

THE BIGGEST THREAT OF CURRENT AGE IS FAKE NEWS AND PROPAGANDA

Outline

I. Introduction

a) Hook

b) Thesis Statement: Fake news and propaganda is the biggest threat of the modern age because of its equally harmful impacts on common man and the state. However, responsible media and digital literacy can prove to be helpful to counter it.

II What do we mean by Fake News and Propaganda

III How it is a Biggest Threat of the Current Age

Threat for common man

- i) Health at risk due to medical misinformation
(Propaganda against Polio and COVID vaccines)
- ii) Corporate propaganda to influence common man

- iii) Psychological and mental health effects (suicides rate increasing)
- iv) Reputation risks

Threats for the state

- i) Propaganda teams set up by militants against states
- ii) Use of fake news to destabilise societies
- iii) Image deterioration of the countries by enemy countries through propaganda
- iv) Political instability caused by the psychological manipulation
- v) Volatility of the stock market on fake news

IV Ways to Counter Fake News And Propaganda

- i) Digital Literacy
- ii) Responsible journalism and media
- iii) Timely response by state authorities
- iv) News verification mechanism to be setup

Conclusion

Introduction

The essence of fifth generation warfare lies in controlling the narratives, manipulating truths, and blurring the lines between the reality and illusion. In this age, the deadliest weapons are not guns or missiles, but words, ideas, and images. Now we are more exposed to media than ever before. The fake news which took days and months to spread goes viral in seconds and the results are also exponential. The anonymity provided by social media platforms give the troll confidence to spread fake news, propaganda, and hate without any fear of accountability. In this culture of fake news, anyone can circulate it, making it a serious challenge of the digital era. This culture of fake news is equally harmful to the common man causing mental and physical health risks and to the states damaging their internal and external image. The counter measures suggested by the UN can prove to be helpful. In short, fake news and propaganda are the biggest threat posed to humanity due to harm caused by them affecting the common man and state alike. However, digital literacy and responsible media can be helpful in countering it.