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Q7

Biased media is a real threat to Indian democracy.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2019 · Essay · 125 marks · Philosophical and ethical quotes

Philosophical and ethical quotes

Core demand of the question

- **Stake:** a media that has already chosen a side can unmake the common facts a democracy needs
- **One stand:** bias is not the same as a point of view; the threat is when the citizen cannot check
- Move through ownership, election, rumour, regulator. Keep one honest counter
- Close on a literate public and a boring press, not a ban

Revision summary

Not a full essay - a map.

- **Open with a ticker that convicts. Stand:** shared facts, or no democracy.
- **Headings:** ownership, election, rumour, regulator, counter.

Peg **Art. 19** / PCI. Close on literacy, not a ban.

Note

This is a map, not the full 1,000-1,200 word essay.

Anecdote

A channel runs a ticker that has already convicted a man. The court has not sat. Shares in the story rise. The republic's shared floor - 'what happened' - thins. The topic is that threat: biased media, Indian democracy.

One stand

Democracy needs disagreement. It dies when there is no shared fact-layer. Write against both 'all media is fake' and 'my channel is the nation'.

Heading map**What the line is asking**

- **Biased:** owner, advertiser, party, a TRP incentive, a caste comfort.
- **Threat:** not a rude editorial - a public that cannot reconstruct an event.
- **Democracy:** vote, a protest, a court, a census of reality.

Ownership / market

- Paid news, a merger, a government ad as a leash.

Election

- A **model code** that is slower than a prime-time hour.

- Deepfake as the new bias.

Rumour

- A riot that starts on a phone. The old newspaper at least had a next-day correction.

Regulator / citizen

- PCI, IT rules, a fact-check that is itself partisan.
- **The citizen's slow read:** the only last regulator.

The counter

A completely 'neutral' press is a myth. Advocacy for the margin is not the same as a lie. Censorship in the name of fighting bias is a second threat. **Art. 19** is the room; defamation and a riot law are the walls - use them, do not burn the room.

Last paragraph

- **Close:** keep a second source, and a court. Expand - this is only the map.

Facts & figures

Ambedkar

Constitutional morality needs a public that can hear more than one drum.

Art. 19(1)(a)

Speech - including a press that must still be checkable.

PCI / I&B ads

Self-regulation and the leash of government advertising.

Model Code

Elections as a stress test of bias.

IT / deepfake

Speed as a new dye on the fact.

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