

Timeline Chat About More ▼

JAN 28, 2020, 9:59 PM

(Discussion began after raising Delhi election issue in Civic Summit talk.
Resulted in approval to take down pro-AAP fake account activity in Delhi.)

@silent Hi Sophie and apologies again for my confusion earlier.

Balance Bot suppressed notifications for that last message as per your @-command

@silent What are our next steps you recommend and given we are clear it is violating behaviour

Balance Bot suppressed notifications for that last message as per your @-command

JAN 28, 2020, 11:36 PM

@silent
re inauthentic accounts amplifying in Punjab, and now Delhi

recommended next steps: find a suitable owner to validate my results [since we shouldn't be taking action on my personal say-so], optionally fan out for further recidivism, and mass UFAC the users involved in the inauthentic amplification. Monitor for potential recidivism [as occurred in our previous action against the Punjab INC cluster] to immediately remediate.

To avoid bias through selective responses, I strongly recommend also acting at the same time against the separate inauthentic amplification network identified in Kaushambi.

Balance Bot suppressed notifications for that last message as per your @-command


understood., this is very clear. can i help take this to the right folks or help in any way?

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I.e. network apparently run by MP
Vinod Sonkar (BJP - Kaushambi)

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note: to be clear, we have no direct evidence that the Punjab INC or Delhi AAP have any relationship to the inauthentic activity currently benefitting them. The sequence of events is however highly suggestive for the Punjab INC [which has a track record of repeatedly receiving inauthentic activity]; receiving this activity is new in my experience for the AAP.

Not redacted, as has been directly tied to the honorable MP

in contrast, we have directly tied the Kaushambi network to the beneficiary [MP Vinod Sonkar] via [REDACTED]

Methodology redacted to avoid alerting future IT cells

would appreciate if you could find a correct owner to take this to. 1

got it- am getting on this

apologies for any confusion - I'm not on India or elections integrity, and just essentially find this sort of things globally although it isn't on my roadmap; hence, I don't have the best knowledge of organization and proper channels

oh its totally cool- thanks so much for flagging. these guys are trying to imitate the BJP and beat them at their online game. fascinating given they are doing this on FB and WA and god knows where else

Whatsapp

My personal recommendation in this case would be [pending verification] to also take some actor-level action against MP Sonkar given the clear evidence between his own account and the inauthentic activity benefiting himself - e.g. a warning, or a temporary feed limiting as a punitive discouraging measure.

I've seen so much of this sort of thing globally that it's clear our existing "take down the bad activity strategy" is not sufficient to dissuade major politicians from

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I don't have the best knowledge of organization and proper channels

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My personal recommendation in this case would be [pending verification] to also take some actor-level action against MP Sonkar given the clear evidence between his own account and the inauthentic activity benefiting himself - e.g. a warning, or a temporary feed limiting as a punitive discouraging measure.

I've seen so much of this sort of thing globally that it's clear our existing "take down the bad activity strategy" is not sufficient to dissuade major politicians from directly organizing this inauthentic activity, and so my personal recommendation is hence for recipient-level actions when we have clear evidence of their involvement. I understand that probably isn't feasible given policy constraints however.

For what it's worth, I've been at the company since 2018; in that time, I've seen roughly as much unsophisticated/semi-sophisticated inauthentic activity benefiting the BJP as benefiting the INC.

[very sophisticated is ofc owned by InfoOps so can't speak on it.]

Information Operations - e.g. FB's threat intelligence, espionage, etc. teams

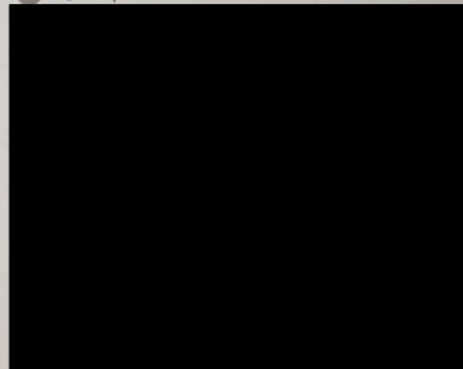
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[REDACTED] replied to you

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interesting! the bjp's online armies are more in number and perhaps 'out there' a lot more esp since 2019. but thats without any platform metric to back this. just looking at what i see and picking up from what i hear. their online game as seen

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[redacted] replied to you

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interesting! the bjp's online armies are more in number and perhaps 'out there' a lot more esp since 2019. but thats without any platform metric to back this. just looking at what i see and picking up from what i hear. their online game as seen on twitter is to use these troll armies to push their case. suppose the same MO for FB

[redacted] replied to you

My personal recommendation in this case would be [pending verification] to also take some actor-level action against MP Sonkar given the clear evidence between his own...

Only acknowledgement - conversation was not started despite my attempts

good to know this and start a conversation with the XFN around this.

With that said, people often conflate inauthentic behavior [the behavior I'm referring to] with inauthentic content [e.g. misinfo/hoaxes/etc.] when they're really orthogonal. It may be that the situation is different for inauthentic content. Actually, I've seen almost no cases of inauthentic behavior used to spread inauthentic content [despite that being the 'stereotype' assumption] - my assumption for why is to minimize risk and avoid attracting attention

👍 1

understood and am guilty of this conflation too!

it's hard to be clear about it unfortunately

maybe in the long term we can find two different words to describe them to avoid the confusion 😊