment:** Most of the accusations of war crimes are from '*unverified sources*' or have been sourced from Pakistan's media outlets which are known to be controlled by Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR). The audio evidence provided in the dossier is highly unsatisfactory to substantiate the allegations of torture, fake trials or encounters as it was not corroborated with facts on the ground. For example, in the audio conversation, the order to burn 35 villages was mentioned but no such event has ever happened on the ground or even covered by any media report. **(see figure 9).**

The rape case of Asifa Bano of April 2018, as cited as a war crime in the dossier, has been misrepresented. To set the record straight, the Government of India has already taken a due course of action by convicting and imprisoning the defendants involved in 2019.<sup>16</sup>

The claim that the Nagrota encounter was a false operation was backed by 'anomalies and inconsistencies' as the 'identities of individuals were not revealed'. In reality, four neutralised terrorists were planning a "big attack" prior to the first District Development Council elections to halt the political process in Jammu and Kashmir. The Indian security forces also recovered arms and ammunition from these infiltrated terrorists.<sup>17</sup>

#### ***Allegation 5: Indian Apartheid and Cultural Aggression***

India is changing Kashmir's demography by marginalising Muslims. It alleges that the Indian government is changing the names of places that are associated with Kashmiris **(see figure 8)**. The dossier also alleges that the Indian administration is imposing Hindi, one of the official languages of India on Kashmiris.<sup>18</sup>

**Figure 10: Alleged Change of Names**

Before	Now
Sher-e-Kashmir Stadium Srinagar	Sardar Patel Stadium
Jammu City Chowk	Bharat Mata Chowk
Water Supply Department	Jal Shakti Department
Radio Srinagar	All India Radio
Circular Chowk Jammu	Attal Chowk
Jammu Airport	Hari Singh Airport
Jammu University	Ghulab Singh University
Tunnel on Highway	Sharma Parshad

*Source: Pakistan's Dossier 2021: Indian Human Rights Violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir*

**Comment:** Post-abrogation of Article 370, Pakistan has been accusing India of suppressing Kashmiris and their rights despite being well aware of its own acts of power abuse in Pakistan Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, Balochistan and Sindh. Pakistan national newspaper *The Dawn* (2011) poignantly dubbed Balochistan— "a human rights-free zone".<sup>19</sup> In 2020, the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan organised a webinar to mark the International Day of Enforced Disappearances, in which the participants such as former senator Afrasiab Khattak and lawyer Hina Jilani, raised concern over the rising numbers of missing persons in Pakistan. Afrasiab Khattak commented that "enforced disappearances were hurting the credibility of the state". Whereas, Hina Jilani stated that the number of missing persons is increasing in Sindh and reaching the level of disappearances happens Balochistan. She even added that if Pakistan did not stem such cases of enforced disappearances it could invite sanctions from the UN Security Council.<sup>20</sup>

Pakistan is known for '*persecuting minorities*' which include abductions and forceful conversion of Hindu, Christian and Sikh girls into Islam, not to forget Pakistan sponsored the world's worst genocide and ethnic cleansing in erstwhile East Pakistan, now Bangladesh (1971). According to Human rights Watch, Human abuses in Balochistan have reached '*epidemic proportions*'. Thousands of people have gone missing, while bodies in mass graves uncovered by Amnesty International bear conclusive witness to the signs of torture.<sup>21</sup>

Furthermore, the introduction of Hindi as one of the official languages of Jammu and Kashmir through the Official Languages Bill also "declares Kashmiri, Dogri, Urdu and English

as official languages in Jammu and Kashmir”.<sup>22</sup> It is a step towards inclusion, not exclusion as the Indian administration is empowering regional languages.

