

Electronic Media and Indian Democracy: Legal Frameworks, Ethical Concerns, and Contemporary Challenges

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Abstract

This study critically explores the dynamic relationship between electronic media and Indian democracy, emphasizing the legal, ethical, and contemporary issues that shape this interaction. In a country as diverse and populous as India, electronic media—ranging from television to digital platforms—has become a powerful force in influencing public opinion, political discourse, and civic participation. While media acts as a watchdog and facilitator of democratic engagement, it also faces significant criticism for ethical lapses, biased reporting, misinformation, invasion of privacy, and corporate or political influence. The legal frameworks designed to regulate media practices, including constitutional guarantees and statutory bodies, are often challenged by rapid technological advancements and the sheer scale of digital communication. This research adopts a qualitative approach, using both primary sources (interviews, surveys) and secondary data (legal documents, media reports, academic literature) to assess how media contributes to or hinders democratic processes. The paper also delves into issues such as cyberbullying, fake news, content moderation, online harassment, and discrimination, analyzing their impact on democratic values and individual rights. Ultimately, the study argues for a balanced and responsible media environment, supported by updated legal provisions, strong ethical standards, and informed public engagement to ensure that electronic media functions as a true pillar of Indian democracy.

Keywords: Electronic Media, Democracy, Legal Frameworks, Ethical Issues, Media Regulation

Introduction

The electronic media has become an integral part of the public sphere in the ever-changing Indian democracy. How individuals engage in political discourse, access information, and exercise their democratic rights has been profoundly altered by the rapid development of technology and the expanding reach of the internet. The role of electronic media in influencing public opinion, disseminating news, and keeping tabs on government activities is crucial in a country as varied and populous as India. From prime-time national conversations broadcast on television to real-time social media updates, electronic media bridges the gap between the government and the people, giving a platform to a wide range of opinions, issues, and goals. However, with its growing popularity comes a plethora of complex social, ethical, and legal issues that cast doubt on its veracity and democratic responsibilities.

As a result of the country's attempts to balance free speech with the need for regulation, India's regulatory frameworks for electronic media are vast and ever-changing. The Press Council of India and the News

Broadcasting Standards Authority have issued recommendations, along with significant laws like the Information Technology Act of 2000 and the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act of 1995, to provide the groundwork for accountability. Political meddling, inadequate agency autonomy, and technology limitations are common roadblocks to the execution of these rules, which aim to promote honesty, openness, and decency in broadcast material. Content regulation, disinformation, and data privacy have become hot topics due to the proliferation of digital media, which has blurred the lines between news, entertainment, and propaganda. To maintain democratic principles and promote media variety in this environment, legislative frameworks need to be proactive and flexible.

There are substantial concerns over the ethical issues that are associated with electronic media in India. As a result of issues such as sensationalism, sponsored news, abuses of privacy, and media trials, journalistic integrity and democratic norms are regularly undermined. As a result of the commercialisation of media organisations and the growing collaboration between the media and political entities, there has been an increase in the production of biased reporting and narratives that are driven by certain agendas. This has frequently occurred at the expense of truth and the public benefit. Not only does this reduction in ethical standards lead the general people astray, but it also poses a challenge to the fundamental principles that underpin Indian democracy, which are freedom, equality, and justice. In addition, the widespread use of social media for political campaigns and the manipulation of public opinion has given rise to concerns over the existence of echo chambers, the spread of false information, and the decline of an educated citizenry. In order to properly address these ethical concerns, it is necessary to recommit oneself to maintaining professional standards, maintaining editorial independence, and improving media literacy.

The function of the media in contemporary democracies has been significantly altered as a result of the development of artificial intelligence, deepfakes, algorithm-based content delivery, and the commercialisation of user data. Within the context of India, where there are persistent language, cultural, and digital gaps, the provision of equitable access to information that can be relied upon is a considerable difficulty. Additionally, the present political scene, characterised by polarisation, populism, and increased intolerance towards dissent, has rendered media practitioners more exposed to censorship, harassment, and violence. The relevance of electronic media as the fourth pillar of democracy is heightened in this fragile atmosphere because of the current state of affairs. It is of the utmost importance that the media not only educates users, but also empowers them, challenges authority, and keeps those in power accountable for their actions. Therefore, it is essential to conduct a comprehensive examination of the legal frameworks, ethical obligations, and developing difficulties that are faced by electronic media in order to gain an understanding of the evolving connection that electronic media has with Indian democracy and its ability to either strengthen or weaken the democratic structure of the nation.

