

**Analysing Misleading Information Published by Mainstream Media
during the First Wave and Second Wave of Covid-19 Pandemic**

Dissertation

Submitted to

**BABASAHEB BHIMRAO AMBEDKAR UNIVERSITY
FOR THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF**

Masters of Philosophy

IN

MASS COMMUNICATION AND JOURNALISM

Researcher

Akanksha Singh

Enrolment No. - 1067/20

Supervisor

Dr. Rachana Gangwar



**Department of Mass Communication & Journalism
School of Media and Communication
Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University
(A Central University) Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh – 226025**

2022

DECLARATION

I, Akanksha Singh hereby declare that the work reported in the M.Phil. dissertation entitled "Analysing Misleading Information Published by Mainstream Media during the First Wave and Second Wave of Covid-19 Pandemic" submitted to Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University (A Central University), Lucknow is an authentic record of my work carried out under the supervision of Dr. Rachana Gangwar. It is further certified that there is no plagiarism and this work has not been submitted for the award of any other degree/diploma of this university or any other institution. I further attest that this work is original and that I am fully responsible for the content of my M.Phil. dissertation.

I also declare that the dissertation is free from all bindings of plagiarism.

Akanksha Singh

(Signature of the Scholar)

Name: Akanksha Singh

Place: BBAU, Lucknow

Date: 4/8/2022

Signature of Supervisor

Head of Department

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the dissertation entitled "**Analysing Misleading Information Published by Mainstream Media during the First Wave and Second Wave of Covid-19 Pandemic**" submitted by **Akanksha Singh** is an original research work and it has not been previously submitted in part or full for the award of any other degree or diploma to this or any other University.

The dissertation submitted to Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University, Lucknow satisfied all the requirements as stipulated in the Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.) Regulation (2016) as amended in 2019. It is fit for submission and evaluation for the award of the degree of Master of Philosophy of the University.

Place: BBAU, Lucknow

Date: 4/8/2022

Rachini
04-08-2022

Signature of Supervisor

Arshad

Head of Department

Document Information

Analyzed document	Analysing Misleading Information Published by Mainstream Media during the First Wave and Second Wave of Covid-19 Pandemic_ Akanksha Singh_JMC_Dr Rachana Gangwar.docx (D142484016)
Submitted	7/28/2022 8:48:00 AM
Submitted by	O. P. Saini
Submitter email	gbl.bbau@gmail.com
Similarity	1%
Analysis address	gbl.bbau.bbau@analysis.orkund.com

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It gives me great pleasure to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to my mentor, philosopher and guide.

The success of any endeavor greatly depends on the ability to guide others. Therefore, for this research work, I would like to first express my gratitude to my research supervisor **Dr. Rachana Gangwar** ma'am due to whose guidance I have been able to take this research work to its end. I would also like to thank **Prof. Gopal Singh Sir, Head of Department** and Senior Professor; his dedication and keen interest above all his overwhelming attitude to help his students had been solely and mainly responsible for completing my work. **Prof. Govind Ji Pandey Sir, Dean of School of Media and Communication;** his timely advice, meticulous scrutiny, scholarly advice and scientific approach have helped me to a very great extent to accomplish this task. I am also very grateful to the other faculties of the department Dr. Mahendra Kumar Padhy Sir, Dr. Arvind Kumar Singh Sir, Dr. Loknath Sir and Dr. Kunwar Surendra Bahadur Sir for their keen interest on me at every stage of my research. Their prompt inspiration, timely suggestions with kindness, enthusiasm and dynamism has enabled me to complete my research work.

I would also like to thank the non-academic staff of the department for their kind help and co-operation throughout my study.

Also a special thanks to my fellow M.Phil. classmates Aman Sinha, Sukant Tiwari, Shyam Pratap, Avnish Kumar and Amit Yadav. It is my privilege to thank to all the seniors of the team especially Shweta Ma'am, Jyotsna Ma'am, Ashutosh Kumar Rai Sir, Satyendra Kumar Manjhi Sir, Saheb Sir and Erin Aryan Sir, who always worked for guiding and encouraging me and guiding me in the way. I would also like to thank my Parents, family and friends who put their trust in me and enabled me to travel till I write this gratitude statement. Apart from these, I am extremely thankful to all the others who helped me and become a part of life in the journey so far.

Chapter no.	TITLE	Page no.
1.	Introduction 1.1 General 1.2. Covid-19 ‘Infodemic’ 1.3 Infodemic Explained By Renowned 1.4 Infodemic in India 1.5 Fake News and Media 1.6 Fake News in Mainstream Media 1.7 Decline Trust in Mainstream Media 1.8 Significance of Mainstream Media Reports	1-11
2.	Literature Review 2.1 History of Fake News 2.1.1 MASS MEDIA ERA 2.1.2 Internet Era 2.2 Rise Of Fake News 2.2.1 Fake News Growth In Recent Times 2.2.2 Fake News In India 2.3 Themes Of Fake News 2.4 Elements Of Fake News 2.5 Mainstream Media And Floating Disinformation	12-24
3.	Research Methodology 3.1 General 3.2 Method 3.3 Research Design	25-28

	<p>3.3.1 Qualitative Research Vs Quantitative Research</p> <p>3.4 Population and Sampling</p> <p> 3.4.1 Sample</p> <p>3.5 Data Collection</p> <p>3.6 Data categorization with themes</p> <p>3.7 Data interpretation</p> <p>3.8 Data analysis</p> <p>3.9 Theoretical Framework</p>	
4.	<p>Data Interpretation and Analysis</p> <p>4.1 General</p> <p>4.2 Qualitative Content Analysis of Mainstream Media Report for the Study</p> <p>4.3 Quantitative Content Analysis of the Mainstream Media Reports For The Study</p> <p> 4.3.1 Themes Based On Subject</p> <p> 4.3.2 Presentation Element Used In News Reports</p> <p> 4.3.3 Types of Mass Medium</p> <p> 4.3.4 Themes Based On Fake News</p>	29-73
5.	<p>Findings, Conclusion and Suggestions</p>	74-78
	<p>Reference</p>	79-84

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 GENERAL

"Only the sun in the heavens and the Associated Press down here can bring light to all the corners of the globe," stated Mark Twain, an American humorist, writer, and lecturer (1835-1910). The media has always demonstrated to society that nice words spoken by wonderful people have a powerful influence on people.

The first SARS CoV-2 new corona virus (COVID-19) infection in a human was found in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. The virus has spread throughout the world in just three months, creating a serious public health crisis. Around 25 million cases had been reported globally as of September 2020, and the sickness has claimed the lives of more than 800,000 individuals. The social and behavioural sciences have important insights that can be used to prevent the spread of the virus, especially when it comes to spreading misinformation about the infection, as researchers are continuously recognising.

Indeed, false information regarding the COVID-19 pandemic poses a significant risk to both public health and international relations, ranging from the spread of harmful medical advice like consuming bleach to politically motivated conspiracy theories about the virus's origin. In reality, the proliferation of inaccurate and misleading information about the virus, how it spreads, how to treat it, and who is "behind" it has prompted the World Health Organization to issue a warning about an ongoing "Infodemic."

Background – Infodemic

According to Kerry Maxwell, author of *Brave New Words* the term Infodemic was coined in 2003 in relation to the flood of information accompanying the SARS outbreak. It is of course a blend of information and epidemic. The word epidemic dates back to the early 17th century, first appearing as an adjective; the noun arrived about a hundred years later. It is derived from a combination of Greek *epi* ('upon') and *demos* ('the people'). Correspondingly, the more serious pandemic is derived from Greek *pan* meaning 'all', i.e. 'affecting everyone', a word now firmly in the public radar.

There is in fact also an adjectival use of infodemic in relation to the noun infodemiology, an area of research which explores how health information and related searches on the internet bear a correlation to public health (on the pattern of epidemiology – the study of infectious diseases and their causes). Real-world contexts for infodemiology have included HIV/AIDS, vaccine uptake and more general issues like alcohol consumption and smoking. The term "infodemic" refers to the quick and widespread diffusion of both true and incorrect information about an illness. It is derived from the words "information" and "epidemic." It is challenging to compile vital knowledge about a subject when facts, rumours, and worries blend and scatter. The phrase "infodemic" was first used in 2003, and it has recently come up again in connection with COVID-19.

What are coronaviruses?

The broad family of viruses known as corona viruses (CoVs) is responsible for a variety of illnesses, from the common cold to more serious conditions including Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV). A new coronavirus strain that hasn't been discovered in people before is known as a novel corona virus (nCoV).

Positive-stranded RNA viruses with a large, enclosed genome are coronaviruses. Among all RNA viruses, their genome is the largest. The nucleocapsid protein forms a helical capsid around the genome, which is also enclosed by an envelope. There are at least three structural proteins connected to the viral envelope; the membrane protein and envelope protein are important in virus assembly, while the spike protein makes it easier for the virus to enter host cells. The spike, one of the structural proteins, causes coronaviruses to seem to have crown-like protrusions from their surface (hence their name; corona in Latin means crown). The spike not only facilitates virus entrance but also determines the viral host range and tissue tropism and is a significant instigator of host immune responses. (Li, 2016) Coronaviruses frequently infect birds and mammals, leading to a variety of deadly diseases. Coronaviruses typically affect the respiratory, digestive, and central neurological systems in people and other animals, posing a risk to life and resulting in financial loss. (Li, 2016) Coronaviruses are adept at adapting to a variety of situations through mutation and recombination, and they can easily infect new hosts and tissues.

Rarely, some coronaviruses can also infect specific animal species, creating new strains that can then infect human hosts and spread between people. Since these viruses were not present in the past and there are no vaccinations accessible, neither do people naturally possess antibodies to them. This is why their mutations have the potential to quickly cause the breakout of novel diseases and ultimately pandemics. Two instances of these outbreaks are SARS and MERS.

The distinctive crown-shaped viral particles (virions) that appear as tiny dots on the surface of coronaviruses gave rise to the terminology used to describe them. Now that the 2019 novel coronavirus (COVID-19) has been identified, there are a total of 7 coronaviruses that are known to infect people.

Human coronavirus 229E (HCoV-229E)

HCV-OC43 (Human Coronavirus OC43)

NL63 coronavirus in humans (HCoV-NL63)

Human coronavirus HKU1

severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS-CoV) coronavirus

Middle East respiratory syndrome-related coronavirus different coronavirus (COVID-19, also known informally as Wuhan coronavirus)

New coronavirus (COVID-19, typically referred to as the Wuhan coronavirus)

The only coronaviruses known to infect people were HCoV-229E and HCoV-OC43 until the worldwide SARS-CoV pandemic in 2003. Five more coronaviruses have been found in people since the SARS pandemic, most notably Wuhan, Hubei Province, China is likely to be the place of origin for the new coronavirus COVID-19. Particularly virulent in humans and linked to significant mortality are SARS-CoV and MERS-CoV. The current study provides an overview of the epidemiology, pathophysiology, and clinical features of COVID-19, as well as the available therapies and potential future research developments for eradicating the pandemic new coronavirus.

1.2. COVID-19 ‘INFODEMIC’

An Infodemic is defined as an abundance of information during a disease outbreak in both physical and digital domains, including material that is false or misleading. It results in uncertainty and risk-taking actions that could be harmful to one's health. Additionally, it fosters an atmosphere of mistrust among medical professionals, hampering public health responses. When people are confused of what to do to safeguard their health and the health of those around them, an Infodemic can spread or prolong epidemics. Growing digitalization, such as increasing use of social media and the internet, may result in a faster flow of information. This can speed up the process of filling in knowledge gaps, but it can also reinforce unfavourable messages.

The COVID-19 pandemic was first referred to as a "Infodemic" by the World Health Organization and the United Nations on March 31, 2020. UNESCO has referred to the COVID-19 deceptive practises as a "Disinfodemic." At the Munich Security Conference in 2020, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus stated, "We're not only fighting a pandemic; we're fighting an infodemic." Fake news, false information, and conspiracy theories are becoming more prevalent in the age of social media, especially in light of the COVID-19 outbreak. This situation is particularly alarming since it threatens public confidence in healthcare organisations and initiatives. On June 29, the World Health Organization (WHO) held the first Infodemiology Conference, bringing together specialists from around the world with different scientific and political perspectives to discuss the effects of Infodemics on the world and how to regulate them.

It is important to disseminate medical information as soon as feasible. Preprints, for example, which are medical and other scientific materials that are extensively circulated outside of specialist circles before being adequately examined, may be harmful, particularly in the case of a pandemic. Academics and medical experts are continually learning about and influencing dynamic policy changes in the dynamic environment of a pandemic.

The co-founder and director of First Draft, Claire Wardle, claims that false information confuses by reducing the availability of accurate information. Because they guarantee an answer in times of uncertainty and stress, conspiracy theories are effective. Their messaging is founded on fundamental emotions and concepts, and it makes use of the psychological cues that help us determine whether a source is reliable. An outstanding illustration of the first is

the anti-vaccination movement. A study by the Centre for Countering Digital Hate claims that companies that provide nutritional supplements and health products actively support anti-vaccination efforts and benefit from them. Even worse, social media goliaths deliberately keep false information about vaccinations that reaches up to 58 million online followers and generates \$1 billion in advertising revenue. Unfortunately, resistance to one vaccine quickly spreads to all vaccines and is challenging to eradicate, as a UNICEF report on the alleged Peshawar incident on April 22, 2019, demonstrates. None of these indicate that the COVID-19 vaccination will be well-tolerated.

It is impossible for a condition to persist where, for instance, the COVID-19 pandemic is ignored. The international political, corporate, and scientific communities must act swiftly and jointly in order to regain public trust and safeguard the integrity and legitimacy of professional expertise. Nearly half of the British public (46%) has been exposed to misleading information about the Coronavirus, according to a UK Ofcom survey. It is alarming that more than two-thirds (66%) of those who were exposed claimed to view it frequently because repeated exposure is known to boost trust in incorrect information.

1.3 INFODEMIC EXPLAINED BY RENOWNED

Conspiracy theories, incorrect information, and fake news have all exploded in popularity since the COVID-19 epidemic. Because it reduces the public's confidence in health organisations and programmes, this scenario is particularly worrying. The World Health Organization (WHO) hosted its first Infodemiology conference on June 29. It gathered together worldwide specialists from various scientific and political backgrounds to talk about the effects of Infodemics around the world and how to regulate them.

It can be dangerous to distribute medical and scientific information outside of expert groups before it has undergone a thorough review (for instance, preprints) during a pandemic. Academics and medical professionals are constantly learning about and influencing dynamic policy changes in the dynamic environment of a pandemic. The fact that political objectives take precedence over factual considerations and that the two frequently collide contributes to the information vortex. Governments rarely base their policy decisions exclusively on factual information. The director of the Yale Institute for Global Health, Saad Omer, made this point in one of his lectures at the Infodemiology Conference. Governments want to appear in control and are eager to make false promises. As a result, unclear government messaging and advise reversals based on new information, such as whether masks work to stop transmission, could be mistaken for incompetence. As evidenced by US President Donald Trump and Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, it has been argued that shambolic, self-serving, and occasionally purposely deceptive responses are preferable to strong leadership built on clear communication, empathy, and the alignment of science and politics. Examples of this kind of leadership include New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and German Chancellor Angela Merkel. Miscommunication is not helped by the media, which frequently favours quick, sensational reporting over carefully worded scientific claims with a fair interpretation. As a result, there is a decline in public confidence and a sense of helplessness, creating the

perfect environment for the dissemination of false information and the beginning of a vicious cycle.

Misinformation leads to confusion by reducing the availability of accurate information. Conspiracy theories are effective because they offer comfort during tumultuous and upsetting times by offering an explanation. Their messaging is based on underlying emotions and beliefs, and it makes use of the psychological cues that help us decide whether a source is credible and authentic. Even the most damaging and ubiquitous conspiracy theories have some elements of reality. But whose interests are served by this trick? Claire Walder, co-founder and director of First draught, identified three factors: monetary gain, political gain, and experimental manipulation. An excellent example of the first is the anti-vaccination movement. According to a study by the Centre for Countering Digital Hate, companies that provide nutritional supplements and wellness products are major financial backers of anti-vaccination campaigns. Even worse, social media goliaths actively keep anti-vaccination propaganda alive, reaching up to 58 million online followers and bringing in \$1 billion in advertising money. Unfortunately, vaccination anxiety spreads swiftly to all vaccinations and is extremely challenging to counteract, as a UNICEF analysis of the alleged Peshawar occurrence on April 22, 2019, illustrates. All of these speak poorly of the COVID-19 vaccine's reception.

A situation cannot persist in which, for example, the COVID-19 pandemic's existence is ignored. To safeguard the integrity and credibility of professional expertise and re establish public trust, immediate, concerted action by the global political, corporate, and scientific communities is required.

The COVID-19 pandemic and response, according to the WHO, have been followed by an important infodemic: a flood of information, some true and some false, that makes it difficult for people to find trustworthy sources and dependable aid when they need it. An Infodemic is described as a notable rise in the amount of information associated with a particular issue that rises exponentially in a short amount of time as a result of a particular incidence, such as the current pandemic. In this situation, false information, rumours, and information manipulation with questionable motivation all surface. In the digital era, social networks, which spread like a virus farther and faster, amplify this effect.

Misinformation is defined as purposefully false or inaccurate information, according to PAHO's factsheet study on Understanding the Infodemic and Misinformation in the fight against COVID-19. Since searches for COVID-19 updates on the Internet have increased by 50% to 70% across all generations, the current epidemic has the potential to significantly affect many aspects of life, including people's mental health. Inaccurate information can harm people's health during a pandemic. Without any background or quality checks, many false or misleading stories are circulated. Some of these ideas are pushed into what seems to be common conversation, and a lot of this misinformation is based on conspiracy theories. Inaccurate and misleading information has afflicted every aspect of the disease, including how the virus emerged, its aetiology, treatment, and mode of dissemination. Rapid dissemination and assimilation of false information can lead people to alter their behaviour

and possibly increase their risk-taking. All of this worsens the pandemic, increasing the number of people it affects and jeopardising the durability and reach of the global health system. According to the same paper, increased access to social media and cell phones with Internet connections has increased both the amount of information produced and the variety of ways it may be obtained, resulting in an information epidemic or Infodemic. To put it another way, there is a lot of information being created and sent to every part of the globe, affecting billions of people.

1.4 INFODEMIC IN INDIA

The threat of fake news is widespread, and India is no exception. The issue of fake news is becoming more serious in age of social media and India's expanding internet usage. Although false information is frequently thought to be harmless, there are historical and contemporary examples that demonstrate the human cost and frequently lethal outcomes of false information. In a report released in 2014, the World Economic Forum listed the top 10 concerns facing the world at the time are fake news or online misinformation. Prakash Javadekar, India's minister of information and broadcasting stated that "false news is more dangerous than paid news." He continued, "Fake News has the capacity to disturb the calm in society," and he called for self-regulation to stop the problem.

Numerous cases of fake news or disinformation being spread throughout India via social media posts or Whatsapp rumours have been documented. Such posters have been shown to be deadly and have taken lives. The pandemic's overabundance of fake news has contaminated the atmosphere and stoked tensions in society and politics.

The second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic has been extremely bad on India, with daily cases and fatalities peaking at more than 400,000 cases and 4,000 deaths, respectively. These figures are more than four or five times higher than the apex of cases and fatalities in the first wave. The Indian government mostly blamed complacency for the second wave. Even though this was significant, it is vital to look at how the media covered the pandemic.

In democracy news media is a crucial institution. It plays a crucial role in informing the populace, calling attention to pressing problems, and providing a forum for advocacy and criticism of the policies of the ruling party. When there is a pandemic, the media becomes even more crucial because it can be a crucial tool for early outbreak detection and can inform the public about non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) that can be used to stop the spread of the disease and lessen its effects, such as keeping a physical distance, practising good hand hygiene, donning a mask, etc. Although NPIs and government-imposed travel restrictions can be burdensome because they call for significant changes in human behaviour that are challenging to sustain over long periods of time, the media can ensure compliance by informing the public about how effective these important measures are at battling disease and preventing new outbreaks.

Research on epidemics has also revealed a cyclical behavioural reaction to the disease, meaning that more sickness increases the need for self-protection, which in turn reduces disease. However, this decreases self-protection, which again results in more disease. Sadly,

this suggests that an epidemic is likely to arrive in waves until a significant number of people are protected from the disease or vaccinated against it. Therefore, it becomes crucial for the government and media to repeatedly and possibly in a new way transmits messages about NPIs to the public in order to decrease the burden of the condition, especially when the prevalence of the disease is on the decline.

The most destructive aspect of the information epidemic has been false and misleading information provided by non-health actors. As a result, dangerous and unfounded claims have been disseminated. Science is continually advancing because the virus that causes COVID-19 was only recently found. As a result, advice may change if further information becomes available. If this isn't made explicit, ambiguity and suspicion toward the organisations that provide the advice can grow.

Infodemics are dangerous in many different ways. They may encourage xenophobia, hatred, and exclusion, which may have a long-term negative impact on the general public's health and human rights.

1.5 FAKE NEWS AND MEDIA

Around the time of the "2017 US Election," when US President Donald Trump adopted the term, the phrase "fake news" gained prominence. The role of fake news on social media on the US elections and Brexit has also drawn controversy. The phrase "fake news" has no accepted definition across the board. The term "fake news" encompasses a wide range of ideas and connotations.

False news, according to the Ethical Journalism Network, is "information that is likely to be seen as news, has been purposefully manufactured, and is broadcast to fool others into believing lies or rejecting verifiable facts." Fake news is defined by the "Press Council of India" (PCI) as "News, story, information, data, and report which is or are entirely or partly untrue" and is recognised as a global threat. The Supreme Court's Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul highlighted his concern about the issue of spreading false information at an online lecture. He stated, "Fake news is more dangerous than Coronavirus itself". It has numerous ramifications. He continued by saying that the tendency for fake news to be brought on by modern media was never considered by the authors of the Constitution. He also underlined the importance of the mainstream media and their responsibility to expose fake news.

The dissemination of false information by the mainstream media has turned into a source of fear, according to Samar Halarnkar, editor of Indiaspend.com. He continued, "Media disinformation is ubiquitous, especially on TV." During the original analysis, the author discovered that, with a few notable exceptions, mainstream media in India also contributes to the growth of fake news ecosystems. This is in addition to the widespread use of social media platforms to spread false information.

1.6 FAKE NEWS IN MAINSTREAM MEDIA

Although fake news has long been an issue in India, this pandemic has made it far more dangerous. According to certain assessments, during the pandemic's current stage, the spread of false information has increased exponentially. It is a severe cause for worry because we are confronting not only a health issue but also an invisible epidemic called fake news. The latter is at least as harmful as the former. According to studies, social media sites like Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and particularly Whatsapp have developed into simple venues for disseminating false information without any severe regulations requiring content review.

A time of credibility testing for the media will be the coronavirus pandemic. Since this shutdown in particular, there has been an uptick in media usage. According to reports, individuals are using traditional media, such as TV and newspapers, to get their information. The media is crucial to democracy. It is expected to release reliable information because it has the ability to persuade the audience and influence their eyes, ears, and minds. Customers rely on it to respect the duty of accurate and responsible reporting. The mainstream media's level of reporting has frequently been questioned during these trying times, when our nation is battling a pandemic.

The tendency of the mainstream media toward sensationalism and propaganda-driven news has resulted in the dissemination of false information. There has been a steady erosion in trust and faith in mainstream media as a result of the spread of false information and fake news. Recent events have seen many instances where mainstream media has also contributed to this issue.

Intriguingly, a study by the Non-profit and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) and data journalism portal discovered that fake news on conventional media had a greater ability to sway public opinion than on Facebook or WhatsApp. The study discovered that the lack of trust in mainstream media is a result of fake news or disinformation. People use social media platforms for information sharing because of this lack of trust. Newspapers continue to be a popular information source for individuals of all ages, according to the study.

