



Tech geeks uncork hacks to detect fake news, deepfakes

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EXPERTS from the IT and legal community shared their knowledge and expertise in identifying and tackling 'fake news' and AI-generated 'deepfakes' at the awareness camp held on Sunday.

According to organisers, the programme named CHECKIT trained 'Community Champions' in practical fact-checking skills at the day-long camp held at the office of COVA Peace Network, near Chandrayangutta. The training covered various aspects, including understanding cyberspace and how and why fake news is created. It also discussed the types of fake content that are under circulation in the form of text, images, and videos, besides AI-generated deepfakes.

The participants were trained in basic fact-checking tools and image verification techniques. "Problem-solving exercises and hands-on sessions enabled participants to identify common types of fake content, spot edited photos and videos, and understand how AI generates fake news," informed Mazher



Hussain of COVA Peace Network.

He explained that the participants worked in six teams to tackle real-world examples across various domains, including politics, faith, legal issues, social concerns, financial frauds, consumer scams, and medical misinformation. Each team presented their fact-checking strategies, demonstrating their newly acquired skills. "The groups also engaged in action planning for future engagements by setting up alert systems and learning to build support networks and community groups. There was a session

on reporting fake news and strategies for wider propagation. The participants resolved they will henceforth investigate and verify before forwarding any messages," said Mazher Hussain.

G V Rao, president, Telangana Developers Association, the guest of honour, awarded certificates to all the participants. Experts and facilitators included Bharath Guniganti of Factly; Nabeel K Adeni, EnLeap XP Canada; Moinuddin Ali Khan, Advipractic; Taher Hussain Sheeraz, Advocate and Cybercrime Expert; and Mohd Shadab of Momentum AI.

Fake news: COVA trains community volunteers in fact-checking skills

Problem-solving exercises, and hands-on sessions enabled participants to identify fake content, spot edited photos/videos, and understand how AI generates fake news

By [Telangana Today](#)

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Confederation of Voluntary Organizations Peace Network conducting training for community volunteers in practical fact-checking skills.



Hyderabad: To spread awareness on fake news, the Confederation of Voluntary Organizations (COVA) Peace Network on Sunday conducted CHECKIT, a programme to train community volunteers in practical fact-checking skills.

The training covered understanding how and why fake news is created, types of fake content-text, images, videos and AI-generated deepfakes; basic fact-checking tools and image verification techniques.

Problem-solving exercises and hands-on sessions enabled participants to identify common types of fake content, spot edited photos/videos and understand how AI generates fake news.

Participants worked in six teams to tackle real-world examples across various domains including politics, faith, legal issues, social concerns, financial frauds, consumer scams, and medical misinformation.

Experts and facilitators included Bharath Guniganti of Factly, Nabeel K Adeni, EnLeap XP Canada, Moinuddin Ali Khan, Advipract, Taher Hussain Sheeraz, Advocate and Cybercrime Expert and Mohd Shadab of Momentum AI, GV Rao, president, Telangana Developers Association.

COVA organises fact-checking workshop

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Fake news can possibly spark riots, lead to frauds and even cost lives. And checking fake news is not just media practitioners' work but also community volunteers and leaders engaging with society, according to Confederation of Voluntary Associations (COVA) – Peace Network, a national network of associations for communal harmony and development.

Addressing the concern, the network organised a fact-checking skills workshop for its community volunteers.

The one-day training including hands-on sessions was delivered by domain experts and explained the landscape of fake news in the current times, its types and the extent.

In the workshop, community leaders organised into smaller groups learnt handling basic fact-checking tools, image verification techniques and explored solutions.

According to Mazher Hussian, executive director of COVA, the training programme had participants in six teams to understand real-world examples from across domains such politics, faith, legal issues, social concerns, financial frauds, consumer scams and medical misinformation. The team presented their fact-checking strategies and demonstrated the skills they acquired. The groups also engaged in action planning for future engagements by setting up alert systems and for learning to build support networks and community groups.

According to the participants, misinformation flourishes as individuals tend to have a bias towards one ideology and it becomes easy to believe fake news as correct.

The training workshop was led by Bharath Guniganti of Factly, Nabeel K. Adeni of EnLeap XP Canada, Moinuddin Ali Khan of Advipract, cyber crime expert Taher Hussain Sheeraz and Mohd Shadab of Momentum AI.



CHECKIT Techcamp

Practical Fact Checking skills for Community Volunteers A Report

CHECKIT, a Program to train Community Volunteers in practical Fact Checking skills was organised by COVA Peace Network on 19th January 2025 at Hyderabad. The Training covered: understanding today's landscape: how and why fake news is created; types of fake content- text, images, videos

and AI generated deepfakes; basic fact-checking tools and image verification techniques.



Problem solving exercises and Hands On Sessions enabled participants to identify common types of fake content, spot edited photos / videos and understand how AI generates fake news / deep fakes. Participants worked in six teams to tackle real-world examples across various domains including politics, faith, legal issues, social concerns, financial frauds, consumer scams, and medical misinformation. Each team presented their fact-checking strategies, demonstrating their newly acquired skills.

The groups also engaged in Action Planning for future engagements by setting up alert systems and learning to build support networks and community groups. Finally, there was a session on reporting fake news to relevant authorities and strategies for wider propagation.

Giving feedback at the end of Program, participants shared they are inspired by the program and learned about fake news and its decoding in detail. They accepted that it is their duty now to spread their learning with their families and society to prevent them from becoming victims of disinformation, fake news, financial frauds and polarisation of society that could

lead to violence and riots. All agreed that we are biased by our religions and ideologies and tend to accept even fake news as correct and become guilty of spreading it.



They resolved they will henceforth investigate and verify before forwarding any messages. Further, they will use fact-checking tools in personal and professional projects and form or join local fact-checking groups to decode every viral news and create awareness campaigns through workshops and training sessions on how to fact check news on social media and identify the fake news, frauds and deep fakes using Google and other fact check tools. Some offered to develop resources and write articles or blog posts about fake news and its impact. All were unanimous that they will encourage friends and family to verify information before sharing and to be careful while using social media

Experts and facilitators included Bharath Guniganti of Factly; Nabeel K. Adeni, EnLeap XP Canada; Moinuddin Ali Khan, Advipract; Taher Hussain Sheeraz, Advocate and Cybercrime Expert and Mohd Shadab of Momentum AI. Mr. G V Rao, President, Telangana Developers Association, the Guest of Honour appreciated the initiative and awarded certificates to all the participants.

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