International Journal of Academic Research
P-ISSN: 2348-7666: Impact Factor: 7.215
Homepage: https://www.ijar.org.in/
Volume-13, Issue-3(2), Jul-Sep-2026
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THE ROLE OF THE MEDIA AND CIVIL SOCIETY IN DEMOCRACY @ 2047

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Abstract
As India approaches the centenary of its Independence in 2047, the strengthening of democracy will depend significantly on the vitality of the media and civil society. Media serves as the fourth pillar of democracy by informing citizens, promoting transparency, exposing corruption, and facilitating informed public debate. In the digital era, however, it also faces challenges such as misinformation, political polarization, corporate influence, and the ethical use of artificial intelligence. Simultaneously, civil society organizations act as vital intermediaries between the state and citizens, advocating for human rights, social justice, environmental sustainability, and participatory governance. A resilient democracy by 2047 requires independent journalism, media literacy, digital accountability, and an empowered civil society that encourages inclusive citizen engagement. Collaborative efforts among government, media institutions, educational organizations, and community groups are essential for safeguarding constitutional values and democratic freedoms. This paper examines the evolving relationship between media and civil society and argues that their combined role is indispensable in building a transparent, accountable, and people-centric democracy aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.
Keywords: Democracy @ 2047, Media, Civil Society, Participatory Governance, Media Literacy, Transparency, Accountability, Digital Democracy, Constitutional Values, Viksit Bharat 2047.

Introduction:
Democracy is basically a system of government in which power ultimately resides with the people, exercised either directly or through freely chosen representatives. To function the Democracy effectively and remain healthy, two institutions outside the formal structures of the state plays an indispensable role.
Those two institutions are:
Media
Civil society
The Media as the "Fourth Estate"
The media which includes traditional journalism like newspapers, television, radio and modern digital platforms-is often described as the "fourth estate"
By scrutinizing those in power and giving voice to whistle-blowers, the media controls authoritarian tendencies and helps prevent the concentration of unaccountable power. .But nowadays in India media became a big propaganda tool in the hands of the people who are in power. They are not reflecting the true problems of India. Big media houses in India is owned by big corporate companies. Hence, they are working for the wel-being of their corporate companies. No Independent Journalism is there in India this should be changed. Otherwise, we cannot reach the goal of Vikasit Bharath by 2047 Civil Society is a Life-line of Democracy. Active Participation of civil society safeguards the interests of the marginalized or minority groups that may be underrepresented in formal politics.
Civil society can participate
Through protests, litigation, monitoring missions, and public campaigns, civil society organizations hold governments accountable between elections.
A vibrant democracy requires both a free and plural media that informs and scrutinizes, and a robust civil society.
In turn civil society transform passive citizens into active participants, prevent the monopolization of power, and sustain the open, contested public sphere that democracy needs to survive and flourish.
By 2047, when India completes 100 years of Independence and aims to be a fully Developed Nation (Viksit Bharat), the media and civil society will have to play dramatically upgraded, responsible and technology-enabled roles. Their core objectives will evolve from the current "watchdog" model to becoming strategic enablers of democratic maturity, national cohesion and global soft power.

Media and Civil Society Role in Democracy @2047

The media and Civil Society plays an indispensable role in a mature democratic system. Democracy cannot truly flourish without a free, vibrant, and responsible press. With its "thousand eyes," the media safeguards civil society by exposing wrongdoing, holding power to account, amplifying diverse voices, and enabling informed public discourse—thereby helping rectify errors and strengthen democratic institutions.

Media

Protector of Truth in the Era of AI Deception

Develop and enforce real-time fact-checking ecosystems using blockchain-verified sources and AI watermarking.
Zero tolerance for disinformation that can trigger communal or caste violence or undermine national s

Voice of Vikasit Bharat

Shift from negativity bias to 60–70 % solution-oriented, constructive journalism that tracks India's progress toward SDG-plus targets, space missions, semiconductor self-reliance, green energy leadership, etc.
Make every citizen proud and aware of India's civilizational and modern achievements. Fourth Pillar as "Fourth Branch" of Inclusive Governance.
Act as a two-way bridge between citizens and government through town-hall formats, AR/VR-enabled public consultations and regional-language hyperlocal platforms.
Institutionalize "Right to Correction" and "Right to Public Interest Data Access" for journalists.