Definition of Mainstream Media

Up until the early 2000s, a person's local newspaper, local television affiliate, and one of three national broadcast news programmes were considered to be their "mainstream media." In recent years, the media environment has grown increasingly complicated. In addition to traditional news sources, it now also incorporates video, AM/FM radio, podcasts, satellite radio, and social media (print, TV, and radio). Producers and aggregators of news have now been added. Additionally, as it expanded, it became more dispersed, enabling even traditional media to reach ever-smaller audiences. The American people have become more divided as a result of these changes in news reporting. Now, each community obtains and disseminates its own version of news and editorial opinion as opposed to a common news landscape where the facts of an event could be agreed upon.

Over the years, the landscape of the news media has undergone significant transformation. The reach of journalism, social media, and public involvement has all significantly expanded thanks to digital sources. Online news consumption has become commonplace, whether through Google, Twitter, Facebook, big newspapers, or regional media websites, and Smartphone notifications and mobile applications instantly inform users around the globe of the most recent events. In 2017, 93% of Americans claimed to get their news online. When asked where they obtained online news in the previous two hours, 36% mentioned a news organization's website or app; 35% mentioned social media (which typically refers to a post from a news organisation but can also be a friend's commentary); 20% remembered a search engine; 15% mentioned an email, text, or alert from a news organisation; 9% mentioned another source; and 7% mentioned an email or text from a family member. In general, young people rely extensively on mobile devices for their communications and are more likely to acquire their news from online sources. 55 percent of smartphone users, according to the Pew Research Centre, receive news alerts on their phones. And over 47% of those who receive alerts click through to view the story. People can now more easily tailor how information is delivered based on their individual tastes. For instance, many organisations offer the option to sign up for news alerts so that people can receive news that is pertinent to their individual interests.

The sources of news as a whole have changed over time. Numerous research institutions have discovered notable global increases in digital access. For instance, according to surveys conducted by the Pew Research Centre in 21 developing countries, internet usage increased from 45% in 2013 to 54% in 2015. That percentage still falls short of the 87 percent usage rate observed in 11 developed nations, but there have undoubtedly been significant improvements in many regions of the world.

There have been a number of concerning changes in the media environment overall. Some individuals have abused social and digital platforms to deceive, mislead, or damage others by creating and sharing fake news and misinformation, rather than using digital tools to educate people and raise civic conversation.

1.7 DECLINE TRUST IN MAINSTREAM MEDIA

Democracies are at jeopardy because of the public's declining faith in the media. People who engage in confirmation bias tend to fabricate tales that support their political and cultural beliefs while demeaning those of others. Politicians and other people have attacked journalists and news organisations, arguing that their reporting is inaccurate and biased. This has led to miscommunication and mistrust: A September 2020 Gallup survey found that 33% of Americans believe they have little trust in the media.

Trust in political and governmental institutions has been further eroded by false information and fake news. It is challenging to identify and destroy fake news because of how quickly it is circulated. A study that appeared in *Nature Human Behaviour* found that Facebook was the website where false information spread the fastest in 2016.

Since the 1840s, the term "fourth estate" has been used to refer to journalism's position as a cornerstone of democracy. All levels of government are held accountable to their public when there is a free press that places a high priority on accuracy. Additionally, it provides a platform for a variety of editorial and opinion. The emergence of fake and falsified news, rising media scepticism, and political polarisation, however, put strain on both traditional and alternative news sources. The news industry needs communicators who recognise the value of journalism, the media, and various points of view in educating the public.

India is placed 31 out of 46 countries in terms of overall trust in news, according to the Reuters Institute Digital News Report, 2021, which was essentially announced on June 23. Only 38% of respondents from India said they generally trust news. Finland had the greatest overall trust in news scores (65%) while the United States had the lowest scores (29 percent). With 73 percent of respondents using smartphones to obtain news, the survey reveals India to be one of the strongest markets for mobile devices. In all, 82 percent of respondents indicated they get their news online, including on social media; the most popular sites are WhatsApp and YouTube. The prevalence of false information on these platforms also raised serious concerns. In the survey, print media and public broadcasters receive high trust ratings. Print media, on the other hand, was severely impacted by the pandemic-related economic slump with lower ad sales and circulation, which led to job losses and wage cuts.

1.8 SIGNIFICANCE OF MAINSTREAM MEDIA REPORTS

Since the first coronavirus disease (COVID-19) patient was diagnosed on December 1 of 2019, the illness has rapidly spread to more than 100 nations, resulting in more than 937,000 cases and 47,256 fatalities (World Health Organization, 2020). The United States was the country with the most cases in the globe as of 3 April 2020, with 239,279 cases and 5,443 fatalities. The rapid transmission of information with a risk-frame in the mainstream media has sparked emergency preparedness initiatives and public awareness in response to these worrying estimates. It makes sense that it's critical to regularly gather current information in order to maintain compliance with local and state authorities as well as to consider the welfare of family and loved ones who may be located all over the world.

The widely available news outlets (such as digital, electronic, and print media) of Indian mainstream media are well known for influencing public views, giving them a substantial influence on the psychological effects of fast spread information during pandemics. However, controlling the COVID-19 epidemic calls for a timely, balanced strategy that educates the public on what they can do without placing a strain on mental health. The mainstream media rely on creating news content that will increase perceived self-efficacy to protect, vulnerability to the disease, and severity of pandemic outbreaks in order to elicit a response from the public, heighten threat perception, and persuade people to abide by preventive policies and regulations. For instance, in a recent video series, CNN spoke with a large number of COVID-19 patients who were in remission about their perspectives on the severity, likelihood, and experiences of the illness (CNN, 2020). However, exposure to risky news on a regular basis may harm viewers' mental health. Investigating the effects of exposure to pandemic news in the mainstream media on mental health is crucial. The aim of

this study was to investigate the relationship between depressed symptoms, risk perceptions, and media exposure to COVID-19-related news.

1.9 AIM OF THE STUDY

The aim of the research is to analyse misleading information or in other words fake news published by mainstream media during the first wave and second wave of Covid-19 pandemic.

1.10 OBJECTIVES

This research aims to find out different characteristics of fake news/misleading reports circulating on mainstream media.

To study the misleading information published by mainstream media during Covid-19.

To analyse the misleading information published by mainstream media during Covid-19.

1.11 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The study mainly has three research questions:

RQ1. What are the popular COVID-19-related fake news themes discussed by news reports?

RQ2. What presentation elements (text, photographs, videos, or combination of these) comprise these fake news reports?

RQ3. Which main stream media outlets (newspaper, TV, radio and websites) is circulating misleading information more frequently?

1.12 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The research study will help the government and policy makers to formulate policy and guidelines that will tackle the issues of fake news and information. The unit of analysis of the research study will help in spreading awareness among the general public.

CHAPTER 2

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

This section will explore the existing literature on mainstream media and the rise of mainstream media, spread of fake news, themes of fake news, and fake news in Indian media. And lastly rise of fake news during covid-19 pandemic.

2.1 HISTORY OF MAINSTREAM MEDIA

The 6400-kilometer caravan route known as the Silk Road, a vital trade and transport route linking Asia, the Middle East, and Europe in ancient and mediaeval times, was followed by inventions, literary works, and languages. Armed conquest, Buddhist missionaries from India to China, and Muslim clerics from Southwest Asia all travelled on the same route (Middle East). The southern Wakhan path of the Silk Road, which had been travelled for more than 1500 years, was used by the Polo family, which consisted of Marco, his father Niccolo, and his uncle Maffeo, when they travelled from Venice to China in 1271. From the lush, temperate region of eastern China to the mountains and deserts of Muslim Arabia, the route travelled through a diversity of climates and cultures. The Silk Road left its starting point in Xian and travelled northwest via the Great Wall of China, traversing the Takla Makan Desert, the Pamir Mountains, Afghanistan, and the Levant. Levantese businesspeople exported the goods throughout the Mediterranean Sea. We can assume that the West was aware of the East's innovations because of the nature of the world system, which is described in more detail elsewhere (Gunaratne, 2001b), which is a core-periphery structure that is reshaping itself through competitive capital accumulation as shown in alternating hegemony and rivalry over long and short economic cycles. It's incredible that Gutenberg independently created moveable type in the middle of the 15th century, after it had already been discovered separately in Korea and Japan and China in the middle of the 11th century.

However, Temple (1986) credited Chinese intelligence with these and other European accomplishments. Examples of this brilliance include paper and printing. Using the horizontally integrative macro history method, we may assess the development of paper and printing around the world over each of the Chinese dynasties.

Within a few decades, printing activity across Europe experienced a tremendous rise with the invention of mechanical moveable type. From a single print business in Mainz, Germany, printing began to expand over Central, Western, and Eastern Europe by the end of the 15th century. As early as 1480, printers were employed in 110 various sites in Germany, Italy, France, Spain, the Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland, England, Bohemia, and Poland. It is asserted that after that point "the printed book was in universal usage in Europe."

Italy, a hub of early printing, with 77 cities and towns with print shops open by the year 1500. Around three thousand printers were reported as being in operation at 151 locations around Italy at the turn of the century. Despite this growth, printing hubs emerged, and one-third of all Italian printers moved to Venice. Over twenty million copies were printed in Western

Europe by the year 1500 on printing presses. In the century that followed, their output multiplied by ten, reaching 150–200 million copies.

Around the year 1600, the daily output of European printing presses ranged from 1,500 to 3,600 impressions. On the other hand, printing was restricted to a daily production of forty pages when the back of the paper was physically rubbed to the page. During Erasmus' lifetime (1469–1536), at least 750,000 copies of his books were sold. The revolutionary potential of mass printing frightened both rulers and the papacy in the early days of the Reformation. In Germany, the number of books published between 1518 and 1524 surged seven-fold; between 1518 and 1520, 300,000 copies of Luther's tracts were printed.

The first newspapers were published as a result of the speed with which typographical text could be produced and the dramatic decrease in unit pricing, which created a brand-new market for the public broadcast of current information. Numerous libraries in Europe and North America have collected pre-16th century print works, but they are still inaccessible.

By creating a community of scientists who could immediately share their discoveries through the creation of widely read scholarly magazines, the printing press also contributed to the scientific revolution. The printing press increased the value and profitability of authorship. The rapid production of typographical text and the sharp decline in unit costs, which opened up a new market for the dissemination of current information to the general public, led to the publication of the first newspapers. Pre-16th century print works have been gathered by a number of libraries in Europe and North America, but they are still unavailable.

The establishment of widely read scholarly publications and the emergence of a scientific community that could rapidly share its discoveries were other ways in which the printing press contributed to the scientific revolution. The printing press's development increased writers' value and income. The availability of written materials increased during the next 200 years, which caused a notable increase in adult literacy rates across Europe.

The democratisation of information was greatly aided by the invention of the printing press. The entire classical literature had been republished and heavily marketed across all of Europe within 50 or 60 years after the printing press's invention (Eisenstein, 1969). More people had access to both fresh and archival content and could discuss these works. The first copyright laws were enacted as the publishing industry got more and more commoditized. On the other side, the printing press received criticism for aiding in the spread of potentially false information.

The demise of Latin as the primary language of most published works and its replacement by the regional vernacular language was another result of this popularisation of knowledge. The spelling and syntax of these vernaculars were standardised and unified by the printed word, so decreasing their variability. One of the reasons influencing the emergence of nationalism in Europe is the ascendancy of national languages over pan-European Latin.

The third result of the spread of printing was its impact on the economy. The printing press was associated with higher rates of urban growth. A decrease in merchant guilds and an

increase in lone traders can be attributed to the publication of trade-related manuals and periodicals that teach techniques like double-entry accounting.

MASS MEDIA ERA

Mass media's origins can be found in the days when prehistoric communities staged tragedies. It was the first time a specific media format had been "broadcast" to a bigger audience. The first dated printed book is the "Diamond Sutra," which was published in China in 868 AD; however it is clear that books were printed before. China is credited with developing the movable clay type in 1041. However, due to China's sluggish adoption of reading and the comparatively expensive cost of paper, the earliest printed mass-medium was likely European popular prints from around 1400. Although these were printed in great numbers, there are just a few early specimens left, and even those that are known to have been printed before 1600 have mostly vanished. Print media was developed together with the term "mass media," which is significant since it is the earliest instance of what we now refer to as "mass media." During the Middle Ages, this form of communication initially emerged in Europe.

The widespread production of books was made possible by Johannes Gutenberg's invention of the printing press. Using a moveable type printing press, he produced the first book, a Latin Bible, in 1453. The printing press allowed for the mass publication of books and newspapers, leading to the development of some of the first forms of mass communication. Books remained too expensive to be considered a mass medium for at least another century, despite the fact that the invention revolutionised how people all over the world acquired written knowledge. Newspapers originally appeared around 1612, with the first one published in English following in 1620, but it wasn't until the 19th century that they started to gain widespread attention. Early in the nineteenth century, London witnessed the creation of the first mass-circulation newspapers, such as *The Times*, made feasible by the invention of high-speed rotary steam printing presses and railroads that permitted wide-scale distribution over enormous geographic areas. Newspapers became more of a one-way medium as a result of the growth in circulation, which also caused a decline in reader input and involvement.

The word "media" gained popularity in the 1920s. Before the introduction of radio, television, and video in the decades following World War II, the concept of "mass media" was essentially limited to print media. Because audio-visual facilities provided both information and entertainment, the viewers' and listeners' attention was captured by the colour and sound, and it was more practical for the general public to passively watch television or listen to the radio than to actively read, audio-visual facilities were very common. The most recent and popular mass medium simply came into being is the Internet. Through websites and search engines, information is now widely available. No matter where they are, people can multitask by playing games, listening to music, and using social networking sites. The types of information that can be provided by traditional major media are constrained, but the internet through resources like Google Books contains a sizable fraction of all of human knowledge. Modern mass media includes, but is not limited to, the internet, mobile devices, blogs, podcasts, and RSS feeds.

Technology, particularly the ability to copy content in large quantities, contributed to the growth of mass media in the 20th century. Technology advancements in printing, record pressing, and film duplication allowed for the low-cost mass distribution of books, newspapers, and motion pictures. Radio and television made it possible for the first time for information to be replicated electronically. Mass media followed the economics of linear replication: even one piece might be profitable. An illustration of Riel's and Neil's theories. Unit costs declined according to the number of copies sold and as volumes rose, leading to better profit margins. Huge fortunes might be made in the media. The media can inform the electorate about governmental and commercial issues in a democracy. Some claim that the concentration of media ownership poses a danger to democracy.

INTERNET ERA

Since the middle of the 1990s, when email became a popular method of practically instantaneous communication, instant messaging, voice over Internet protocol (VoIP) phone calls, two-way interactive video chats, discussion forums, blogs, and social networking have revolutionised communication. We can stay in touch with people wherever they are by using the internet, which has sped up and streamlined communication. It has increased the variety of options available to organisations and accelerated the pace of business. Through social media, YouTube, and memes, people have been able to express themselves. We have never been more united and more divided thanks to the internet.

Although it had been in use for years earlier, email was introduced to the public as a by product of the World Wide Web in 1991, and it has had a significant impact on our lives for better or worse, depending on your point of view. Educational institutions and the military, which used email for communication, were the messaging platform's first customers. In 2018, more than 3.8 billion people, or more than half of the world's population, used email. We're predicted to send 333 billion personal and professional emails every day by the year 2022.

Although we can't imagine living without email, new tools are surfacing that are giving email a run for its money. Consider Slack, a company that was established in 2014 and is known as a "email killer." Slack is an acronym for "Searchable Log of All Communication and Knowledge." With 10 million daily users, Slack has become the most widely used chat and productivity tool in the world, although email is still in use. Users who still rely heavily on email are no longer excluded from collaborative work because to Slack's improvements.

A hands-free mobile headset, which was originally introduced in 1999 and rapidly associated with city workers, was the first piece of wearable technology. It made it possible for professionals to take calls while moving about, especially while driving. Making a video call from a device other than a phone would have been science fiction ten years ago. These talents are already a part of our daily lives because to wearable technology like smart watches, audio sunglasses, and other cutting-edge devices.

The fifth generation of mobile networks, often known as 5G, promises significantly higher data upload and download rates, as well as expanded coverage and reliable connections. Communication will significantly increase as a result of these benefits. Those annoying

sporadic video calls will be a thing of the past, and there will be instant communication available.

Our smartphones currently have a 4G average transmission speed of around 21 Mbps. A hundred to a thousand times faster than current technology, 5G will be. A two-hour movie can be downloaded in 3.6 seconds, as opposed to 6 minutes on 4G or 26 hours on 3G, claims the Consumer Technology Association. Due to the simultaneous connection of millions of devices, 5G will have an impact well beyond our smartphones. Future 6G is already being discussed. It's exciting from the standpoint of innovation even though basic research is still ongoing and it will take 15-20 years. We will use 6G to build the linked utopia we envision, which will significantly increase communication speed and reliability.

2.2. RISE OF FAKE NEWS

It is well acknowledged that the media has a significant impact on how the public reacts to health issues. In the current environment, social media has developed as a communication tool that not only makes it easier to disseminate and consume information but also to generate it. The media's reach as a tool for communication is unrivalled (Gunther, 1998; Tsao et al., 2021). Experts in public health have always been aware of media influence (Chapman, 2007; Martinson and Hindman, 2005). Recently, three University of Pennsylvania emergency medicine specialists recommended the public to use online resources to find reliable information (Berman, 2021).

Fake news started to become more prevalent after Johannes Gutenberg invented the printing press in 1439, which coincided with the rapid dissemination of information. In that time, it was difficult to verify "real" news. There were many news sources available, including official documents from religious and governmental authorities as well as firsthand tales from sailors and traders, but there was no understanding of journalistic ethics or neutrality. Fact-seeking readers had to pay close attention. Those seeking accurate information in the 16th century considered leaked secret government documents, such as Venetian official letters known as *relazioni*, to be trustworthy sources. But it didn't take long for authentic documents to be released, and then false *relazioni* leaks. Around providing their sources as verified footnotes, historians started to contribute to the process of fact-checking the news by the 17th century. The trial over Galileo's discoveries in 1610 also sparked a demand for news that could be verified scientifically and aided in the development of significant scholarly news sources.

However, as printing spread, bogus news also did as well, from fantastic tales of witches and sea monsters to assertions that sinners were to blame for natural disasters. One of history's most complicated news stories was the Lisbon Earthquake of 1755, which the church and many European institutions attributed to divine vengeance against sinners. *Relações de sucessos*, a category of fake news pamphlets, first appeared in Portugal and claimed that certain survivors owed their lives to an appearance of the Virgin Mary. The well-known Enlightenment philosopher Voltaire was prompted by these religiously motivated stories of

the earthquake to criticise religious explanations of natural events and to become an activist against false religious news.

It was prevalent at the time. When 22-year-old Marc-Antoine Calas, the son of a well-known Protestant businessman in Toulouse, appeared to commit suicide, Catholic campaigners disseminated rumours that Jean Calas had murdered his son because he wanted to become a Catholic. The local court authorities effectively converted rumours into official facts, which in turn became official news by posting signs requesting legal witnesses to support the claim.

However, despite the scientific revolution and the Age of Enlightenment, fake news continued to circulate. For instance, in the years leading up to the French Revolution, a flood of pamphlets in Paris revealed for the first time the specifics of the staggering budget deficit of the nearly bankrupt government. Each came from a different political faction, refuted the other with different figures, and assigned various finance ministers as the cause of the deficit. Eventually, enough information was made available for readers to gain a general understanding of state finances thanks to government leaks and an increase in the number of verifiable accounts; nonetheless, just like today, readers needed to be suspicious and knowledgeable in order to determine the truth.

Even our celebrated Founders used false information for political ends. In order to incite revolutionary fervour, Ben Franklin himself concocted misinformation stories about violent "scalping" Indians working with the British King George III. Other revolutionary leaders propagated false information that King George was sending thousands of foreign soldiers to slaughter American patriots and turn the tide of the War of Independence in order to persuade Americans to enrol and support the revolutionary cause.

By the 1800s, racial issues were at the centre of fake news once more. American racial attitudes and anxieties were influential in creating false myths, just like Jewish blood libel. The "cottage business" of false information about African Americans turning white on their own persisted in antebellum America. In other cases, false news stories about slave revolts or slave-related crimes sparked awful violence against African-Americans.

Shock value has always been profitable. Modern newspapers first appeared in the early 19th century, boasting scoops and exposés but also fabricating articles to boost readership. The "Great Moon Hoax" of the New York Sun in 1835, which asserted the existence of an alien civilisation on the moon, made the Sun a well-known and prosperous newspaper. Anti-Catholic newspapers in Philadelphia erroneously reported in 1844 that Irishmen were robbing public schools of their bibles, sparking violent riots and assaults on Catholic churches. Yellow journalism thrived throughout the Gilded Age, employing fabricated stories, experts, and interviews to elicit sympathy and outrage when needed. Joseph Pulitzer's New York World produced overdone crime plays to boost sales. In the 1890s, oligarchs like William Randolph Hearst and his Morning Journal used exaggeration to help spark the Spanish-American War. Hearst famously responded, "You supply the images, I'll furnish the fight," in response to his journalist in Havana telegraphing that there wouldn't be a war. Hearst served

as the inspiration for Orson Welles' *Citizen Kane*. Hearst started a conflict when he published fictitious images of Cuban officials strip-searching American women.

Yellow journalism, whose results from civil unrest to war provoked a backlash and drove readers to seek out more unbiased reporting, is one bright spot in this lengthy and concerning history of fake news. This booming market served as the impetus for the development of a profession of comparatively objective journalism in America at the start of the 20th century. When American newspapers for the first time engaged reporters to cover local beats and statehouses, a chain of trust between local, state, and national reporters and the public was established.

While sensationalism and political reporting persisted (just check at the newsstands at your local supermarket), objective journalism did develop into a lucrative business model and, up until recently the industry standard. The *New York Times* was purchased by Adolph Ochs in 1896 with the intention of producing a "facts"-based newspaper that would benefit the wealthy investing class by providing reliable business news and general news. Even though the newspaper was criticised for serving as a platform for "bondholders," Ochs proved that news does not have to be exciting to be lucrative.

The consensus on objective journalism was not without its flaws, of course. Concerns regarding the U.S. government's involvement in news propaganda production during World War II arose in light of the Nazi and Communist propaganda apparatuses. According to a *New Yorker* article from the 1950s, journalists should report the news rather than "inform readers which 'facts' are genuinely 'facts' and which aren't," as Joseph McCarthy was alleged to have done. By the 1960s, a new group of journalists had joined up to cover "non establishment" subjects. Even if several of these reporters questioned the whole idea of impartiality, they all adhered to the fundamental tenet of reporting from reliable, verifiable sources.

Untrue News According to "Politifact," a non-profit fact-checking website, fake news consists of made-up information that is expertly constructed solely for the purpose of manipulating people by deceiving them through content and spreading false information via social media and ultimately word-of-mouth (Stroud,n.d). Fake news, often referred to as hoax news, is described as false information or propaganda that is spread under the guise of being news, according to another definition. False news is promoted on fake news websites and channels in an effort to mislead viewers and spread misinformation via social media and word-of-mouth (Stroud, n.d). With the help of clickbait (a type of link that forces readers to read content with intriguing and appropriate headlines), fake news is shared purely for the purpose of attraction, not for financial benefit or profit, and then consumers are persuaded to spread the hoax or fake news. This is accomplished by building fictitious news websites that closely resemble and function like legitimate news websites while employing methods to deceive readers.

Fake News Growth in Recent Times

False information was widely disseminated during the 2016 U.S. presidential election between Donald Trump and Hilary Clinton, which received the greatest attention. In addition to social media sites like Facebook, Shao et al. (2018) discovered that Twitter also played a significant role in the elections because "bots" were in charge of spreading false information even before Trump began his campaign by focusing on the most powerful users through tagging, replies, and mentions.

The social network has moved forward and is making an effort to limit the spread of fake news after the chaos that erupted during the 2016 U.S. presidential elections. Regarding fake news, Facebook has maintained a third-party checker on widely shared stories, added posts listing stories along with dubious stories, created something called page information to reveal who is a part of each post, and published new guidelines and tools to assist users in determining which news is real and which is not. Since most people use WhatsApp, the current focus on false news has been switched to this popular social media platform.

Fake News in India

It has been established by a thorough qualitative study carried out by the BBC that nationalism is the primary cause of the dissemination of false information in India. In a nation like India, passion has a greater influence than logic. Over time, it became clear that fake news on Twitter and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's support networks overlapped (Chakrabarti,2018). Fake news and malicious rumours are now a major contributor to the violence that occurs in India (Thomas, 2018).