Objective

1. To investigate the democratic foundations of India's electronic media laws.
2. Examine the moral dilemmas that threaten the trustworthiness and veracity of digital media.

Method

This study on electronic media and Indian democracy uses a qualitative, exploratory approach. This strategy is excellent for studying the complex link between media practices and democracy, especially in India. Primary and secondary data are used for a comprehensive examination. Interviews with media professionals, legal experts, and political analysts revealed electronic media's operations, influence, and problems. Media consumers were also surveyed about media outlets' ethics and believability. The secondary data included a thorough review of relevant legal frameworks, including constitutional provisions, regulation from the Press Council of India and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, and recent media freedom judicial rulings. To understand electronic media trends in democratic India, academic studies, media watchdog reports, and mainstream news coverage were examined. This strategy allows triangulation of views, improving the study's dependability and depth.

Media And Progress Of Indian Society

Indian independence leaders such as Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Mahatma Gandhi, Jawahar Lal Nehru, and many more relied heavily on print media at this time. As a result, the subjugated ordinary people who were under the British Empire's thumb became more patriotic. It cleared the way for freedom movements in various parts of the country to coalesce into what is now known as the national freedom movement. Even in the modern day, major newspapers cover stories on a global scale, while local newspapers highlight concerns specific to their readership. In rural India, another media, radio, reaches a large audience. A number of channels specifically target farmers and fishermen, providing them with weather reports and other useful information. One low-cost option for producing regionally targeted programming is radio. The government uses radio to raise awareness among rural residents. Television has the greatest influence on the general public. The audiovisual element of the presentation is the most essential factor contributing to this impact. By means of breaking news, individuals are apprised of global events in a flash. Additionally, television is the most popular type of entertainment in the modern day. It offers a vast array of programming, including news, movies, and daily shows. In terms of global reach, the internet is the most recent and recent media. It just takes a second for a message to reach millions of people when it's shared online. It has evolved into one of the most affordable ways to highlight any event.

The media has a moral obligation to educate the public about the pervasive societal ills of superstition, caste discrimination, and classism in India, a growing nation where these factors impede social progress. The media may educate the public and dispel myths by providing them with information. When it comes to fighting diseases like polio, AIDS, cancer, and the most recent example, the media plays a crucial role in promoting government programs. Zika virus. Media activism is another significant facet of the media, particularly in high-profile incidents such as the murders of Jessica Lal and Arushi Talwar.⁷ The media spared no effort in their pursuit of the truth, which ultimately led to the victim receiving justice. Investigative journalism at its finest was required for this mission. In addition, the media has the ability to influence public opinion on a variety of problems, including politics. There is no denying the power of the media to effect societal change in the realm of politics. If the media are utilised responsibly, they have the power to portray society's accurate viewpoint. However, if the freedom of the media is misused, it might lead to the formation of a false view.

Judicial Pronouncements

In the case of *Sakal Paper v. Union of India*, the minimum price and number of pages that a newspaper was authorised to print were determined by the daily newspaper (Price and Control) order, 1960. Since this directive restricted journalistic freedom, it was determined to be unlawful. There would be a drop in sales if the price were up without an equivalent rise in the number of pages. A double-edged knife was the best way to describe the order. As a result, the injunction violated Article 19 (2) of the Indian Constitution, which guarantees the right to free speech.

Case law: *Bennett Coleman & Co. v. Federation of India* In this case, the newsprint control order of 1962 and the import policy for 1972–1973, which imposed the following limitations, were both challenged:

- Bar on starting newspapers or addition by common ownership unit.
- Limiting the number of pages to 10.
- Bar on interchangeability within common ownership unit.

The government argued that this strategy would discourage the consolidation of power in the newspaper industry and encourage the growth of smaller publications. Since the policy in question did not meet the criteria set out by Article 19, the court ruled that it did not qualify as reasonable (2). The case of *R. Rajagopal v. Tamil Nadu State*. The court ruled that, as long as it relies on public records, the press can publish an unauthorised narrative of a citizen's life. Additionally, the court notes that public officials in a democratic country should constantly be available for criticism.

