

# Essay:

New warfronts lie on digital platforms.

## OUTLINE

### 1) Introduction

Thesis statement: Owing to global digitalization, the world has open multiple warfronts on digital platforms in current times. These warfronts are different in nature from one another.

### 2) Different warfares throughout the human history

### 3) Importance of digital platforms

i) 4.7 billion users in world (IPRI Report)

ii) USD 13 trillion economy by 2030

### 4) Types of warfronts on digital platforms

A) Competition for global hegemony

i) United States' Chips Act 2022

ii) Chinese ban on

Rare Earth Elements, 2023

B) Spread of false news and misinformation to malign the enemy

- i) Indian Chronicals by Dinfo Lab
- ii) Trump's Deepfake

C) Cyber terrorism against the state

- i) Strategic Cyber warfare theory

D) Digital manipulations to disturb the enemy

- i) Cyber attacks of Russia

E) Spread of harassment and hatespeech

- i) Political campaigns
- ii) Sectarian hatespeeches

5) Possible efforts to curb the digital warfare

- i) Responsive and responsible state policies
- ii) Global actions as said by Secretary General, United Nations

6) Conclusion

Every human invention is a double edged sword. It has both advantages and disadvantages. Similarly, on one hand, where the world is enjoying the blessings of digital era, on the other hand, there are severe dangers attached with it. The new warfronts of the world lie on digital platforms. These warfronts are different in nature from one another. It can be the global competition among global key players for influence over the world. Moreover, it has been seen that states also open warfronts against the enemy states on digital platforms to damage the image of the country. Apart from that cyber terrorism and cyber terror fundings are possible warfronts on digital platforms. The cyber attacks of states against each other are not hidden and act as heinous warfronts. The propaganda on digital platforms including hate speech also acts as a warfront on digital platforms. Therefore, it is no wrong to say that the new warfronts of present times lie on digital platform.

However, this grave situation can be neutralized by taking steps in right directions. The responsible state policies including laws can curb the danger of digital warfare. Moreover, the global action can also pave the way for the better use of digital technology.

The human history has seen the wars in different forms.

It is not wrong to say that war is the constant of human history as indicated by Will Durant in his book The Lesson of History. He says that out of almost four thousand recorded years, only 268 years had not seen war. The human history has seen the traditional war at the start, when humans used to fight with hand made weapons. Then after the industrial revolution, modernized weapons were used and in current times, there is fifth generation war, that is the war of digital medium. Therefore, one can say that human history has seen multiple forms of war.

With the advancement in technology, the digital platforms has gained the unparalleled importance in the human life. The renowned writer Yuval Noah in his book Twenty one Lessons of Twenty First Century has told that the current politics is dominated by the digitization and the winner is adept in it. The reason behind the importance is the massive use of digital platforms. According to the report, 4.7 billion users are registered on social platforms (IPRI). Moreover, the huge business is expected out of it as said in McKinsey Global Initiative Report 2018 that the business related to digital sector may reach to USD 13 trillion by 2030. Hence, one can say that digital platforms are important in current times.

Having said that of the importance of digital platforms, one may see the new warfronts attached with it.

There are multiple new warfronts, which lie on digital platform. One of them is the aspiration to become

global hegemon of this world. The competition between global leaders to dominate the world is not new. It has been present since ages. However, this competition has reached at digitalization. It is obvious from the Chips Act 2022 of United States, in which the US invested billion of dollars to strengthen the American chip industry. Moreover, the US act has also restrict the business with Chinese semiconductor industry. The competition to become global hegemon has also affected the sale of raw materials to make digital products. The Chinese ban on Rare Earth Elements in 2023 aimed to make the world dependent on Chinese technology. Hence, one can say that the competition of global leaders has open new warfront on digital platform.

Besides the global competition, the new warfront on digital platform is the spread of fake news and misinformation to malign the enemy. In the world of digitalization, the states initiate digital attack on

one another to damage the image on global platform. It can be seen from the report of European Union's Disinfo Lab, 2023, by the name, Indian Chronicles. This report says that more than five hundred online outlets of India are in use to malign the image of Pakistan. This phenomenon is not limited to the state level, but the individuals are also prone to it. Last year, the deepfake of former American President Donald Trump in miserable condition was made to made public. Hence, one can

say that spread of false news also act as a new warfront on digital platform.

One of the warfronts on digital platforms is the cyber terrorism against the state and citizens. Cyber terrorism has its base in the radicalization.

The non-state actors conduct activities against the state on cyber space by various means. They can be denial of services, logic bombs, Trojan horses and other. There is a theory, named Strategic Cyber warfare, which says that Strategic cyber warfare is the warfare

in which state is threatened by attacking its cyber space. It may also spread unrest in public. This phenomenon is observed at many places in various countries. Hence, one can say that cyber terrorism and use of digital platform for terror activities and funding act as new warfront on digital platform.

Apart from the cyber terrorism, the digital manipulation also acts as a new warfront on digital platforms.

The digital manipulation can be of many forms and ranges. It can affect an individual or a corporate or a state. It is a widely known allegation of Ukrainian government that Russia conducted a cyber attack on Ukraine in 2015 resulting in nation-wide black out.

Moreover, the cyber attacks are the routine happening at banking system.

Other forms of it are phishing, spoofing and others. The selling of private data of social media users is also digital manipulation. One is aware of the Senate Report, which alleged Meta



group of selling data of facebook users. Hence one may say that digital manipulation also emerge as new warfront on digital platform.

Having said that, one may not ignore the capacity of digital platform to spread hate speech. This type of warfront is common, due to the current fifth generation war. Owing to the massive use of digital platform, the paid campaigns are launched against the political figures to troll. This common phenomenon is more visible in those countries, which lack cyber laws. Moreover, the digital platforms are used to spread the sectarian hate, which results into sectarian violence. This sectarian hate speeches are the routine work in Pakistan. Therefore one can say that spread of hate may also act as new warfront.

One cannot deny the importance of digital platform and the threats attached with it. However, it is the need of hour to devise some strategies to curb the warfront, associated with

digital platform. It can be made by the inclusiveness of countries as Elon Musk appreciated the presence of Chinese at First Artificial Intelligence Summit 2023, conducted by United Kingdom.

Moreover, the well-thought state policies can curb the national-level warfront.

The international warfront, related to digital platform can be neutralized by the global action. One may agree with the words of Secret Secretary

General of United Nations, at AI summit 2023: AI belongs to the every nation. The suitable platform for negotiation of digital matter is United Nation, where every country is represented. Hence, one can hope that the new warfronts can be neutralized by taking right steps.

In conclusion, one may say that where the humans are benefitted with the digitalization, there are severe problem associated with it. These lead to the new warfronts of the human history. They are of different types, which have different reasons and targets. However, these warfronts

have active potential to damage the peace of this world. However, one can hope that the steps in right direction can neutralize the threats of these new warfront. The responsible and responsive state policies and laws can counter the local warfronts. Whereas, the collective action of global world can help in taking the advantages from the digital platforms. One can hope that world would utilize the potentials of digital platforms by curbing its wrong uses.