Google News Initiative

'FactWatch'
23rd July 2019
GNI India Training Network's News Bulletin

Hello there,

Did you know programming language Python is being touted as the future of OSINT or Open Source Intelligence by some analysts? Keen to know how to get started? Worry not! We have you covered on this with an expert's take embedded in this edition of 'FactWatch'. Also included is a sneak peek into a video game being labelled a potential 'misinformation vaccine', top takeaways from the biggest global gathering of fact-checkers and a verification expert's plea to all colleagues to "move from 'publish and pray' to 'publish and act' ".

This month was extra special for us as we were literally "flying high" with verification workshops being organised at the press club in Leh and several other remote areas. Please do remember to check out some inspiring pictures from these sessions shared by our terrific trainers.

Read on and keep crushing fake!

WHAT'S THE BUZZ?

PIB To Set Up Fact-Checking Unit

Following a global trend, the press information bureau announced earlier this month that it will form a fact-checking unit to identify and counter any fake news about the government. Ready for the battle of fact-checks? *(Hindustan Times)*. Also see this country-wise guide to anti-misinformation actions, compiled by *Poynters*.

[Twitter Suspends OSINT Handles For 'Violating Indian Law'](#)

Some of them were restored within 24 hours and trashed claims that they exposed IAF during the Balakot strikes in February. Read on to know the full story. *(The Print)*

[16 Million Indian Instagram Influencer Accounts Fake: Study](#)

India is next only to US (49 million) and Brazil (27 million) when it comes to fake Instagram influencer accounts. *(NDTV)*

[A Misinformation Vaccine?](#)

Browser game Bad News, designed by University of Cambridge researchers, hopes to sensitise individuals against misinformation. *(CNN)*

[Facebook, YouTube Seek To Limit Medical Misinformation](#)

Facebook and Youtube have vowed to take steps to prevent the spread of 'miracle cures' and misleading content relating to health and medicine on their platforms. *(Vox)*

DON'T MISS!

[Is Python The Future Of OSINT?](#)

Python is a robust programming language and there's a lot to learn. That doesn't mean you have to learn everything, says OSINT analyst Jake Creps. *([JakeCreps.com](#))*

[A Taxonomy For Misinformation](#)

Here's why it is important to distinguish between its varied forms. *(Scroll.in)*

[Fake News Is More An Information Literacy Problem: Expert](#)

KalevLeetaru reiterates the need to improve digital literacy to successfully combat misinformation and 'fake news'. *([Forbes.com](#))*

['Fact Checking Doesn't Work The Way You Think It Does'](#)

Fact checkers need to move from 'publish and pray' to 'publish and act', say experts at the FullFact. *(FullFact)*

[Generating Deepfakes Becoming Easier By The Day?](#)

New research demonstrates how a single photo and audio file can be used to generate a singing or talking video portrait. *(The Verge)*

FRIENDS-IN-FACTS: TOOLS AND TIPS

[InstaLoader: Scraping Instagram Metadata](#)

InstaLoader lets you pull hashtags, user stories, feeds, captions, and saved media. This is your foundation when conducting an investigation. *(Jake Creps)*

[The Fact Checker's Guide To Manipulated Video](#)

Glenn Kessler, who has been running *The Washington Post's* fact-checking section since 2011, has built this guide to help you spot video manipulation. *(Washington Post)*

[9 Fact-Checking Lessons From The #GlobalFact6](#)

"Turn fact-checks into videos", "engage the younger generation" and "automate" - top three picks from 40 conversations, discussions and debates featuring 57 speakers from across the globe. *(Poynter)*

[Making The Most Of TweetDeck](#)

Valuable tips on using TweetDeck which allow you to investigate tweet streams with a variety of parameters *(GIJN)*

[Digging Into Facebook](#)

Prominent investigative journalists talk about using Facebook for investigating, finding sources and information. *(The Ground Truth Project)*

NETWORK CHAMPS IN ACTION!!!

NETWORK NEWS

The Hoax Busters

You. All. Are. Heroes. And we can't thank you enough for helping us train many more journalists on the basics of online investigation. This month saw a number of trainings being conducted in cities like Leh, Itanagar, Lucknow, Goa, Shimoga, Kannur and Kochi etc. In all, the Network trained 700+ journalists and journalism students in the last 30 days.

Pro Tips, Only For You!

Thank you for joining us for our last webinar with Eoghan Sweeney where he shared power tips on how you can keep your knowledge and training material updated. For those who couldn't join us, we missed you! But fear not - the video of the webinar is here for you to view at your convenience. And, watch out for another interesting one coming up for you very soon!

REALITY CHECK

Did This Photographer Cry After Dhoni's Dismissal in WC Semis?

This photo collage has been shared hundreds of times in multiple social media posts. *(AFP Factcheck / Tools: Reverse image search after cropping)*

Is This Filthy Flight An AI Plane Carrying Indian Haj Pilgrims?

A video of a dirty aircraft cabin has gone viral on social media with the claim that it is an "Air India flight with Hajis". *(India Today / Tools: Invid + Yandex).*

New Bridge Inaugurated By PM Modi in Gujarat Collapses?

West Bengal Congress's official Twitter handle posted a photograph of a collapsed bridge with this claim. *(AltNews / Tools: Google Maps)*

Twitter Users Foxed By Multiple Accounts Impersonating Mahua Moitra

Among those who followed them include TMC MP Derek O'Brien and journalist Sankarshan Thakur. *(AltNews / Tools: source checking)*

THANKS FOR READING

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