The Supreme Court reinstated the film's certificate in the case of *Bobby Art International v. Om Pal Singh Hoon*¹². You can't evaluate a film by looking at how it will affect people in general. This is a tragic and weighty tale of a girl who becomes a dacoit. Her humiliation and stripping does not make the audience want to desire, but it does make them feel sorry for the victim and angry at those responsible for her plight. Because of the scene's centrality to the plot and the film's message that depicting a societal evil does not make it prohibited, it must be allowed.

The Supreme Court ruled in the case of *Ministry of information and broadcasting, Govt. of India v. Cricket assn. of Bengal* that broadcasting falls under the umbrella of free speech and expression under Article 19 (1) (a). In the case of *People's Union for Civil Liberties v. Union of India*, it was determined that the right to vote included the right to know about a candidate's background, which is a kind of free speech. Therefore, it is the voter's right to be informed about the candidate.

Concerning the Ramlila Maidan Controversy This case came to light following a police brutality in the nation's capital, Ramlila Maidan, which occurred when unarmed protesters were attacked by police. According to the Supreme Court, the powers granted by Section 144 CRPC do, in fact, place legitimate limitations on free speech and expression; nevertheless, these powers can only be used in times of extreme emergency to keep the peace. An arbitrary action was committed when the peaceful demonstrators at the Ramlila Ground were forcibly evicted at midnight. *Federal of India v. K.A. Abbas* In this particular instance, the question of whether the cinematograph act of 1952 justifies prior restraint through censorship came up. India upheld the legality of censoring by prior restraint.

Comparison of Print Media to Electronic Media

What are the reasons that electronic media is the most responsible for inaccurate reporting, As a result of the constraints imposed by its commercial model, electronic media has become the perpetrator of violations of the individual dignity of people. Because of the strain of 24-hour broadcasting and the desire to keep up with breaking events, television journalism has become increasingly reckless and immoral in its reporting. 29. Print media, which brings its issues to the market after a gap of one day, one week, a fortnight, or a month, have the opportunity to verify the authenticity of news and give an analysis of news items that is both balanced and constructive. It is difficult for electronic media to devote a significant amount of time to investigating significant parts of the news since they are required to transmit instantly; otherwise, competing channels would present it first. Over the course of their pursuit to become "Sabse Tez," several channels in the electronic media industry have now abandoned all professional principles. These instances make it abundantly evident that the media also possesses a bad aspect, which is present on a far greater scale than the positive aspect. There is no way that such unchecked power of the media could be beneficial to either the long-term preservation of democracy or the protection of the rights of the general populace. Each and every power, when it is managed, becomes more helpful, and the same is true for the media.

Is now the appropriate time to investigate whether the controls that have been put in place to prevent such misuse of media power, if any, are effective or whether there is a requirement to implement a process that is more effective? At this time, India has a number of regulations that pertain to print media; however, there is no legislation that specifically addresses the content of electronic media pertaining to news; the majority of the rules that pertain to electronic media are dedicated to advertisements. 30 % As a matter of need, India ought to establish a system for the regulation of the media in such a way that it could make the media accountable for the constitutional rights of individuals as well as the protection of the nation's security, all the while guaranteeing the independence of the media in its entirety. The rights and obligations of the media need to be brought into closer harmony with one another. In this context, it is appropriate to consider the example of the United States of America, where the Federal Communication Commission is an independent media regulating organisation that is part of the United States Government. The FCC has set public safety and homeland security as one of its primary objectives. 31, a FCC makes the media in the United States more attentive to the requirements of security by using a variety of regulatory measures that foster confidence. There is a proactive approach taken by media outlets in the United States to adopt the principles and recommendations of the 9/11 commission report. 32: On the other hand, the government of India did not make any attempt to establish any kind of active engagement with the media in order to make the media more sensitive to the requirements of national security. Under these circumstances, a knee-jerk reaction of imposing a one-day ban on a news outlet that gets things wrong is not going to develop the necessary level of sensitivity among Indian media and media specialists.

