

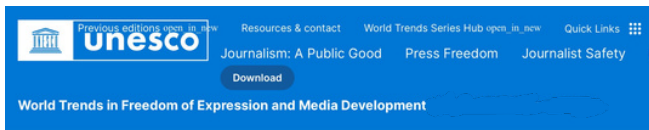


FREEDOM OF SPEECH

Join Us

Journalism in Kashmir in 'state of repression': Media watchdog

International Press Institute says media freedom in India-administered Kashmir is under threat, charge officials deny.



Threats that silence: Trends in the safety of journalists

Despite growing global efforts, journalism remains a dangerous profession. Recent years have highlighted both the vital role that journalists play in maintaining the free flow of information and the great risks (old and new) associated with this task. Worldwide, journalists face harassment, imprisonment, violence, or death—simply for doing their jobs.



James Augustus Hickey

1780 Started



The first Newspaper in India which was seized in 1872 because of outspoken criticism of the government.

The early phase of Nationalist Movement from around 1870 to 1918

Propagation of nationalist ideology and consolidation of public opinion.

Indian National Congress relied solely on the press to propagate its resolutions and proceedings.

The Hindu, Swadesamitran under G. Subramaniya Aiyar.

Voice of India under Dada Bhai Naoroji

Resari and Maharatta under Tilak

Media

The Supreme Court, while lifting a ban on a Malayalam channel, Media one remarked, "Independent press is vital for the robust functioning of the democratic republic press has a duty to speak truth to power. A homogenised view on issues that range from socio-economic polity to political ideologies will present grave dangers to democracy". This small but significant statement reflects the role of the media and the challenges it faces. How do we improve its functioning is an important question.

Last year, Kishor Chand Wangkhem, a journalist from Manipur was arrested under National Security Act, 1980. He was accused of sedition for his Facebook remark over the death of a political leader that "Cow dung and cow urine did not work". However, he was released by The Supreme Court later. This incident reminds us of the British colonial time when Gandhiji was arrested under the sedition charge for writing articles in his weekly journal Young India. What has changed since Independence? Do we have freedom of speech? Why are these rights encroached upon? These questions demand thorough analyses.

After 1857 revolt, 1876-77 Famine and lavish expenditure on the Imperial Delhi Durbar.



Vernacular press Act, 1878 "the gagging Act"



Surendranath Banerjee became the first Indian journalist to be imprisoned.

Benefits



Holding the power
Accountable

Press serves as the
fourth pillar of our
Indian Constitution.

By giving accurate
and diverse information

It empower public to
take informed decision
while voting and holds
the power accountable

Eg: abuse of power



Eg: Romesh Thapper Vs.
State of Madras Case

"Free speech and free
media serve as the fun-
damental bases of all
Democratic Organization"

"WATCH DOG ON POWER"

Media is Bridging Gap b/w
people and power.

She exposed the government
involvement in anti-muslim
riot in Gujarat.

Eg: Justice Venkataraniiah (SCJ)
in IE case said:

Media serve as a public educator
It advance public interest by
publishing facts and opinion.

Eg: uncover corruption.

Following the recommendations of lieutenant governor VK
Saxena, the anti-corruption branch (ACB) of Delhi
government on Wednesday registered a corruption case
against 2009 batch IAS officer Amarnath Talwade for
allegedly pressurising a subordinate officer into collecting
money from retail liquor vendors in the city.

Two Haryana IAS officers arrested for
corruption in two days

According to details provided by the government officials, a middleman was arrested in the case while
accepting the bribe of Rs 3 lakh, allegedly on behalf of Arya. A case in this regard was lodged on
Wednesday, with both the arrested accused to be produced in court on Thursday

Eg: Right to Education Act
1-2 lakh school → pressure to Act
only one teacher



Democratic
Participation

Media helps in encouraging
civic engagement by increasing
voter turn around.

It helps in increasing voter
registration, informing about
polling places and voting procedure.

Eg: Ry govt. uses Media to for
voter Awareness.

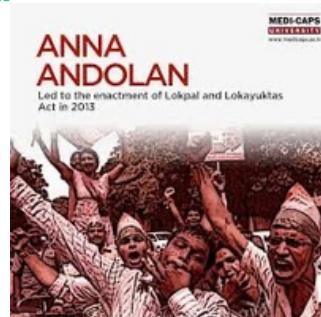
"Karan-Arjun Ayenge"



It also provide platform
for Debate and Discussion.

