

Topic:

Democracy and Press Freedom:  
Rise and Fall Together

### Outline

#### A. Introduction

Democracy and press freedom are interconnected. The rise in freedom of media, strengthens democracy; and the decline in the freedom of press, weakens the democratic values.

#### B. The Rise of Free Press and Democracy Together

1. A free media embodies the principles of freedom of speech within a nation.
  - a. Article 19 of the constitution of Pakistan
2. Accountability in the government policies enhanced due to free press
3. Press freedom in a state ensures transparency, which is required for good governance.
  - a. Panama papers case on Iceland, Prime minister, Sigmundur Davio
4. A free media upholds democratic values by promoting pluralism.
  - a. Role of media in Arab Spring 2011

5. Public participation in politics increased as a result of unbiased media coverage
  - a. 2012 U.S. elections, Obama used social media to engage public
6. A free media plays a significant role in educating the public, which is required for healthy democracy
  - a. 101 East : Al Jazeera show
7. Free press serves as a public watchdog, ensuring the integrity of democracy by monitoring.
8. Free media offers a platform for marginalized groups to raise their voice

### C. The Fall of Free Press and Democracy Together

1. Uncontrolled media can be used to manipulate public opinion, which undermines the democracy within a state
  - a. The Balochistan narrative manipulation in Pakistan through Indian media outlets
2. Crackdowns on journalists can weaken democracy
  - a. Crackdowns on media in India

3. State controlled media weakening democratic values by serving agenda of a party
  - a. State controlled media in Japan is a reason of Japan's 70th position in Freedom of Press Ranking, 2024
4. In the absence of free press political polarization will increase in a country
5. <sup>Civil Liberties</sup> Democratic rights are often eroded in the absence of freedom of press
6. As legal protection of free media undermines, it leads to unchecked government power
7. Terrorist attacks on media persons can damage democracy
  - a. Terrorist attacks on journalist increased by 60% in 2023 : Freedom of Press report

#### D. Conclusion

I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it. These words from Voltaire demonstrates the significance of both democracy and press freedom. In a democratic society, freedom of speech and challenge the authority is not a privilege but it is a fundamental right. Democracy and free media both are interconnected.

When they rise, they enhance accountability, ensure transparency, and promote pluralism.

Similarly, a free media embodies the principles of freedom of speech within a nation.

Unbiased media coverage increase the general public interest and participation in politics.

Moreover, a free media promotes good governance in a society by educating the public. Within a community that values democracy and allows to speak freely;

marginalized groups have a platform to raise their voices for their rights. Furthermore,

a free press ensures integrity of democracy by serving as a public watchdog. However, when either decline, it weakens other, such

as uncontrolled media can be used as a medium to manipulate public opinion,

which undermines the democracy. Similarly State controlled media undermines democratic

values, increase public polarization, and erode civil liberties rights. Without legal protection

of media, democracy cannot thrive. Similarly, terrorism and terrorist attacks on media person can damage healthy democracy. Democracy and freedom of press are interconnected. The rise in freedom of media, strength democracy and the decline in freedom of press, weakens democratic values.

### Conclusion

The rise and fall of democracy and press freedom are depended on each other. A free media is required for good governance. Similarly, a democratic nation cannot survive without the ability to speak freely and question the power. In a society where is a rise of freedom of press and democracy, there is accountability, transparency and promotion of pluralism. A free media <sup>increases</sup> ensures public participations; educated the general public and ensures integrity of democracy. Similarly, democracy and freedom of media fall together such as decline in press freedom increase public political polarization, erode civil rights, and leads to unchecked government powers. To summarize, it is rational to state that a free media is required for ensuring the principles of democracy.