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In a democracy free media acts as the anti-corruption watchdog. Comment. (250 words)

Approach

- Give in brief the significance of free media for democracy.
- Analyze (with merits and demerits) its crucial role in the prevention, monitoring and control of corruption.
- Conclude suitably.

Introduction

- A free media acts as a disseminator of information and a channel of communication between people and the government. Its role in the policy process is worth appreciating. Media educates people by providing wealth of information related to socio-cultural and politico-economic aspects of the society.
- In a democracy it has been entrusted with the task of educating the people about rights and creating awareness on various serious issues and problems concerning the society. It helps in bringing the marginalized sections of the society to the mainstream.

Body

Crucial role of media in the prevention, monitoring and control of corruption:

- **Exposes corruption:** Media can inform and educate the public on corruption, expose corruption in government, private sector and civil society organizations and help monitor codes of conduct while policing itself against corruption. Media fights corruption by conducting debates, investigative journalism, RTI, sting operation, Opinion Polls.
- **Transparency and accountability:** With the help of free media information dissemination is possible and transparency in public sector can be achieved
- Investigative reporting by media or reporting of instances of corruption as they occur can be a significant source of information on corruption. Timely action should be taken by the authorities to immediately respond to such reports, to appraise the correct facts, to take steps to bring the culprits to book and to keep the press and the public informed from time to time of the progress of such action.
- A large section of the population is ignorant and backward, it is the free media which disseminates information about corruption to them and their backwardness is removed so

that they become part of the enlightened India.

- Media also tracks and updates on important policies and programmes of the government and critically analyses their impact which is possible only through an independent and neutral media.
- Media is sometimes also called the fourth pillar of democracy as it ensures participation in governance at all levels by acting as a crucial link between the governing and governed.

Media while presenting information to the masses are expected to maintain ethical standards as their way of reporting directly or indirectly affects the lives of the masses. However, there remain some issues with the media ethics which are as follow-

- Sensationalism and trivialization has overtaken **media ethics**.
- Sometimes under pressure of competition does not verify allegations and information before putting them in the public domain.
- Lack of training given to journalists is another cause of concern, because along with a degree, skill also contributes to the personality development of media practitioners.
- Change in media structure and ownership, commercialization of media is among the several factors which has led to decline in ethical standards because unethical practice like paid news is not questioned
- Media's focusing on trivial issues rather than on issues of concern
- Dividing communities and creating misunderstanding among them and engaging itself in obscurantist fetishes like astrology and supernatural rather than propagating rational and scientific thinking.
- There have also been instances of questionable media ethics such as paid news, revealing sensitive information on national security, disclosing personal details of rape victims etc.

Conclusion

- There is a need for media houses to follow Media ethics.
- Thus in the words of Mahatma Gandhi: "The sole aim of journalism should be service. The newspaper press is a great power; but just as an unchained torrent of water submerges the whole countryside and devastates crops, even so an uncontrolled pen serves but to destroy. If the control is from without, it proves more poisonous than want of control. It can be profitable only when exercised from within".

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/** * RECOMMENDED CONFIGURATION VARIABLES: EDIT AND UNCOMMENT THE SECTION BELOW TO INSERT DYNAMIC VALUES FROM YOUR PLATFORM OR CMS. * LEARN WHY DEFINING THESE VARIABLES IS IMPORTANT: https://disqus.com/admin/universalcode/#configuration-variables*/ var disqus_config = function () { this.page.url = https://www.drishtias.com/be-mains-ready-daily-answer-writing-practice-questions/papers/2020/bmr-be-mains-ready-democracy-free-media-acts-as-the-anti-corruption-watchdog/1000/about-us/about-us/general-introduction/print // Replace PAGE_URL with your page's canonical URL variable this.page.identifier = " // Replace PAGE_IDENTIFIER with your page's unique identifier variable }; (function() { // DON'T EDIT BELOW THIS LINE var d = document, s = d.createElement('script'); s.src = 'https://drishti-english.disqus.com/embed.js'; s.setAttribute('data-timestamp', +new Date()); (d.head || d.body).appendChild(s); })(); Please enable JavaScript to view the comments powered by Disqus.
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button').css("display","block").next().slideUp(500); $(this).text(function(i, text){ return text === "Show
Answer" ? "Hide Answer" : "Show Answer"; }); // $(this).css("display","none").next().slideToggle(500);
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watchdog/1000/about-us/about-us/general-introduction/print"; $.ajax({ type: "POST", url:
"https://www.drishtiias.com/articles/progress", data:
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section'); $('#fixbtn.progress').toggleClass('open'); } else if(data=='already') { $('#articlemsg').html('This
article is already exist in your progress section. '); } else if(data=='login') { $('#articlemsg').html('Please
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Please try again'); } }, error: function(error,errorType,errorStatus){ alert(errorType); } }); });
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'+title+'

