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CURRENT ISSUES WRITING PRACTICE

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Parliamentary Privileges

Why in News?

A motion for breach of privilege was moved in the Maharashtra Assembly against Republic TV's Managing Director and Editor-in-Chief Arnab Goswami. A similar motion was moved in the Maharashtra Legislative Council against the Bollywood actor Kangana Ranaut. Although, the truncated two-day Monsoon Session having ended and the motions could not be taken up by the lawmakers.

Connectedness to the Syllabus

Essay: UPSC may ask candidates to write an essay on the Parliamentary Privileges, Freedom of speech and expression and the limitations on it. Informed and aware citizenry, debate around the Right to question, Contempt of the House etc.

General Studies II:

- Parliament and State legislatures—structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges and issues arising out of these.

Articles Link

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-what-constitutes-a-breach-of-the-legislatures-privilege-6590615/>

<https://www.livewlaw.in/columns/parliamentary-privileges-and-the-fundamental-right-to-free-speech-a-conundrum-of-the-conflicting-entitlements-162749>

<https://tilakmarg.com/opinion/what-is-a-breach-of-legislatures-privilege-as-in-arnab-goswami-and-kangana-ranaut-case/>

Maps and Figures

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PARLIAMENTARY PRIVILEGE

Introduction

Parliamentary privilege is an aspect of parliamentary sovereignty/supremacy. Parliament claims to itself the right to be the sole judge of its own composition and procedures.

The privileges of Parliament are both collective (relating to both Houses of Parliament) & individual (relating to individual members of the HOC & HOL).

Note: privileges of Parliament are set down & no new privileges can be created, other than by an Act of Parliament. Thus, actions which impede the work of Parliament e.g. assaulting a MP or disrupting proceedings are regarded as contempts of Parliament rather than breach of privilege.

<https://5thvoice.news/legalnews/NzQ2OA==/Parliamentary-privileges-Freedom-of-Speech-and-Prohibition-on-publication-of-proceedings>

Video Links

RSTV: In Depth: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=If8eGrKS-UY&feature=youtu.be>

CEC: Parliamentary Privileges:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WpuzMwwZtmM&feature=youtu.be>

National Law University, Delhi; MOOC:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oA8cmHfb6Aw&feature=youtu.be>

Hate Speech Menace in India

Why in News?

The menace of disinformation is not new. From the falsehoods that fuelled the “Corona Spreaders” controversy in early March to fake stories alleging China’s deliberate role in enabling the spread of COVID-19, these fabricated narratives manipulate sentiment, feed negative biases that form convictions and bolster actions of online hate speech. Similar to the spread of the pandemic, instances of this ‘infodemic’ have increased exponentially in 2020. The two have become almost inter-dependent, with the former providing opportunities to

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incubate and create echo chambers for online falsehoods to flourish, and the latter creating new avenues for pandemic-related hoaxes, mistrust and a general sense of scepticism that seems to ensure that in this fight, the pandemic always has the upper hand.

Notable Indian fact checkers have noted a surge in instances of misinformation and disinformation since the end of January 2020 – approximately from when the virus made its inroads in India. With Indians being most susceptible to fake news, as found by Microsoft's Digital Civility Index of 2019, we've seen mis/disinformation take various shades – communal, xenophobic, distorting medical information, even infecting the voices of the State. The consequences of this have been disastrous, with increased sectarian friction to schisms in public trust and credibility.

Connectedness to the Syllabus

Essay: UPSC may ask candidates to write an essay on the Menace of Hate Speech, fake news, Uses and Abuses of the Social Media, laws, rules and regulations to check it. And the issues related to it.

General Studies I:

- Effects of globalization on Indian society.
- Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism.

General Studies II:

- Important aspects of governance, transparency and accountability, e-governance applications, models, successes, limitations, and potential; citizens charters, transparency & accountability and institutional and other measures.

General Studies III:

- Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security; money laundering and its prevention.

General Studies IV:

- Ethics and Human Interface: Essence, determinants and consequences of Ethics in human actions; dimensions of ethics; ethics - in private and public relationships. Human Values - lessons from the lives and teachings of great leaders, reformers and administrators; role of family society and educational institutions in inculcating values.
- Emotional intelligence-concepts, and their utilities and application in administration and governance.
- Contributions of moral thinkers and philosophers from India and world.

