

# "The Dangers Of Internet:"

The internet has become a tool of imperialism at international, national, and domestic level for manifold reasons, including propaganda, cyber attacks, cyber bullying, and phishing. In this virtually integrated world, a flux of information is available. People are bombarded with the information from manifold sources available on the web of internet. In this scenario, a concept of philosophy "Post-truth Era" becomes of utmost importance. According to this concept, "only the information that spreads rapidly to a large group of people will be considered as the truth." The global use of the internet has become a potential threat as it may be used as a source of spreading of false propaganda against any nation or followers of religion at an incredible speed. Consequently, this false propaganda is admitted as <sup>the</sup> truth by a vast portion of the population just because of the speed with which it spread across the world. The best example that fits in this context is <sup>that</sup> of Islamophobia. Muslims are considered as a threat in the West. ~~Consequently~~ The false propaganda, or the false information, over the internet has played a critical role in shaping this opinion of the West about the muslims. In addition to the spread of propaganda, the ~~use of~~ internet has become a tool of violating the national sovereignty of a state through cyber-attacks. It has re-shaped the dynamics of the modern warfare, shifting the world from kinetic to non-kinetic

weapons. On the recent military incursions between the India and Pakistan, Pakistan launched a large scale cyber attack on India's electricity installations. As a result of which about 70% of the India's electricity installations were rendered useless. These cyber-attacks are feasible because of the internet, making it a threat at both <sup>the</sup> national and <sup>the</sup> international level. Besides these, a survey of more than 6,000 10 to 18-years olds from June to August last year found that about 50% of children had experienced at least one kind of cyberbullying in their lifetime, according to reports published in February by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC). Cyberbullying is detrimental to the psychological health of an individual. It may lead to unwanted stress, and in serious cases, a person may become a victim of depression. Additionally, in <sup>the</sup> most severe cases it may lead to suicide. Apart from the problem of cyberbullying, another common problem that lies under the shadow of internet is phishing. Online scammers often share an email. This email constitutes of a link. The link apparently appears to be ordinary; however, when the user clicks over it, the personal data is shared unwittingly with the one who shared that link. This data may be used for ~~an~~ fulfilling malign intentions, including intimidating, blackmailing, disgracing, etc. Thus, the internet which was discovered as a blessing became a curse at international, national, and domestic levels.