Guardian of Unity in Diversity

Celebrate India's diversity but consciously counter narratives that promote separatism, casteism or linguistic chauvinism.
Mainstream voices from NE states, tribal areas, and newly prosperous rural I

Conscience of the Rising South

Position Indian media as the authentic, democratic counter-narrative to Western and Chinese state media by 2047. Launch multilingual global platforms.

Civil Society

From Protest to Partnership

Transition from protest-based activism to large-scale implementation partnerships with government (example: Swachh Bharat-scale movements led by NGOs for water conservation, mental health, skilling 500 million people).

Custodian of Ek Bharat – Samras aur Samriddh

Run massive intergenerational and interfaith dialogues to dissolve historical grievances and prevent new identity-based fault lines.
Lead deradicalization and rehabilitation programmes using behavioural science and community ownership.

Champion of End-to-End Answerability

Use AI-enabled citizen report cards, drone-verified monitoring and blockchain-based fund tracking to ensure zero leakage in public schemes reaching the poorest.
Replace donor-driven agendas with Bharat-first, community-funded models.

Womb of Viksit Bharat's Next Generation

Reform school and college curricula in partnership with government to teach constitutional values, critical thinking, financial literacy and civilizational pride from age 6-18.
Make every Indian graduate "democracy-literate" by 2047.

Seva Soft-Power

Indian civil society organisations become the world's largest responders in climate adaptation, disaster relief and democratic capacity-building for smaller nations (replicating Iskcon/Akshaya Patra/Art of Living models globally).
Combined Strategic Goal for Media + Civil Society by 2047
Create a "High-Trust Democracy" where:
India eliminates hunger, extreme poverty and preventable disease
No citizen feels alienated on grounds of caste, religion, language, region or gender
India is seen globally as the most vibrant, self-correcting and futuristic democracy
In short: By 2047, media and civil society must graduate from being critics and watchdogs to becoming architects and conscience-keepers of a $30–40 trillion civilizational democracy that delivers justice, opportunity and pride to 1.6–1.7 billion Indians and inspires the world.1.8sFastAsk anything.

Conclusion:

By 2047, when India completes a century of independence and aspires to be a fully developed Viksit Bharat, a vibrant, plural, accountable, and digitally resilient media ecosystem together with a strong, autonomous, and inclusive civil society will remain the twin pillars that protect and deepen Indian democracy. Their roles will not just be important—they will be non-negotiable guarantors of the constitutional promise of liberty, equality, justice, and fraternity.

In 2047, the media must evolve into a truly "fourth estate-plus"—not merely reporting truth but actively defending it against disinformation, algorithmic manipulation, corporate capture, and state overreach. A free, diverse, and professionally ethical media (traditional, digital, regional-language, and community-owned) will be the primary safeguard against authoritarian drift, majoritarian populism, and erosion of institutional autonomy. It will hold every branch of the state (executive, legislature, judiciary, and increasingly the invisible "fourth branch" of regulatory bodies and tech platforms) to account. Fact-checking networks, public-funded but editorially independent media, and strong implementation of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act and Broadcast Bill (with safeguards against government control) will be critical.

Civil society in 2047 must remain the conscience and immune system of democracy—the space where marginalised voices (Dalits, Adivasis, religious minorities, LGBTQ+ citizens, disabled persons, climate refugees, gig workers) are amplified and defended when formal institutions fail. NGOs, trade unions, student bodies, resident welfare associations, farmer collectives, and new forms of digital citizen movements will continue to act as early-warning systems against rights violations, environmental destruction, corruption, and social injustice. A healthy democracy @2047 will be judged not by GDP alone but by whether a rural woman in Bastar or a trans person in small-town Uttar Pradesh can still form an organisation, speak truth to power, and access justice without fear of sedition laws, FCRA cancellations, or bulldozers.

The synergy between media and civil society will be the ultimate check on concentrated power—whether it resides in Lutyens' Delhi, Gandhinagar, or Silicon Valley. When they are free, diverse, and fearless, democracy thrives; when they are co-opted, intimidated, or fragmented, democracy slides into elected autocracy or oligarchy.

Therefore, the success of Viksit Bharat @2047 will ultimately depend on one non-negotiable condition:

India must remain a country where a journalist can question the Prime Minister without losing her job or liberty, and where a citizen can protest on the street or online without being branded anti-national.

Only then will India be not just a developed nation, but a truly democratic one.

The media and civil society are not optional ornaments of democracy—they are its oxygen. By 2047, India must ensure that this oxygen remains pure, plentiful, and freely available to every citizen.

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