The accusation of changing the name of the Sher-e-Kashmir stadium in Srinagar to Sardar Patel Stadium is not true.<sup>23</sup> In Google search, one can easily check that the name has not been changed. There are also other discrepancies in the data, for instance, there is no Radio Srinagar as claimed in the dossier. The name Sharma Parshad written in the dossier is incorrect as the actual name is Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee tunnel also known as Chenani-Nashri Tunnel.<sup>24</sup>

### Recommendations

Pakistan follows the maxim- "a lie once told is a lie, but a lie told thousand times becomes the truth", when it propagates a false narrative against India. In the age of cyberspace, where information could traverse at "net-speed" (megabits per second), it is easier to spread such propaganda. To be credible, India too needs to formulate narratives supported by videos, images, write-ups, etc. in both concise and detailed forms. The same should be "multilingual, including Arabic and French, to ensure wider dissemination".<sup>25</sup>

There is a need to improve our '*communication strategy*' by having an independent team with specialists and professionals to be proactive in its projections. It is, therefore, imperative for India to not ignore the information warfare Pakistan has waged and set the record straight by providing empirical facts every time any attempt to cultivate a false narrative occurs.

Recently, when Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan raked up Kashmir in his speech to the United Nations General Assembly and offered a skewed narrative to damage India's benign image, India countered by exposing the hard reality<sup>26</sup>- "Pakistan acts like 'firefighter' but is actually the 'arsonist'".<sup>27</sup> The recent attempt of infiltration by seven Pakistani terrorists, including a 19-year-old Lashkar-e-Taiba's incendiary, at the Line of Control (LoC) proves yet again the fact that Pakistan is a country that '*fosters terrorism and provides a safe haven for terrorists*' at the expense of the world's peace.

To sum up, the Dossier presents a terrible picture of the condition of research in Pakistan that is characterised with numerous faults and misleading claims. Therefore, the dossier demonstrates the work of Pakistan's "**Deep State Propagandists**".





## End Notes

- <sup>1</sup> "Pakistan Unveils Dossier on War Crimes, Rights Violations in Indian-Occupied Kashmir", *The Dawn*, 12 September 2021. Accessible at <https://www.dawn.com/news/1645981>. Accessed on 22 September 2021.
- <sup>2</sup> "Indian Human Rights Violations in Indian Illegally Occupied Jammu and Kashmir", Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Pakistan, 12 September 2021. Accessible at <https://mofa.gov.pk/iiojk/>. Accessed on 22 September 2021.
- <sup>3</sup> N.2. pp.35-49.
- <sup>4</sup> N.2. pp.50-73.
- <sup>5</sup> According to the UNSC, Haqqani Network is the most dreaded terrorist organisation.
- <sup>6</sup> Press Trust of India, "Former Canada Minister Accuses Pakistan of Engaging in 'Proxy War' in Afghanistan", *NDTV*, August 2, 2021. Accessible at <https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/former-canada-minister-accuses-pakistan-of-engaging-in-proxy-war-in-afghanistan-2500827>. Accessed on 22 September 2021.
- <sup>7</sup> Dawn.com, "Pakistan Urges OIC to Do More for 'Lasting Solution' to Kashmir Dispute", *The Dawn*, 23 September 2021. Accessible at <https://www.dawn.com/news/1647996>. Accessed on 22 September 2021.
- <sup>8</sup> N.2. p.41.
- <sup>9</sup> N.2.p.16.
- <sup>10</sup> India signed the Chemical Weapon Convention in January 1993.
- <sup>11</sup> Praveen Swami, "Why Islamabad Claims India Is Training Islamic State Terrorists in the Middle of a Muddy Little Lake in Jodhpur", *Firstpost*, 16 September 2021. Accessible at <https://www.firstpost.com/india/why-islamabad-claims-india-is-training-islamic-state-terrorists-in-the-middle-of-a-muddy-little-lake-in-jodhpur-9965141.html>. Accessed on 17 September 2021.
- <sup>12</sup> N.2. p.27.
- <sup>13</sup> "Cluster Munitions: What Are They and What Is the Problem?", *ICRC*, 1 August 2010. Accessible at <https://www.icrc.org/en/doc/resources/documents/legal-fact-sheet/cluster-munitions-factsheet-230710.htm>. Accessed on 27 September 2021.
- <sup>14</sup> PTI, "India Used Cluster Ammunition: Pak.," *The Hindu*, 3 August 2019. Accessible at <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-used-cluster-ammunition-pak/article28809026.ece>. Accessed on 17 September 2021.
- <sup>15</sup> N.2. pp.1-33.
- <sup>16</sup> Niha Masih and Joanna Slater, "Six Men Convicted in the Rape and Murder of 8-Year-Old Girl That Shocked India", *The Washington Post*, 10 June 2019). Accessible at [https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia\\_pacific/six-men-convicted-in-rape-of-8-year-old-girl-that-shocked-india/2019/06/10/cde7b17c-8b5f-11e9-b162-8f6f41ec3c04\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/six-men-convicted-in-rape-of-8-year-old-girl-that-shocked-india/2019/06/10/cde7b17c-8b5f-11e9-b162-8f6f41ec3c04_story.html). Accessed on 20 September 2021.
- <sup>17</sup> "Nagrota Encounter: Terrorists Were Planning Major Attack on 26/11 Anniversary, PM Holds Review Meet," *The Hindustan Times*, 20 November 2020. Accessible at <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/nagrota-encounter-terrorists-were-planning-major-attack-on-26-11-anniversary-pm-holds-review-meet-reports-ani/story-0EZn11aKKtEmERc9XBSfO.html>. Accessed on 20 September 2021.
- <sup>18</sup> N.2. pp. 27-30.
- <sup>19</sup> "Balochistan – a Human Rights Free Zone", *The Dawn*, 10 December 2011. Accessible at <https://www.dawn.com/news/679484/balochistan-a-human-rights-free-zone>. Accessed on 26 September 2021.
- <sup>20</sup> Xari Jalil, "Activists Call for Legislation to Stem Enforced Disappearances", *The Dawn*, 01 September 2020. Accessible at <https://www.dawn.com/news/1577283>. Accessed on 26 September 2021.