India is a South Asian nation that is prone to disinformation. Political and religious misinformation has been more prevalent in recent years, among other sorts of misinformation. The development of ethno nationalism and political division are just two possible causes. Political misinformation frequently helps political parties influence election results or combat anti-government discourses (Rodrigues, 2019). (Udupa, 2017). Similar to this, false religious teachings primarily fuel anti-Muslim sentiments and vigilante mobs (Arun, 2019; Mukherjee, 2020). For instance, from 2009 to 2019 there were over a hundred public lynching's that were solely motivated by false religious information (Arun, 2019; Banaji et al., 2019). According to Allport and Postman (1947), uncertainty, ambiguity, and widespread concern are favourable conditions for the spread of false information, and the pandemic is currently providing a good opportunity for it. In India as well as other countries, health-related disinformation is on the rise due to the global health problem (Islam et al., 2020). (Sutaria, 2020). A particular time period does not, however, solely include one particular kind of false information. Instead, a range of false information about diverse matters of public interest coexists at any given time and can have an impact on numerous social phenomena on their own. For instance, health-related fear brought on by inaccurate information about health can encourage communal division and deny a religious group access to quality healthcare (Apoorvanand, 2020). The topical disinformation that predominates in India and worldwide, not just during the pandemic but also at other times, is discussed in the

section that follows. "Popularity of sensationalism has always existed. Early in the nineteenth century, modern newspapers began to develop, bragging about their exposés and scoops while also making up stories to increase readership. The New York Sun's "Great Moon Hoax" of 1835, which claimed that an alien civilization resided on the moon, made the Sun a well-known and successful newspaper." It's not uncommon for news reports to be made up or misreported. Long before social media, it has been a part of media history since the invention of the printing press. It is how tabloids generate revenue. On the internet, clickbait titles try to shock and amaze us in order to entice us to read more.

2.3. THEMES OF FAKE NEWS

Thematic typologies of fake news were described in a few studies, and these are pertinent to the current investigation. Higdon (2020) examined four prominent themes of false news based on the critical-historical lens of media ecology analysis: nationalism, hate, celebrity gossip, and fear. Although this study made an effort to offer deeper insights into the themes, it was unable to adequately address the complexity of false news by omitting more important ones like politics, crime, and other unrelated topics. Wu and Liu (2018) found four topics of fake news on social media, including business, science and technology, entertainment, and medicine, in a separate study. This study has four drawbacks: it has a narrow scope within a more technical genre, namely computer science; its categories are few; it doesn't provide information on the categories; and it doesn't concentrate on the Indian setting. Based on WhatsApp fake news in India, Banaji et al. (2019) presented five themes: excessive content, nationalism, religion, gender, and other.

Previous research indicates that, as of now, researchers have paid less attention to the theme analysis of disinformation. After completing a media ecology research, Higdon (2020) identified four themes of misinformation: nationalism, hate, celebrity rumours, and fear. Only four categories are covered by this typology, which may not be sufficient to explain the situation in India. There is a lot of religious misinformation that doesn't fall into this pattern, for example, in India. Excessive content, nationalism, religion, gender, and other are the five primary subcategories of Indian disinformation, according to Banaji et al. (2019). There is a lot of false information out there regarding mishaps, fatalities, natural disasters, unexplained violence, organisations, and people. The main issues of nationalism or ethno religious bigotry are anti-Pakistan, anti-Kashmir, anti-Muslim, pro-Dalit, pro-BJP, anti-Modi, and so forth. Bigotry based on religion or ethnicity includes false information about Christianity, Islam, Sikhism, Hinduism, and other religions. Disinformation about other subjects contains false information that does not result in violent effects, whereas ignorance regarding gender includes things like sexual assault, misogyny, and patriarchal restrictions (Banaji et al., 2019). Even though this category covers a wide range of topics, there are a few problems with it: either it leaves out some subjects of public interest (like politics and entertainment); or it emphasises false information that only has negative effects when false information can also have positive ones (see Al-Zaman et al., 2020; Avaaz, 2019; Bordia et al., 2006); or it doesn't adequately explain the categories that overlap, like "nationalism or ethno religion." Brennen et al. (2020) identified the following nine themes of misleading information: public authority action, community diffusion, general medical, well-known actors, conspiracies,

viral transmission, origins of virus, public preparedness, and vaccine research (p. 6). While omitting other possibly misleading issues related to the pandemic, such as entertainment rumours, the majority of the erroneous material in this study's sample was health-related ("Due to COVID-19 Netflix will give out three months free subscription."). This study, in contrast to past ones, exclusively looked at COVID-19 disinformation.

A couple further research examined thematically the COVID-19 disinformation in India. For instance, Menon (2020), in his examination of religious misinformation from January to June 2020, focused on the four following subjects: COVID-19, Delhi Riot, Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), and anti-Muslim. Two sets of misleading information concerning COVID-19 were uncovered by another investigation: medical and social (Sutaria, 2020). While the second wave addresses economics, politics, culture, and religion, the first wave addresses "the virus's inception, causes, dissemination, and cure." According to the study, the first wave reinforces the second wave. There are at least three issues with this study. First, it only looked at COVID-19 misinformation, which might not accurately reflect the overall level of disinformation in India at the time of the pandemic. Second, the term "communal" refers to religious segregation and/or hostility on the Indian subcontinent from a religious perspective. It may not be justified to include politics, culture, and economics in the communal group. Third, the study makes two timelines that appear to be illogically divided into several categories of misinformation. In reality, various falsehoods coexist and frequently overlap in certain places at any one time. This study seeks to investigate an inclusive typology that takes into account the COVID-19 epidemic as well as the Indian setting in light of the limitations of prior findings.

2.4 ELEMENTS OF FAKE NEWS

Researcher Barbara Westwood (1999) found that news sources on health issues have been a neglected area on health communication (Lopes et al., 2012), that enhanced newsworthiness of localised threat is highlighted, that national newspapers reported more factual information and less information about preventive measures, and that public health is presented less prominently and less favourably than medical model issues (Westwon, 1999). (Mogambi et al. 2013). For example, The New York Times covered more local and international news stories than other newspapers, depended more on its own staff for writing and taking photos, and used smaller headlines on its front pages (Kim and Chung, 2017).

Prior health communication studies have placed a strong emphasis on the connection between health and economy, with populations experiencing job, income, housing, and even food instability (McKee et al., 2017). Newspaper articles about economic issues represent general public concerns since news media reflect public opinion. The world outside of our direct experience—the world that is outside the scope of experience—is a world that is significantly shaped by the media (Lippman, 1922). In terms of content prioritisation, a number of studies have examined newspaper front pages. When it comes to coverage, the field of health communication has consistently been found wanting. Perhaps its importance is still underappreciated until it reaches catastrophic levels, like an epidemic or pandemic, for example. Ghana's The Daily Graphic was found to regularly undervalue reproductive health

issues in its reporting (Laar, 2010). However, it has been found that when media outlets cover health topics, they may effectively dominate the agenda. A valuable instrument for recognising, addressing, preventing, and controlling global health challenges is actually any form of mediated communication, including journalism, advertising, public relations, and strategic communication (Poushter, 2016). Policymakers, interest groups, and the general public's perceptions of an issue are significantly influenced by the media (Linsky, 1986).

Newspapers can draw attention to current events in a prioritised manner through story structure, subject, suitable writing style, and tone. Readers can determine similar importance and priority for particular news items based on the weight given to each news item in the newspapers. Agenda setting and framing theory have some clear areas of overlap (McCombs & Ghanem, 2001). An argument can be framed using the following techniques: metaphors, narrative stories, tradition, jargon, artefacts, contrast, and spin (Fairhurst & Sarr, 1996). The way journalism gives information meaning is through the ideological stances and cultural narratives that frames represent (Durham, 1998). The tone of the story serves as one of the primary markers of framing. Framing results from the organisation of ideas, the language utilised, and packaging (positive, negative, or neutral).

Newspapers may publicly condemn, commend, or support people, programmes, systems, or goals, influencing readers to form opinions and make decisions based on the stories they read. The idea of framing has been conceptualised across a wide range of disciplines, with frames being seen as cognitive schemata through which we perceive, organise, and communicate experiences or as deliberate tools used strategically to frame events in a certain way, define the issues that need our attention, and prioritise some interventions and responses over other potential ones (Pieri, 2019). Framing can be used for four different goals, including problem description, causal analysis, the expression of moral judgement, and remedy advocacy by emphasising some aspects of an event while downplaying others (Entman, 1993). Media analysis frequently uses Entman's definition of framing, which asserts that to frame is to select some aspects of a visible reality and make them more salient in a communicating text (Halfpenny et al., 2009). Visual framing has a significant role in how messages are framed (D'Angelo & Kuypers, 2010). Governments should actively include the media in pandemic communication planning because there is a correlation between how health messages are framed in the media and how the public perceives risk and behaves in that manner (Sandell et al., 2013). To further understand this paradox, the relationship between changing virus epidemiology, media attention, pandemic control measures, risk perception, and public health behaviour was investigated (Reintjes et al., 2016). Journalists are constantly required to make decisions regarding which facts to emphasise, which sources to employ, and what defines a genuine "issue" (Gamson & Modigliani, 1989).

According to prior studies, an average newspaper reader notices 56 percent of headlines, 80 percent of visual components, 75 percent of images, and just 25 percent of the newspaper's text, of which only 13 percent is read in detail (Moses, 2000). Similar research has shown that people scan newspapers rather than reading them, and that each page has a prominent element that serves as the reader's initial point of approach (or point of attention), or more precisely, the point at which scanning ceases and readers "enter" the content more deeply

(Garcia, 2004). The Gestalt principle and other universal norms, such as design principles, must be followed by newspapers (Dosen & Brkljac ic , 2018). Studies on newspaper design demonstrate how form and content interact by influencing how readers perceive and understand the text. Every element on the front page has a purpose, and alterations to the presentation affect how the content is seen, heard, and comprehended. As a result, there is a new, improved order of notice and viewing time, which indirectly affects readers' perceptions of the newspaper as a whole.

2.5. MAINSTREAM MEDIA AND FLOATING DISINFORMATION

The family of a 65-year-old man who passed away from COVID-19 was located in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, on April 2. This was done in response to false films that claimed healthy Muslims were being taken away and given the virus, reinforcing the perils and physical effects of disinformation.

After Prime Minister Narendra Modi's declaration of janata curfew on March 22, 2020, and the nationwide lockdown that followed two days later to stop the spread of COVID-19, a study on disinformation in India that was released on April 18, 2020, discovered a rise in the number of untrue stories. The research claims that there were 60 instances of debunked misinformation in the first week of April 2020, up from two in the third week of January 2020. During this time, there were fewer bogus claims of a COVID-19 cure, but there was an increase in false claims that hurt people's feelings. Following the third week of March 2020, the number of refuted fake news stories increased steadily, according to the study.

The study divided the false information spread on various social media platforms into seven groups, including culture, the government, manipulated data, and more. Following 54 false news items regarding government announcements and warnings, around 62 fake pieces about culture, defined as messages addressed at a certain socio-religious or ethnic group, were published.

According to a study titled "Prevalence and Source Analysis of Covid-19 Misinformation in 138 Countries," due to the country's greater internet penetration rate, increased social media use, and individuals' low computer literacy, India was the top creator of COVID-19 social media misinformation. For the study, 9,657 documents from 138 countries were analysed, and 94 organisations added fact-checking. They state that "of all the nations, India registered 18.07 percent of the overall misleading news on social media."

Several mainstream media entities, including newspapers and television networks, have widely circulated false information. Even well-known individuals have contributed to the propagation of incorrect information by failing to eliminate debunked rumours. Businesswoman Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, for instance, claimed on Twitter that the southern hemisphere has not been harmed by the coronavirus pandemic. Her participation gave the idea some attention and sparked a lot of discussion online both before and after Alt News refuted it.

Although the study was unable to identify the specific cause of the spread of misleading information by mainstream media, it did make the case that some of it might be attributable to lax editorial standards in a highly competitive media environment. What is still clear, though, is that false information spreads swiftly and that news organisations may intentionally broadcast false information or use click-bait headlines to draw more viewers. In such a situation, mainstream news sources have been particularly involved in Muslim-baiting.

CHAPTER 3

METHODOLOGY

3.1 GENERAL

This study was done using content analysis as its main research instrument throughout. It adopts both qualitative and quantitative analysis. This chapter will rationalise the techniques and the data collection tools used in this research.

3.2 METHOD

For this study content analysis method was adopted. Content analysis usually aims at interpreting the nature of media texts and find out the impact it has on audience. Content delivered in the media has to be analyzed first and comprehended before studying the impact of media frames (Stacks, Hocking and McDermott 2003). To interpret media messaging content analysis is the most suitable methodology (McQuail 2000).

Content analysis can be done in two ways. One is the quantitative approach and the other is the qualitative approach. The significance of the media text is examined in the qualitative method which ends in individual evaluation of the matter whereas the context of the categorization are done in the quantitative method and media frames are specified (Burnham et al 2008). In this analysis the researcher has chosen qualitative technique primarily with essential quantification to validate the variables used in this study.

3.3 RESEARCH DESIGN:

Researcher has adopted Explanatory and descriptive (a mixed-method) strategy in order to understand the research problem. This study utilized the thematic examination of the news report. The researcher combined Quantitative and qualitative (mix) method for the research.

QUALITATIVE RESEARCH vs. QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH

In quantitative research, the researcher should ideally be an impartial observer who does not participate in or have any influence over the subject being investigated. However, in qualitative research, the researcher gains knowledge of a situation by getting involved in it. Additionally, in order to give results meaning, quantitative research sometimes lumps responses into groups that may not apply. Comparatively, qualitative research tends to isolate specific findings without connecting them to broader patterns or potential root causes. Quantitative research is appropriate for addressing some types of issues under particular circumstances, but qualitative research is acceptable for others. To guarantee that the study is as comprehensive as feasible, the most effective strategy is to combine components of both methods.

Randomization is used in quantitative research to prevent bias in sample selection and ensure that the sample is representative of the study population. There is no attempt to select a sample in qualitative research. The researcher can deliberately choose "information-rich"

respondents who will give the necessary information. This is regarded as a skewed sample in quantitative research.

The underlying presumptions on the role of the researcher are a key distinction between qualitative and quantitative research. To address a research question or get deeper understanding of the topic under investigation, both qualitative and quantitative methodologies can be applied. These two study methodologies are complementary to one another, according to Miles and Huberman (1994) and numerous other scholars.

The researcher used Quantitative and qualitative (mix) method was conducted to study the "Analysing Misleading Information Published by Mainstream Media during the First Wave and Second Wave of Covid-19 Pandemic". Researcher has conducted content analysis of media reports which were related to Covid-19 during the specified time period.

All the news articles were published during the first wave (January 2020 to January 2021) and second wave (February 2021 to December 2021) of Covid-19 Pandemic. The purpose of this study was to analyse fake news published by mainstream media.

3.4 POPULATION AND SAMPLING

- **Universe of the study:** All the fact checking websites.
- **Population:** Press Information Bureau. PIB was purposely selected for this study. PIB is a central agency of the Indian government which works under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and it's headquarter is in New Delhi's. The primary responsibility of the Press Information Bureau is to inform the print, electronic, and digital media about the goals, policies, programme, activities, and accomplishments of the government. The Press Information Bureau introduced a fact-checking division called PIB Fact Check in December 2019. It has accounts on all social media platform Instagram, Facebook and Twitter.
- **Sample/unit:** 40 media reports. Fact checked by PIB.

3.4.1 SAMPLING

The researcher has used purposive sampling for the research. Because the research is based on the study of misleading news circulated during the Covid period. The researcher selected those news reports with a selected time frame that were solving the purpose of the research.

3.5 DATA COLLECTION

The researcher has used primary data collection. Primary data is collected by researchers directly from main sources (PIB).

3.6 DATA CATEGORIZATION WITH THEMES

The researcher has divided the data into four subjects for research. which are following :

THEMES BASED ON SUBJECT: The researcher put the news stories in the related subject after reading it. It was further sub-classified, if required. The subjects were; political, vaccine, lockdown, health care, death count and others.

PRESENTATION ELEMENT USED IN NEWS REPORTS: The researcher categorized news stories depending on news presentation elements like, photo, video, text and combination of all.

TYPES OF MASS MEDIUM: The medium of the news story was noted. Whether the news story was published by website, television or newspaper.

THEMES BASED ON FAKE NEWS: After going through each news story, the researcher categorised the news depending on fake news type. For example: misleading, factually incorrect, false news. This categorisation was done by PIB (source of data).

3.7 DATA INTERPRETATION

After classifying the data into multiple themes, the researcher has created separate bar charts and pie charts to simplify the research data. The researcher analysed each media report (media text) separately.

3.8 DATA ANALYSIS

Mathematical method has been used to analyse selected news stories in order to study what percentage of news is based in different themes. The researcher used thematic content analysis to analyse each media report (media text) separately.

3.9 THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK

This research is based on the Social responsibility theory of the Media. Most third world and developing countries applied this approach in the middle of the 20th century. Sibert, Peterson and Schramm have pointed out that 'libertarianism is outdated' in their book 'four theories of press'. Ultimately social responsibility theory has replaced the libertarian theory of the press.

In the social responsibility theory, the press is given freedom to publish matter without any pre censorship, while the content of the matter published should be open for public discussion panel. The media is obliged to accept any suggestion from the public or professional bodies. The social responsibility theory is in between the authoritarian theory and the libertarian theory as it gives liberty to media and also exerts control at the same time.

This theory helps in building the professional media environment with high level of precision, veracity and information. The press council incorporated some charges based on social responsibility theory of media, which are as follows:

1. Create a press code of conduct.
2. Enhance journalism's standards.
3. Upholding journalistic and journalistic concerns.

4. Criticize the code of conduct and implement some sanctions for violations.

In the present research, an attempt has been made to know the social responsibilities of mainstream media, which any society expects. A different kind of trust and dependence is seen in our country about the media or it can be said that because of trust we have blind faith in the media. We follow and respond to the information provided by the media without any investigation. The manner in which there was an overflow of fake news in the era of Covid, due to which the trend of fake news has increased not only in social media but also in mainstream media, who created the means of fact checking forced to do. It matters a lot that the PIB also needs to do a fact check.

It is a matter of concern that if the mainstream media, which is called the fourth pillar of the country, will also broadcast or publish misleading news, then what can be said for other news media. This is the main reason for adopting the Theory of Social Responsibility in the present research.

CHAPTER 4

DATA INTERPRITATIONS AND ANALYSIS

4.1 GENERAL

In this thematic content analysis the researcher examined 40 fact checked media reports in order to analyse fake news published in mainstream media during the covid pandemic.

The researcher hypothesized that compare to social media mainstream media has all the fact checking tool and technique, mainstream media has trained journalists and vast resources to report any news but still in reporting covid pandemic related reports mainstream media fail to meet expectation.

Since the 1840s, the phrase "Fourth Estate" has been used to refer to journalism's function as a foundation of democracy. Since the media has the ability to persuade the people and influence their eyes, ears, and minds, it is expected that they will only present confirmed information. The tendency of the mainstream media toward sensationalism and propaganda-driven news has resulted in the dissemination of false information. The largest audience, the highest advertising earnings, and the most resources are all currently found in mainstream media. Media outlets in the mainstream are criticised for being biased.

This chapter will discuss the media reports that show because of the spread of false information and fake news in the media, public faith in it has been steadily declining. The news report chosen for the study are selected based on the objective of the study.

It has to be noted that news report selected for this study was fact check by PIB (Press Information Bureau). The Press Information Bureau introduced a fact-checking division called PIB Fact Check in December 2019. It has accounts on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter that have a total following of more than 1.5 lakh people. Because research does not have tool to fact check any media report and PIB is a government lead credible source.

4.2 QUALITATIVE CONTENT ANALYSIS OF MAINSTREAM MEDIA REPORT FOR THE STUDY

Misleading news, fake news, and propaganda have the power to polarise public opinion, encourage hate speech and violent extremism, and ultimately weaken democracies and public confidence in democratic processes. The fourth pillar of democracy is regarded as being the media. Great power entails enormous responsibility. As the fourth pillar of democracy, the media is therefore expected to only present verifiable and validated news. The media is largely responsible for spreading fake news. There are instances when false news is spread as a result of individual interpretations and differences in understanding. Lack of clear communication between writer and reader can result in misunderstandings, which can then lead to incorrect interpretation and the creation of fake news. This system has grown during the pandemic situation.

Integrity in reporting and high-quality journalism inform the public about important information. But in many instances, primarily during pandemics, "media" (whether self-described or registered) have contributed to the creation and dissemination of misinformation.

People prefer to stop reading that particular medium when they learn that it is fake news. One has many alternatives for where to get news because to the wide variety of news channels and news formats available. But occasionally, when a news outlet publishes a piece of twisted news that is partially genuine and partially fake, other news outlets attempt to further twist it and show it from a different angle. By completely manipulating the facts, this news manipulation produces fake news. Then, when individuals learn that this fake news is fake, their faith and belief in the fairness and veracity of the media immediately decreases, which make them, think that other news that is being broadcast may also be false, even if it may not be.

The tendency of the mainstream media toward sensationalism and propaganda-driven news has resulted in the dissemination of false information. The public's faith in the media has begun to decline as a result of the media's increased use of false and misleading material. According to a study by the IAMAI, traditional media outlets are more effective at influencing public opinion than Facebook or WhatsApp in spreading false information. The lack of credible facts and evidence leads people to believe in the media's fake news because they have enough faith in them to support what they see and hear.

News report 1.

The image shows a screenshot of a news report from the Hindi newspaper Dainik Bhaskar, dated 29-07-2021. The headline reads: 'आयुष मंत्रालय ने नेटवर्क ऑफ इन्फ्लुएंजा केयर एक्सपर्ट्स (N.I.C.E) द्वारा विकसित प्रोटोकॉल को मंजूरी नहीं दी है।' (The Ministry of AYUSH has not approved the protocol developed by the Network of Influenza Care Experts (N.I.C.E)). Below the headline is a photograph of a press conference with several officials seated at a table. A large red circular stamp with the word 'भ्रामक' (Misleading) is overlaid on the newspaper image. To the right, a Twitter post from PIB Fact Check (@PIBFactCheck) is shown, stating: '@DainikBhaskar ने यह दावा किया है कि आयुष मंत्रालय ने #कोविड19 के उपचार के लिए नेटवर्क ऑफ इन्फ्लुएंजा केअर एक्सपर्ट्स द्वारा विकसित प्रोटोकॉल की सलाह दी है। #PIBFactCheck: यह दावा भ्रामक है। आयुष मंत्रालय ने ऐसे किसी प्रोटोकॉल को मंजूरी नहीं दी है। पढ़ें: pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx...' (Dainik Bhaskar has claimed that the Ministry of AYUSH has advised the protocol developed by the Network of Influenza Care Experts (N.I.C.E) for the treatment of COVID-19. #PIBFactCheck: This claim is misleading. The Ministry of AYUSH has not approved any such protocol. Read: pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx...)

Summary:

On July 29th 2021, Dainik Bhaskar daily Hindi Newspaper published a front page news report with the headline 'Ayush mantralay ne di NICE protocol ki salah'. This media report claims that the AYUSH Ministry recommends NICE protocol for COVID treatment. Dainik Bhaskar uses a bold headline along with a press conference picture. This report also has some level of political context also because Ministry of AYUSH comes under the government of India. According to Audit Bureau of Circulations (2019), Dainik Bhaskar is ranked 4th in the world by circulation and is the largest newspaper in India by circulation.

Fact check:

This media report is **FACTUALLY INCORRECT**. According to the PIB press release, NICE's claims are false. Press release states that NIN has conducted an observational study to document the practices being followed at the NICE Center in Ahmednagar. But, this does not mean that we support these practices.

The press release also rejected NICE's claim that it is not necessary to follow guidelines related to Covid-19, such as wearing PPE kits, wearing masks or social distancing. Lastly, the press release also states that the name of the 'Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India' and the use of the national symbol were also denied.

