

TILAK MAHARASHTRA VIDYAPEETH, PUNE
BACHELOR OF LAWS (LL.B.) (Three Years Semester Pattern)/
B.A. LL.B. (ACADEMIC LAW)
(FIVE YEARS SEMESTER PATTERN) CREDIT SYSTEM
EXAMINATION : MAY - 2025
SECOND/SIXTH SEMESTER
Sub.: Media & Law (LW-206/6006)

Date : 20/05/2025	Total Marks : 60	Time: 10.00 am to 12.30 pm
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Instructions: 1) All questions are compulsory.
2) Figure indicate to the right full marks.

Q. 1. Answer the following question. (15)

A) Critically Explain Rights of Media under Indian Constitution. Substantiate your answer with appropriate case laws.

OR

B) What are the Historical Foundations of Media Laws in India (Pre- Independence and Post Independence). State the exhaustive list of Acts.

Q. 2. Answer the following question. (15)

A) What is trial by media, and what concerns are raised about it in the context of fair trials?

OR

B) What is the Press Council of India Act, 1978? Discuss its functions and importance in media regulation.

Q. 3. Write Short Notes. (any four) (20)

- a) Vernacular Press Act 1878
- b) Development Media Theory
- c) Function of Media
- d) Sting Operation
- e) Role of Media in Electoral Process
- f) Right to Advertise

Q. 4. Answer the following questions. (10)

A) "Radio and television are subject to the law of defamation and Obscenity" – Comment with special reference to Case Laws.

OR

B) A high-profile criminal case has captured the public's attention: a popular Bollywood actor is accused of being involved in a major drug trafficking ring. The media, particularly TV news channels and social media platforms, are continuously broadcasting updates, often speculating about the actor's guilt without concrete evidence. The trial has not yet begun, and the actor has not been formally convicted. News outlets are showing dramatic re-enactments, airing private details about the actor's life, and conducting interviews with individuals who claim to have knowledge of the case. Due to this intense media coverage, public opinion is largely swayed, and many people already believe the actor is guilty, even though the legal process has not yet determined the truth. The court faces mounting pressure to speed up the trial, as public outrage grows. The defense team claims that the media's coverage is interfering with the trial, and the actor's right to a fair hearing is being jeopardized.

In this situation, as a legal expert, what steps would you take to address the issue of trial by media? How would you balance the right to free speech and the need for a fair trial?