<sup>21</sup>“European Parliament Proceedings”. Accessible at [http://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-8-2019-001047\\_EN.html](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-8-2019-001047_EN.html). Accessed on 23 September 2021.

<sup>22</sup> Special Correspondent, “Lok Sabha Passes the J&K Official Languages Bill, 2020”, *The Hindu*, 22 September 2020. Accessible at <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/lok-sabha-passes-the-jk-official-languages-bill-2020/article32671667.ece>. Accessed on 23 September 2021.

<sup>23</sup>“Sher-e-Kashmir Stadium “, *Cricinfo*. Accessible at <https://www.espn.cricinfo.com/india/content/ground/58456.html>. Accessed on 20 September 2021.

<sup>24</sup> PTI, “J&K's Chenani-Nashri Tunnel Renamed after Shyama Prasad Mukherjee”, *The Hindu*, 24 October 2019. Accessible at <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/jks-chenani-nashri-tunnel-renamed-after-shyama-prasad-mukherjee/article29785873.ece>. Accessed on 22 September 2021.

<sup>25</sup> Kanchana Ramanujam, “Green Book, Pink Elephants – Pak’s Relentless Propaganda Continues”, *CLAWS Web Article*, 07 May 2020. Accessible at <https://www.claws.in/green-book-pink-elephants-paks-relentless-propaganda-continues/>. Accessed on 27 September 2021.

<sup>26</sup> “Tradition of Young Indian Diplomats Taking on Rants of Pakistan’s Leaders at UN General Assembly”, *The Economic Times*. Accessible at <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/tradition-of-young-indian-diplomats-taking-on-rants-of-pakistans-leaders-at-un-general-assembly/articleshow/86508996.cms>. Accessed on 27 September 2021.

<sup>27</sup> “Pakistan acts like a ‘firefighter’ but is actually the ‘arsonist’: India’s strong retort at UNGA”, *The Hindustan Times*, 25 September 2021. Accessible at <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/pakistan-acts-like-a-firefighter-but-is-actually-the-arsonist-india-s-strong-retort-at-unga-101632537853094.html>. Accessed on 27 September 2021.

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