



THE PULSE

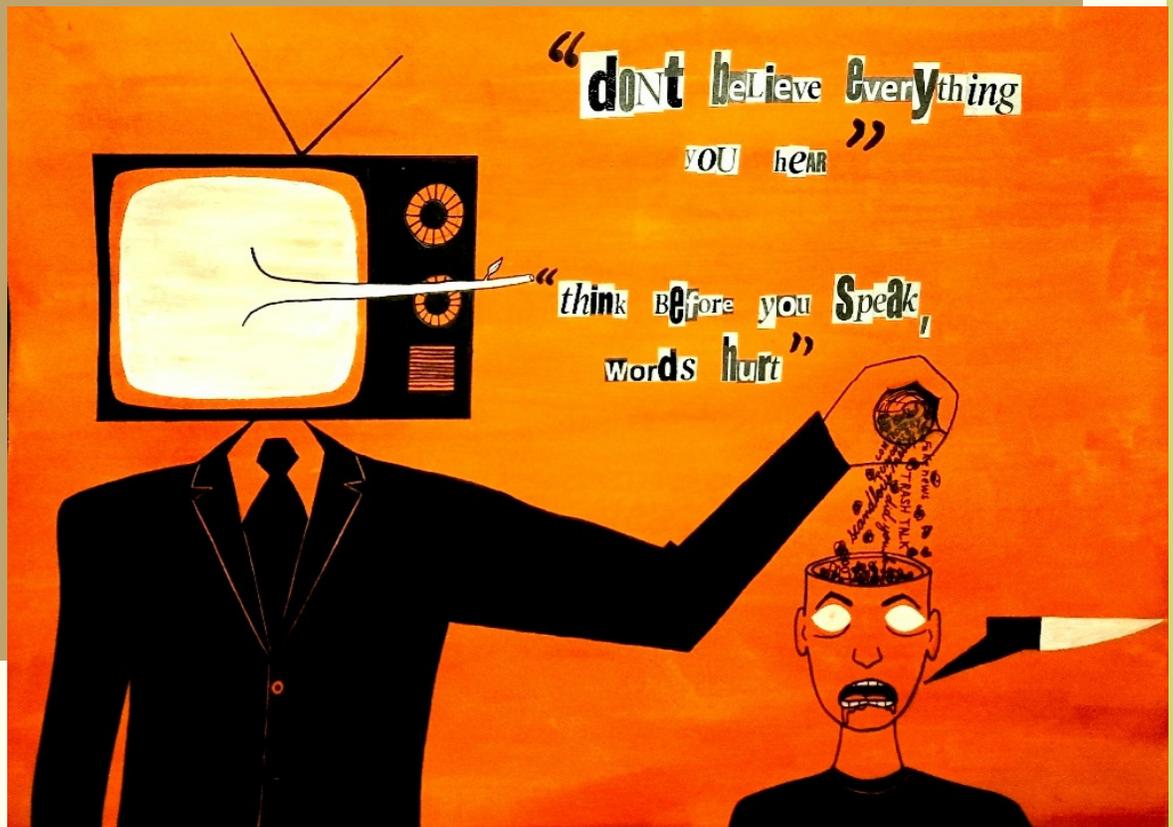
Rhythm of Young Thought.



strawberry fields
HIGH SCHOOL

FALL - WINTER ISSUE 2021

CREDIBILITY OF INFORMATION IN A GLOBALISED WORLD



Artwork by:
Osheen Singh (11-C)

EDITORS & DESIGNERS

MEHAK MEHRA
MEHAKPREET KAUR
TWISHAA SEHGAL
UDAY JAGAT





THE PULSE

Rhythm of Young Thought.



'The Pulse', is a student-led magazine that encourages young, thriving citizens; to put pen to paper. It represents the rhythm of young thought, however; the information contained in this magazine represents the views and opinions of students, and does not necessarily represent the views or opinions of the institution of Strawberry Fields High School. Statements made and opinions expressed are strictly those of the writers and not of the school.

