



Defending Rights of Journalists &  
Freedom of Expression in South Asia



October 2022

Welcome to the IFJ's monthly media bulletin for South Asia's Media Solidarity Network (SAMS)

## Featured Action

**Nepal:** The Federation of Nepali Journalists (FNJ) organised a leadership training session in Biratnagar on September 24. The training, supported by the IFJ and Fredrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) involved thirty-five young journalists and was facilitated by media expert and former FNJ chair Dr Suresh Prasad Acharya.

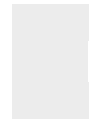
**Maldives:** On September 29, the Maldives Journalists Association (MJA) held several programs to mark International Day for Universal Access to Information, to promote government transparency and accountability. MJA General Secretary Naif Ahmed participated in a panel discussion organised by the office of the Maldivian Information Commissioner. Ahmed stressed the importance of the voluntary disclosure of information through the government's e-portal.

**Bhutan:** On October 4, the Journalists Association of Bhutan (JAB) conducted a discussion with rural women, aiming to bring marginalised perspectives into the mainstream media landscape. The exercise was conducted in four rural areas of Bhutan, with OxMedia journalists Nidup Gyeltshen and Tshering Dorji talking to the participants about the value of their voices in media and the importance of media

literacy.

**Pakistan:** On September 30, a joint PFUJ and Center for Democracy and Climate Studies (CDCS) seminar in Punjab highlighted the importance of the PFUJ in ensuring press freedom is respected, new media laws are conducive to better working conditions for media workers, and that disinformation and fake news are challenged in journalistic practice.

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A joint PFUJ and Center for Democracy and Climate Studies (CDCS) seminar in Punjab takes place on On September 30. Credit: PFUJ