News report 2.



Summary:

On August 30th 2021, The Telegraph, an Indian English daily newspaper's website, published a report claiming that AYUSH-64 is not beneficial against COVID-19. This media report quoted a research study done by the central government. The theme of this media report is treatment related to COVID-19 and has come to a level of political connection because this report uses the term 'central government'. According to the 2019 Indian Readership Survey (IRS), this newspaper is the ninth most frequently read English language newspaper in India. Total visits on telegraphindia.com in the last 3 months is 3.9M.

Fact check:

This media report is MISLEADING. According to the PIB fact check, the report is a misinterpretation of a pilot study. According to the PIB note, strong clinical trials have demonstrated the effectiveness of AYUSH-64 as a supplement to standard therapy in COVID that is mild to moderate.

News report 3.



Summary:

The Outlook is a weekly general interest English and Hindi news magazine. On August 11th 2021, this website published a report claiming that Lav Agarwal, Joint Secretary Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has stated that there has been only one death due to oxygen shortage during COVID-19 second wave. According to this media report this is government's data. This media report has political angle as well as the theme of this report is related to healthcare. As per the Indian Readership Survey (IRS) 2019 Q4 data Outlook English has 1.76 million readers. Facebook following of Outlook magazine is 1.2 million.

Fact check:

This media report is **FACTUALLY INCORRECT**. According to the PIB fact check, no such statement has been given by the joint secretary. During a press briefing in New Delhi Mr Agarwal said "States were questioned about any fatalities brought on a lack of oxygen. The question was specifically directed at the states when it was brought up in Parliament. According to the reports we have thus far, one state has mentioned a possible instance, while other states have not stated whether there have been any deaths associated with oxygen.

News report 4.

Date: 30th July, 2021

This headline is MISLEADING!

18 News18.com @news18dotcom

Biological E denied permission for trials of its Covid vaccine in children.

Biological E Denied Permission for Trials of its Covid Vaccine in Children
Hyderabad-based pharmaceutical company Biological E Limited's (BE) application for trials of vaccine in children did not get recommendation as the ...
news18.com

#PIBFactCheck

Send us your queries here +918799711259 socialmedia@pib.gov.in Follow us on social media

PIB Fact Check @PIBFactCheck

A news report has published #Misleading headline & claimed that Biological E has been denied permission for its #COVID19 vaccine trials in children

#PIBFactCheck: More data on safety & immunogenicity is asked for consideration of a further extension of their trials in children.

2:58 PM · Jul 30, 2021 · Twitter Web App

183 Retweets 6 Quote Tweets

472 Likes

Summary:

The internet division of CNN News18 (formerly known as CNN IBN) is called News18.com, and its primary focus is on hard news. In addition to a wealth of content that is mobile and multimedia enabled. According to provided information by News18 on their Facebook page Network18 has a team of over 1,000 news professionals.

On August 30th 2021, this website published a report claiming that 'Biological E has been denied permission for its Covid19 vaccine trials in children'. The theme of this media report is related to COVID-19 treatment and vaccine. In Top Websites Ranking for News & Media Publishers in India News18 is the 3rd in the list. On Twitter News18 has 4.7 million followers and 6,401,885 people follow News18 Facebook page.

Fact check:

This media report is MISLEADING in nature. According to the PIB fact check, for consideration of extending their trials in kids, more information on safety and immunogenicity is requested. Headline of this media report is misleading, it is creating confusion and it's misguiding the readers.

News report 5.

Date: 09-07-2021

THOSE TWO MEN WERE ARRESTED FOR ALLEGEDLY PROMOTING ENMITY BETWEEN DIFFERENT GROUPS

MailOnline News

Home | U.S. News | TV Shows | Email | Health | Science | Money | Video | Coffee Break | Travel | Columnists

Editorial | Contact Us | Privacy Policy | Terms of Use | About Us | Advertise With Us | Newsletters | Help

Two men are arrested in India for saying cow urine and dung do NOT cure Covid-19: Pair have been held 45 days so far for dispelling politician's claim

- Activist Erendo Leichombam and journalist Kishorechandra Panigrahi said that cow urine and dung excrement was not a cure for COVID on social media
- They have been imprisoned indefinitely after members of the political party supporting the treatment complained to police

#PIBFactCheck

Send us your queries here | Follow us on social media!

+918799711259 | socialmedia@pib.gov.in | @PIBFactCheck | #PIBFactCheck

Follow

PIB Fact Check @PIBFactCheck

A media report claiming that two men were arrested under the National Security Act for saying that cow urine & dung don't cure #COVID19 is #Misleading.

#PIBFactCheck: They were arrested under Section 153A of IPC for allegedly promoting enmity between different groups.

10:34 PM · Jul 9, 2021 · Twitter Web App

88 Retweets 8 Quote Tweets 198 Likes

Arise Awake @Again... · Jul 9
Replying to @PIBFactCheck

Summary:

MailOnline (also known as dailymail.co.uk) is the website of the Daily Mail, a newspaper in the United Kingdom. The website has readers from all over the world, as evidenced by the fact that there are various home pages for the UK, US, India, and Australia. The website generated 199.4 million unique monthly visits in December 2014, up from 189.52 million in January 2014 and 128.59 million in May 2013, according to the Audit Bureau of Circulations. The most popular English-language newspaper website globally is MailOnline.

On 9th July, 2021, this website published a media report claiming that two men were arrested under the National Security Act for saying that cow urine and dung don't cure covid19. The theme of this media report is related to COVID-19 treatment and has a political undertone.

Fact check:

According to the PIB fact check this media report is MISLEADING. Those two men were arrested for allegedly promoting enmity between different group under section 153A of IPC.

News report 6.

PIB Fact Check [@PIBFactCheck](#) · Jun 2

[@TheLallantop](#) ने दावा किया है कि [#कोरोनावायरस](#) के कारण अनाथ हुए बच्चों को लेकर केंद्र सरकार झूठ बोल रही है।

[#PIBFactCheck](#): यह दावा [#फर्जी](#) है। इस रिपोर्ट में [@NCPCR](#) व केंद्रीय मंत्री [@smritiirani](#) द्वारा दिए गए दो अलग-अलग अवधि के डाटा की गलत तरह से तुलना की गयी है।

तथ्य

जबकि केंद्रीय मंत्री स्मृति ईरानी ने 1 अप्रैल 2021 से 25 मई 2021 के बीच कोरोना से अनाथ हुए बच्चों की जानकारी दी थी।

Smriti Z Irani [@smritiirani](#)

GOI is committed to support and protect every vulnerable child due to loss of both parents to Covid-19. From 1st April 2021 till 2:00 PM today, the State Governments & UTs across the country have reported 577 children whose parents succumbed to Covid-19.

9:00 PM · 25/05/21 · Twitter for iPhone

1,896 Retweets 120 Quote Tweets 10.8K Likes

[#ShowYourGame](#)
MPL Sports present Jersey
Promoted by MPL S

POPSUGAR Fashion
It Might've Been O but Lizzo Stole the Sheer Fishnet Nun

Politics · Trending
Global Hunger Ind
6,834 Tweets

Trending in India
#Gadar2
1,516 Tweets

Show more

Summary:

The Lallantop is an Indian Hindi news and media website. The site is owned by India Today group of Aroon Puri, which also runs Aaj Tak and India Today (TV channel). According to a report published on June 2nd, 2021 that central government is lying about the numbers of children who lost their parents due to COVID-19.

The Lallantop is very popular on social media. On YouTube The Lallantop has more than 10 million subscribers and on Facebook they have more than 6 million followers. According to Vidooly Report, Top 10 Digital First Original News channels on YouTube, TheLallantop.com is the only Digital First Original News Brand to cross 10 million subscribers on YouTube.

Fact check:

According to the PIB fact check this media report is MISLEADING. This report misrepresented the statements given by central minister Smriti Irani. The Ministry of Women & Child Development has given the statement that 577 children who have been orphaned due to COVID-19 were between April 1, 2020 and May 25, 2021. The Lallantop miss presented this data into different context.

During the pandemic the children who have lost their both parents, the surviving parent, legal guardians, or adoptive parents may receive financial help via the PM-CARES scheme for children, according to a central government announcement.

News report 7.

Claim: Type of vaccine administered would regulate international travel.

#PIBFactCheck: This report is **#Misleading** & **#Speculative**. There are other vaccines apart from Covaxin and Covishield in the world. Countries approve vaccines as per their own standards & availability.



PIB Fact Check
@PIBFactCheck
Countering
policies/sc
at
+91879971
in Join us o
t.me/PIB_F

What's happening

India national news · L
Vijayadashami cele
begin across the co
Trending with #Vijaya

#ShowYourGame
MPL Sports present
Jersey
Promoted by MPL S

Messages

Summary:

India Today (formerly Headlines Today) is a 24-hour English language television network based in Noida, Uttar Pradesh, which broadcasts news, business, and current affairs programmes in India. TV Today Network Ltd., a subsidiary of Living Media, owns the channel. In news India Today broadcasted a video claim that a particular type of vaccine administered would regulate international travel. This media report is related to covid19 vaccine.

According to BARC India ratings 2022 for the news, Among English news channels in India, IndiaToday Television closely followed at No. 3 with 18% relative share.

Fact check:

According to the PIB fact check this media report is MISLEADING and speculative. PIB clarifies that there are other vaccines apart from covaxin and covishield in the world. Countries approve vaccines as per their own standards and availability.

News report 8.

The image shows a screenshot of a Twitter post from the account 'PIB Fact Check' (@PIBFactCheck). The tweet is in Hindi and discusses a news report from the newspaper 'Dainik Bhaskar' dated April 26, 2021. The headline of the news report is 'यह दावा फ़र्जी है' (This claim is fake). The news report's main headline is 'भारत में कोरोना से मौतों की वास्तविक संख्या 5 गुना अधिक, असल संख्या छिपाने के लिए राज्य सरकारों पर केंद्र का दबाव' (Actual number of deaths from COVID-19 in India is 5 times higher, pressure on state governments to hide the actual number). The news report also mentions 'भोपाल : 13 दिन में एक हजार मौतें, बर्बाद 41 करोड़ रुपये' (Bhopal: 13 days, one thousand deaths, 41 crore rupees wasted). The tweet from PIB Fact Check states: 'दावा: #कोरोनावायरस से जुड़े डेटा को छिपाने के लिए केंद्र सरकार द्वारा राज्य सरकारों पर दबाव बनाया जा रहा है। #PIBFactCheck: यह दावा #फर्जी है। #COVID19 सम्बन्धी आँकड़े सभी राज्य सरकारों द्वारा स्वतंत्र रूप से प्रदान किए जा रहे हैं और इस पर केंद्र सरकार का कोई नियंत्रण नहीं है।' (Claim: Pressure is being put on state governments by the central government to hide COVID-19 data. PIB Fact Check: This claim is fake. COVID-19 related statistics are being provided independently by all state governments and there is no control by the central government over this.) The tweet has 589 retweets, 68 quote tweets, and 1,062 likes.

Summary:

On april 26th 2021, Dainik Bhaskar daily Hindi Newspaper published a news report with the headline stating that central government is pressurising state governments to hide actual COVID-19 data. The theme of this report is political. This media report id directly targeting the central government.

Dainik Bhaskar is the largest newspaper in India and is rated fourth in the world by circulation, according to Audit Bureau of Circulations (2019).

Fact check:

Press Information Bureau termed the claim as FAKE. It clarified that state governments are providing all COVID data independently and Central government has no control over it. Centre has rejected the media reports that it is putting pressure on States to hide the actually data related to COVID-19.

News report 9.



Summary:

New Delhi Television Ltd is an Indian news media company focuses on broadcasting and on digital news publication. Ndtv.com is a leading website in India. On Apr 21, 2021 a report was published on ndtv.com. With the headline 'India Oxygen Export Rose Over 700% In January 2021 vs 2020 Amid Pandemic'. With this web report a video of television program was also attached. On that video reporter is confirming that India is facing oxygen crises. This report is related to healthcare system.

Fact check:

According to the PIB fact check this media report is FAKE. Press Information Bureau termed clarified that industrial oxygen exports are being mistaken as medical oxygen. Annual export were <0.4% of annual capacity and no oxygen exports are happening now. According to government sources who spoke to ANI, false information is being propagated that India exported limited medicinal oxygen during the pandemic year of 2020–2021.

News report 10.

The image shows a screenshot of a tweet from PIB Fact Check (@PIBFactCheck) and a snippet of a news article. The tweet, dated 1:07 PM on April 19, 2021, states that a headline claiming India's 'double mutation' COVID-19 variant is worrying the world is misleading. It notes that the double mutation has been found in several other countries as well. The tweet includes a link to a press release on pib.gov.in and shows 136 retweets and 6 quote tweets.

The news article snippet, from Bloomberg, has the headline "India's 'double mutation' covid virus variant is worrying the world". A large red stamp with the text "MISLEADING HEADLINE" is overlaid on the article's main image. The article text includes: "including Maharashtra, MP, Rajasthan and Kerala have not yet shared the data with NCDC, though Punjab and Delhi have shared such data." and "As on 15/04/2021, 13,614 WGS samples have been processed at the 10 designated INSACOG labs. Of these, 1,189 samples have tested positive for variants of concern for SARS COV-2 in India. This includes 1109 samples with UK variants, 79 samples with South African variant and 1 sample with the Brazil variant." It also states: "Covid 19 virus has been mutating and various mutations have been found in many countries as well as in India, these include UK (17 mutations), Brazil (17 mutations), and South Africa (12 mutations) variants. These variants have higher transmissibility. The UK Variant has been found extensively in UK, all across Europe and has spread to Asia and America." and "The Double mutation (2 mutations) is another variant and has been found in several countries like Australia, Belgium, Germany, Ireland, Namibia, New Zealand, Singapore, United Kingdom, USA. Higher transmissibility of this variant is not established as yet." A list of bullet points follows: "• The RT PCR tests being used in India do not miss these mutations as the RTPCR tests being used in India target more than two genes." and "• Sensitivity and specificity of the RTPCR tests remains the same as earlier." The article concludes: "The detection of these mutations does not change the strategy of management which remains to test, track, trace and treat. The use of masks remains as the most important shield to prevent the spread of

Summary:

A headline of a news report claims that India's 'double mutation' covid virus variant is worrying the world. This report was published on livemint.com on 19 Apr 2021. This report was published by several other media organisations. Mint is one of India's premium business news publications. According to Indian Readership Survey (IRS) Mint is No.2 among business papers in terms of readership.

Fact check:

This headline is MISLEADING. According to PIB fact check the double mutation has been found in several other countries as well. According to a press statement from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the Covid 19 virus has been evolving, and different variations have been discovered in several nations in addition to India, including varieties from the UK (17 mutations), Brazil (17 mutations), and South Africa (12 mutations). These variations are more easily transmissible. The UK Variant is widely distributed throughout the UK, much of Europe, and has even reached Asia and America.

News report 11.

The facility will end on 24th April after 3rd extension and a new dispensation will be provided to cover the Corona Warriors

Centre withdraws insurance cover for healthcare workers who succumbed in the line of Covid duty

A circular sent out by the Union Health Ministry to states last month said that the insurance cover for healthcare workers who die in the line of duty will be extended till 24 April '21. A circular sent out by the Union Health Ministry to states last month said that the insurance cover for healthcare workers who die in the line of duty will be extended till 24 April '21. A circular sent out by the Union Health Ministry to states last month said that the insurance cover for healthcare workers who die in the line of duty will be extended till 24 April '21.

MISLEADING MISLEADING MISLEADING

#PIBFactCheck

Send us your queries here +918799711259 socialmedia@pib.gov.in Follow us on social media @PIBFactCheck

50 758 1K

PIB Fact Check @PIBFactCheck

A news report by @NewIndianXpress claims that the Centre has quietly decided not to extend an insurance scheme of Rs 50 lakh for healthcare workers who die in the line of #COVID19 duty.

#PIBFactCheck: This report is misinterpreted.

Read here:

Ministry of Health @M... Apr 18

#Unite2FightCorona Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Package(PMGKP) was announced on March 2020, and was extended thrice till 24 April '21. It was launched to provide safety net to Health Workers to ensure that in case of any adversity due to #COVID19, their families are taken care of.

Summary:

A news report by NewIndianXpress claims that the Centre has quietly decided not to extend an insurance scheme of Rs 50 lakh for healthcare workers who die in the line of COVID19 duty. This report was published on NewIndianXpress on 18 Apr 2021. This report has political persuasion.

The New Indian Express is a broadsheet daily newspaper in India that is produced by Express Publications in Chennai. The New Indian Express has a 595,618 copy net paid circulation. All 22 main cities in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, and Telangana are where The New Indian Express is published.

From Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Executive Chairperson of Biocon Limited Kiran Mazumdar, to The Hindu's Political Editor Nistula Hebbar shared this fake news, along with a screen shot of the misleading headline.

Fact Check:

This report is MISINTERPRETED. The Government of India has extended the insurance for health workers who died during the line of Covid duty till April 24, 2021. While the programme "has operated as a very effective safety net and has been able to bring relief to the healthcare personnel who have lost their lives owing to Covid-19, it had to be concluded on the same day," Union Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan makes clear in the letter.

News report 12.

The image displays a news report from Lokmat English and a tweet from PIB Fact Check. The news report, dated April 18, 2021, at 11:51 AM, features the headline "COVID-19: Modi government to declare national lockdown all across the country?". The text below the headline states: "In an unprecedented measure, the Narendra Modi led government is likely to announce a nationwide lockdown all across the ...". A large red stamp with the word "FAKE" is overlaid on the article. The tweet from PIB Fact Check (@PIBFactCheck) is dated April 18, 2021, at 8:08 PM. It reads: "A report by Lokmat claims that government is likely to announce a nationwide lockdown all across the country to curb the spread of #COVID19. #PIBFactCheck: This claim is #Fake." The tweet has 181 retweets, 17 quote tweets, and 380 likes. A reply from Bhavsar Yashesh (@...) is also visible, replying to @PIBFactCheck and @HMOIndia and 5 others.

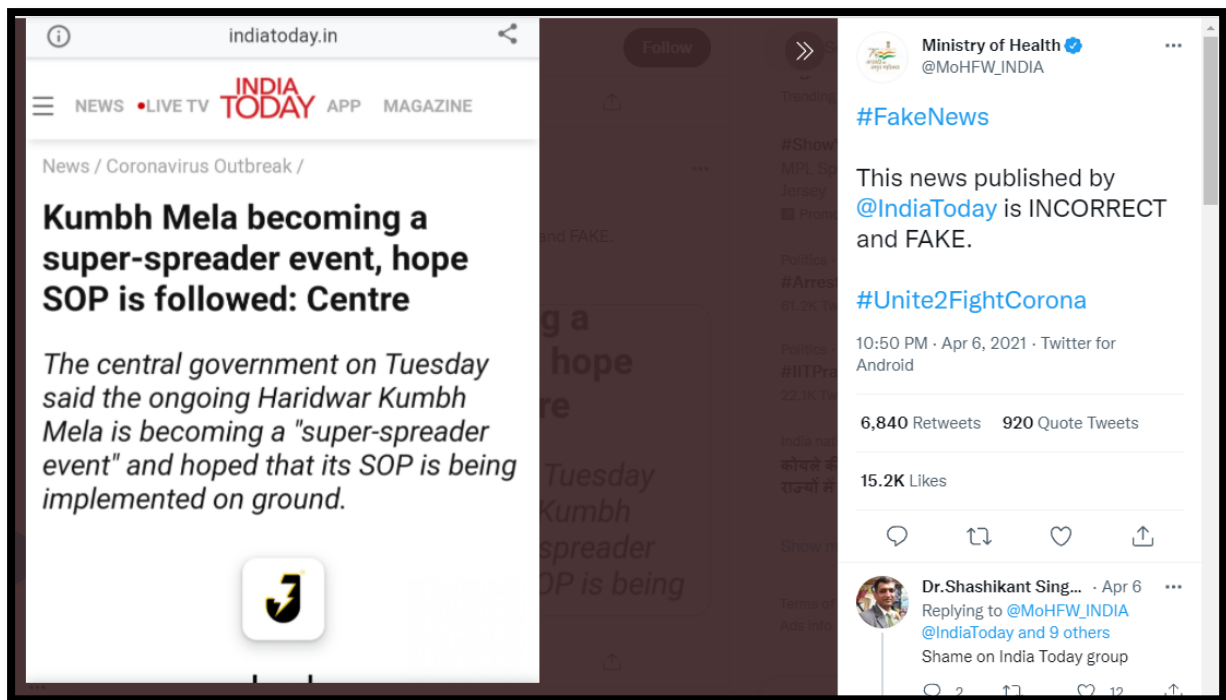
Summary:

According to a report by Lokmat, the government is going to declare a statewide lockdown to stop the spread of COVID19. This news report was published on Lokmat website on 18 Apr 2021. This report has political tint. Lokmat is a Marathi language newspaper published in Maharashtra state. Lokmat English is english news site created by Lokmat Media Private Limited. According to Indian Readership Survey (IRS, 2017) Lokmat has 20 million readers.

Fact Check:

This claim is Fake. The government has denied these claims made in a report and called it fake. This news report was published with the question mark in the heading. This story was made up totally on perception. It has the element of creating panic in readers.

News report 13.



Summary:

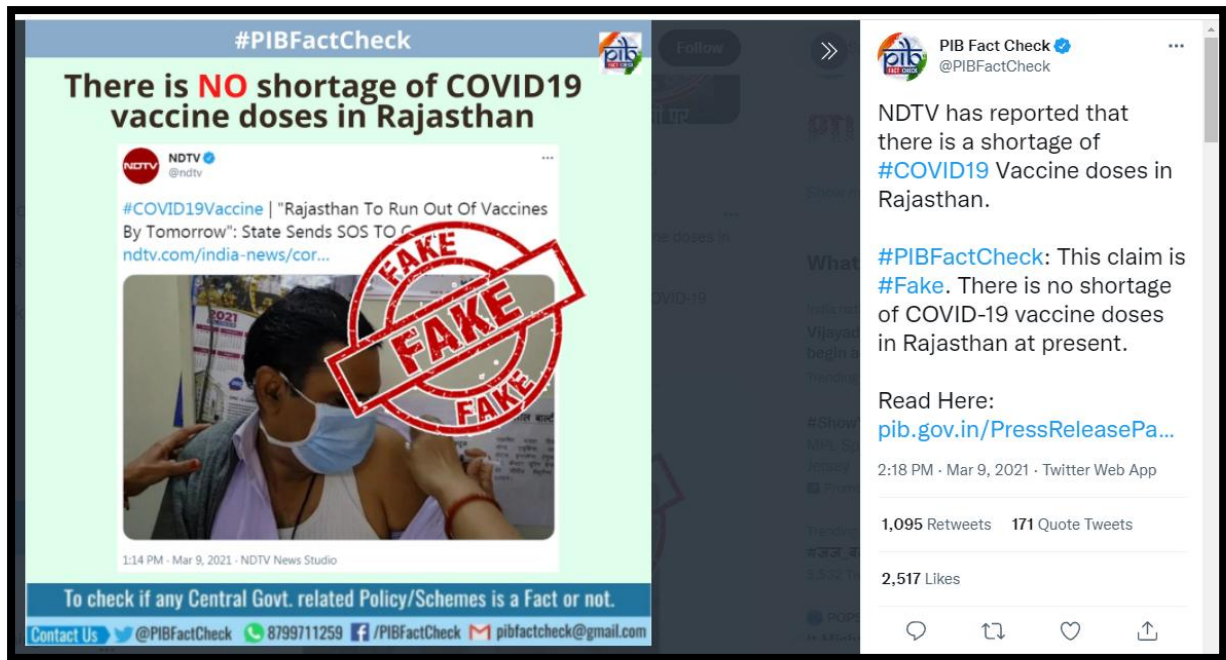
A report was published by Indiatoday.in with the headline that kumbh mela becoming a super spreader event, hope SOP is followed. The similar news story was published by several media groups like bbc, theguardian and many more. This news report was published on India today website on 6 Apr 2021. This news is giving wrong data about cases related to COVID19.