Disclaimer

02

Living in the 21st Century, my mobile phone is my newspaper. One wrong tweet with 47902 likes and my mind starts oscillating. Next day, the stock market crashes and my assumption is amplified. A week after this, the election rally gets postponed; fear starts creeping in. It's only two days after squirming for details and accurate facts, I realised that these events, all distinctive in nature, were not the outcome of startling happenings around the world, instead, were my own thoughts, connected like a thread; originating from one piece of hoax news. Fake news is like a small ball, wrapped around the wool of shallow thought, blind faith and a lot of assumptions.

Although the infodemics cannot be stopped, they can be managed through the spread of awareness. By showing people how to recognize and report misinformation and improving their media literacy, we can turn the tide on the infodemic tsunami and save facts from being distorted.

With the Fall-Winter 2021 Edition of, The Pulse, we hope to draw a clear distinction between myth and reality. It is about time that we, as rational global citizens, woke up to this reality and took matters into our own hands. Therefore, as the Editors of, The Pulse, we have chosen this Edition's theme to be the Credibility of Information in a Globalised World.

The Editors,
Mehak Mehra, Mehakpreet Kaur & Twishaa Sehgal

“Farmers lay Siege to Delhi. Loot Locals.”

People got up to this terrifying news on all social media channels. Concerned, they retweeted or posted this news on their social media handles and it spread like wildfire. Everywhere, citizens started cursing the farmers and the government for this pitiable state of the nation. Schools and offices were closed down. It was later that it became clear that the reality was different, and nowhere as bad as it was projected to be.

A trick commonly used by fake news content publishers is ‘clickbait’, wherein they add a catchy phrase to a link that leads to a webpage containing false information. Moreover, the all-pervading social media makes it easier to propagate.

However, what is surprising is that not all false news is spread via bots or algorithms that are programmed to proliferate false stories but it is us humans, who are the leading spreaders.

The solution lies in using various tools which are available for detecting and eliminating clickbaits. Users should be allowed to install these tools onto their browsers to detect and filter out clickbaits. Secondly, we should not consider every news we see on social media to be original, until a verified news channel confirms it. To conclude, “Fake news is like ice, once it comes in contact with the heat of truth it melts quickly and suddenly evaporates.”

By: Saikrit Mahajan (9-D)

“The Fourth Pillar of Democracy”



Artwork by:
Kaira Mahajan (11-A)

It started with a simple “Did you know, the farmers are peacefully protesting on the highways?” Then this became a “Farmers have started rioting and causing violence,” and eventually a rather dramatic “The farmers caused a bomb blast in the Parliament and the administration is crumbling.”

During the process of the spreading of this information, we tend to add our ‘twists’ and ‘take’ on the topic, do we not? It is amusing, what originally portrayed farmers as peaceful and protesting for their rights, has been modified by people so much so that apparently our administration is crumbling now!

Fake news can be compared to the coronavirus; and protesting for their rights, has been modified by people so much so that apparently our administration is crumbling now! Fake news can be compared to the coronavirus; both spread easily and spread rapidly, and when they do, they cause widespread destruction. We talk of such things as nuclear wars and World War III. Well, is this ongoing struggle of the truth against overpowering false words, not a war in itself?

By: *Kaavyam Khanna (9-D)*

Every once in a while, when you go through the news, what attracts you the most? Is it the news broadcast by the most reliable source? No! It's mostly the news which caters to your interests - no matter how twisted or forged it might be. We never think once before checking the credibility or authenticity of that information.

In order to catch the viewer's eye, certain columnists and anchors will publish or broadcast the most “spicy” and exaggerated version of the truth without giving an ounce of thought to the consequences which might follow. When fake news is repeated, it becomes difficult for the public to discern between fact and fiction.