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' ).insertAfter( ".content .bookm" ); } $('#articlemsg').html('Article has been added in your bookmark
section'); $('#fixbtn.bookmark').toggleClass('open'); } else if(data=='already') { $('#articlemsg').html('This
article is already exist in your bookmark section. '); } else if(data=='login') {
$('#sendtobookmark').addClass('popup'); //$('#articlemsg').html('Please login to send this article into
progress. '); } else { $('#articlemsg').html('Oops! something went wrong, Please try again'); } }, error:
function(error,errorType,errorStatus){ alert(errorType); } }); }); $(document).ready(function(){ //$('#.video-
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screen_width_resize_before){ //Zoom out if(current_location > screen_middle){ box.style.left = (screen_width_resize_after-xx) + 'px'; } else { box.style.left = x + 'px'; } } else { //Zoom in if(current_location > screen_middle){ box.style.left = (screen_width_resize_after-xx) + 'px'; } else { box.style.left = x + 'px'; } } var screen_width_resize_before = screen_width_resize_after; }); document.addEventListener('scroll',(event) => { var box_top=parseInt(box.style.top, 10); var window_height=parseInt(window.innerHeight, 10); if((box_top >= window_height) || (box_top < screen_middle)){ box.style.left = (screen_width-xx) + 'px'; } else { box.style.left = x + 'px'; } box.style.top = (window_height*0.5)+'px'; } }, { passive: true } ); $('float-plus').draggable(); $('float-plus').css("position", "fixed"); $('float-plus').css("z-index", "999"); $('float-plus').click(function(){ show_social_float_icons(); }); var box = document.getElementById('float-plus'); $('float-plus').mousedown(function(){ const body = document.body; box.style.transition = "all 0s ease 0s"; body.style.overflow = "hidden"; body.style.pointerEvents = "auto"; }); $('float-plus').mouseup(function(){ const body = document.body; body.style.overflow = "auto"; body.style.pointerEvents = "auto"; box.style.transition = "all 1s ease 0s"; var screen_width = window.innerWidth; var screen_width = parseInt(screen_width, 10) var current_location = box.style.left; var current_location = parseInt(current_location, 10) var screen_middle = (screen_width/2); var xx = (screen_width*0.04); var x = (screen_width*0.009); if(current_location > screen_middle){ box.style.left = (screen_width-xx) + 'px'; }
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else { box.style.left = x + 'px'; } }); // For MOBILE TOUCH - DRAGGABLE
box.addEventListener('touchstart', function(e) { box.style.transition = "all 0s ease 0s"; });
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(screen_width-xx) + 'px'; } else { box.style.left = x + 'px'; } }); function remove_social_float_icons() {
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window.innerWidth : screen.width; if(width >= 700){ setTimeout(function(){ $(".float-tg" ).show("slow");
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}, 700 ); $(".float-ig").animate({ top: "+=32%", }, 800 ); $(".float-pn").animate({ top: "+=40%", }, 900 );
$(".float-wp").animate({ top: "+=48%", }, 1000 ); if(width >= 700){ $(".float-tg").animate({ top:
"+=56%", }, 1000 ); } sessionStorage.setItem("remove_social_icons", "0"); }
$(document).ready(function(){ var value = sessionStorage.getItem("remove_social_icons"); if(value ==
'1'){ remove_social_float_icons(); } }); // function to close the popup function closePopup() { var modal =
document.getElementById("myModal"); modal.style.display = "none"; } // function to open the popup
function openPopup() { var modal = document.getElementById("myModal"); modal.style.display =
"block"; } // Added the code - If user click on anywhere outside the popup $('body').click(function(e) {
$('#myModal').hide(); }); $('#popclose').on('click',function(e){ $('#myModal').css('display','none'); }); //
automatically open the popup on page load window.onload = openPopup; $(document).ready(function(){
if(screen.width { button.addEventListener('click', btnEvent => { // console.log(button.id); $.ajax({
method: "POST", url: "https://www.drishtiiias.com/search/", data:{ 'id': button.id, 'search': search },
headers: { 'X-CSRF-TOKEN': $(''[name = "_csrfToken"]').val() }, success: function(result){
$('body').html(result); }, error: function(error){ console.log(error) } }) }) $(document).ready(function(){
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$('#loginLink').css('display','none'); $('#registerLink').css('display','none');
$('#makeNoteLoginLink').css('display','inline-block'); $('#makeNoteLink').css('display','none');
$('#makeNoteOptionDiv').css('display','inline-block'); } else { $('#myAccountDiv').css('display','none');
$('#loginLink').css('display','inline-block'); $('#registerLink').css('display','inline-block');
$('#makeNoteLoginLink').css('display','none'); $('#makeNoteLink').css('display','inline-block');
$('#makeNoteOptionDiv').css('display','none'); } }); function getCookie(name) { var match =
document.cookie.match(RegExp("(?:^|\\s*) + name + '='(.*?)")); return match ? match[1] : null; } var
regex = /^[a-zA-Z0-9_+-.]+\@([a-zA-Z0-9-]+\.)+([a-zA-Z0-9]{2,4})+$/; var phonex = /^[0-9 ]+$/;
$('#newsletterfrm').submit(function(e){ var msg=true; var txtname=$('#txtname').val(); var
txtname=$('#txtname').val(); $('#nmsg').html(""); //$('#input-error').remove(); if(txtname.trim()==""){
$('#txtname').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else{ $('#txtname').removeClass('input-error'); }
if(txtname.trim()==""){ $('#txtname').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else
if(!regex.test(txtname)){ $('#txtname').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else{
$('#txtname').removeClass('input-error'); } if(msg){ var form=$('#newsletterfrm').serialize(); $.ajax({
type: "POST", url: "https://www.drishtiiias.com/pages/newsletterfrm", data: form, success: function(data){
if(data=='already'){ $('#nmsg').html('Email address already in use'); }else if(data=='add'){

```