Fact Check:

This news is fake and incorrect. In the clarification, a top Kumbh Mela official said it was inaccurate to refer to the virus as a "super-spreader" because only 0.5% of police officers assigned to the mela contracted the virus, while 0.2% of all RT-PCR tests conducted in Haridwar between January 1 and the end of the event yielded positive results.

According to Mela IG Sanjay Gunjyal, when the holy event officially began on April 1, the second wave of Covid was already rampaging in places like Maharashtra and Haryana. "Attempts to create an impression that Kumbh was a super-spreader of the pandemic look unfair if we scientifically evaluate the Covid data of Haridwar district right from January 1 to the completion of Kumbh on April 30," Sanjay Gunjyal told PTI.

News report 14.



Summary:

A report was published by NDTV. The headline of the news was that there is shortage of covid19 vaccine doses in Rajasthan. The similar news was published by hindustantimes.com and other news platform. This news report was published on NDTV on 9 mar, 2021. This news is giving wrong information about COVID19 vaccine availability. New Delhi Television Ltd is an Indian news media company focuses on broadcasting and on digital news publication. Ndtv.com is a leading website in India. According to Google Analytics NDTV.com registered over 13 billion hits on May 16, 2014.

Fact Check:

This claim is FAKE. There is no scarcity of vaccines in the state, according to a media release from the Union Health Ministry. Rajasthan has received 37.61 lakh doses but has only used 24.28 lakh of them thus far.

The government stated that they continuously check the supply of vaccines in all states and UTs and provide the doses in accordance with their needs and consumption patterns.

News report 15.

News report 15.

इस खबर की हेडलाइन में किया गया दावा **भ्रामक** है।

दावा: सोशल मीडिया पर विवादित पोस्ट डालने पर 5 साल जेल

#PIBFactCheck: यह दावा भ्रामक है। देश की संप्रभुता, अखंडता, राज्य की सुरक्षा, विदेशों के साथ मैत्रीपूर्ण संबंध व अन्य महत्वपूर्ण विषय पर विवादित सामग्री के लिए यह प्रावधान बनाया गया है

विस्तार से पढ़ें: pib.gov.in/PressReleasePa...

11:59 AM · Feb 27, 2021 · Twitter Web App

142 Retweets 13 Quote Tweets

289 Likes

Summary:

On Feb 27th 2021, Dainik Bhaskar daily Hindi Newspaper published a news report with the headline claiming that “5 years in jail for posting controversial posts on social media”. The theme of this report is political. This media report is directly targeting the central government.

Dainik Bhaskar is the largest newspaper in India and is rated fourth in the world by circulation, according to Audit Bureau of Circulations (2019).

Fact Check:

Dismissing the rumours, a fact check by the Press Information Bureau (PIB) stated that the news published in the Hindi newspaper was completely misleading. This provision is rolled out for contentious content on the sovereignty, integrity, security of the state, friendly relations with foreign countries and other important subjects". In an official release, the government said that social media platforms have empowered ordinary users but they need accountability against its misuse and abuse.

News report 16.

रेलवे ने 1 अप्रैल से सभी ट्रेनों के परिचालन की घोषणा नहीं की है।

Dainik Bhaskar (@DainikBhaskar)
रेलवे ने बनाई योजना: 1 अप्रैल से शुरू हो सकती हैं सभी ट्रेनें, अभी सिर्फ 65% पैसेंजर ट्रेनें ही चला रहा रेलवे
bhaskar.com/business/news/... #IndianRailways #Railways @RailwaySeva

फेक

दावा: एक खबर में दावा किया जा रहा है कि भारतीय रेल द्वारा 1 अप्रैल 2021 से सभी ट्रेन शुरू की जाएंगी।
#PIBFactCheck: यह दावा फ़र्जी है। @RailMinIndia ने ऐसी कोई घोषणा नहीं की है।
अधिक जानकारी के लिए यहाँ पढ़ें: pib.gov.in/PressReleasePa...

9:35 PM · Feb 13, 2021 · Twitter Web App
209 Retweets 18 Quote Tweets
750 Likes

Summary:

A report was published by Dainik Bhaskar on Feb 13th 2021, claiming that Indian Railways to Resume All Trains from April 1, 2021. The news also states that currently 65 per cent of the trains are running in the country as of now. This news was being widely circulated and shared on various social media platforms.

Dainik Bhaskar is daily Hindi Newspaper, according to Audit Bureau of Circulations (2019), Dainik Bhaskar is ranked 4th in the world by circulation and is the largest newspaper in India by circulation.

Fact Check:

Press Information Bureau (PIB) has found out that the news is fake. PIB has also issued a clarification saying that no announcement about resumption of all train services has been made by the Ministry of Railways as of now. It also shared a release by the Ministry in this regard.

Government and its various agencies have time and again cautioned people for false and misleading information. It has also warned people against such fake news. People are advised to verify such information with the relevant government authorities. They should only rely on official government sources and notifications for any such information.

News report 17.

#PIBFactCheck

भारतीय रेल ने ट्रेनों के परिचालन से संबंधित ऐसी कोई घोषणा नहीं की है

NEWS18 मनी

लेटेस्ट खबरें मनोरंजन क्रिकेट मनी

खुशखबरी! आज से रेलवे करेगा इन सभी ट्रेनों का संचालन, आसानी से मिलेगा टिकट, चेक करें लिस्ट

इंडियन रेलवे (Indian Railways) 6 जनवरी 2021 यानी आज से कई ट्रेनों का संचालन शुरू करने जा रहा है. देशभर में फेली महामारी के बीच रेलवे ने 22 मार्च 2020 को कई ट्रेनों का संचालन बंद कर दिया था, जिसे अब से चलाया जा रहा है.

फक

यह जाँचने के लिए कि क्या कोई केंद्रीय सरकार से संबंधित नीति / योजना, तथ्य है या नहीं

हमें संपर्क करें @PIBFactCheck 8799711259 /PIBFactCheck pibfactcheck@gmail.com

PIB Fact Check @PIBFactCheck

एक खबर में दावा किया गया है कि भारतीय रेल ने 22 मार्च 2020 के बाद जिन ट्रेनों का परिचालन बंद कर दिया था उन्हें 6 जनवरी 2021 से दोबारा चालू किया जा रहा है।

#PIBFactCheck: यह दावा #फर्जी है। @RailMinIndia ने ऐसी कोई घोषणा नहीं की है।

Translate Tweet

6:43 PM · Jan 6, 2021 · Twitter Web App

90 Retweets 2 Quote Tweets 247 Likes

Dev Sunny @Devsu... · Jan 6

Replying to @PIBFactCheck @RailMinIndia and 3 others

ठीक है ये खबर सही नहीं है लेकिन कब से भारतीय रेल पैसंजर ट्रेन को द्वारा से

Summary:

A report was published by News18.com on Jan 6th 2021, claiming that all the trains that were stopped by the Indian Railways in March 2020, have resumed operations from January 6, 2021. The fake report also states that passengers can also get railway tickets easily without any hassle. In March 2020, the government had suspended the train services to restrict the movement of the people in the wake of novel coronavirus pandemic in the country. In June, services were resumed partially on some routes. Indian Railways is currently running limited trains with strict COVID-19 protocols in place.

News18 India is an Indian Media television channel owned by Network 18. It is leading news channel of India.

Fact Check:

Press Information Bureau (PIB) said that these claims were baseless and termed it as 'fake news', adding that the Indian Railways has not made any such announcement regarding resumption of all the train services. "This claim fake as the Rail Ministry has not made any such announcement", it said.

News report 18.



Summary:

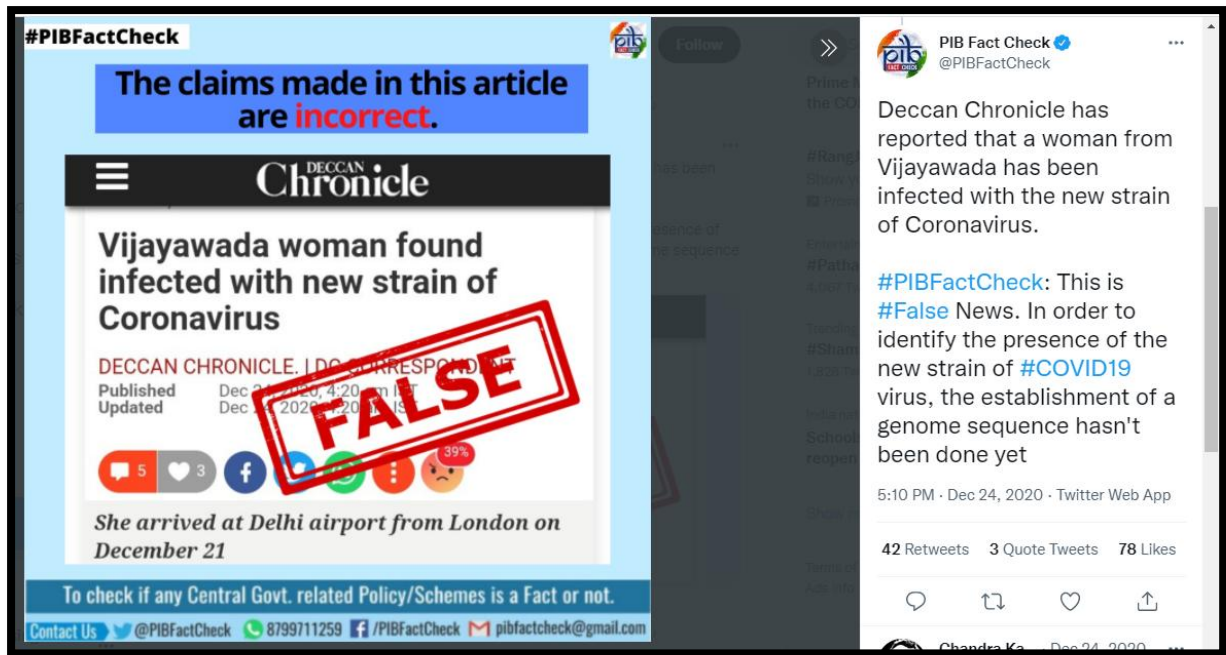
According to a BusinessLine post from Wednesday, Dec. 23, at least 15 UK returnees were detected in Mumbai to have the new strain of the virus. The headline of the story stated, "15 passengers who arrived in Mumbai from the UK have mutant have mutant coronavirus."

Business Line, also known as The Hindu Business Line, is an Indian business daily published by Chennai, India's Kasturi & Sons, the same company that also publishes The Hindu. The paper is printed in 17 locations around India, reaching both established metropolises and up-and-coming Tier I and Tier II cities. According to the Audit Bureau of Circulation in 2016, Business Line has a daily circulation of 1, 17,000 copies.

Fact Check:

The Press Information Bureau (PIB) of the Center's fact-checking division used its official Twitter account to debunk all of these allegations. According to PIB Fact Check, reports that travellers were found infected with a mutant form are all inaccurate because India has not yet developed a genome sequence that can identify new strains of the fatal virus.

News report 19.



Summary:

According to the Deccan Chronicle, a woman from Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, has contracted a new coronavirus strain. This report was published on December 24, 2020.

In South India, Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited (DCHL) is the publisher of the most widely read English newspaper. According to information on their own website, Deccan Chronicle is distributed throughout Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Kerala daily to a circulation of over 1.45 million copies.

Fact Check:

This is False News. In order to identify the presence of the new strain of COVID19 virus, the establishment of a genome sequence hasn't been done yet.

News report 20.

#PIBFactCheck

ब्रिटेन से आए लोगों में कोरोना के नए स्ट्रेन पाए जाने का दावा गलत है !

राजस्थान पत्रिका

आपने ही बनाया मुझे राजस्थान का नंबर 1 अखबार

ब्रिटेन से आए पॉजिटिव में से आधे नए स्ट्रेन से संक्रमित!

फर्जी खबर

दावा: एक खबर में दावा किया जा रहा है कि ब्रिटेन से आए कोरोना पॉजिटिव यात्रियों में आधे नए स्ट्रेन से संक्रमित हैं।

#PIBFactCheck: यह खबर गलत है। यात्रियों में वायरस के नए स्ट्रेन की पहचान के लिए जीनोम सीक्वेंस की स्थापना की जानी बाकी है।

Translate Tweet

12:26 PM · Dec 24, 2020 · Twitter Web App

127 Retweets 12 Quote Tweets

355 Likes

Summary:

Daily Hindi newspaper Rajasthan Patrika published a story with a misleading headline which said that half of the returning passengers from the UK have tested positive for the mutated variant of the deadly virus.

Rajasthan Patrika is an Indian Hindi-language daily newspaper. According to the 2013 Indian Readership Survey, Rajasthan Patrika ranked fourth among newspapers published in Hindi and Patrika came in sixth.

Fact Check:

As the deceptive media stories created panic in the public, the Press Information Bureau (PIB) of the Centre's fact-checking division took to its official Twitter account to debunk all such accusations. According to PIB Fact Check, reports that travelers were found infected with a mutant form are all untrue because India has not yet developed a genome sequence that can identify new strains of the deadly virus.

News report 21.

#PIBFactCheck

Emergency use of the Bharat Biotech has not been rejected

BREAKING RIGHT NOW

SOURCES: SERUM INST
BHARAT BIOTECH
EMERGENCY USE REJECTED

SUKIRTI DWIVEDI

BREAKING NEWS

ASSURANCE TO FARMERS ON CROP PRICES • BJP, BJP, BJ

To check if any Central Govt. related Policy/Schemes is a Fact or not.

Contact Us @PIBFactCheck 8799711259 /PIBFactCheck pibfactcheck@gmail.com

PIB Fact Check
@PIBFactCheck

Claim: NDTV has reported that the emergency use of the vaccine by Serum Institute and Bharat Biotech has been rejected

#PIBFactCheck: This claim is #Fake.

5:58 PM · Dec 9, 2020 · Twitter Web App

929 Retweets 206 Quote Tweets

2,786 Likes

Your_not_an_... · Dec 9, 2020
Replying to @PIBFactCheck @DDNewslive and 2 others
@ndtv being its usual as always. Fake news peddler. And Mr.

Summary:

NDTV published an article. The vaccine's emergency use by the Serum Institute and Bharat Biotech had been rejected, according to the report. According to NDTV, today's "emergency vaccination use" requests from the Serum Institute and Bharat Biotech were rejected due to "inadequate safety and efficacy evidence." The report quoted "sources" who said that the two had been requested for more information. NDTV said that the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization's special meeting was where the decision was made.

As more media outlets covered the information, they all cited "sources" in their reports. This includes India Today and News18.

Fact Check:

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare stated that the media claim about the vaccine's emergency use authorization being rejected by Serum Institute and Bharat Biotech is FAKE.

News report 22.

यह रिपोर्ट फ़र्ज़ी है।

यूपीएससी द्वारा ऐसा कोई निर्णय नहीं लिया गया है।

कोविड टेस्ट निगेटिव आने पर ही दे पायेंगे परीक्षा

यूपीएससी

सेवाओं की परीक्षा की तैयारी करने वाले छात्र कोशिश हो गए हैं। अब वे तैयारी करते हैं कि कोविड टेस्ट करवाएं। परीक्षा में बहुत संख्या में बिहार, पूर्वी, दिल्ली सहित अन्य राज्यों के छात्र हिस्सा लेते हैं। विद्यार्थियों का कहना है कि परीक्षा में बैठने के लिए, कोविड-19 की जांच के लिए सरकार को एक नया निर्णय अप्रत्याशित रूप से जारी करना पड़ेगा। जाहिर है कि जिस परीक्षाओं को कोविड-19 की टेस्ट रिपोर्ट नकारित कर दिया गया है, वह परीक्षा से खींचा जा जाएगा। छात्रों का कहना है कि अभी असमसम में कोरोना के मामले की भी जांच नहीं हो पा रही है। इतनी बड़ी संख्या में विद्यार्थियों को जांच कैसे हो पाएगी?

#PIBFactCheck

यह जांचन के लिए कि क्या कोई केंद्रीय सरकार से संबंधित नोटि/योजना, तथ्य है या नहीं। हमें संपर्क करें: @PIBFactCheck 8799711259 /PIBfactcheck /piifactcheck@gmail.com

PIB Fact Check
@PIBFactCheck

दावा: यूपीएससी द्वारा प्रारंभिक परीक्षा में शामिल होने के लिए कोरोना टेस्ट नेगेटिव होना अनिवार्य है।

#PIBFactCheck : यह खबर फ़र्ज़ी है। यूपीएससी द्वारा ऐसा कोई निर्देश नहीं दिया गया है।

#FakeNews

Translate Tweet

3:21 PM · Aug 13, 2020 · Twitter for Android

287 Retweets 24 Quote Tweets

1,083 Likes

Summary:

According to a report in the Hindi newspaper Hindustan on August 13, 2020, a corona test must be negative in order to appear in the UPSC preliminary examination. Before taking the UPSC exam, students must first undergo a corona test; if the results are negative, only then will they be permitted to take the exam.

Thehindu.com also reported a similar incident in which students were instructed to provide a COVID-19 negative certificate in order to take a test.

Hindustan or Hindustan Dainik is an Indian Hindi-language daily newspaper. It is ranked sixth in India and thirteenth worldwide by circulation, with a daily circulation of 2,221,566 copies, according to the Audit Bureau of Circulations (as of December 2019).

Fact Check:

The Centre's Press Information Bureau (PIB), which conducts fact-checking, reported The UPSC has not made any such decisions. A fact check by the Press Information Bureau (PIB) denied the accusations, concluding that the fake post that went viral on social media was untrue. It refuted the false information and claimed that UPSC had not issued any such instructions.

News report 23.

शिक्षा ही सर्वोपरि

एजुकेशनल न्यूज़

ऑनलाइन इ-पेप

जुलै-01 06:06 11 दिवस, 09 आसार, 2020 11:28 AM

एक सितंबर से पूरे देश में खुल जाएंगे स्कूल और कॉलेज

सीबीएसई ने लिया बड़ा फैसला, 10वीं में स्टैड्स मैट्रिक्स नहीं होने पर भी 11वीं में ले सकते हैं मैट्रिक्स

MISLEADING

#PIBFactCheck

यह जाँचने के लिए कि क्या कोई केंद्र सरकार से संबंधित नीति / योजना, तथ्य है या नहीं

हमें संपर्क करें @PIBFactCheck 8799711259 /PIBFactCheck pibfactcheck@gmail.com

PIB Fact Check @PIBFactCheck

दावा: एक अखबार ने दावा किया है कि सरकार 1 सितंबर से 14 नवंबर तक चरणबद्ध तरीके से स्कूल खोलने जा रही है

#PIBFactCheck: ऐसा कोई निर्णय अभी तक सरकार द्वारा नहीं लिया गया है

Translate Tweet

6:45 PM · Aug 11, 2020 · Twitter for Android

346 Retweets 22 Quote Tweets

1,290 Likes

Sagar Upad... · Aug 11, 2020

Replying to @PIBFactCheck @airnewsalerts and

Summary:

According to a newspaper, the government would gradually open schools from September 1 until November 14. In addition, according to a number of media reports, the central government intends to gradually reopen schools and other educational institutions between September 1 and November 14 as part of unlock 3.0. Additionally, according to rumours, states will decide whether to reopen after the new regulations are released on August 31.

The Week published a report titled, "Centre taking steps to reopen schools from September 1."

According to a news report by Jagran English, "the Centre might soon unveil a phase-wise plan to reopen schools and educational institutes across the country between September 1 and November 14 later this month as part of final Unlock guidelines."

Fact Check:

Press Information Bureau's fact-checking arm, PIB Fact Check called claims false. Taking to Twitter, PIB Fact Check clarified that no such decision has been taken.

News report 25.

Study claiming Corona peak in November not conducted by ICMR

ICMR study plots mid-Nov. peak
It warns of bed and ventilator shortage

MISLEADING

Claim-As per ICMR, the peak of COVID-19 in India is shifted to mid November when a paucity of ICU beds & ventilators may arise

#PIBFactCheck-The news is misleading.The study to which the report is attributed, is not carried out by ICMR & doesn't reflect the authentic information

2:10 PM · Jun 15, 2020 · Twitter for Android

441 Retweets 41 Quote Tweets

1,283 Likes

@PIBFactCheck #PIBFactCheck 8799711259

EMAIL GOVT. OF INDIA RELATED FAKE NEWS TO pibfactcheck@gmail.com

Summary:

A study, reported by PTI agency said, the peak stage of COVID-19 pandemic in India had been delayed by the eight-week lockdown along with strengthened public health measures and it may now arrive around mid-November during which there could be a paucity of isolation and ICU beds and ventilators.

The investigation, according to the news source, was carried out by academics from an ICMR-established operations research group.

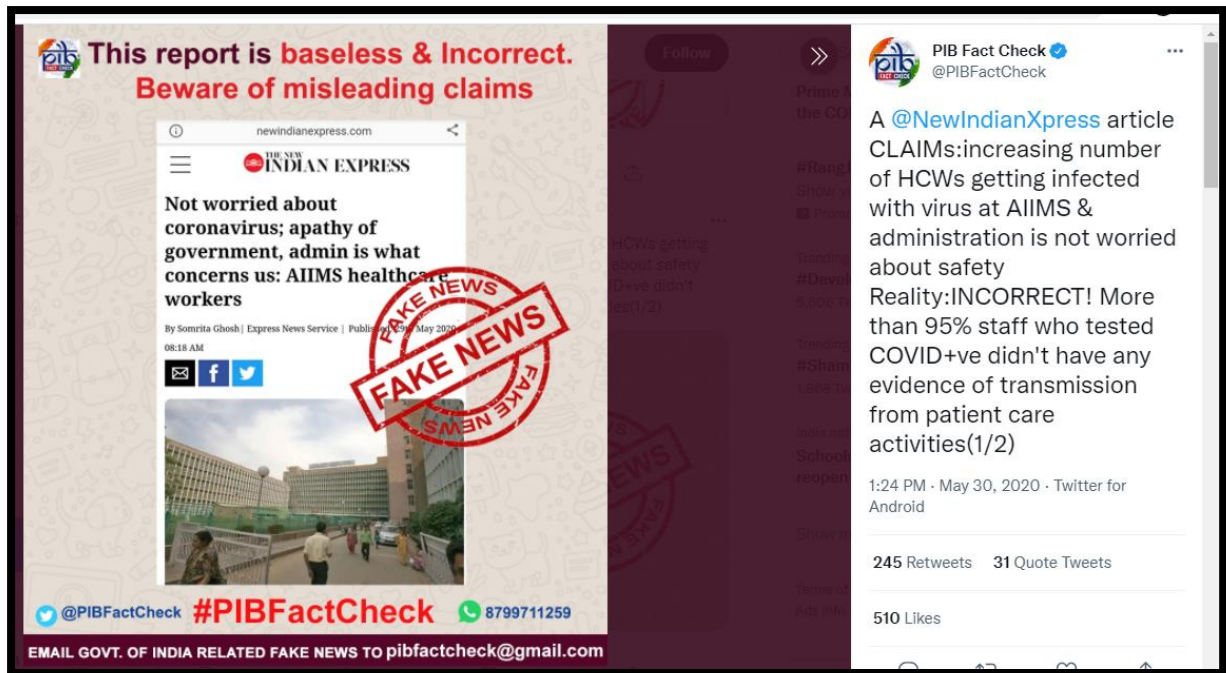
Several media houses published reports quoting PTI. A report on the news website The Hindu is titled "Coronavirus, India to witness COVID-19 peak in mid-November, according to ICMR study." Similarly, a report with a similar heading was also published on livemint.com.

Fact Check:

PIB Fact Check claims that the news is false. The study to which the report is referred was not conducted by ICMR and does not accurately represent the data. The study that claimed the nation will reach the COVID-19 peak in mid-November was dismissed by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) as "misleading."

ICMR stressed that it is not the official position of the government organisation and used twitter to disassociate itself from the study.

News report 26.



Summary:

A report on NewIndianXpress.com claimed that All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) administration is unconcerned about safety despite an increase in HCWs becoming infected with a virus there.

News18.com published a similar article. They detailed the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Delhi's use of substandard N95 masks and a shortage of components for personal protective equipment. The Resident Doctors' Association at AIIMS general secretary Dr. Srinivas Rajkumar T provided quotes for the story. Several leaders of the opposition parties used the statement to criticise the administration and Dr. Harsh Vardhan, the minister of health.