It also encourage to express
your opinion and engage in
political discussion.

Eg: Anna Hazare Movement.



Miscellaneous

It provide voice to the
people.

Eg: Bombay HC took suo moto
jurisdiction on TH report on
financial & sexual exploitation
of MH's migrant workers

Eg: Manipur Violence

Eg: Jantar Mantar wrestler
Farm protest.

Emboldening fundamental rights
Right to Equality (women)
Freedom of speech.

Educate the Society
Eg: Health issues Corona.
Environmental (Delhi)

Develop tolerance in Society
Spreading multicultural Element
by showing different Cultural Activity.

Challenges



Misuse of laws against media

↓
Attack on Freedom of Press

often in Liberal Democracy power uses indirect ways to curb free voice against them.

Eg: misuse of laws

IT Act 2000, Sedition (A-124A)
NSA 1984, Internet (Sec. 144)
UAPA 2008, Official Secret Act.

Eg: Wangkhem Case - Sedition charge under NSA 1984

Eg: Siddharth Varadhan - Criminal case.

Journalists often face Harassment, Physical Violence, Internet trollings, threat of rape, and murder

Eg: Danish Siddique - Covid/CAA
Nidhi Suresh - Hathras case
P. Sainath - Rural India
Faye D'Souza - (Instagram)

Eg: UNESCO IPI Death Watch Report mentioned that India rank in TOP 4 in crime against journalists.

Eg: Subhash Kumar Mahato
Gauri Lankesh

Vagueness of Constitutional Articles such as Reasonable Restriction

Public Order
Contempt of Court
Defamation

Free voice is curbed
Eg: Jantar Mantar
J&K (S. 144)



Media Trial

Media often influence public opinion in pending cases. It maligns suspects image and pressurize court to work under pressure.

Eg: Sunanda Pushkar case
Shashi Tharoor

Eg: In Nirbhaya case judiciary said Media Trial in pending cases should be avoided.



Media house for want of Sensational News and high TRP rates put peace and Internal Security at risk.

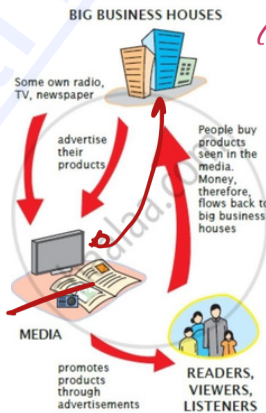
Eg: 26/11 Terrorist attack
Operation Black Tornado

In the absence of objective journalism doctored news and distorted facts use for profit and political favor.

Endangered Democracy

Eg: Cambridge Analytica case

→ Influence voting outcome.



Media houses depend on Big Business Houses to run their Newspapers.

Paid news

Fake news

Yellow Journalism

Impact their Free and fair reporting.

Democratic Angle

Increase Social Division, Hatred, and Violence in the Society.



Solutions



"freedom is the right to tell people what they do not want to hear"

Judicial control through "judicial review"

Eg: In Shreya Singhal case SC struck down section-66A of IT Act

unconstitutional and violating A-19



"The court has kept pushing back at the state to expand our freedom that's why when the light dim, when a reporter is arrested under a law meant for terrorists. when another is arrested for asking a question, when a university teacher is picked up for sharing a cartoon, a college student for a speech or film star for a comment we turn to the North Star for its Guiding light."



Parliament should come up with amendment to remove the vagueness of restrictions.

Eg: In Jantar Mantar or Shaheen Bagh case. They must be provided a proper space to practice their FRs.

Parliament should empower the forth pillar of our country by supporting laws.

Eg: In Ram Manohar Lohia case 1950s, court held that state must establish a imminent connection between speech and violence.



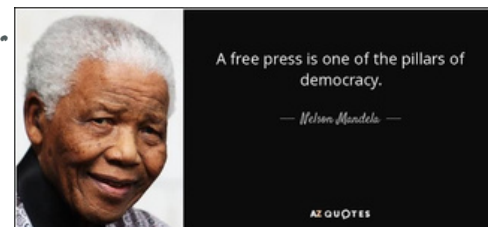
Eg: Should Empower Chief Election Commission by making it a Constitutional body.

Eg: Digital Personal Data Protection Act should be relaxed on Journalists.

Educate people about Democratic literacy so that people choose their representative based on decision not influence.

Empower fact checkers such as The Quint, Altnews, Newslanday etc.

"Code of Ethics"



- Thank you -

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