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Topic: The Biggest Threat of Current Age is Fake News and Propaganda

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fake news and propaganda

3- How fake news and propaganda
are the biggest threat of current age

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f- Demarcating no difference between
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4- Impacts of fake News and propaganda
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on information spreading ~~news~~ sources.

4- How to manage fake news and propaganda.

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Essay

It was the time when people did not have access to information. It was the time before information revolution when they ^{had} only ^{one} source through which they got news, entertainment and information- the radio. But today, the sources of information have increased manifold, creating fast and easy source of getting knowledge. It is good to have many sources, but sadly these sources now have become the mountains of fake news and

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propaganda. Currently, the fake news and propaganda have become the biggest threat in such a way that they are used as manipulating tool of electoral process and behavior of voters. Spreading false narratives and chaos during conflicts and wars are result of these menaces. They have are creating misguided culture of news, promoting misuse of technology, and demarcating no difference between reality and falsehood. Moreover, the fake news and propaganda are ^{negatively} impacting the society. Due to which, social cohesion is eroding and leading to chaos among people and lack of trust on information spreading sources. However, fake news and propaganda can be managed to some extent by making censorship bodies, checking authenticity of news and imposing penalties on fake news and propaganda spreading bodies. Thus, the fake news and propaganda are the biggest threat of current age.

Fake news and propaganda are two separate concepts that need to be understood. Fake news refers to those news which are not true or those which are spread intentionally for various purposes. While the propaganda is defined as spreading fake or biased news, information intentionally so that the desired outcome can be obtained. For propaganda, fake news are spread. There are ways through which fake news and propaganda are promoted - i.e TV channels, social networks, journalists or through public, etc. They both are very dangerous and threat for the society.

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They are ^{negatively} impacting the society in several ways. However, these can be managed to some extent.

Fake news and propaganda are the biggest threat of current age in many ways. Chief among which is the manipulation of electoral process and behavior of voters. Voters and electoral process are two founding pillars of democracy that play very significant role in flourishing ^{the} of democracy within the state. Social media platforms, especially X, facebook, Instagram, telegram, etc. are used during election campaigns. They are considered more accessible and easily available source of spreading information, therefore, they ~~are~~ used as political media outlets for running election campaigns in America and other states. It is claimed by many surveys that the social media networks especially X was used to manipulate election and behavior of voters in American elections.

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in which president Mr. Donald Trump was elected. Thus, false news and program propaganda manipulate the democratic norms.

Along with election manipulation, they spread the false narratives.

False narrative refers to fake and false opinion created by the people ~~with~~ intentionally. Many information and news disseminating agencies knowingly and intentionally spread propaganda in order to create false narratives.

Now the world has witnessed the wars of narratives. The classical example here is the skirmishes between Pakistan and India on the terrorist attacks of Pahlgam. Both states not only fought traditional combat but also fought narrative wars. Hence, the real and technological wars are fought on narratives and fake news.

Besides false narratives, fake news and propaganda are the biggest in spreading chaos during

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Wars and conflicts. Chaos is a situation where people become fearful and worried. During wars, the spread of fake news and propaganda are at the top because people are already afraid of wars. In that situation, the propaganda work easily to make people worried and emotionally weak. Enemy state intentionally uses this tactic in order to create chaos and break the unity among people and fighting soldiers. During operation Sindoor, launched by India in response to Pahlagarn attack, the Indian ^{News channels} created chaos among their people by spreading fake news and propaganda. Therefore, fake news is threat for people as it causes chaos.

In addition to chaos, they also create a misguided culture of news. News are considered as source of information and knowledge. But in today's world, the fake news and propaganda are posing a

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threat by creating such environment where the true culture of news is absent. Here the clarity is rare and bundles of news without truth are cheaply available, misleading people of knowledge. According to Nooh Yaval, This world is full of misinformation and disinformation where clarity is rare. Therefore, they are imposing a big threat, creating misguided, biased and fake news culture.

