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Q1 "The press freedom, its intrinsic value, its informational role, its protective role, and its constructive contribution become a bedrock for equitable development". In the light of above statement critically analyse the role of journalism in India in present time.

Ans Media is considered as the 4<sup>th</sup> pillar of democracy. So, as an agent to strengthen the democracy, the press needs to be free, and should follow its informational role, protective role and constructive role in the society. As per Reporters Without Borders' freedom of press report, Indian press is ranked low.

### Freedom of press

- Article -19 (1) (a) of the Indian Constitution provides for the right to freedom of speech and expression which includes the intrinsic right to press.
- To play its role, the press needs to be free from state's control and needs to be free of biasness and subjectivity.

### Informational role

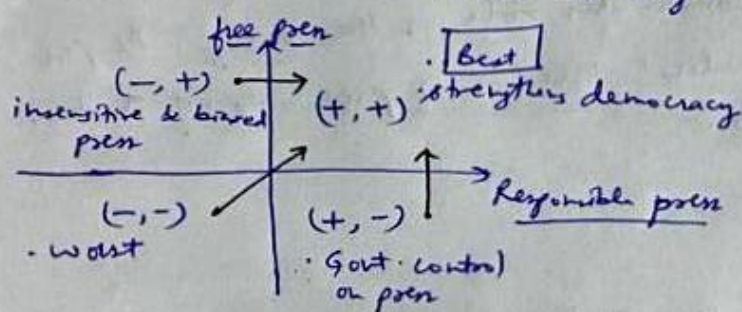
- Press plays an important role to spread awareness about the new schemes and policies of the govt. to the people.
- During disaster management - preparedness, alert, calamities etc.
- Provides the feedback of the schemes and their outcomes to the govt. and existing issues can be brought before govt.

## Protective role

- Raises issues about protection of environment, minorities, tribals and farmers etc. before the govt.

## Constructive role

- Can bring attitudinal change - like for Swachh Bharat Mission, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, etc.
- Can bring issues like patriarchal mindset, objectification of women to debates in the limelight.



## Issues with press

- Poor regulatory mechanism : by Press Council of India.
- Biasedness : towards particular govt., particular section of the society.
- TRP : TRP targetted journalism.
- Insensitive journalism : towards people's suffering, naxalit, sharing policy, sting operation etc.
- Lack of proper grievance redressal mechanisms.

So, in order to make this pillar of democracy, there needs to be change in regulation mechanism so that balance between freedom of press and RTI can be balanced. It is the high time to frame a draft press policy by engaging all stakeholders, so that Indian society becomes empowered & well informed.