



**KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY**  
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# India – a part of wider trend of eroding press freedom : report

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## Context

- Indian media “has been shackled and subjected to a systemic strategy to cripple it”, according to the **23rd Annual South Asia Press Freedom Report 2024-25**.
- The **report**, titled “**Frontline Democracy: Media and Political Churn**”, flags several concerning trends, including a “**growing trust deficit in media outlets**”, “**choking of independent websites**” and the extreme precarity of gig workers who are also having to contend with the challenges posed by Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- The report reviews the state of press freedom in **India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Maldives**.
- In a section titled “India: Propaganda and the Press”, the report flagged the **proliferation of hate speech and disinformation with the “IT cells” of political parties** playing a big role

## World Press Freedom Index

- India ranks **151 out of 180 countries in 2025** World Press Freedom Index.
- India’s position has **improved marginally** from the 159th rank in 2024 and 161st spot in 2023. However, it remains in the “**very serious**” category,
- The country is ranked below its neighbours Nepal (90th), the Maldives (104th), Sri Lanka (139th) and Bangladesh (149th).
- **Top Performers: Norway (1st), Estonia (2nd) and the Netherlands (3rd)**.
- This is compiled by **Reporters Without Borders** annually assessing the ability of journalists to work and report freely and independently.

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