

Answer any **ONE** of the following questions in around **1500** words.

1. *“It took truth about six times as long as falsehood to reach 1500 people”*, Sinan Aral (2018)

Social media undoubtedly is one of the biggest game changers of the internet. It was initially projected as the source of unbiased news and facts. Furthermore, the expectation was that this will provide a useful platform for the common citizens of the world to express their views. Gradually, instead of evolving to be the most trusted source of news and information, social media has become the foster child of fake news and self-righteous propaganda. False news stories were 70 percent more likely to be retweeted than true stories.

Considering this negative side of social media, reflect upon the panacea of fake news vis-à-vis freedom of speech on social media.

2. ‘If you owe the bank a hundred thousand dollars, the bank owns you. If you owe the bank a hundred million dollars, you own the bank.’

This proverb highlights the dangers of corruption, nepotism and cronyism in the banking sector. Corruption in the financial sector can have far-reaching implications. The Global Financial Crisis of 2008 in fact evidences this. In India, corruption in the financial sector has been in the spotlight in recent years. Often guidelines by regulators are flaunted while sanctioning loans. There have been a number of instances of big ticket defaulters who then have a tendency to fly away. Each financial fraud creates ripples in the water which only subside eventually.

Considering that the fight against corruption is socially desirable, offer both your own explanation for wide-spread and never-dying corruption in India and suggestions for how to best tackle this issue.