Fact Check:

Press Information Bureau tweeted to announce that the both the stories was “incorrect”, “baseless” and contained “misleading claims”. In reality Masks and PPEs meet the standards. 95 percent +ve cases did not have any evidence of transmission from patient care, according to evaluations and certificates confirmed by an AIIMS committee.

News report 27.



Spokesperson, Ministry of Home Affairs @PIB... · May 27, 2020

#FactCheck
The quoted story claims to have inside details about **#Lockdown5**, from MHA Sources.

All claims made therein are mere speculations by the reporter. To attribute them to MHA is incorrect and being irresponsible.
#FakeNewsAlert

indiatoday.in/india/story/pm... via @indiatoday

indiatoday.in
Exclusive: PM Modi may announce Lockdown 5.0 on Mann Ki Baat, e...

You might like

- Malaysia Airports @MY_Airports
- PIB India @PIB_India
- पीआईबी हिंदी @PIBHindi

Summary:

The story published on May 27, 2020 by IndiaToday.in. According to reports, on May 31 during his radio show Mann Ki Baat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will announce the lockdown.

According to the article, Modi would probably discuss the "next phase of lockdown from June 1 that may come into action once Lockdown 4.0 expires on May 31" during his address to the nation in the programme. According to the report's citation of sources from the home ministry, "Lockdown 5.0 will primarily focus on 11 cities with 70% of the overall coronavirus cases in India."

Fact Check:

The official Twitter handle of the Ministry of Home Affairs has tweeted that the 'inside details' about lockdown are fake and they are pure speculations by the reporter. The spokesperson added that attributing imaginary statements to the MHA is incorrect and irresponsible.

This report is factually incorrect and misleading

प्रवासी पहले सड़क पर फिर ट्रेक पर और अब ट्रेन में मरने को मजबूर दर्दनाक सफर... दो दिन के बदले 9 दिन में पहुंच रहीं श्रमिक ट्रेनें, भूख, प्यास से एक दिन में 7 मौतें

16 मई को सुन से सीकन के लिए प्रवासी ट्रेन 25 को पहुंची

सातों ट्रेट गड़ पर घर की आस में खुली रहें आखें

मुजफ्फरपुर में 2, दानापुर में 1, सासाराम में 1, भया में 1, वेगूसराय में 1 और जयनाबाद में 1 प्रवासी की मौत

ट्रेन में मरने के दौरान सार जमीन दरवाजा की मौत

बस्ती में ट्रेट गड़ अमार की सास, 4 दिन में सुझे से

औसत की मरिचक ने पीत की मोत में ट्रेट लोके टिया

As per a news, 2 Sivan bound trains took 9 instead of 2 days to reach from Surat & caused a child's death.

#PIBFactCheck: This is factually incorrect. Trains reached in 2 days. Child was ill & returning after treatment. The cause of death can be known only after post-mortem.

2:48 PM · May 26, 2020 · Twitter for Android

1,080 Retweets 161 Quote Tweets

2,678 Likes

@PIBFactCheck #PIBFactCheck 8799711259

EMAIL GOVT. OF INDIA RELATED FAKE NEWS TO pibfactcheck@gmail.com

Summary:

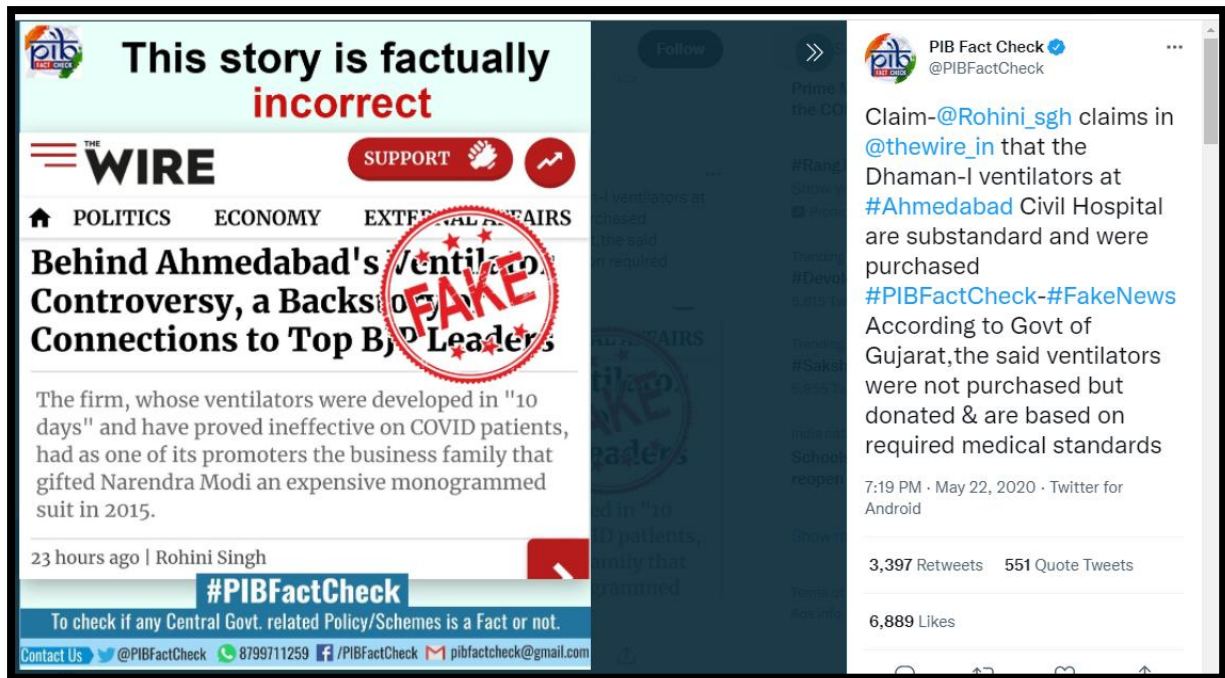
According to a news article in Dainik Bhaskar, seven persons died as a result of a week-long delay in the Shramik Express trains operated by the Indian Railways. According to Bhaskar's report, several passengers died as a result of the heat, a lack of water, and food aboard the bus that from Surat for Siwan on May 16 and arrived at its destination on May 25.

Fact Check:

The Indian Railways said that the report is filled with errors and half-truths. Spokperson said that the trains which reached Siwan on 25th May had departed Surat on 23rd May and reached within 2 days and not 9 days as reported by Bhaskar. In fact, sources in the Railways ministry confirmed that no Shramik Express train departed from Surat for Siwan on 16th. "Train no. 09339 departed from Surat at 0530 hours on 23rd May and arrived at Siwan on 25th May at 0220 hours. Train no. 09439 departed from Surat at 2300 hours on 2nd May and arrived at Siwan on 1655 hours.

According to the information given by PIB, the news of the death of the child in the train is correct but he did not die of hunger and thirst. Actually the child was already ill and was returning home after treatment.

News report 29.



Summary:

According to a report by TheWire.in titled "Behind Ahmadabad's Ventilator Controversy, a Back story of Connections to Top BJP Leaders," the Narendra Modi government is buying 5000 ventilators from a Rajkot-based company that has already been accused of providing sub standard breathing machines to the largest hospital in Ahmadabad, COVID-19. According to the report, the firm's current and former promoters have strong relationships with BJP leaders, with one business family being connected to the expensive suit that was gifted to PM Modi.

Fact Check:

The Press Information Bureau of India tweeted that the article published was fake. PIB claimed that the ventilators which thewire.in is talking about in article were not procured but were received as a donation. Additionally, it stated that the ventilators met the necessary medical requirements, despite the fact that they are frequently criticized in The Wire articles.

News report 31.

No! Centre is NOT mulling a religious based mapping of hotspots across India

COVID-19 'Step to help understand pattern of the spread of the virus'
Govt mulls religion-based mapping

VIKRAM SHARMA HYDERABAD, MAY 9

As the deadly novel coronavirus continues to spread rapidly, the Centre is mulling a religion-based mapping to identify hotspots across the country and "understand" the origin and pattern of the spread of the virus community-wise. The "communal mapping" as some refer to it, appears to be aimed at getting a clearer picture of the approximate number of people belonging to different communities who have contracted the virus, have more chances of getting infected due to living in clusters and the likelihood of them spreading the virus to adjoining localities.

The Centre feels that a data bank of community-wise Covid-19 numbers will help its containment measures and in tackling future pandemics in the country.

Highly placed sources in New Delhi told The Asian Age that the idea for religion-based mapping came up during the recent closed-door meetings at the highest level.

MOVE COMES AT A TIME WHEN BJP LEADERS HAVE OPENLY BLAMED MUSLIMS FOR THE RISE IN CORONAVIRUS CASES ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Though officially no decision has been taken so far on whether or not to go ahead with the proposal, it is unclear if the exercise has already begun unofficially.

In the near future, if such a move comes at a time when the government has been openly attributing the rise in corona virus infections across the nation to Muslims, it is unclear if the exercise has already begun unofficially.

The Centre feels that a data bank of community-wise Covid-19 numbers will help its containment measures and in tackling future pandemics in the country.

Highly placed sources in New Delhi told The Asian Age that the idea for religion-based mapping came up during the recent closed-door meetings at the highest level.

#PIBFactCheck
To check if any Central Govt. related Policy/Schemes is a Fact or not.
Contact Us @PIBFactCheck 8799711259 /PIBFactCheck pibfactcheck@gmail.com

Follow

PIB Fact Check @PIBFactCheck

#PIBFactCheck
Myth: @TheAsianAgeNews reports Centre is "mulling" a religion-based mapping to identify #COVID19India hotspots

Reality: The claim is incorrect. Spokesperson @MoHFW_INDIA has termed it irresponsible

PIB India @PIB_... · May 11, 2020
It is a very irresponsible news; #COVID19 does not affect a particular religion or a race or an area: @mohfw_india on certain media reports claiming that government is mulling religion based mapping of hotspots pic.twitter.com/5TlyppwNPe

5:37 PM · May 11, 2020 · Twitter for

Summary:

According to The Asian Age News, the Center is "mulling" using a mapping based on religion to pinpoint COVID19 India hotspots. A source in New Delhi reportedly informed The Asian Age News that the notion for religiously based mapping was discussed during the most recent conference behind closed doors at the highest level. The report further noted that this action was taken at a time when BJP officials openly attributed the rise in corona virus infections across the nation to Muslims.

An Indian daily newspaper published in English, The Asian Age has editions in Delhi, Mumbai, and Kolkata.

Fact Check:

The claim is false. Lav Agarwal, Joint Secretary of Health, confirmed: "Any story that claims this (religion-based mapping) is false. The Supreme Court has already stated that no false news should be published and that news should only be published after verifying the accuracy of the information. "It is important for us through the media to talk to everybody and explain to them what dos and don'ts they have to follow," Agarwal insisted. "The spread of COVID-19 has nothing to do with race, religion, and area. Instead, the viral infection spreads when people do not follow dos and don'ts and do not also take the necessary precautions to protect them against the disease."

News report 32.

PIB Fact Check Retweeted
PIB in Uttarakhand @PIBDehradun · May 9, 2020
सोशल और प्रिंट मीडिया में दिखाया जा रहा है कि 10 मई को उत्तराखंड से प्रवासियों की वापसी हेतु श्रमिक स्पेशल ट्रेन चलाई जा रही है।
[@PIBFactCheck](#) : मीडिया में दिखाई जा रही खबर गलत है। अभी ऐसी कोई सूचना नहीं है।
[@PIBHindi](#) [@tsrawatbjp](#) [@airnews_ddun](#) [@MIB_Hindi](#)

7.1K views 0:06 / 0:32

You might like

- Malaysia Airports @MY_Airports [Follow](#)
- PIB India @PIB_India [Follow](#)
- पीआईबी हिंदी @PIBHindi [Follow](#)

What's happening

India national news · LIVE
Prime Minister Modi addresses the COP26 summit in Glasgow

Messages

Summary:

In a press conference Uttarakhand Transport Secretary Shailesh Bagoli said that it is being shown in many print media that on May 10, Shramik Special train is being run for the return of migrants from Uttarakhand. After the news spread, a large number of laborers started gathering at the railway stations of Uttarakhand.

Fact Check:

According to PIB fact check this news is fake. Uttarakhand Transport Secretary Shailesh Bagoli said in a press conference that the message about running the train from Uttarakhand is going viral is completely wrong. An indication has been given to run the train from Bangalore on May 11 but it has not been confirmed yet. No guideline has been issued regarding running the train yet. Whenever it is decided to run the train the information will be given by the officials only.

News report 33.

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
GUWAHATI

Date: 07.05.2020

The number of deaths in India due to Corona virus has not crossed 50 thousand mark, as reported by news channel 'DY 365'

A news ticker on Assamese news channel DY-365 earlier today showed that total deaths in the country have crossed 50,000. DIPR, Assam has issued a rebuttal tweet on the matter (<https://twitter.com/diprassam/status/1258454907868327936>). DIPR has also issued rebuttal on its Facebook and Instagram pages (https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=3106377592727444&id=562481743783721 and https://www.instagram.com/p/B_5UmkupZ0I/?igshid=7mjh7bthdk2y).

As on 8 am of 07.05.2020, total number of COVID19 positive cases in India is 52,952 and total deceased are 1,783. Reporting of wrong information leads to panic and confusion among public and it is advised to avoid circulation of the same. For verified information and updates related to COVID19 in India, websites of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and PIB India may be followed. 'Arogya Setu' mobile app also provides the latest update on COVID19.

PIB in Assam
@PIB_Guwahati

#PIBFactCheck

Claim: News channel @DY365 reported that the no. of deaths due to #COVID19 in India has crossed 50k.

#FactCheck: As on 8 am of 07.05.2020, total number of COVID19 cases in India is 52,952 and total deceased are 1,783.

@PIBFactCheck @diprassam @PIB_India

12:31 AM · May 8, 2020 · Twitter Web App

82 Retweets 7 Quote Tweets 185 Likes

Summary:

News channel DY365 reported that the no. of deaths due to COVID19 in India has crossed 50k. The news channel played ticker with this information. DY365 is a leading TV Channel in North East India.

Fact Check:

Ministry of information and broadcasting, Guwahati in a press released clarified that this news is factually incorrect and fake. As on 8 am of 07.05.2020, total number of COVID19 cases in India is 52,952 and total deceased are 1,783. Reporting of wrong information leads to panic and confusion among public and it is advised to avoid circulation of the same.

News report 34.

The image shows a newspaper article and a tweet. The newspaper article, from the Times of India, has a headline: "India crosses 50k deaths; hits new peak of 3,600 cases in 1 day". Below the headline, it says "Highest Jumps For Delhi (428), Mumbai (769)". The article includes a bar chart titled "CORONA COUNT SURGES PAST 50K" comparing India's growth rate to other countries. The chart shows India with a growth rate of 11.9% and 74 days taken to reach 50k cases, while other countries like the US (22 days), Italy (27 days), UK (32 days), Canada (48 days), and Belgium (53 days) have lower growth rates and fewer days taken. The tweet from Prasar Bharati News Services (@PBNS_India) is a fact-check stating that the newspaper's report of 50,000 COVID-19 deaths is incorrect, with the actual figure being 1,783 as of 8 AM on May 7, 2020, according to the Union Ministry of Health.

Country	Days Taken From 100th Case To 50k
US	22
Italy	27
UK	32
Canada	48
India	54
Belgium	53

Summary:

The Times of India's Hyderabad edition reported 50,000 covid 19 deaths in India. According to the newspaper headline India has crossed 50k deaths and hits new peak of 3,600 cases in 1 day. The newspaper has printed this news with the graph that India is second among other countries.

The Times of India, also known as TOI, is a daily newspaper published in India that is published in English. It is owned and operated by The Times Group. It is the third-largest newspaper in India by circulation and the best-selling English-language daily worldwide, according to Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC) 2020.

Fact Check:

According to the fact check this news is Fake. Prasar Bharati News Services clarifies that the actual figure stands at 1783 as of 8 am on May 7, 2020, as per Union Ministry of Health.

News report 35.

नहीं। केंद्र सरकार अपने कर्मचारियों के विभिन्न भत्तों में कोई कटौती नहीं कर रही है।

केंद्रीय कर्मियों के कुछ और भत्तों व खर्चों पर कैंची

कवायद
यह दिल्ली | मन्दा जैड़ा

ओवर टाइम पर रोके जाने के आदेश

फैक

दावा : हिन्दुस्तान अखबार ने रिपोर्ट किया है कि #Covid_19 के मद्देनजर केंद्र सरकार के कर्मचारियों को एलटीसी/लीव एनकैशमेंट/ ओटीए/ मेडिकल जैसी सुविधाओं में कटौती का सामना करना पड़ेगा #PIBFactCheck: सरकार द्वारा ऐसा कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है। मीडिया रिपोर्ट गलत और निराधार है। (1/2)

4:10 PM · Apr 27, 2020 · Twitter for Android

514 Retweets 25 Quote Tweets

1,013 Likes

Summary:

Hindustan newspaper report claims that Central Government Employees will face a cut in several allowances such as LTC, Leave Encashment, OTA, Medical etc.

Hindustan or Hindustan Dainik is an Indian Hindi-language daily newspaper. It is ranked sixth in India and thirteenth worldwide by circulation, with a daily circulation of 2,221,566 copies, according to the Audit Bureau of Circulations (as of December 2019).

Fact Check:

Responding to this report on Twitter, 'PIB Fact Check' said that the report claiming such cut is wrong and baseless. Payment of these allowances to the Central Government employees will continue to be made as per the currently applicable parameters.

The finance ministry also termed the report misleading and totally fake. Finance Ministry clarify that "There is no proposal for any cut in various allowances including LTC, leave encashment during LTC or Leave encashment on retirement, OTA and medical reimbursement, as admissible under the existing orders, has either been considered or under contemplation at present. These payments will be continued to be paid as per existing norms".

News report 36.



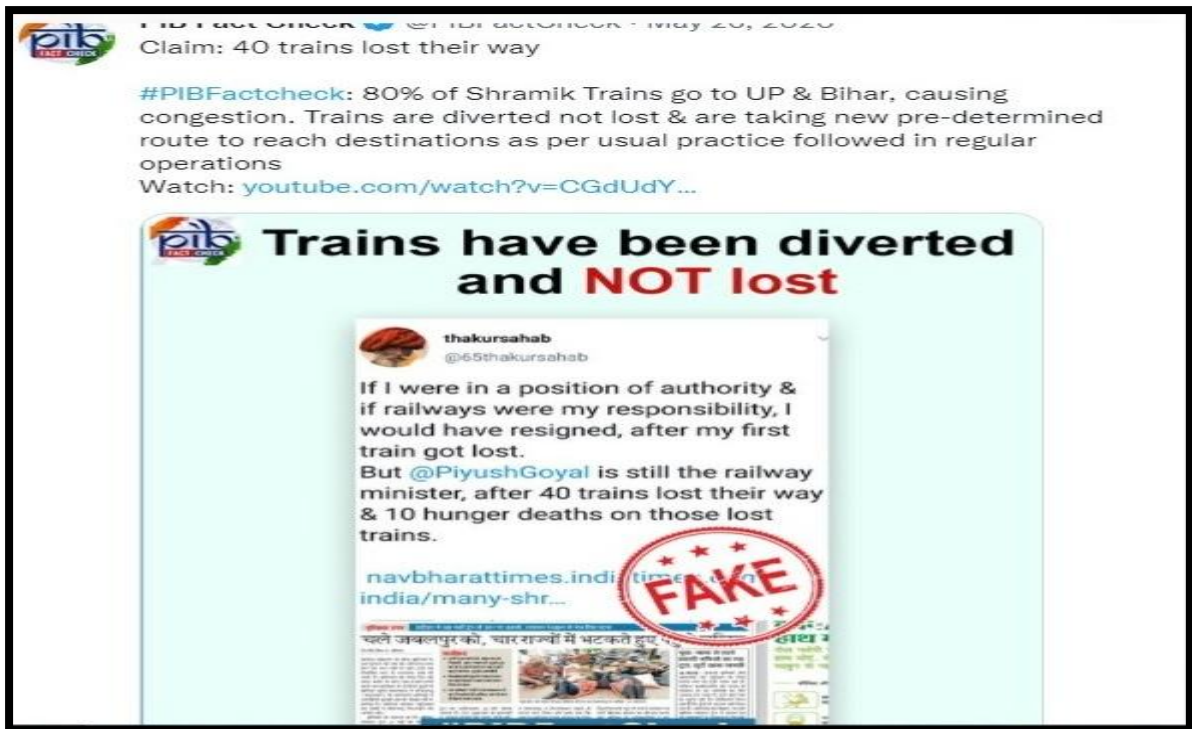
Summary:

“India News” news channel claimed that the home ministry has permitted all states to open schools. "*Greh mantralaya ne sabhi rajyon ko school kholne ki permission di,*" the text read in Hindi. India News is a leading News Channel.

Fact Check:

PIB Fact Check dismissed the claim on the opening of schools as "false". It said that all educational institutes are closed throughout the country as per orders of the Ministry of Home Affairs. Government has not taken any decision regarding the opening of schools in the country. As per the guidelines, all educational institutions in India continue to remain closed.

News report 37.



Summary:

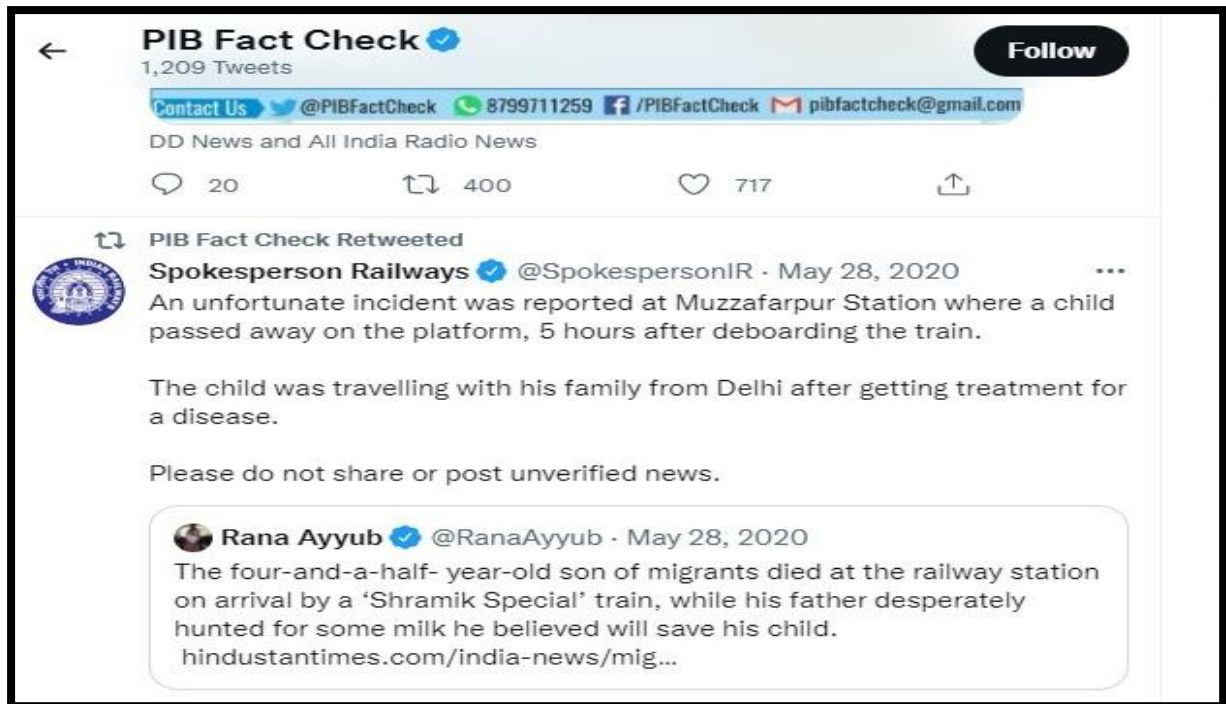
According to Navbharat Times reports, 40 shramik trains may have gone missing and ended up somewhere else instead of their intended location. Although the source did not provide the precise number of trains that were diverted, sources from the railways told Navbharat Times that several trains were diverted on May 23. More than 40 trains, according to some other sources, have changed their routes.