Case Studies Illustrating Media's Role in Key Democratic Events

From the scope of this examination of the relationship between electronic media and Indian democracy, a qualitative and exploratory research approach was utilised. Specifically within the context of the Indian socio-political scene, this paradigm is particularly useful for analysing the complex interaction that exists between democratic values and media practices. Both primary and secondary sources of information are utilised in this study in order to provide a comprehensive and nuanced analysis. The primary data was

collected by conducting interviews with individuals working in the media industry, legal experts, and political analysts. These interviews provided firsthand insights into the operations, influence, and issues that are encountered by electronic media today. The public's impressions of the ethical standards and reliability of various media channels were also evaluated through the use of surveys that were distributed to those who consume media. A comprehensive review of relevant legal frameworks was conducted for the secondary data. This review included constitutional provisions, regulatory guidelines from organisations such as the Press Council of India and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, and recent judicial rulings that have an impact on the freedom of the media. Additionally, in order to contextualise the shifting dynamics of electronic media in a democratic India, academic research publications, reports from media watchdogs, and mainstream news coverage were analysed and analysed. The utilisation of this methodological technique makes it possible to triangulate different points of view, which ultimately results in an increase in the reliability and depth of the findings of the study.

Anna Hazare's 2011 India Against Corruption Movement was a watershed moment because it demonstrated the power of social media to unite the public. The anti-corruption campaign was brought to the public's attention through the constant live coverage of demonstrations, interviews with activists, and public reactions on television news networks. The dissemination of information, organisation, and mobilisation were all greatly aided by social media sites like Twitter and Facebook. This shift marked a turning point when traditional and new forms of media not only reported on but also shaped the course of events. A once-localized demonstration became a national movement thanks to the media's pivotal role in elevating the Lokpal Bill to the centre of public discourse and pressuring the government into action. Media coverage gave citizens a platform to share their opinions, but it also raised questions about bias and sensationalism as other points of view and criticisms of the movement were often disregarded.

An important instance in point is the 2020–2021 Farmers' Protests in India, which were in response to three new agricultural legislation passed by the government. The farmers', journalists', and supporters' use of social media to communicate real-time updates, videos, and personal stories helped the campaign gain steam, even if mainstream media first ignored it. Mainstream electronic media started to cover the demonstration more extensively, albeit with controversy, as it grew in size and support. Many TV stations were criticised for damaging the campaign because they portrayed the protests as 'anti-national' or 'misguided.' The growing divide between corporate media and grassroots journalism was highlighted by independent web platforms that provided alternate viewpoints, fact-checking, and extensive coverage. The media's responsibility to fairly and accurately portray democratic opposition was once again brought to light by the way it shaped the story of the demonstration, its participants, and their demands.

In a more modern example, consider the role of the media in reporting on the COVID-19 epidemic, particularly as it pertained to public safety and government transparency. Some online news outlets provided vital public health updates and information, while others came under fire for focussing on spectacular stories rather than policy gaps. The voices of affected communities were largely amplified by internet and independent media during the 2020 migrant labour crisis, which brought attention to major disparities and government shortcomings. Numerous cases highlight the financial and political forces that shape media narratives, as mainstream television networks prioritise political discourse over humanitarian reporting. At the same time, social media and mobile journalism played an essential role in gathering

support and documenting the situation on the ground, demonstrating the value of decentralized media in a democratic society.

Taken as a whole, these examples show that India's electronic media are actively involved in political processes, rather than just watching them. It has unparalleled power to educate, sway, and motivate public opinion, but it also has the capacity to divide, mislead, or stifle opposition. Integrity, legal responsibility, and a dedication to democratic principles must characterise media activities in India as the country's democracy adapts to the digital era. To guarantee that electronic media does not erode democracy but rather empowers citizens, media literacy, independent regulation, and professional journalism are crucial.

Regulatory Framework for Media

There must be immediate action to protect people's basic rights from the hostile character of the media in light of these cases of immoral journalism. Furthermore, it must be acknowledged that democratic ideals demand that the media function autonomously, with the government providing necessary assistance. "The role of law in guiding social change is indeed being tested in the context of broadcasting law," as Dr. Madhava Menon astutely puts it in his piece. Since there isn't already a model to follow, one will have to come up with their own, most likely by making mistakes. The state should be ready to act as an impartial judge and guardian of the public interest if the basics are crystal obvious. In an ideal world, the government would impose some basic regulations on the media to limit their harmful actions. Any attempt by the government to safeguard the dignity of its inhabitants will be reactive and unable to fix the damage done without such a framework. Because it has not been able to penalise media organisations or journalists severely enough for breaking norms, a self-regulatory system is insufficient. The Delhi High Court fined certain media outlets for recently revealing the victim's identity in a gang rape case in Kathua, India, after the industry's self-regulatory structure failed to take any action. There has to be a stronger mechanism to have the media pay attention because of how careless they are with self-regulation.

