

Minister highlights consequences of fake news

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“While we stand here and theorise about freedom of speech, we cannot be dismissive about the real-life consequences. People are being witch-hunted, killed, maimed, and lynched due to misinformation,” said Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, highlighting the severe consequences of fake news, including potential societal violence and erosion of public trust, while speaking at the “Journalism @ Digital Crossroads” conclave, held at St. Joseph’s University on Saturday.

Misinformation

Addressing the challenge of misinformation, the Minister called for a nuanced approach that balances truth-seeking with the preservation of free speech in what he termed a ‘post-truth’ political environment.

The event, organised in collaboration with the Editors’ Guild of India (EGI), brought together prominent intellectuals and industry leaders to deliberate on the evolving landscape of media in India. It was also attended by

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Sudhir Krishnaswamy, Vice-Chancellor of the National Law School of India University, who spoke at the event, shed light on the Karnataka government’s Information Disorder Tackling Unit (IDTU).

Fact-checking

“While IDTU does provide fact-checking mechanisms, it is not to be used as the only method,” he said, cautioning against over-reliance on criminal legal mechanisms to address misinformation.

Journalist and author Aakar Patel also addressed the gathering and provided an analysis of the revenue earned Indian media ecosystem over the past decade, highlighting the ongoing challenges of shrinking media spaces and encouraging students to adopt and remember the true purpose guiding journalism.