Polity & Governance · GS - II

Examine the challenges posed by misinformation and political satire presented as factual news. Discuss the role of media literacy and responsible journalism in addressing these challenges.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 20/10/2026	GS - II	Polity & Governance

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Freedom of expression, misinformation, disinformation, digital platforms, fact-checking, media literacy, responsible journalism, democratic discourse, accountability.

Model Answer

Introduction

Digital platforms enable rapid information sharing but also allow false claims and misleading content to circulate widely. Political satire, when separated from its original context, can be mistaken for genuine news and distort public understanding.

Key Challenges

1. **Public confusion:** False claims can weaken citizens' ability to distinguish verified reporting from fabricated stories.

2. **Democratic discourse:** Repeated misinformation may deepen polarisation and undermine informed public debate.

3. **Freedom of expression:** Efforts to counter falsehoods must avoid suppressing legitimate criticism, humour and political satire.

Way Forward

- **Media literacy:** Promote skills to evaluate sources, dates, evidence and contextual clues.
- **Fact-checking:** Encourage verification through credible, independent sources before sharing claims.
- **Responsible journalism:** Clearly distinguish factual reporting, opinion, parody and satire.
- **Platform accountability:** Improve transparency and provide accessible mechanisms to report demonstrably false content, with appropriate safeguards.

Conclusion

A combination of critical thinking, independent journalism and transparent platform practices can reduce misinformation while protecting freedom of expression and democratic debate.