```
$('#nmsg').html('Thank you for subscribing to our newsletter.');
```

```
$('#txtnname').val('');
```

```
$('#txtnemail').val(''); }else{ $('#nmsg').html('Oops! something went wrong, Please try again'); }
```

```
//$('#nloader').hide(); }, error: function(error,errortype,errorstatus){ alert(errortype);
```

```
//$('#nloader').hide(); } }); } e.preventDefault(); }); $('#smsalertfrm').submit(function(e){ var msg=true;
```

```
var txtnmobile=$('#txtnmobile').val(); $('#nmmsg').html('');//$('.input-error').remove();
```

```
if(txtnmobile.trim()==){ $('#txtnmobile').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else
```

```
if(txtnmobile.trim().length!=10){ $('#txtnmobile').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else
```

```
if(!phonex.test(txtnmobile)){ $('#txtnmobile').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else{
```

```
$('#txtnmobile').removeClass('input-error'); } if(msg){ var form=$('#smsalertfrm').serialize();
```

```
//$('#nmloader').show(); $.ajax({ type: "POST", url: "https://www.drishitias.com/pages/smsalertfrm", data:
```

```
form, success: function(data){ if(data=='already'){ $('#nmmsg').html('Phone number already in use');
```

```
}else if(data=='add'){ $('#nmmsg').html('Thank you for subscribing to our SMS Alerts.');
```

```
$('#txtnmobile').val(''); }else{ $('#nmmsg').html('Oops! something went wrong, Please try again'); }
```

```
//$('#nmloader').hide(); }, error: function(error,errortype,errorstatus){ alert(errortype);
```

```
//$('#nmloader').hide(); } }); } e.preventDefault(); }); $('#subscriptionfrm').submit(function(e){ var
```

```
msg=true; var txtnname=$('#name').val(); var txtnemail=$('#emailaddress').val(); var
```

