

PRECIS

Q. 2 Make a précis of the following passage and suggest a suitable title.

(15+5=20)

Around four billion people have the opportunity to cast their votes in a series of major elections this year. However, the threat to democratic integrity posed by misinformation and disinformation looms large. An effective democracy relies on evidence-based discourse and informed citizens. Concern about the expected blizzard of election-related misinformation is warranted, given the capacity of false information to boost polarization and undermine trust in electoral processes.

Specifically, there is widespread worry about malign influence on voters, be it through conventional propaganda (including warmongering and xenophobic disinformation), unsubstantiated claims about candidates or AI-generated deepfakes (digitally altered visual media). Anti-democratic agents might also attack the electoral process directly, as was, for instance, seen in Spain in July last year, when malicious foreign actors set up an imitation of the Regional Government of Madrid's website just before an election to falsely claim that terrorists planned to attack polling stations.

Several mechanisms to protect the public against misinformation exist — from general educational interventions to specific attempts to counter misleading messages with evidence-based campaigns. But the deployment of these mechanisms requires the resolution of three issues by scholars and practitioners: recognition of the seriousness of the problem; acceptance that classifying information as false or misleading is often warranted; and an assurance that interventions against misinformation uphold democratic principles, including freedom of expression.

Precis

Title: Misinformation and Disinformation: a Threat to Democracy

The spread of misinformation and disinformation has become a serious menace to elections this year. It undermines public trust, increases polarization, and influences voters.

Anti-democratic forces can also affect elections directly. To counter misinformation and disinformation governments must clarify the information; however, democratic principles, such as freedom of speech should be safeguarded.

Total words given in the passage: 253 words
Words given in Précis: 60 words