Navbharat Times (NBT) is one of the largest circulated as well as one of the most widely read Hindi newspapers in Delhi, Mumbai, Lucknow, and Kanpur.

Fact Check:

Press Information Bureau (PIB) Fact Check said that "This is INCORRECT and FAKE". 80 percent of Shramik trains, according to PIB, travel through congested UP and Bihar. As is customary in routine operation, trains are not lost but instead take a new, predetermined route to their destinations. Railways have also made it clear that the train was diverted due to traffic, not because it lost its course.

News report 38.



Summary:

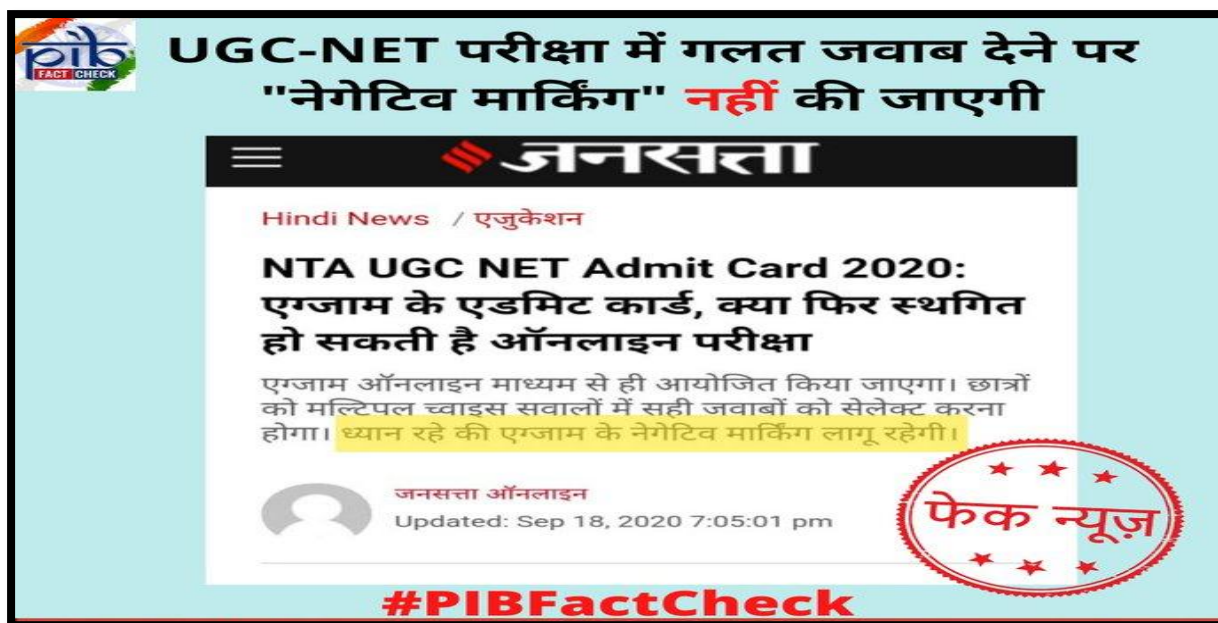
In an article titled "Migrants' Kid Dies as Father Hunts for Milk at Railway Station," which appeared in Hindustan Times on May 27, 2020, it was claimed that a four-and-a-half-year-old son of migrants from Bihar based in Delhi passed away from hunger at the railway station after arriving by a "Shramik Special" train.

One of the most widely read a newspaper in India is Hindustan Times. As of November 2017, the Audit Bureau of Circulations reports that 993,645 copies were distributed.

Fact Check:

The boy was previously ill, and the Ministry of Railways confirmed on Twitter that he was travelling with his family from Delhi after receiving treatment for the disease. Additionally, it stated that the infant died five hours after getting off the train. This story was referred to as incorrect and misleading in another tweet from PIB from May 26. The child had a medical history, and only a post-mortem could determine the precise cause of death, according to the source.

News report 39.



UGC-NET परीक्षा में गलत जवाब देने पर "नेगेटिव मार्किंग" नहीं की जाएगी

Hindi News / एजुकेशन

NTA UGC NET Admit Card 2020: एग्जाम के एडमिट कार्ड, क्या फिर स्थगित हो सकती है ऑनलाइन परीक्षा

एग्जाम ऑनलाइन माध्यम से ही आयोजित किया जाएगा। छात्रों को मल्टिपल च्वाइस सवालों में सही जवाबों को सेलेक्ट करना होगा। **ध्यान रहे की एग्जाम के नेगेटिव मार्किंग लागू रहेगी।**

जनसत्ता ऑनलाइन
Updated: Sep 18, 2020 7:05:01 pm

#PIBFactCheck

फैक न्यूज़

Summary:

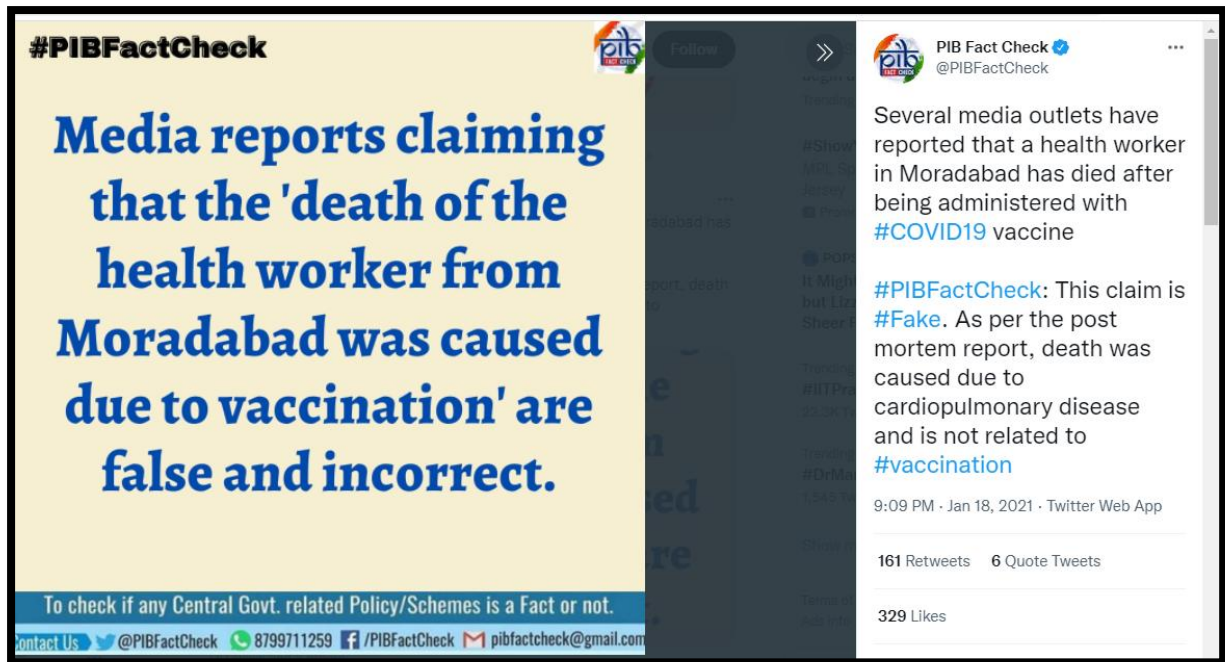
Jansatta online claimed that negative marking will be applicable in UGC NET 2020 exam that will be conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA). According to newspaper report students will have to take the UGC-NET exam online and will have to solve the multiple choice questions in which negative marking be will be applicable for wrong answers.

Jansatta is a leading Hindi newspaper of the Indian Express group and newspaper is equally popular online.

Fact Check:

A fact check by the Press Information Bureau (PIB) rejected the claims, saying that they are false. According to the fact check, the information is fake and misleading and there won't be any negative marking for incorrect answers in the 2020 UGC-NET exam.

News report 40.



Summary:

Several media outlets have reported that a health worker in Moradabad has died after being administered with COVID19 vaccine.

Fact Check:

This claim is Fake. As per the post mortem report, death was caused due to cardiopulmonary disease and is not related to vaccination.

4.3 QUANTITATIVE CONTENT ANALYSIS OF THE MAINSTREAM MEDIA REPORTS FOR THE STUDY

Covid 19 pandemic was new for everyone; media houses at the earlier stages do not have the knowledge how to report this pandemic. Virus is changing his nature every day and scientists are developing new theory every day for media it is difficult to critically analyse every news. The subject matter revolves around the question of what is right and wrong in the process of collecting and disseminating news.

This study has used the mixed qualitative and quantitative content analysis approach as its research design. The researcher has developed the several themes to analyse every aspect of report. The researcher wanted to analyze what was major subject in fake news reported by media houses and through this researcher wants to conclude how harmful it is for the society.

4.3.1 THEMES BASED ON SUBJECT

Figure 4.1 shows themes of fake news on the basis of their subject. From the chart it is clear that the certain kind of subjects were very prevalent in these media reports. Out of 40 media reports 30% reports were related to politics or related to any particular political party, 15% report was vaccine related, 5% related to lockdown announcement, health care and death count related news were 7% both, 10% reports were related to virus. 20 % media reports were related to some other categorise like railway announced special train or if you write anything against government on social media you will be punished 5 years of imprisonment etc.

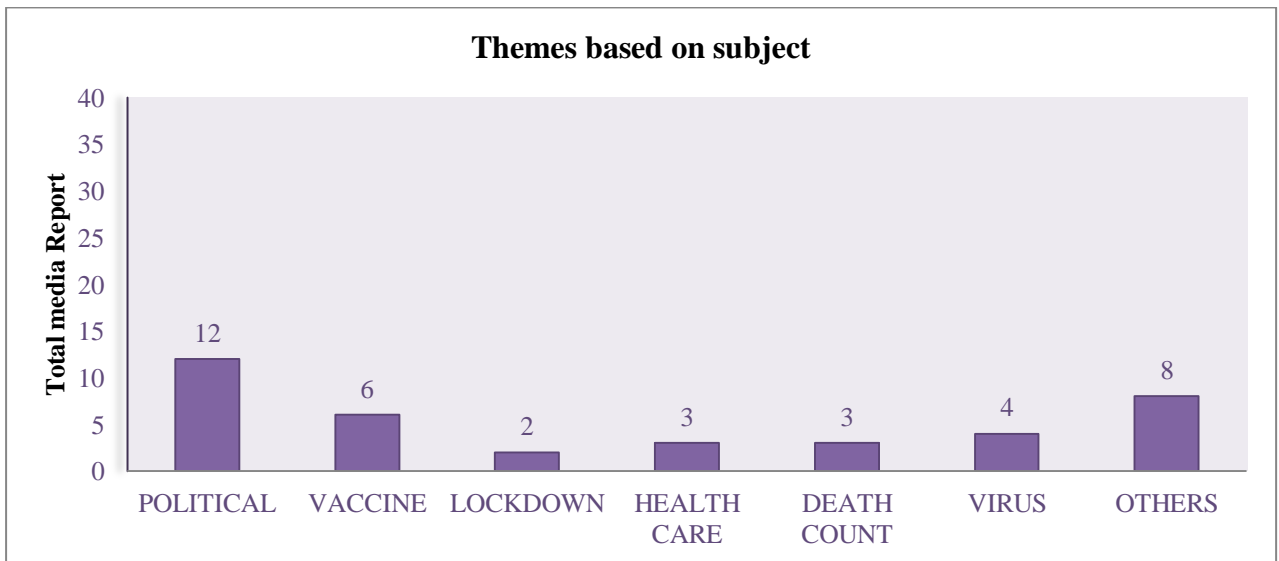


Figure 4.1 Themes based on subject

4.3.2 PRESENTATION ELEMENT USED IN NEWS REPORTS

Figure 4.2 gives the clear picture of the what type of presentation element is been used. Its well known that fake news is harmful for the society, different element have different impact on the audience. For example recall value, emotional connect etc. Out of 40 media reports more than 77% reports have the text as a key element, 10% reports have video, and more than 12% reports have combination of text,photo and video element.

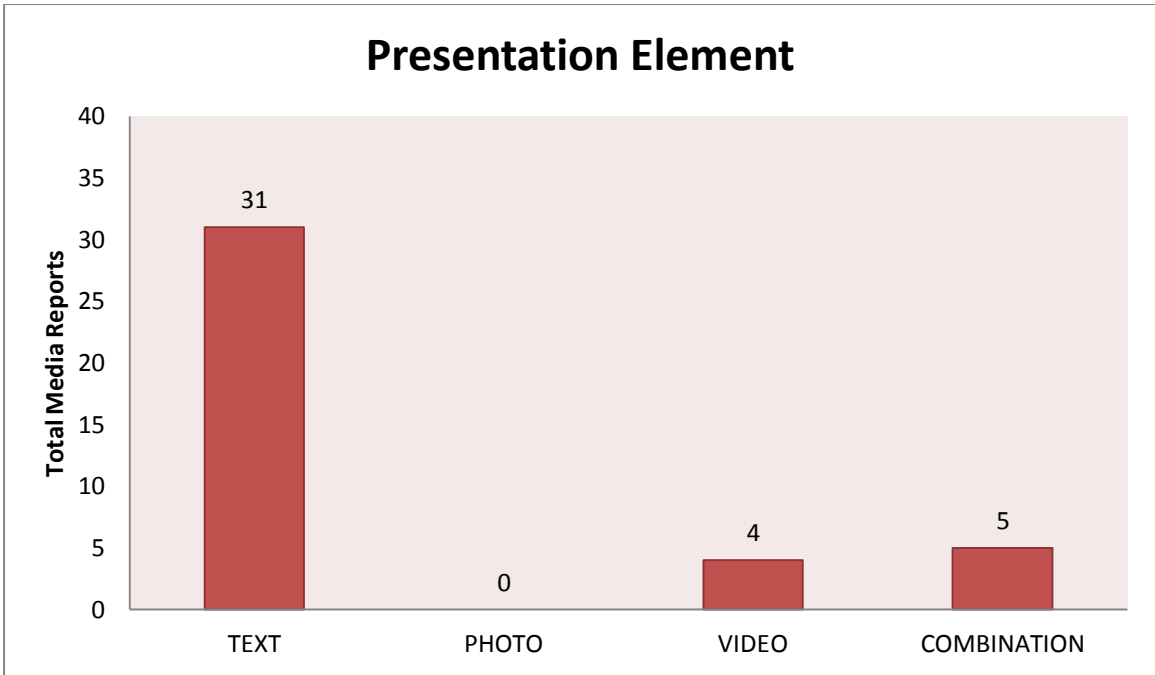


Figure 4.2 Presentation Element

4.3.3 TYPES OF MASS MEDIUM

Figure 4.3 given below shows that the fake news related to pandemic was not limited to only social media or some media outlets; it is vividly visible in most of the media outlet. Out of 40 media reports 40% fake news was published in Newspaper, 10% fake news was broadcasted on Television and 60% fake news was published on Mainstream media's news website. These websites were own by main stream media organisations.

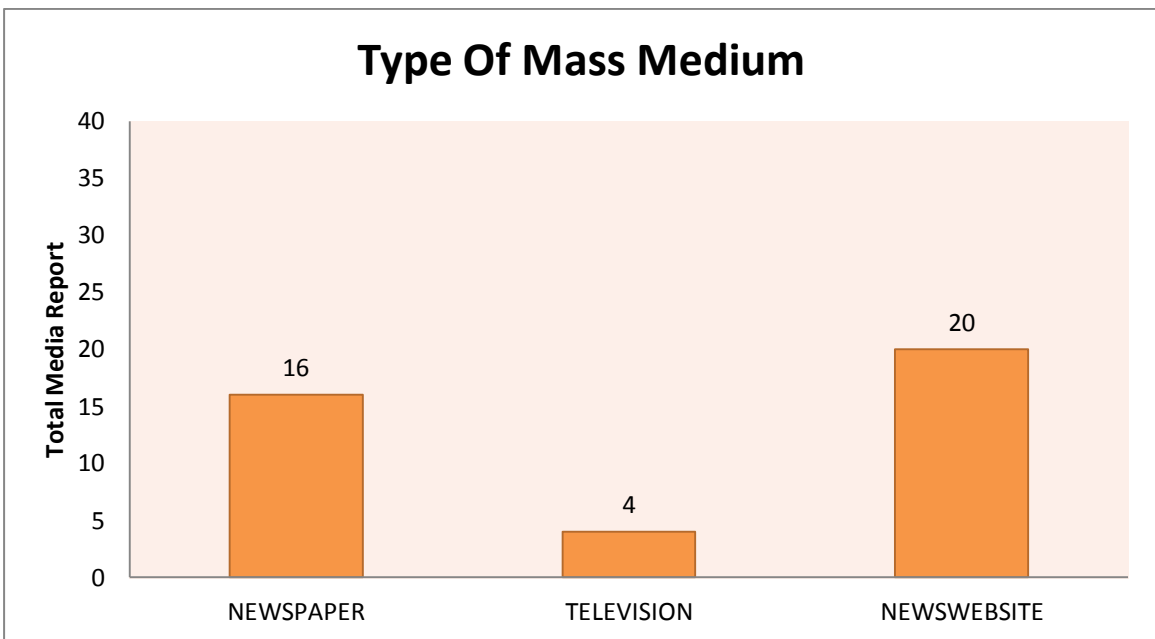


Figure 4.3 Types of Mass Medium

4.3.4 THEMES BASED ON FAKE NEWS

Figure 4.4 shows types of fake news which were prominent in the news reports. Out of 40 media reports 25% media reports were misleading, the information shared in these news reports was false to some level, confusing and suspicious. Other than this 15% media reports were factually incorrect, and 60% media reports were totally false. Content that is clearly inaccurate or deceptive carries a high risk of harm, including an increase in virus exposure or negative consequences on public health systems.

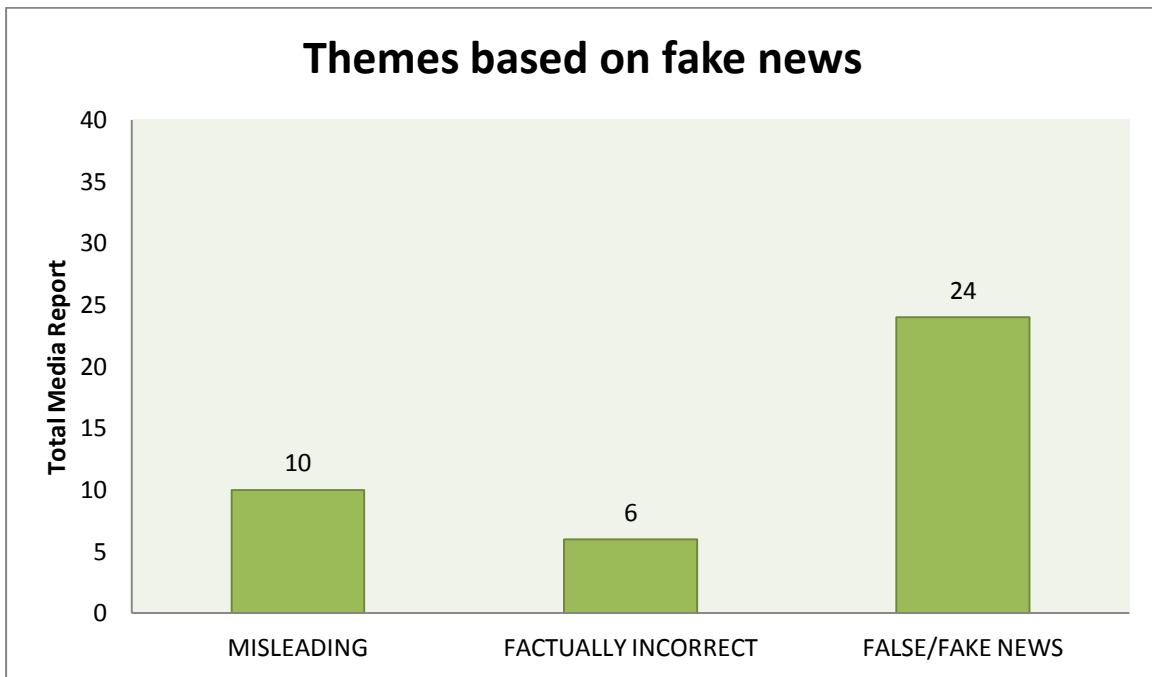


Figure 4.4 Themes based on fake news

CHAPTER 5

FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

5.1 GENERAL

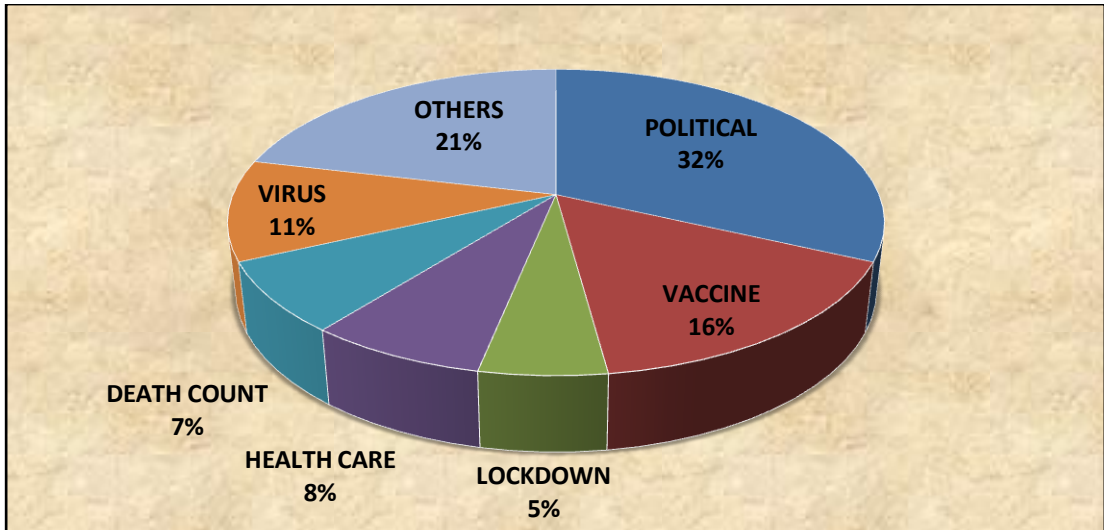
The novel COVID19 epidemic presented the globe with a situation that had never been seen before, making 2020 difficult. The destiny of mankind as a whole came into question as everything came to a standstill. More than ever, at that crucial moment, the media must play a role in educating the public and disseminating truthful, unbiased information.

This study began with the aim to study the fake news in Mainstream media during the covid pandemic and analyse the impact of the themes of media reports. The selected media reports were fact checked by Press Information Bureau, commonly abbreviated as PIB. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting oversees the nodal agency of the Indian government known as PIB based in New Delhi's National Media Centre. The primary responsibility of the Press Information Bureau is to inform the print, electronic, and digital media about the goals, policies, programme activities, and accomplishments of the government. The media reports which were fact checked by PIB were analysed through content analysis technique.

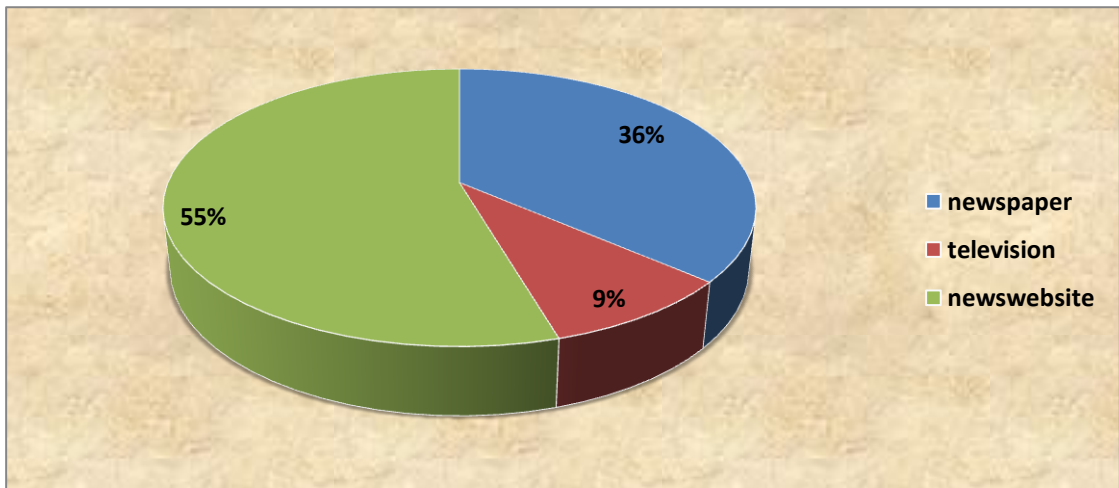
Major findings and suggestions were derived from the analysis. The scope for future research has also been suggested in this chapter.

