

Bharat Summit expresses concern over fake news

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HYDERABAD: Senior Congress leader and former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Digvijaya Singh expressed concern over the erosion of democratic values due to unchecked disinformation on digital and social media, infringing upon the rights of the people.

Taking part in a panel discussion on the subject "Facts vs Fiction: Countering Disinformation," on the first day of Bharat Summit-2025 organised by the Telangana government in Hyderabad, Singh said tech companies were controlling global narratives and encroaching upon citizens' rights.

"I've been a personal victim of deepfakes and fake news. Words I never said were attributed to me. Hatred is being amplified at the click of a button," he said.

Lok Sabha MP Malu Ravi underlined the urgent need for digital literacy in schools.

"Just as cigarettes carry a health warning, unverified content should come with disclaimers. Disinformation spreads hate and divides society — we must act before it is too late," he said.

Former European Union parliament member Miapetra Kumpula-Natri said, "What is illegal offline, must be illegal online," outlining the EU's policies on digital literacy, media regulation, and public education. She urged young citizens to critically assess where and how their information is sourced.

Member of Labour Party, UK, Matthew William Faulding shared the UK's experience with AI-generated videos and viral misinformation, noting the real-world impact and emotional harm it can cause. "Lies travel faster, and fake news can ruin lives," he said.

Taking part in another panel discussion on "Gender Justice and a Feminist Future," former Union minister Salman Khurs-

hid on Friday advocated for tax incentives to industries that would encourage women in employment and asserted that women should be made part of every sector.

Khurshid questioned the lack of female participation in heavy industries, such as infrastructure development. "Women must be part of every sector. The answer is not just the right laws — but the right mindset — and the right men who stand for this cause," he said.

Another former Union minister MM Pall= Raju highlighted the involvement of women in several policy frameworks like the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act and the Right to Education Act.

Telangana deputy CM Mallu Bhatti Vikramarkav said, "Through this summit, we are also promoting Telangana as an investment destination. The Telangana government's welfare initiatives have been widely discussed."