Inaccurate news is targeted towards the vulnerable section of the society by planting a seed of mistrust and exacerbating the existing tumult of a region. This fabricated piece of information which is fed to the public, has influenced the nation not once, but several times over numerous issues in the past,

due to which the credibility of reporting agencies has been deteriorating. Living in a digital age, it is now much easier to spread false news with the click of a button. Due to our extremely busy and hectic lives, we believe whatever information that is provided to us, not because we are gullible but because of the lack of interest in verifying the data that is presented. Henceforth, living in a digital age, we should take advantage of being able to authenticate every piece of information. Checking the veracity of any information can be done very simply if we steer clear of articles published by anonymous authors and commercial sites.

By: Rishaaya Kakar (9-B)

With the advent of modern technology, all it takes nowadays, is a few strokes on the keyboard to access information regarding any desirable topic one might wish to educate themselves about. While this is certainly a beneficial change that helps in spreading the gift of knowledge among the world, it is important to note that there are two sides to every coin. This dark side that I refer to, is synonymous with the circulation of misinformation and lack of credibility of news sources. Nowadays, the average reader would find an exaggerated article, perpetuating obvious lies,

more alluring than a mundane yet truthful article. Since news agencies profit from users clicking on the article, they choose to engage in clickbait, and, to maintain their reader base, fill their articles with juicy lies rather than truly inform them of the topic they seek information about.

Their pieces may be filled with their personal beliefs and propaganda that is fabricated in such a professional manner that the average reader may mistake this for actual information.

By: Ambreen Sidhu (9-C)



Artwork by:
Innayat Sandhu (11-A)

The internet is an invaluable tool to gain insights and learn useful information about a plethora of topics including, but not limited to, current affairs, DIYs, politics, history, and health.

Becoming pervasive, together with the internet is a tremendous amount of misinformation.

In this era of relatively ungoverned social media, exposure to fake news has become an inevitable everyday occurrence. It may be in the form of news, stories, or hoaxes.

Social media has now transformed into a platform where anyone with an agenda can publish falsehoods as if they were truths. People are sometimes paid to post fake news on behalf of someone else or automated programs can publish auto-generated fake news. This fake news is created with the intention to deliberately deceive or influence readers, achieve

a political goal, create divisiveness among the population, or even simply to be malicious. With our increased dependence on social media and the overwhelming amount of information at our disposal, it is imperative for us to be able to sift through and identify what is accurate and what is misleading.

It is discernible why fake news is worrisome but what is harder to curb is its spread and the need to stay safe from it. Understanding the need of the hour, a guideline for the same is outlined below:

- Identify and verify the source of the written piece. Check the URL of the website to rule out the possibility of it attempting to imitate a popular source in order to spread fake news.

- Find out more about the publisher, for example whether it is a largely reliable source or the personal blog of an individual.
- Scrutinise the media accompanying the article. Photos or illustrations accompanying fake news are often retouched to make the story seem real. If you are sceptical about the authenticity, perform a Google reverse image search (or use a service such as TinEye) to see if the image has been stolen from another source.
- Think rationally. Approach what you read or hear rationally, questioning why it would have been written, whether it is attempting to change your viewpoint, sell you something, redirect you to another website or simply shock you.
- Verify the facts. Authentic news is often backed up by official data and similar instances of the occurrence being reported in the past. This media is often helpful in identifying if the article is fabricated.

As young, responsible citizens, we need to raise our voices if we encounter fake news. Being able to spot misinformation disguised as legitimate news is a necessity to combat the widespread distribution of harmful, misleading, and false information.

By: Arshnoor Bhutani (11-C)

A sponge-like human mind,
and fake fire-like news,
selling it like peanuts,
only for the sake of some petty views.
This mind which was made for care and love,
convincing words but news that's fake.