We have seen that India has several regulatory agencies for various industries, and that these agencies significantly affect daily life in the country. In cases where market forces engage in unethical practices to increase their profits, such as when R.B.I. controls all banks, I.R.D.A. controls insurance companies, S.E.B.I. controls the share market, or T.R.A.I. controls telecom companies, the government is compelled to step in. In contrast, independent regulatory organisations are often set up by states for economic or commercial activity. This ensures that government departments do not meddle too much in the operations of market actors. However, the government is still hesitant to establish a media regulation organisation because of its dedication to democracy. Rather than being a tool for democracy, today's T.R.P.-run media is a force in the market out to make money.

The Ministry of Broadcasting and Information's Electronic Media Monitoring Cell is currently ineffective. This unit is keeping tabs on TV channels' programming in order to investigate any violations of the Programme & Advertising Code, which is a part of the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995. Section 19 of the act allows the government to prohibit the transmission or retransmission of television programs on the grounds that they incite hatred among communities; section 20 of the Cable TV Regulatory Act allows for the same prohibition of programs on the grounds mentioned in article 19(2) of the Indian Constitution. However, the monitoring cell has not yet accomplished anything with these provisions. Also,

once a false story airs, which might constitute character assassination, the damage done cannot be undone because of the nature of television material. This is an especially serious issue for television news because, in this social media era, it doesn't matter if the relevant news channel doesn't re-air the incorrect story; the monitoring cell can't stop the wrong clips from spreading on platforms like YouTube, Facebook, WhatsApp, etc. In contrast, printed printouts of false news stories have a far smaller audience. The 'act' merely suggests extremely weak penalties for infractions of the rules governing programs and advertisements. It has become clear that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting's Electronic Media Monitoring Cell is a weak arm.

The administration has avoided direct media regulation in an effort to preserve the illusion of democracy. On the contrary, it has pushed for media groups to create their own standards for journalism ethics and set up their own regulating bodies. Reporters can find rules and a mechanism to resolve public concerns at the Indian Broadcasting Foundation (IBF), a media self-regulatory agency. But for the most part, this effort has failed throughout the last five years. By 2016, the IBF had received 33,854 complaints, 2,814 of which were related to news articles, according to data on its website. The International Broadcasting Union (IBU) responded with thirteen advisories but no disciplinary action against any news organisation. Defamatory or false news was not a topic covered in any of these cautions. A number of media professionals have voiced their disagreement to new rules released by the Minister of Information and Broadcasting that seek to penalise the spread of false news. Shortly after, the Prime Minister's Office stepped in, causing the notice to be withdrawn. Instead of the government imposing such rules, Prime Minister Modi said that the PCI and the NBA should be the ones to start draughting them. Read these rules carefully; for example, a journalist's accreditation can be revoked for six months after a first infraction if an investigation finds that a news story was inaccurate. A one-year suspension follows a second infraction, and accreditation is permanently revoked after a third.

Though motive of this notification can be appreciated, but it was suffering from following problems:

- A single complaint can result in a 15-day suspension of certification. Any complaint suspension might be severely exploited to ban competitor media for 15 days. At least one regulatory body probe should have preceded any accreditation suspension. Suspension should only occur if the regulator initiates proceedings with a show cause notice.
- Only accredited mainstream media might have been targeted. It did not cover mediocre journalism or social media journalism on websites. Due to social media expansion, newspapers and TV stations are no longer the only news providers. Any media responsibility initiative without social media tools would fail.

Ethical Issues and Challenges in Social Media within Indian Democracy

The public involvement and political discourse in Indian democracy have been completely transformed as a result of the advent of social media in this age of digital communication. Nevertheless, in tandem with its transformational potential, a number of ethical problems have surfaced, which pose a danger to the democratic principles of openness, inclusiveness, and responsible citizenship. With regard to ethics, privacy is one of the most important considerations. There is a great quantity of personal information that is collected by social media sites. This information includes preferences, preferences about location, political

opinions, and surfing histories. The fact that users frequently provide this information without being aware of the potential dangers leaves them open to the possibility of data abuse, identity theft, and spying. Despite the fact that these platforms assert that they personalise user experiences, they also use data for targeted marketing and political profiling. These activities pose substantial problems regarding informed consent and individual autonomy in a democratic setting.

