

CHAPTER 1 – UNIT 2 : FAKE NEWS

Characteristics / Distinctive features:

1. Actions or policies of public authorities are often at the core of fake news.
2. It is often based on recontextualizing, reworking or reframing a grain of truth, i.e., it often uses a picture / a sentence out of context.
3. Fake news is also spread on mainstream media.
4. People who believe those lies are less likely to act so as to protect themselves. Such was the case during the Ebola outbreak in Western Africa in 2015.

However, it is not all doom and gloom. There is a glimmer of hope. Here is what one may do:

1. Flood the information system with good quality information may help counter /cancel out the effect of fake news.
2. Question online news sources.
3. Not pass things on without checking the source.
4. Pick up reputable /reliable news sources: just like for any virus, if misinformation is reduced by 30%, this might be enough to reduce the impact of fake news.