*Photography by:
Tishya Gupta (11-C)*

Wounding hearts and spreading hate,
white lies who speak for the sake of petty views,
wars are fought and souls get killed,
for honour or glory or perhaps for revenge.
No, it's just because of some old fellows who spread fake news,
for petty fame and petty views.
It's time we know how to tackle the blow,
to separate fake from true,
So that no more hearts are wounded,
or people die or hate is spread,
By some shameless news channels
for greater TRPs and some petty views.

By: Ashraj Singh Sidhu (9-D)

"चेहरे पर फेसबुक सी रौनक है,
दिल व्हाट्सएप हुआ जा रहा है।
समाज से कटकर भी,
इंसान सोशल हुआ जा रहा है।"

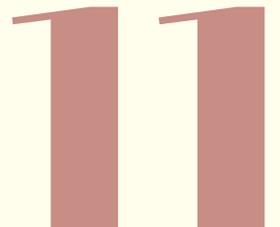
आज की दुनिया में कई लोगों के लिए फ़ेक न्यूज एक गंभीर खतरा बन गया है। फ़ेक न्यूज कोई भी खबर, कहानी या धोखा हो सकता है जो लोगों को गलत सूचना दे। फेसबुक, इंस्टाग्राम और यहां तक कि गूगल जैसे सोशल मीडिया ऐप भी फ़ेक न्यूज को बढ़ने में मदद कर रहे हैं। पैंतीस करोड़ भारतीय विभिन्न सोशल मीडिया एप्लिकेशन का उपयोग करते हैं जिस से सोशल मीडिया के माध्यम से नकली समाचार फैलाना बहुत आसान हो गया है। इन 35 करोड़ में से 20 करोड़ लोग अकेले व्हाट्सएप का इस्तेमाल करते हैं। व्हाट्सएप का उपयोग करने वालों की संख्या इतनी अधिक है कि समाचार के स्रोत का पता लगाना लगभग असंभव है।

भारत में फ़ेक न्यूज के बढ़ने के पीछे

कानून का अभाव भी एक बड़ा कारण है।

भारत में फ़ेक न्यूज से निपटने के लिए कोई विशेष कानून नहीं है। भारतीय संविधान के अनुच्छेद 19 के अनुसार, भारत में समाचारों का स्वतंत्र प्रकाशन या प्रसारण एक मौलिक अधिकार या अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता है। हाल के अध्ययनों ने पुष्टि की है कि भारतीय नागरिक सच्चाई की तलाश करने की कोशिश भी नहीं करते हैं। बल्कि, वे अपने द्वारा साझा की गई फर्जी खबरों का समर्थन करने के लिए सबूत तलाशते हैं।

विभिन्न राजनीतिक एजेंडे को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए, किसी भी राजनीतिक दल द्वारा भी फ़ेक न्यूज बनाई जा सकती है। इस प्रकार की झूठी जानकारी आम लोगों तक पहुँचती है और इस प्रकार देश की प्रजा की अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता और सूचित विकल्पों को प्रभावित करती है।



फ़ेक न्यूज किसी भी देश के लोकतंत्र को अपहरण की ओर ले जाती है। विभिन्न राजनीतिक एजेंडे को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए, किसी भी राजनीतिक दल द्वारा भी फ़ेक न्यूज बनाई जा सकती है। आज भारत में, समाचार मीडिया और उनके पत्रकार अब वास्तविक समाचारों में मध्यस्थता करते या निष्पक्ष रूप से समाचार बनाते नहीं देखे जाते हैं, ये समाचार मीडिया कथित रूप से प्रमुख राजनीतिक दलों के प्रतिध्वनि-कक्षों के रूप में कार्य करते हैं।

इस फ़ेक न्यूज के खिलाफ लड़ना आसान नहीं है लेकिन फिर भी इसका खंडन कर, फ़ेक न्यूज को हटाकर और जनता को शिक्षित करके इसे कम किया जा सकता है। फेसबुक और यूट्यूब जैसी तकनीकी कंपनियां एल्गोरिदम बनाने के लिए उच्च-स्तरीय कोडिंग भाषा का उपयोग करती हैं जो उनके संबंधित सोशल मीडिया प्लेटफॉर्म

