



# Defining media and freedom of speech (Demystifying the Media)



- You cannot **NOT** communicate.
- In fact, we all and everything including nature around us are media.
- From body and dress to traffic signal and graffiti, buildings/architecture to green/barren hills, everything communicates a message.

## Defining media and freedom of speech (Demystifying the Media)

- Media are powerful is a myth.
- **Media just mirror the balance of forces.**
- It is not media that wield power. It is power that wields media.



# THREE DIMENSIONS OF POWER

Power crudely means when A makes B accept their command  
(one dimensional power).

B may resist A yet A prevails, because A has more means of power  
(two dimensional power).

B happily accepts whatever A says. This is maximum power: Mind control.  
(third dimension).

**Media are used by power in control of society to influence the mind of masses.**



- Understanding power(s) that controls media is to understand ‘political economy’ of media.
- Political economy: command and control of media (media owners, state, advertisers, pressure groups, social media trolls, etc).
- To critically understand media one must analyse political economy of media and power structure.
- Balance of forces means: whatever hate group has more power (resources, force, money, ideological followers) or the progressive forces.

## Defining media and freedom of speech (Demystifying the Media)

- Freedom of expression should be absolute. No ifs, no buts.
- However: Preaching hate, spreading falsehoods/half-truths or incitement to violence against an individual or a group is not freedom of expression.
- **'Freedom of speech is freedom of those who think differently'.**