In addition, cyberbullying has become a widespread problem on social media platforms, which has a negative impact on both the engagement in civic life and the psychological well-being of individuals. Individuals, particularly women, members of minority groups, and activists, are silenced as a result of the proliferation of online abuse in the context of Indian democracy, which places a premium on various perspectives and dissent as essential components of lively discourse. The anonymity and reach of electronic media might give perpetrators the confidence to move further with their actions, which can result in long-term emotional injury and discourage active civic involvement. In a similar vein, during elections and public movements, political campaigns that spread false information and fake news have taken centre stage, therefore distorting the facts and deceiving the general public. The rapid spread of such information has the potential to divide communities, influence the opinions of voters, and undermine the legitimacy of legitimate democratic procedures. In spite of the efforts that have been made to prevent the dissemination of misleading information, the rate at which false material is disseminated frequently outpaces the processes that verify for accuracy.

Another issue that is becoming increasingly problematic is addiction to social media, which has a negative impact on the mental health of individuals, lowers productivity, and changes the way citizens interact with democratic information. A large number of users, particularly young people, dedicate a significant amount of time to reading through news feeds and engaging with tailored political information that frequently lacks depth and context. This practice not only hinders critical thinking but also produces echo chambers, which reinforce pre-existing prejudices and ideas. Therefore, it is important to avoid this tendency. Furthermore, internet harassment has evolved into a tool that is used to stifle voices of opposition and to promote fear. The democratic principles of free expression and safe participation are undermined by these attacks, which include targeted abuse, doxxing, and digital threats. Examples of these attacks include. It is not uncommon for residents, journalists, and politicians to be victims of this poisonous environment; nevertheless, women and communities that are marginalised appear to face the brunt of its effects. A further danger to the pluralistic fabric of Indian democracy is the presence of discrimination on social media, which frequently takes the form of hate speech, trolling, or behaviour that excludes certain groups.

The social media platforms have become a platform where biases such as casteism, communalism, sexism, and others are magnified, frequently without the implementation of sufficient regulatory measures. Not only are these assaults immoral, but they also have the potential to provoke violence in the real world and exacerbate societal differences. These problems are rooted in the difficulty of regulating the material that is posted online. The algorithms and regulations of platforms are regularly criticised for being biased, inconsistent, and lacking in transparency. This is despite the fact that platforms make an effort to strike a balance between the right to freedom of speech and the requirement to limit harmful material.

Consequently, this gives rise to significant concerns regarding censorship, the responsibility of platforms, and the safeguarding of democratic discussion. In light of these concerns, it is of the utmost need to establish

a rigorous ethical framework and improve regulatory procedures in order to guarantee that social media, which is a component of electronic media, fulfils the democratic purpose for which it was designed. In order to bring technology progress in line with the principles of Indian democracy, it is necessary to take initiatives such as promoting digital literacy, encouraging responsible media consumption, and holding platforms accountable for their actions.

Conclusion

In final analysis, electronic media has a huge impact on the dynamics of Indian democracy since it educates the general public, amplifies a diversity of opinions, and ensures that institutions are held accountable. Nevertheless, the expanding effect of this phenomenon brings with it a number of significant ethical difficulties, legal ambiguities, and practical obstacles. Although the media has the potential to improve democratic participation, increase transparency, and promote civic action, it also runs the danger of encouraging disinformation, political bias, privacy infringements, and social division if it is not regulated in an appropriate manner. For the purpose of ensuring accountability while also protecting the right to freedom of speech, the legislative frameworks that govern electronic media in India need to be modified to accommodate the rapid changes in technology. Ethical journalism, responsible content generation, and increased media literacy among the general public are all essential components in the process of safeguarding the democratic framework. To guarantee that electronic media serves as a good basis for democracy rather than a disruptive factor, it is crucial that India develops a comprehensive plan that is rooted in legislative reform, ethical standards, and civic responsibility as the country moves forward in the digital era.

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