

# CONSTRAINT 2021

First Workshop on Combating Online Hostile Posts in  
Regional Languages during Emergency Situation

(Collocated with AAAI 2021)

URL: <http://lcs2.iitd.edu.in/CONSTRAINT-2021/>



The increasing accessibility of the Internet has dramatically changed the way we consume information. The ease of social media usage not only encourages individuals to freely express their opinion (freedom of speech) but also provides content polluters with ecosystems to spread hostile posts (hate speech, fake news, etc.). Such hostile activities are expected to increase manifold during emergencies such as the 2021 US presidential election, COVID-19 pandemic spreading. Most of such hostile posts are written in regional languages, and therefore can easily evade online surveillance engines. Therefore, regions where low-resource regional languages are used for day-to-day communication, suffer due to the lack of tools, benchmark datasets and learning techniques.

CONSTRAINT'21 will encourage researchers from interdisciplinary domains working on multilingual social media analytics to think beyond the conventional way of combating online hostile posts. The workshop will emphasise on three major points:

**1. Regional language:** The offensive posts under inspection may be written in low-resource regional languages (e.g., Tamil, Urdu, Bangali, Polish, Czech, Lithuanian, etc.).

**2. Emergency situation:** The proposed solutions should be able to tackle misinformation during emergency situations where due to the lack of enough historical data, learning models need to adopt additional intelligence to handle emerging and novel posts.

**3. Early detection:** Since the effect of misinformation during emergency situations is highly detrimental for society (e.g., health-related misadvice during a pandemic may take human's life), we encourage the solutions to be able to detect such hostile posts as early as possible after their appearance on social media.

## REGULAR PAPER SUBMISSION

We invite the submission of high-quality manuscripts reporting relevant research in the area of collecting, managing, mining, and understanding hostile data from social media platforms. Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Fake news detection in regional languages
- Hate speech detection in regional languages
- Evolution of fake news and hate speech
- Analyzing user behavior for hostile post propagation
- Real-world tool development for combating hostile posts
- Psychological study of the spreaders of hostile posts
- Hate speech normalization
- Information extraction, ontology design and knowledge graph for combating hostile posts
- Early detection for hostile posts
- Design lightweight tools with less data for hostile post detection
- Code-mixed and code-switched hostile post analysis
- Open benchmark and dashboard related to regional hostile posts
- Specific case studies and surveys related to hostile posts
- Claim detection and verification related to misinformation
- Fact-check worthiness of misinformation
- Cross-region language analysis for hostile posts
- Computational social science analysis for hostile posts
- Network analysis for fake news spreading and evolution

### IMPORTANT DATES

- **October 20, 2020:** Phase 1 full papers due at 11:59 PM UTC-12
- **November 20, 2020:** Notification of phase 1 papers due at 11:59 PM UTC-12
- **December 1, 2020:** Camera ready submission due of accepted papers at 11:50 PM UTC-12
- **December 5, 2020:** Phase 2 full papers due at 11:59 PM UTC-12 (AAAI 2021 rejected papers with high ratings will be considered separately for reviews. For this, the authors need to submit the full reviews and ratings obtained from AAAI.)
- **December 20, 2020:** Notification of phase 2 papers due at 11:59 PM UTC-12
- **December 30, 2020:** Camera ready submission due of phase 2 accepted papers at 11:50 PM UTC-12

### SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

- Regular papers (maximum 12 pages) should be prepared in English and follow the Springer CCIS template. All papers must be submitted via our EasyChair submission page and will go through a double-blind peer-review process. Only manuscripts in PDF or Microsoft Word format will be accepted.
- In the 2nd phase of the submission, if your paper has been rejected from AAAI 2021 regular track with significant ratings, you can append your submission with the peer reviews and ratings. These papers will be reviewed separately.

**Easychair link:** <https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=constraint2021>

## DATA CHALLENGE

The CONSTRAINT-2020 shared task on the hostile post detection invites participation in two subtasks:

- **COVID19 Fake News Detection in English:** This subtask focuses on the detection of COVID19-related fake news in English. The sources of data are various social-media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, etc. Given a social media post, the objective of the shared task is to classify it into either fake or real news.

- **Hostile Post Detection in Hindi:** This subtask focuses on a variety of hostile posts in Hindi Devanagari script collected from Twitter and Facebook. The set of valid categories are fake news, hate speech, offensive, defamation, miscellaneous, and non-hostile posts. It is a multi-label multi-class classification problem where each post can belong to one or more of these hostile classes. The evaluation of this subtask will be as follows:

(a) *Coarse-grained evaluation:* It is a binary evaluation of hostile vs non-hostile posts.

(b) *Fine-grained evaluation:* It is a fine-grained evaluation of the hostile classes.

### IMPORTANT DATES

- **October 1, 2020:** Release of the training set
- **December 1, 2020:** Release of the test set
- **December 10, 2020:** Deadline for submitting the final results
- **December 12, 2020:** Announcement of the results
- **December 30, 2020:** System paper submission deadline (All teams are invited to submit a paper)

## COMMITTEES

### STEERING COMMITTEE

- Tanmoy Chakraborty, IIIT Delhi
- Kai Shu, Illinois Institute of Technology, USA
- H. Russell Bernard, Arizona State University, USA
- Huan Liu, Arizona State University, USA

### ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

- Tanmoy Chakraborty, IIIT Delhi
- Md. Shad Akhtar, IIIT Delhi
- Asif Ekbal, IIT Patna
- Amitava Das, Wipro Research

### SHARED TASK COORDINATORS

- Parth Patwa, IIIT Sricity
- Mohit Bhardwaj, IIIT Delhi
- Srinivas PYKL, IIIT Sricity
- Shivam Sharma, Wipro Research
- Vineeth Guptha, Wipro Research
- Gitanjali Kumar, IIT Patna

### WEB CHAIR

- Hridoy Sankar Dutta, IIIT Delhi