Articles Link

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/regulate-digital-media-not-tv-centre-tells-sc/articleshow/78177840.cms>

<https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/debunking-disinformation-can-india-learn-from-the-west/>

<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/lead/define-the-contours-of-hate-in-speech/article32655176.ece>

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Maps and Figures



While in mainstream media (whether electronic or print), publication/telecast is a one-time act, digital media has faster reach from wider range of viewership/readership and has the potential to become viral because of several electronic applications like WhatsApp, Twitter and Facebook

—Centre to SC

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/regulate-digital-media-not-tv-centre-tells-sc/articleshow/78177840.cms>

IS SITUATION CONDUCTIVE NOW, ASKS CJI

Feb 26: Delhi HC bench led by Justice S Muralidhar orders Delhi police commissioner to take a 'conscious decision' on filing FIRs against four BJP netas for alleged hate speeches **within 24 hours**

Feb 26 night: Transfer of Justice Muralidhar **notified**

Feb 27: Delhi HC bench of CJ D N Patel and Justice C Hari Shankar **adjourns till April 13 hearing** on petition seeking FIRs against BJP netas. Centre

and police given four weeks to file affidavit

March 4: SC **fast-tracks** HC hearing on PILs seeking FIRs

On Solicitor General Tushar Mehta's comment that "under the prevailing circumstances, we deferred registration of FIRs against those who made inflammatory speeches", CJI Bobde asks, "**Is the situation conducive today? Will you register the FIRs now?**"

TOI FOR MORE INFOGRAPHICS DOWNLOAD **TIMES OF INDIA APP**



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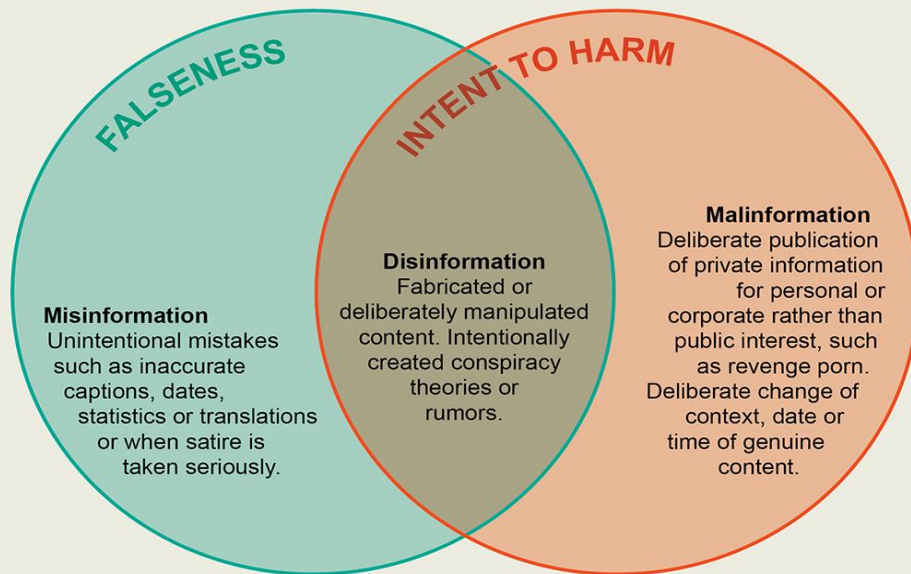
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<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/delhi-hcs-adjudgment-of-hate-speech-case-unjustified-sc/articleshow/74483843.cms>

THREE CATEGORIES OF INFORMATION DISORDER

To understand and study the complexity of the information ecosystem, we need a common language. The current reliance on simplistic terms such as “fake news” hides important distinctions and denigrates journalism. It also focuses too much on “true” versus “fake,” whereas information disorder comes in many shades of “misleading.”



<https://thelivinglib.org/misinformation-has-created-a-new-world-disorder/>

Video Links

RSTV: Security Scan: <https://youtu.be/mMwTHmoZn8Q>

RSTV: The Big Picture: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K1bp7lj8Ql4&feature=youtu.be>

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Cyber Attack

Why in News?

China carried out multiple cyber-attacks between 2007-2018, including a computer network attack against Indian satellite communication in 2017, a news report by US-based China Aerospace Studies Institute (CASI) confirmed. Although, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)'s chief K Sivan stated that cyber-attacks are a constant threat and asserted that ISRO's system has not been compromised so far.

Connectedness to the Syllabus

Essay: UPSC may ask candidates to write an essay on the National Cyber Security, Electronic Banking Frauds, Cyber Bullying and the laws, rules and regulations to deal with this emerging menace. We would like to suggest to prepare issues related to it.

General Studies III:

- Achievements of Indians in science & technology; indigenization of technology and developing new technology.
- Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security; money laundering and its prevention.

