



# SNS COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Coimbatore-35  
An Autonomous Institution

Accredited by NBA – AICTE and Accredited by NAAC – UGC with 'A+' Grade  
Approved by AICTE, New Delhi & Affiliated to Anna University, Chennai



## DEPARTMENT OF CSE ( IoT, Cyber Security including Blockchain Technology)

### 19SB623 – ETHICAL HACKING AND CYBER LAWS

III YEAR<sub>1</sub>/ VI SEMESTER

#### UNIT 4 – INTERNATIONAL LAW AND JURISDICTION IN CYBERSPACE

TOPIC 2 – *Freedom of Expression and privacy in Cyberspace*

4/16/2025



# ***Speech or Crime? The Thin Line in Cyberspace***

"In a world where every post can reach millions, one journalist's story reveals how fragile freedom of expression can be online.

Welcome to Episode 2: Speech or Crime?"

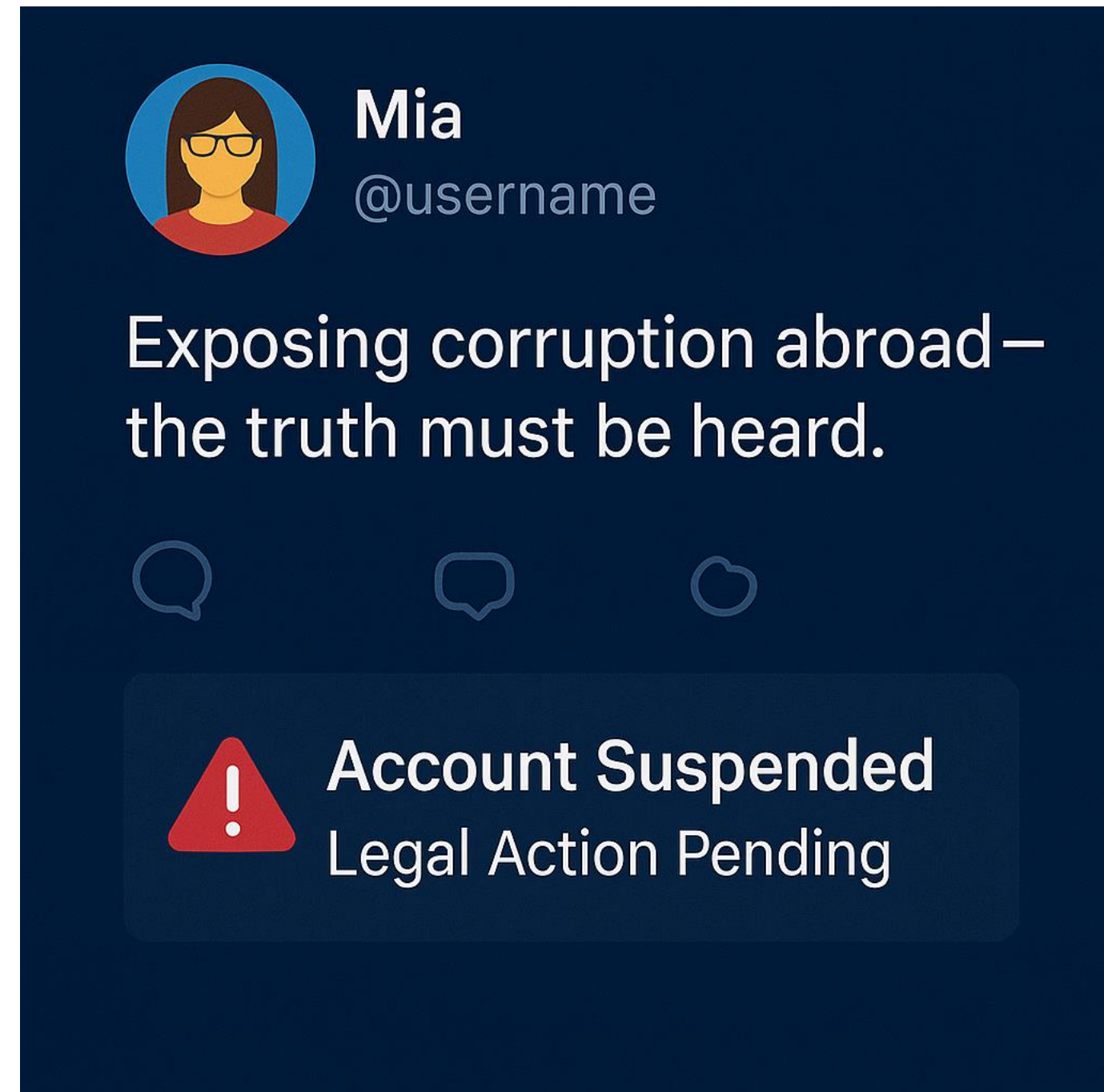




# Introducing Mia's Story

"Meet Mia, a journalist in Germany. After exposing corruption in another country, her post goes viral.

But within hours — account blocked. Legal threats follow. What went wrong?"