```
txtnmobile=$('#phone').val(); $('#contactmsg').html('');//$('.input-error').remove();
```

```
if(txtnname.trim()==){ $('#name').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else{
```

```
$('#name').removeClass('input-error'); } if(txtnemail.trim()==){ $('#emailaddress').addClass('input-
```

```
error'); msg=false; }else if(!regex.test(txtnemail)){ $('#emailaddress').addClass('input-error');
```

```
msg=false; }else{ $('#emailaddress').removeClass('input-error'); } if(txtnmobile.trim()==){
```

```
$('#phone').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else if(txtnmobile.trim().length!=10){
```

```
$('#phone').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else if(!phonex.test(txtnmobile)){
```

```
$('#phone').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else{ $('#phone').removeClass('input-error');
```

```
}; if($('#dailyupdates').prop("checked") == false && $('#examnewsletter').prop("checked") == false &&
```

```
$('#fullnewsletter').prop("checked") == false && $('#sms').prop("checked") == false) {
```

```
$('#contactmsg').css('display','block'); $('#contactmsg').addClass('error'); $('#contactmsg').html('No
```

```
option selected, please select at least one option.');
```

```
msg=false; } if(msg){ $('.loader').css('display','block');
```

```
var form=$('#subscriptionfrm').serialize(); $.ajax({ type: "POST", url:
```

```
"https://www.drishitias.com/subscription", data: form, success: function(data){
```

```
$('.loader').css('display','none'); if(data=='success'){ $('#contactmsg').css('display','block');
```

```
$('#contactmsg').removeClass('error'); $('#contactmsg').html('Thank you for subscribing to our
```

```
subscription. You will hear from us soon.');
```

```
$('#name').val(''); $('#emailaddress').val(''); $('#phone').val('');
```

```
}else{ $('#contactmsg').css('display','block'); $('#contactmsg').addClass('error');
```

```
$('#contactmsg').html('Oops! something went wrong, Please try again'); } }, error:
```

```
function(error,errortype,errorstatus){ $('.loader').css('display','none'); alert(errortype);
```

```
//$('#nloader').hide(); } }); } e.preventDefault(); }); $('#testseriesfrm').submit(function(e){ var msg=true;
```

```
var txtnname=$('#firstname').val(); var txtnemail=$('#emailaddress').val(); var
```

```
txtnmobile=$('#phonenumber').val(); $('#contactmsg').html('');//$('.input-error').remove();
```

```
if(txtnname.trim()==){ $('#firstname').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else{
```

```
$('#firstname').removeClass('input-error'); } if(txtnemail.trim()==){ $('#emailaddress').addClass('input-
```

```
error'); msg=false; }else if(!regex.test(txtnemail)){ $('#emailaddress').addClass('input-error');
```

```
msg=false; }else{ $('#emailaddress').removeClass('input-error'); } if(txtnmobile.trim()==){
```

```
$('#phonenumber').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else if(txtnmobile.trim().length!=10){
```

```
$('#phonenumber').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else if(!phonex.test(txtnmobile)){
```

```
$('#phonenumber').addClass('input-error'); msg=false; }else{ $('#phonenumber').removeClass('input-
```

```
error');
```

```
}; if(msg){ $('.loader').css('display','block'); var form=$('#testseriesfrm').serialize(); $.ajax({ type:
```

```
"POST", url: "https://www.drishitias.com/test-series-registration", data: form, success: function(data){
```

```
$('.loader').css('display','none'); //alert(data); if(data=='success'){ $('#contactmsg').css('display','block');
```

```
$('#contactmsg').removeClass('error'); $('#contactmsg').html('Thank you for choosing our test series. You
```

```
will get an email and message soon.');
```

```
$('#firstname').val(''); $('#lastname').val('');
```

```
$('#emailaddress').val(''); $('#phonenumber').val(''); }else{ $('#contactmsg').css('display','block');
```

```
$('#contactmsg').addClass('error'); $('#contactmsg').html(data); } }, error:
```

```
function(error,errortype,errorstatus){ $('.loader').css('display','none'); alert(errortype);
```

```
//$('#nloader').hide(); } }); } e.preventDefault(); }); $('#allnotes').click(function(){
```

```
$('.fixbtn.notes').removeClass('open'); $('.fixbtn.mynotes').toggleClass('open');
```

