Fact Shala tip sheets on news and information literacy

CHECKING WEBSITES

Checking relevant websites can play an important role in debunking misinformation. These websites will help corroborate or debunk the post.

Checklist for verifying websites:

Domain Names: Be wary of domain names that claim to be a credible source but isn't. For example, unusual top-level domain names like "com.co" are usually suspect. For example, abcnews.com.co is a fake website. abcnews.go.com is the correct one.

About Us: This section can reveal more details about the content you are investigating. Does this page sound legit and convincing?

Is it a satire website? – There are times when an entire website is about satire and parody. Do not mistake the contents for misinformation or fake news.
Example: Indian parody news website: **https://thespoofnews.com/**

Spelling Errors: Spelling errors, grammatical mistakes, syntax errors, careless misrepresentation – these are all give-aways that the website you are investigating is not credible. Make sure you are alert.

Assess Content: Is the content constantly driven by one ideology? If yes, content can be driven by propaganda as well.

Remember the **A-B-C-D-E** of checking websites:

Assess the content

Beware of fake website links

Check the About Us page

Differentiate a parody website from a real one

Examine the content for errors