International Relations · GS - II

Examine how misinformation and political satire influence public understanding of international affairs. Suggest measures to strengthen media literacy and responsible news consumption.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 20/10/2026	GS - II	International Relations

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Digital misinformation, satire, source verification, media literacy, algorithmic amplification, fact-checking, editorial responsibility, freedom of expression, informed citizenship.

Model Answer

Introduction

Digital platforms have accelerated the circulation of political information across borders. Satire can promote public debate, but fabricated or decontextualised headlines may blur the distinction between fact, opinion and humour.

Impact on Public Understanding

1. **Misinformation:** False claims can distort perceptions of political leaders, elections and international relations.
2. **Polarisation:** Misleading content may reinforce existing biases and deepen political divisions.
3. **Erosion of trust:** Repeated exposure to fabricated stories can undermine confidence in credible journalism.
4. **Satirical ambiguity:** Humorous content may be mistaken for factual reporting when context or disclaimers are missing.

Measures to Strengthen Media Literacy

- **Verify sources:** Check the publisher, original statement, date and independent corroboration.

- **Promote digital literacy:** Teach citizens to distinguish news, opinion, satire and manipulated content.
- **Encourage responsible journalism:** Media organisations should correct errors and provide transparent sourcing.
- **Improve platform accountability:** Strengthen reporting mechanisms and reduce the spread of demonstrably deceptive content through proportionate measures.
- **Protect free expression:** Counter misinformation without unnecessarily restricting legitimate satire or political criticism.

Conclusion

A well-informed public is essential for democratic accountability and constructive international debate. Critical thinking, transparent journalism and responsible digital practices can reduce misinformation while preserving freedom of expression.

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