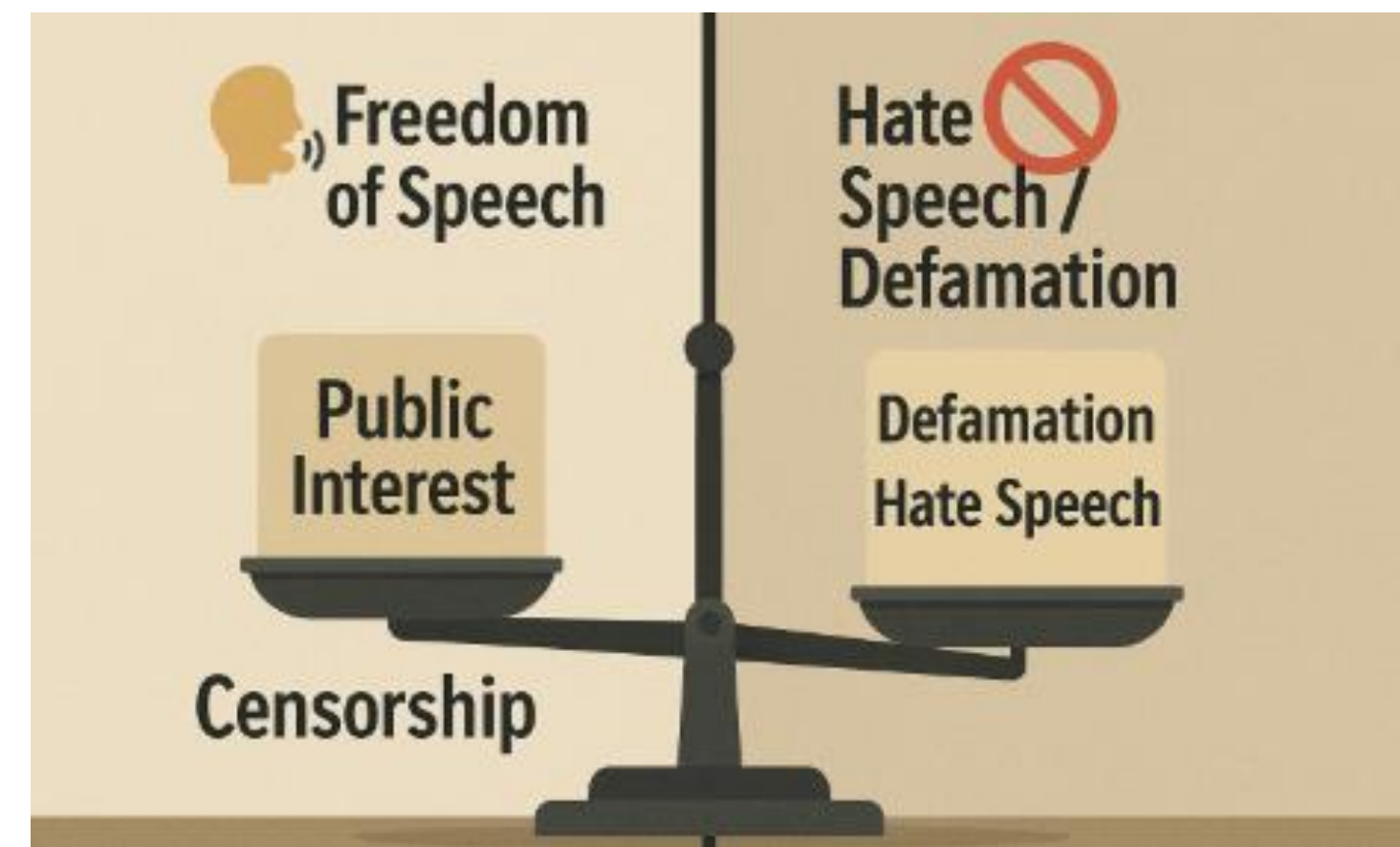




# Where Does Free Speech End?

"Free speech is protected, but it's not absolute. At what point does expressing a view cross into defamation or hate speech? Laws vary — especially online, where borders blur."

"In Europe, many countries criminalize hate speech more strictly than in the U.S. But who decides what's 'harmful'? And are global platforms equipped to make that call?"





# Privacy Laws vs. Platform Power

"Now enter privacy rights. In Europe, the GDPR defends user privacy. In contrast, U.S. laws emphasize speech protection. This creates a clash when platforms operate globally."

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is a European Union (EU) law that governs how personal data is collected, processed, and stored. It's considered the world's strictest privacy and security law.

"Facebook, for example, faced legal fire in the EU for not removing content fast enough — yet was protected in the U.S. under free speech laws."

"Mia's post may be legal in one country, but a violation in another. So who makes the call — local law, platform policy, or both?"





# ***Real-World Cases***

## **Facebook and EU GDPR Fines**

Facebook faced several substantial fines from the European Union under the General Data Protection Regulation (

## **Twitter and EU Digital Services Act**

Twitter was subject to increased scrutiny by the European Union under the Digital Services Act

## **Misinformation Bans vs. Political Expression in India and Brazil**

Courts examined restrictions on alleged misinformation and the impact on political expression in India and Brazil



# Real-World Cases

- Case summaries:
  - o Facebook vs. EU GDPR fines
  - o Twitter under EU's Digital Services Act
  - o Misinformation bans vs. political expression in India and Brazil
  - Meta (formerly Facebook) faced a record €1.2 billion GDPR fine in May 2023 from the Irish Data Protection Commission (DPC) for violating EU data protection rules by transferring Facebook user data to the US without adequate safeguards.

"This tension isn't just theoretical. Real-world cases show how platforms are pressured by governments to censor — or protect — content."

"Facebook was fined for transferring user data overseas. Twitter has resisted government takedown requests. Sometimes, they side with speech. Sometimes, with state power."



# Closing Hook – Who Controls Our Voice?

**“Governments. Platforms. Users. Who decides?”**

"Mia's story is just one thread in a global web of law, tech, and power. Who truly controls what we can say online?"

"Join us in the next episode, where we uncover the hidden world of *platform governance*."





# THANK YOU