से फर्जी खबरों को हटाने में मदद करती हैं। व्हाट्सएप ने उन संदेशों को भी सीमित कर दिया है जिन्हें आप अग्रेषित कर सकते हैं ताकि आप असीमित संदेशों को अग्रेषित न कर सकें जिनमें नकली समाचार शामिल हो सकते हैं।

आजकल, बहुत से लोग समझ गए हैं कि हम जो कुछ भी साझा करते हैं वह कुछ सीमा तक सच नहीं हो सकता है। लेकिन फिर भी, भारत में बड़ी संख्या में ऐसे लोग हैं जिन्हें फ़ेक न्यूज के बारे में कोई जानकारी नहीं है। इसलिए हमें उन्हें शिक्षित करना चाहिए। भारत सरकार ने एक नई विधि का प्रचार किया है जो नकली समाचारों के स्रोत को ट्रैक कर सकती है। अतः फ़ेक न्यूज़ का प्रभाव आम लोगों को जागरूक कर तथा युवा पीढ़ी को शिक्षित कर ही घटाया जा सकता है।

By: Suhana Brar (11-A)

The Ramsay It Up! : Cookery Club is a platform for all those who are passionate about food. It aims to develop an interest in the diverse cuisines and culinary heritage from around the world.

This recipe from the Ramsay It Up! : Cookery Club provides a detailed guide on how to make the 'Classic Cheesecake'.

To view the recipe, click on the image below:



To access the recipe in writing, [click here](#).

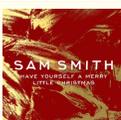
By: Jasmine Lobana (11-C)

The Pulse | Fall-Winter Issue 2021

[Click here for the Christmas Playlist](#)

The Pulse



	John Lennon, Yoko Ono Happy Xmas (War is Over) - Remastered 2020	 
	Sidemen The Gift	 
	Callux Naughty List	 
	Sam Smith Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas	 
	Chase Cohl Christmas & you	 
	ABBA Little Things	 
	Taylor Swift All Too Well (Taylor's Version)	 
	Ed Sheeran, Elton John Merry Christmas	 
	Shawn Mendes, Camilla Cabello The Christmas Song (Shawn Mendes & Camilla Cabello)	 
	Everything Wavy Merry Merry Christmas	 

Christmas Playlist

14

Mrinalini Singha, our very own alumna, a graduate of NID, Ahmedabad, also having studied at The Royal Academy of Art, The Hague, is on home turf these days, and has kindly agreed to share her views on ethical fact finding and reporting. She is presently working in tandem with Alt News as a Design Researcher. Mrinalini's deep interest in the world of art, has seen her as an awarded film-maker and a sensitive poet. She has to her credit, the award winning, Best Ad Film, The Bribe, screened at the Little Mexico Film Festival and the Urban Mediamaker Festival.



Mrinalini Singha

While at The Royal Academy of Art, The Hague, Mrinalini delved into projecting the great harm that the eco – system and our food chain is suffering, on account of the entry of harmful, plastic packaging. Her graphic effort, 'Plastic Soup', is a campaign on plastic food packaging, where virtual awareness of the issue helps to add new layers of meaning into pre – existing visual information. Re-cycling, as advocated by the MNC's that use single – use plastic is not the answer , and Mrinalini's visuals hit hard at the inadequacy of the practice.

Actively involved in stemming the onslaught of misinformation and false propaganda propagated by several multimedia agencies, Mrinalini is on track, routing out 'half - truths and whole lies.'

The link given below leads to an engaging podcast with Mrinalini, in conversation with Mayunk Shekhar Singh, from, Voice – The Podcast Club.

<https://d3ctxlq1ktw2nl.cloudfront.net/staging/2021-11-22/239034521-44100-2-5cc1245f8a899.m4a>