```
}); $('#mynotes,.notelist').on('click','readmore',function(){ var noteid=$(this).attr('data-noteid');
```

```
$('#note_id').val(noteid); $.ajax({ type: "POST", url: "https://www.drishitias.com/articles/setnote", data:
```

```
'note_id='+noteid, success: function(data){ if(data){ tinymce.get("mynote").setContent(data);
```

```
$('#mynotemsg').html(''); $('.fixbtn.notes').toggleClass('open'); }else{ alert('Oops! something went wrong, Please try again'); } }, error: function(error,errortype,errorstatus){ alert(errortype); } }); });  
$('.notelink').click(function(){ $.ajax({ type: "POST", url: "https://www.drishtiias.com/articles/removenote",  
success: function(data){ if(data=='removed'){ $('#note_id').val(''); tinymce.get("mynote").setContent('');  
$('#mynotemsg').html(''); $('.fixbtn.notes').toggleClass('open'); $('.fixbtn.mynotes').removeClass('open');  
}else{ alert('Oops! something went wrong, Please try again'); } }, error:  
function(error,errortype,errorstatus){ alert(errortype); } }); });  
$('.mynotes,.notelist').on('click','removenote',function(e){ if(confirm('Are you sure want to remove  
note?')) { $('.loader').css('display','block'); var noteid=$(this).attr('data-noteid'); $.ajax({ type: "POST", url:  
"https://www.drishtiias.com/articles/deletenote", data: 'note_id='+noteid, success: function(data){  
$('.loader').css('display','none'); if(data=='removed'){ $('#note-list #' +noteid+',.notelist  
#' +noteid).css('display','none'); }else{ alert('Oops! something went wrong, Please try again'); } }, error:  
function(error,errortype,errorstatus){ $('.loader').css('display','none'); alert(errortype); } }); }  
e.preventDefault(); }); $('#commentfile').change(function(){ $('#file-name').text(this.files[0].name); });  
$(document).ready(function(){ $('.list-toggle').click(function(){ $('.list-category').toggleClass('active');  
$(this).toggleClass('active'); $('.value').text(function(i, text){ return text === "Hide Menu" ? "Show Menu"  
: "Hide Menu"; }); }); $('#aside button.close').click(function(){ $('.list-category').toggleClass('active'); $('.list-  
toggle').toggleClass('active'); }); $('.fixbtn .btn').click(function(){ $('.fixbtn  
.btn').not(this).parents('.fixbtn').removeClass('open'); $(this).parents('.fixbtn').toggleClass('open'); });  
$('.fixbtn a.close').click(function(){ $(this).parents('.fixbtn').removeClass('open'); }); $('.note-  
btn').click(function(){ $('.fixbtn.notes').toggleClass('open'); }); $('.viewmore a').click(function(){  
$('.hide').slideToggle('active'); $(this).text(function(i, text){ return text === "View More" ? "View Less" :  
"View More"; }); }); }); $('#learning-program .subheading').click(function(){ $(this).next().slideToggle();  
$(this).toggleClass('open'); }); $(document).ready(function(){ $('#a.register-btn').colorbox(); });  
$('.interview-slider').slick({ autoplay: true, arrows: false, dots: true });  
$('#bookSession').on('click',function(e){ $.ajax({ type: "POST", data: { 'course':  
$('#bookSession').data('course') }, url: "https://www.drishtiias.com/book-online-session", success:  
function(json){ var obj = JSON.parse(json); if (obj.status==200) { alert(obj.message); } else {  
alert(obj.message); window.location.reload(); } }, error: function(error,errortype,errorstatus){  
alert(errortype); } }); e.preventDefault(); }); $('#popup').colorbox({iframe: true, innerWidth: 790,  
innerHeight: 530}); if(screen.width = 500) { $('#scroll-top').addClass("show"); } else { $('#scroll-  
top').removeClass("show"); } }); function showarchive(year,month,day=null){ // alert('be-mains-ready-  
daily-answer-writing-practice-question'); return; var  
url='https://www.drishtiias.com/archives+'+'+year+'-' +month+'-' +day; location=url;  
//alert(url+'/archives/'+year+'/' +month+'/' +dat); }
```

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