5.2 MAJOR FINDINGS

- It is found that the mainstream media has published concerning level of misinformation and disinformation during the pandemic. The public receives information via the media, which also alerts the government to public-interest issues. It serves as a link between the people and the government. The media's involvement becomes vital during a global pandemic that has affected lives and livelihoods. Unfortunately, during the second wave of COVID-19, coverage of COVID-19 in all the media was at its lowest.
- The mainstream media has enormous influence over how the public feels, perceives, and holds beliefs. The media's job is to make sure people have access to accurate information that will inform their decisions and help them feel empowered. Through the findings it has come out that subject of fake news in main stream media was largely related to politics, political party or political person. Because of this it disturbed the credibility of politicians and political parties, in other words public trust in government has declined.

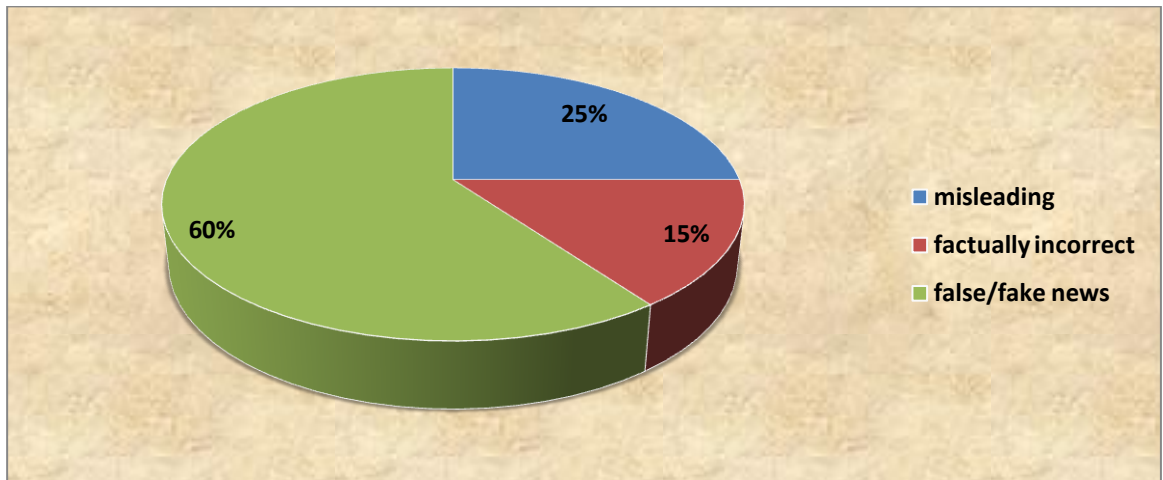


- Another major finding is news websites of big and reputed media organisation has produced large number of fake news during pandemic. Other than that newspaper is second most medium in publishing fake news. News media has become a major part in daily lives. It now plays a crucial role in informing the public, calling attention to urgent issues, and offering a platform for advocacy of and opposition to the policies of the ruling party. The new media's significance increases in the context of a pandemic. After government imposes travel restriction the ground reporting also got restricted. Public and even the media organisation were dependent on internet for the source of information. News websites and app were now major source of information.



- Perhaps the most important and shocking finding is the theme of Fake News. Although the motives behind the dissemination of false information by mainstream media are unclear, some highly competitive media may be the result of weak editorial standards in a cut-throat competitive environment. It is undeniable that misinformation spreads quickly and that news outlets may do so by purposefully spreading false information or by using click-bait headlines. Fascinatingly, the

majority of fake news stories were completely false. No element in the news was correct. In other words the news was fabricated from the scratch.



5.3 SUGGESTIONS:

After the analysing fake news in main stream media during covid pandemic in India, the researcher felt that the reporting of pandemic can be done in responsible way when certain guidelines are followed.

The media should emphasize that kind of credible journalism which attracts a large section of the audience. Additionally, work to restore public confidence in the news media, which has recently fallen. The world needs a strong and effective news media that informs individuals about important current events and long-term trends in an era of turmoil and disorder. News organizations must expose false information and propaganda without any support. They can accomplish this on the basis of their in-house experts and reputed fact-checkers.

With an intention to educate, inspire and guide the media and future media professionals to respect and conduct credible journalism, the Press Council of India has made available the 2020 edition of the Press Council's Norms of Journalistic Conduct during the pandemic. If media organizations follow these guidelines then they can definitely and very easily avoid fake news.

NORMS OF JOURNALISTIC CONDUCT BY PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA-

“Guidelines on reporting of COVID-19 and Safety Measures for Journalists

The fundamental tenets of ethical journalism centre on the following: accuracy and truthfulness, justice and impartiality, humanism, service, responsibility, and independence. As a result, during a pandemic like this, the media has a significant responsibility. With these, the Press Council has developed the rules to be a handy reference for the journalistic fraternity in accordance with its mandate under section 13 of the Press Council Act, 1978.

Avoid sensationalism and scaremongering – Avoid using words and images that could evoke fear since they could escalate tensions and spread panic among the public.

Ensure Identity of affected people is protected: Without their consent, avoid using names, pictures, or other identifying information.

Be accurate and report facts: Should stop the spread of false information; stay away from rumours; and avoid making assumptions.

Always seek the advice of qualified medical professionals, scientists, and other relevant individuals on COVID-19.

Always provide context and point people to credible information sources.

Avoid any kind of profiling – When reporting new instances, it is forbidden to repeatedly or attributively mention the location, community, race, or other group of people from whence the virus originated.

Media houses to give utmost priority to the safety of their journalists working at the ground level:

- a. As they execute their duties, provide them PPE equipment.
- b. Ensuring that journalists who contract the virus while performing their duties receive the appropriate medical care and financial support.
- c. Giving journalists who are exhibiting or displaying Covid -19 symptoms appropriate leave for self-isolation.

While recording/interview any interview/reporting journalists shall keep in mind the following:

- a. Maintain a minimum distance of six feet or the necessary space without huddling.
- b. Use directional microphones instead of clip-on microphones.
- b. Put on a PPE kit, a mask, and gloves.

Guidelines for Medical Reporting

- ✓ Medical Reporting is considered as means of sharing of result through dissemination of health news, medical research and health policies.
- ✓ The journalists who are engaged in medical reporting should have skill and ability to interpret medical research reports. Special training of journalists for dissemination of

health news in collaboration with health authorities would facilitate in right and appropriate coverage of health issues.

- ✓ The reporting should show patients in positive light by portraying them as individuals and not victims.
- ✓ It should be ensured that headlines reflect the health issues accurately and the story is balanced and free of damaging stereotypes.
- ✓ The identity of patients while doing stories or news should not be disclosed unless there is a specific permission to do so. Whenever possible, they should get written consent and if that is not possible informed consent must be obtained. Though it would be best to avoid identification.
- ✓ Whenever reporting on specific professional groups such as uniformed services, health professionals, care should be taken to obtain data from authorised sources.
- ✓ Identifying the hospitals or health care workers who in line of duty get infected create panic and fear amongst people and also have adverse impact on their morale. Further, it also serves no public interest.
- ✓ Health reporters and people at all levels of news organisations should be trained and sensitized on various dimensions of medical reporting.”

5.4 THE LIMITATIONS

The researcher did not face any major difficulties during the data collection process. The media reports that were scrutinized were readily available on the Twitter handle of PIB. 40 media reports were selected for this study because the researcher does not have the equipment or technology to fact-check news articles, so the researcher has to rely on available material. There is a possibility that there may be more fake news in the mainstream media which may have been left out from the PIB.

In the Recommendations section, the researcher reiterates the Press Council of India's norms for journalistic conduct, which were issued during the pandemic (2020).

References:

1. Alimuddin Zumla Jasper F. W. Chan Esam I. Azhar David S. C. Hui Kwok-Yung Yuen Coronaviruses — drug discovery and therapeutic options *Nat Rev Drug Discov* 2016;15:327-47
2. Allen, Mike. Titsworth, Scott and Hunt, Stephen K. *Quantitative Research in Communication*, Los Angeles: SAGE, 2009. Print.
3. Allport, Gordon W., and Leo Postman. 1946. An Analysis of Rumor. *Public Opinion Quarterly* 10: 501.
4. Al-Zaman, M. S. (2019). Digital disinformation and communalism in Bangladesh. *China Media Research*, 15(2),
5. Al-Zaman, M. S., Sife, S., Al, Sultana, M., Akbar, M., Ahona, K. T. S., & Sarkar, N. (2020). Social media rumors in Bangladesh. *Journal of Information Science Theory and Practices*, 8(3), 77–90. <https://doi.org/10.1633/JISTaP.2020.8.3.6>
6. Anna C.C. Aguiar Erika Murce Wilian A. Cortopassi Andre S. Pimentel Maria M.F.S. Almeida Daniele C.S. Barros Chloroquine analogs as antimalarial candidates with potent in vitro and in vivo activity *Int J Parasitol Drugs Drug Resist* 2018;8:345-964
7. Arun, C. (2019). On WhatsApp, Rumours, and Lynchings. *Economic and Political Weekly*, 54(6), 30–36. <https://www.epw.in/journal/2019/6/insight/whatsapp-rumoursand-lynchings.html>
8. Atton, C. (2002). News cultures and new social movements: Radical journalism and the mainstream media. *Journalism Studies*, 3, 491–505. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1461670022000019209>
9. Avaaz. (2019). US 2020: Another Facebook Disinformation Election? In *Facebook Uncovered: Vol 01*. Avaaz. https://avaazimages.avaaz.org/US_2020_report_1105_v04.
10. Banaji, S., Bhat, R., Agarwal, A., Passanha, N., & Sadhana Pravin, M. (2019). *WhatsApp vigilantes: An exploration of citizen reception and circulation of WhatsApp misinformation linked to mob violence in India*. London: Department of Media and Communications, London School of Economics and Political Science. <http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/104316/>
11. BBC News. 2020 Ofcom: Covid-19 5G theories are ‘most common’ misinformation. 21 April. See <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-52370616>
12. Berger, Arthur Asa. *MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION RESEARCH METHODS An Introduction to Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches*, 2nd ed, New Delhi: SAGE P, 2011. Print.
13. Bhattacharyya, Ajanta. "History of Mass Media". Buzzle.com. Archived from the original on 5 October 2011. Retrieved 26 November 2011.
14. Bish, A., & Michie, S. (2010). Demographic and attitudinal determinants of protective behaviours during a pandemic: A review. *British Journal of Health Psychology*, 15, 797–824. <https://doi.org/10.1348/135910710X485826>
15. Bordia, P., Jones, E., Gallois, C., Callan, V. J., & DiFonzo, N. (2006). Management Are Aliens!: Rumors and stress during organizational change. *Group & Organization Management*, 31(5), 601–621. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1059601106286880>

16. Brennen, J. S., Simon, F. M., Howard, P. N., & Nielsen, R. K. (2020). Types, sources, and claims of COVID-19 misinformation. UK: University of Oxford. <https://reutersinstitute.politics.ox.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2020-04/Brennen - COVID 19 Misinformation FINAL %283%29.pdf>
17. CDC. (2020). Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/cases-updates/cases-in-us.html>
18. Corey Ross, *Media and the Making of Modern Germany: Mass Communications, Society, and Politics from the Empire to the Third Reich* (Oxford University Press, 2010, ISBN 978-0199583867).
19. Cowper, A. (2020). Covid-19: Are we getting the communications right? *BMJ*, 368, m919. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.m919>
20. D'Angelo, P., & Kuypers, J.A. (2010). *Doing News Framing Analysis: Empirical and Theoretical Perspectives*.
21. Dosen, D.O., & Brkljac ic , L. (2018). Key design elements of daily newspapers: Impact on the reader's perception and visual impression. *KOME – An International Journal of Pure Communication Inquiry*.
22. Durham, F.D. (1998). News frames as social narratives: TWA flight 800. *Journal of Communication*, 48(4), 100-117.
23. Dyer, O. (2020). Trump claims public health warnings on covid-19 are a conspiracy against him. *BMJ*, 368, m941. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.m941>
24. Elliot D. Cohen, ed. (2005). *News Incorporated: Corporate Media Ownership And Its Threat To Democracy*. Prometheus Books. ISBN 1-59102-232-0.)
25. Entman, R.M. (1993). Framing: Toward clarification of a fractured paradigm. *Journal of Communication*, 43(4), 51-58.
26. F Li Structure, Function, and Evolution of Coronavirus Spike Proteins *Ann Rev Virol* 2016;31:237-61
27. Fairhurst, G.T., & Sarr, R.A. (1996). *The Art of Framing: Managing the Language of Leadership*. San Francisco: Jossey Bass.
28. Gamson, W.A., & Modigliani, A. (1989). Media discourse and public opinion on nuclear power: A constructionist approach. *American Journal of Sociology*, 95(1), 1-37.
29. Halfpenny, P., Lin, Y., & Pieri, E. (2009). *Using text mining for frame analysis of media content*. Manchester: Report, JISC EInfrastructure Programme.
30. Higdon, N. (2020). What is fake news? A foundational question for developing effective critical news literacy education. *Democratic Communication*, 29, 1–18. <https://journals.flvc.org/demcom/article/view/121283>
31. Huang, C., Wang, Y., Li, X., Ren, L., Zhao, J., Hu, Y., ... Cao, B. (2020). Clinical features of patients infected with 2019 novel coronavirus in Wuhan, China. *The Lancet*, 395, 497–506. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(20\)30183-5](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(20)30183-5)
32. J. Soll, "The Long and Brutal History of Fake News," *POLITICO Magazine*, 18-Dec-2016. [Online]. Available: <http://politi.co/2FaV5W9>.

33. Julien Riou Christian L. Althaus Pattern of early human-to-human transmission of Wuhan 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), December 2019 to January 2020 *Euro Surveill* 2020;25(4):2000058
34. Keles, B., McCrae, N., & Grealish, A. (2020). A systematic review: The influence of social media on depression, anxiety and psychological distress in adolescents. *International Journal of Adolescence and Youth*, 25(1), 79–93. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02673843.2019.159085>
35. Khanzode, V. V. *Research Methodology Techniques and Trends*, New Delhi : APH Publishing Corporation, 1995. Print.
36. Kim, Y.S. & Chung, D.S. (2017). Anatomy of front pages: Comparison between The New York Times and other U.S. major metropolitan newspapers. *International Journal of Communication*, 11, 949-966.
37. Kothari, C.R. *Research Methodology- Methods and Techniques*, Wiley Eastern Limited. New Delhi, 1985. Print.
38. Kumar, K.J. *Mass Communication in India*. Mumbai: Jaico Publication House P, 2008 .Print.
39. Kumar, R. *Research Methodology. A Step-by-Step Guide for Beginners*. New Delhi: SAGE P, 1999. Print.
40. Laar, A.K. (2010). Family planning, abortion, and HIV in Ghanaian print media: A 15-month content analysis of a national Ghanaian newspaper.
41. Laupacis, A. (2020). Working together to contain and manage COVID-19. *Canadian Medical Association Journal*, 192(13), E340–E341. <https://doi.org/10.1503/cmaj.200428>
42. Leo, J., & Lacasse, J. R. (2008). The media and the chemical imbalance theory of depression. *Society*, 45(1), 35–45. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12115-007-9047-3>
43. Linsky, M. (1986). *Impact: How the Press Affects Federal Policymaking*. New York: Norton.
44. Liu, S., Huang, J.-C., & Brown, G. L. (1998). Information and risk perception: A dynamic adjustment process. *Risk Analysis*, 18, 689–699. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1539-6924.1998.tb01113.x>
45. McCombs, M., & Ghanem, S.I. (2001). The Convergence of Agenda Setting and Framing. In Reese, S.D., Gandy, O.H. Jr., & Grant, A.E. (Ed.). *Framing Public Life: Perspectives on Media and Our Understanding of the Social World* (pp. 67- 81). New York: Routledge.
46. Mckee, M., & Stuckler, D. (2020). If the world fails to protect the economy, COVID-19 will damage health not just now but also in the future. *Nature Medicine*, 26(5), 640-642.
47. Meadows, M., & Foxwell, K. (2011). Community broadcasting and mental health: The role of local radio and television in enhancing emotional and social well-being. *Radio Journal: International Studies in Broadcast & Audio Media*, 9(2), 89–106. https://doi.org/10.1386/rjao.9.2.89_1
48. Mogambi, H., Kiai, W., & Ndati, N. (2013). Priming HIV messages in Kenyan print media: Patterns, trends, and Issues. *Sage Open*, 1-13.
49. Moses, M. (2000). Consumer mentality. *The American Editor* [online], 808(4), 6-7.

50. Nair, B., Janenova, S., & Serikbayeva, B. (2020). Social and mainstream media relations. In *A primer on policy communication in Kazakhstan* (pp. 35–48). Singapore: Palgrave Pivot.
51. Nelson, D., Kreps, G., Hesse, B., Croyle, R., Willis, G., Arora, N., ... Alden, S. (2004). The Health Information National Trends Survey (HINTS): Development, design, and dissemination. *Journal of Health Communication*, 9, 443–460. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10810730490504233>
52. Nick Bilton (14 September 2010). *I Live in the Future & Here's How It Works: Why Your World, Work, and Brain Are Being Creatively Disrupted*. Random House Digital, Inc. p. 53. ISBN 978-0-307-59111-1. Retrieved 25 March 2011.
53. Park, S., Boatwright, B., & Avery, E. J. (2019). Information channel preference in health crisis: Exploring the roles of perceived risk, preparedness, knowledge, and intent to follow directives. *Public Relations Review*, 45, 101794. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pubrev.2019.05.015>
54. Pavarala, Vinod & Kumar, Kanchan. *Other Voices - The Struggle for Community Radio in India*. New Delhi : SAGE P,2007. Print.
55. Pieri, E. (2019). Media framing and the threat of global pandemics: The Ebola crisis in UK Media and policy response. *Sociological Research Online*, 24(1), 73–92. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1360780418811966>
56. Pollak, Michael (1972). "The performance of the wooden printing press". *The Library Quarterly*. 42 (2): 218–264. doi:10.1086/620028. JSTOR 4306163. S2CID 144726990
57. Poushter, J. (2016). Smartphone ownership and Internet usage continues to climb in emerging economies. Pew Research Centre.
58. Prateek Raj. "How the Postal System and the Printing Press Transformed European Markets". *Economics*. Retrieved 3 August 2017.
59. Quattrociocchi, W. (14 Jan, 2016) How does mis-information spread online? *World Economic Forum Blog*, <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/01/q-a-walter-quattrociocchi-digitalwildfires/>
60. Quebral,N., Allen,A “Development Communication in the Agricultural Context” (with new foreword) *Asian Journal of Communication* 16.1.pp.100-107,1971. Print.
61. Reintjes, R., Das, E., Klemm, C., Richardus, J.H., Keßler, V., &Ahmad, A. (2016). Pandemic public health paradox: Time series analysis of the 2009/10 Influenza A/ H1N1 epidemiology, media attention, risk perception and public reactions in 5 European countries. *PLoSONE*, 11(3), e0151258. Lippman, W. (1922). *Public Opinion*. New York: Macmillan.
62. Roser M, Ritchie H, Ortiz-Ospina E, Hasell J. 2020Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19). *Our World Data*. See<https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus>
63. RoutledgeHalfpenny, P., Lin, Y., &Pieri, E. (2009). *Using text mining for frame analysis of media content*. Manchester : Report, JISC EInfrastructure Programme.
64. Seabrook, E. M., Kern, M. L., & Rickard, N. S. (2016). Social networking sites, depression, and anxiety: A systematic review. *JMIR Mental Health*, 3(4), e50. <https://doi.org/10.2196/mental.5842>
65. Silverman, C. & Alexander, L. (2016) “How Teens In the Balkans Are Duping Trump Supporters With Fake News.” *Buzzfeed News*, November 3, 2016.

66. Sutaria, S. (2020). Coronavirus misinformation in India is not limited to health misinformation. Meedan. <https://meedan.com/reports/coronavirus-misinformation-inindia-is-not-limited-to-health-misinformation>
67. Tandoc, Jr., E. C, Lim, Z. W., and Ling, R. (Aug. 2017) Defining ‘Fake News’: A Typology of Van Bavel JJ et al.. 2020 Using social and behavioural science to support COVID-19 pandemic response. *Nat. Hum. Behav.* 4, 460-471. (doi:10.1038/s41562-020-0884-z))
68. Wang, Y., Wang, Y., Chen, Y., & Qin, Q. (2020). Unique epidemiological and clinical features of the emerging 2019 novel coronavirus pneumonia (COVID-19) implicate special control measures. *Journal of Medical Virology*, 92(6), 568–576. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jmv.25748>
69. Wardle, C. (2016) Timeline: Key Moments in the Fake News Debate, First Draft News, (Sept 30 – Dec 1, 2016). Available at: <https://medium.com/1st-draft/key-moments-in-the-fake-newsdebate-bce5fb6547d4>
70. Wardle, C. (February 16, 2017) Fake News. It’s Complicated. First Draft News. Available at: <https://firstdraftnews.com/fake-news-complicated/>
71. World Health Organization (2020). Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Situation Report – 68. Retrieved from https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/situation-reports/20200328-sitrep-68-covid-19.pdf?sfvrsn=384bc74c_2
72. Young, D. G., K.H. Jamieson, S. Poulsen and A. Goldring (2017) Fact-Checking Effectiveness as a Function of Format and Tone: Evaluating FactCheck.org and FlackCheck.org, *Journalism And Mass Communication Quarterly*
73. Zarocostas J. 2020 How to fight an infodemic. *Lancet* 395, 676. (doi:10.1016/S0140-6736(20)30461-X)

Websites link

<https://www.scribd.com/document/324194672/Paper-Printing-and-the-Printing-Press>

<https://www.britannica.com/place/Gobi>

<https://www.tekrati.com/innovative-communication-technology/>

<https://extranet.who.int/sph/news/fighting-misinformation-time-covid-19-one-click-time>

<https://www.indiaspend.com/manipulative-fake-news-on-the-rise-in-india-under-lockdown-study/>

<https://www.kractivist.org/india-manipulative-fake-news-on-the-rise-under-lockdown/>

<https://www.latestlaws.com/articles/steps-taken-towards-curbing-of-fake-news-in-india>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TxmFdEiOxyg>

<https://markandcare.wordpress.com/2020/08/18/social-media-the-new-platform-for-justice-or-fake-news/>

https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Mass_media

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/solrogers/2019/10/15/the-role-of-technology-in-the-evolution-of-communication/?sh=69aae48b493b>

<https://www.coursehero.com/file/104765891/How-Technology-affect-Communicationdocx/>

<https://www.who.int/health-topics/infodemic>

<https://www.who.int/news/item/23-09-2020-managing-the-covid-19-infodemic-promoting-healthy-behaviours-and-mitigating-the-harm-from-misinformation-and-disinformation>

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099\(20\)30565-X/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099(20)30565-X/fulltext)

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/about-ofcom/latest/features-and-news/half-of-uk-adults-exposed-to-false-claims-about-coronavirus>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7367666/>

<https://reliefweb.int/report/world/coronavirus-disease-covid-19-situation-report-163-1-july-2020>

<https://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/Health-systems/pages/news/news/2020/6/working-together-to-tackle-the-infodemic>

<https://dermatoplasticos.cl/wxmffog/list-of-mainstream-media.html>

<https://online.maryville.edu/blog/what-is-mainstream-media/>

<https://www.britannica.com/story/citizen-journalists>