Coupled with misguided culture, they ^{are} posing threat by promoting the ~~the~~ misuse of technology. There are number of benefits that a technology offers. But some interest groups use technology for their benefits and harm others. Technological innovation has greatly speed up the process of information and news spreading platforms and outlets/agencies but they use it for spreading fake news and propaganda. One may agree with

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With the fact that for spreading fake news and propaganda, technology is used excessively. Thus, using technology for spreading fake news and propaganda is misuse and abuse of technology.

Misuse of technology has demarcated no difference between reality and falsehood. The fake news and propaganda are so widespread that no one can distinguish between truth and lie. People become confuse that what is true and what is false? Truth and lie are mixed up in such a way that people consider all news whether complete truth or complete lie. They are spreaded repeatedly that the lie has become the truth and truth has become lie. As Hitler once said: "lie a big and repeat it so many times that the lie seem to be true". Now, that has become the case where there is mark

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of identification between truth and lie.

Fake news and propaganda are also too negatively impacting the society. Some of the impacts are discussed below.

One of the negative impacts of fake news and propaganda is erosion of social cohesion. Social cohesion refers to the unity, harmony and peace within the society. It is said reality that the social fabric of the society has eroded due to increasing culture of fake news and propaganda. Social norms, values and sense of unity has become a rare phenomenon. It was the time when people prefer to live united and with love but now the same people have become the enemies of each other. History tells that Hindus and Muslims were living happily but now they consider themselves as their bitter foes. It is due to the fact that

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fake news and propaganda are responsible for their division of social cohesion.

Along with ~~the~~ erosion of social cohesion, they have created chaos among people. People blindly follow some news and act according to those reports. In today's world, the fake news and propaganda are used as a tool for creating chaos among people. Many religious and extreme and war-monger leaders use propaganda and spread chaos among people to gain their desired outcomes. Currently, the Israeli prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is the prime example of populist and extreme leader who is creating chaos among the people of Palestine. In short, fake news and propaganda are used as a medium of creating chaos among people.

Besides chaos, lack of trust and credibility in information

spreading sources is adverse impact of fake news and propaganda.

Many news agencies, journalists and social platforms were considered as beacon of truth. Now majority of them are no longer seem reliable source of getting information. People do not trust them as authentic and true source. Such behavior of masses is not good for the informing platforms which are still giving true and trusted news.

Therefore, fake news and propaganda are harming the credibility and authenticity of such news channels and journalists.

However, fake news and propaganda can be to some extent managed by making censorship bodies. Censorship bodies are those institutions or regulatory bodies that monitor and check and balance the flow of news and information. Government can establish such

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bodies that track the records of news, check their sources and authorize them. These bodies not only monitor news but also separate good and bad, true and false news. In this way, at institutional level the fake news and propaganda can be limited.

Along with censorship bodies, the role lies on the public that they check credibility and authenticity before spreading any news on their social networks. Today, the main source of spreading fake news and propaganda is social media platforms. So, it becomes necessary that the public play its role in managing fake news and propaganda. They also check the credibility and source of news before uploading and identify fake news. Moreover, after identifying the fake news, they highlight and report those channels, social

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networks and journalists, thus, public is founding pillar which can limit the spread of fake news and propaganda.

The last thing that can be done is to impose penalties on those who spread fake news and promote propaganda. Penalties can be vary i.e. financial (money), ban (temporary or permanent), deleting social networks, channels, ending licenses, etc. Imposing penalties is a good step towards limiting this menace from further spreading. They work as catalyst that not only bound those who are responsible but also create an example for future generations. Therefore, it is imperative that heavy penalties should be imposed on those are involved in spreading fake news and propaganda.

To sum up, the fake news and propaganda are the biggest threat of current time that

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is spreading fast. They have become the cause of myriad issues like eroding electoral process, creating false narratives, promoting fake and biased culture, and mixing up truth and lie. There are many ramifications of this as well. They have broken the social cohesion, creating trust vacuum and chaos among the public. But, it is hoped that the fake news and propaganda culture though spread widely, still can be limited by taking certain steps. As it is said that there is never too late, the issues of fake news and propaganda could be managed if the proper steps could be taken.