Articles Link

<https://www.checkpoint.com/cyber-hub/cyber-security/what-is-cyber-attack/#:~:text=A%20cyber%20attack%20is%20an,launch%20point%20for%20other%20attacks>

<https://www.businesstoday.in/technology/news/china-carried-out-multiple-cyber-attacks-on-india-between-2007-2018-us-report/story/416779.html>

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/internet/ddos-attacks-are-on-the-rise-in-india-says-cyber-security-firm-radware/articleshow/78236264.cms>

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https://www.freepik.com/free-vector/protect-against-cyber-attacks-infographic_8346358.htm

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HACKING BIDS

- After PM-CARES fund was set up, several **similar-sounding fake UPI IDs** came up
- Several messages & websites are promising to inform about those infected 'near your location', or provide 'Covid-19 heatmaps'. Many promise to help one avail of unemployment funds. Most of these end up **hacking smartphones & laptops**

TOI FOR MORE INFOGRAPHICS DOWNLOAD TIMES OF INDIA APP   

<https://reportcybercrime.com/cyber-attacks-as-more-people-work-from-home-cases-of-cyber-attacks-rise-2/>

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Under the Lens

CERT-In

- Issued 35+ advisories & 200 vulnerability notes since March
- Has been providing threat intelligence reports to CISOs

MAIN TARGETS OF ATTACKS*

- Govt organisations
- National IT infrastructure
- Banking sector

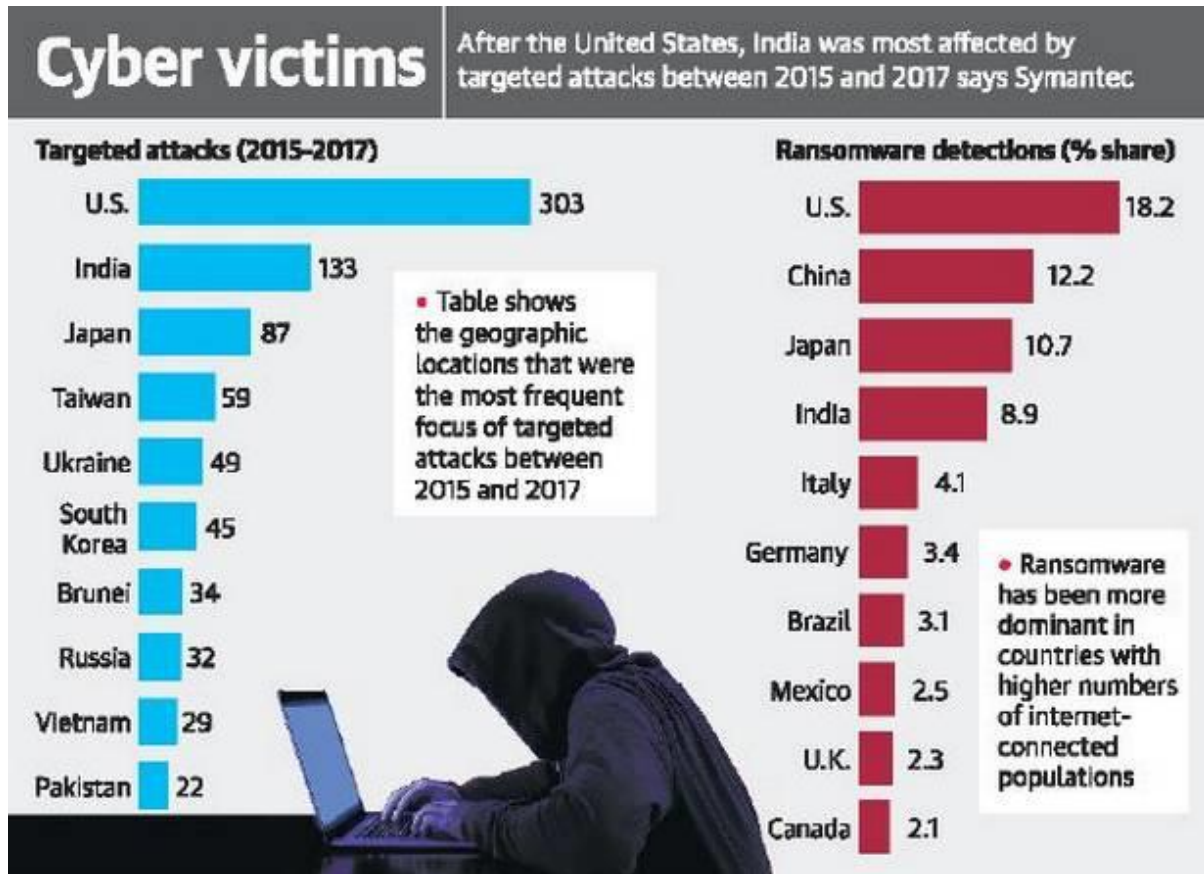
*According to SignDesk

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/internet/india-facing-more-cyber-attacks-from-china-and-pakistan-since-nationwide-lockdown/articleshow/76962155.cms>

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<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-third-most-vulnerable-country-to-cyber-threats/article23437238.ece>

Video Links

RSTV: Security Scan:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ddMpugGIHVE&feature=youtu.be>

RSTV: The Big Picture:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_qFYkdCBCIA&feature=youtu.be

RSTV: The Big Picture:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ARmvM_UGq-k&feature=youtu.be

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