



सत्यमेव जयते

भारतीय प्रेस परिषद
PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA



37th Annual Report

April 1, 2015 - March 31, 2016

PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA, NEW DELHI

PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA

Annual Report
(April 1, 2015 - March 31, 2016)

New Delhi

Press Council of India

Soochna Bhawan, 8, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi- 110 003

Chairman: Mr. Justice Chandramauli Kumar Prasad

NAME	ORGANISATION NOMINATED BY	NEWSPAPERS
Editors of Indian Languages Newspapers (Clause (a) of Sub-Section (3) of Section 5)		
Shri Ramesh Gupta	All India Newspaper Editors' Conference and Hindi Samachar Patra Sammelan	Weekly Tej, Urdu New Delhi
Shri Bipin Newar	All India Newspaper Editors' Conference and Hindi Samachar Patra Sammelan	Chapte Chapte Hindi Daily, West Bengal
Shri Uttam Chandra Sharma	Hindi Samachar Patra Sammelan and All India Newspaper Editors' Conference	Muzaffarnagar Bulletin, Hindi Daily Muzaffarnagar, U.P.
Dr. Suman Gupta	Hindi Samachar Patra Sammelan and All India Newspaper Editors' Conference	Janmorcha, Hindi Daily, Faizabad, Uttar Pradesh
Shri Prakash Dubey	Editor's Guild of India	Dainik Bhaskar, Hindi Daily, Nagpur
Editors of English Newspapers (Clause (a) of Sub-Section (3) of Section 5)		
Shri Krishna Prasad	Editor's Guild of India	Outlook (English) New Delhi
Working Journalists other than Editors (Clause (a) of Sub-Section (3) of Section 5)		
Shri Kosuri Amarnath	Indian Journalists Union, National Union of Journalists(I), Press Association and Working News Cameramen's Association	Freelancer, Journalist, Hyderabad
Shri Prabhat Kumar Dash	Indian Journalists Union, National Union of Journalists(I), Press Association and Working News Cameramen's Association	Pratidin Odia Daily, Odisha
Shri Rajeev Ranjan Nag	Press Association and Working News Cameramen's Association, Indian Journalists Union and National Union of Journalists(I)	Aaj Samaj, Hindi Daily, New Delhi
Shri Prajnananda Chaudhuri	National Union of Journalists(I), Indian Journalists Union, Press Association and Working News Cameramen's Association,	Anand Bazar Patrika, Kolkata
Shri S.N. Sinha	Indian Journalists Union, Working News Cameramen's Association, National Union of Journalists(I) and Press Association	Photo Journalist, (Freelancer) New Delhi
Shri Sondeep Shankar	Working News Cameramen's Association, Indian Journalists Union, National Union of Journalists(I) and Press Association	Photo Journalist, (Freelancer) New Delhi
Shri C.K. Nayak	Press Association, Indian Journalists Union, Working News Cameramen's Association and National Union of Journalists(I)	The Shillong Times, Shillong

NAME	ORGANISATION NOMINATED BY	NEWSPAPERS
Owners and Managers of Big, Medium and Small Newspapers (Clause (b) of Sub-Section (3) of Section 5)		
Shri Hormusji N. Cama	Indian Newspaper Society	The Bombay Samachar, Gujarati Daily, Mumbai
Shri Ravindra Kumar	Indian Newspaper Society	The Statesman, English Daily, Kolkata
Shri Kundan Ramanlal Vyas	Indian Newspaper Society, Association of Small and Medium Newspapers of India and All India Small and Medium Newspapers Federation	Kutch Mitra, Gujarati Daily, Kutchh (Bhuj), Gujarat
Shri Gurinder Singh	All India Small and Medium Newspapers Federation, Indian Newspaper Society, and Association of Small and Medium Newspapers of India	Indian Observer, English Fortnightly, New Delhi
Shri Vijay Kumar Chopra	Indian Newspaper Society, All India Small and Medium Newspapers Federation and Association of Small and Medium Newspapers of India	Hind Samachar, Hindi Daily, Jalandhar
Shri Keshav Dutt Chandola	Association of Small and Medium Newspapers of India, Indian Newspaper Society and All India Small and Medium Newspapers Federation	Rajput Maryada, Hindi Weekly, Kanpur
Managers of News Agencies (Clause (c) of Sub-Section (3) of Section 5)		
Shri G. Sudhakar Nair	The Press Trust of India Limited	Editor The Press Trust of India Limited, New Delhi
Nominees of University Grants Commission, Bar Council of India and Sahitya Academy (Clause (d) of Sub-Section(3) of Section 5)		
Shri Pankaj Vohra	University Grants Commission	
*Shri Apurba Kumar Sharma	Bar Council of India	
Dr. K. Sreenivasarao	Sahitya Academy	
Members of Parliament Nominated by Speaker, Lok Sabha and Chairman, Rajya Sabha (Clause (e) of Sub-Section (3) of Section 5)		
Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi	(Lok Sabha)	
*Shri Pratap Simha	(Lok Sabha)	
**Shri G. Hari	(Lok Sabha)	
Shri Prabhat Jha	(Rajya Sabha)	
**Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi	(Rajya Sabha)	
Secretary: Vibha Bhargava		

*Nominated vide Gazette Notification dated 15th May, 2015

** Membership ceased w.e.f. 11.12.2015

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Foreword

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the Annual Report of the Press Council of India for the Financial Year 2015-2016. The comprehensive accounts of activities and positive achievements by the Council have been reported in this Annual Report. With the goal to maintain or improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies and to promote freedom of the press, this year the Council has been quite dynamic in discharging its major function of adjudication of complaints filed with the Council, for or against the press,.

I am happy to acknowledge the efforts of the members, officers and staff of the Council who have tirelessly worked towards improving the functioning of the Council and to enthusiastically clear the backlogs of pending cases with the Council.

In recent years we have witnessed a huge technological revolution that has changed the global communication systems causing both positive and negative impacts on the news media, at national and international levels. General public are more dependent on digital media for their daily dose of news, information and views, making the fight for survival of newspapers/print media extremely difficult. Unlike print media, electronic media is growing limitlessly and hence needs to be regulated from time to time for improving the content and standard of news, information and opinions. To make this a reality, the Press Council had proposed an amendment in the definition of the term 'Newspaper' as defined in the Press Council of India Act, 1978 to include '*any public news including periodicals published through printing and/or communicated through any electronic device/media*' within the purview of the jurisdiction of the Council. It is also proposed to change the name of the Council from 'Press Council of India' to 'Media Council of India'. The proposal regarding empowerment of the Council to effectively implement its mandate as well as establishment of Media Council is with the Government for consideration.

This year the Council also took into consideration the unethical practice of 'paid news' that threatens to vitiate the quality of news throughout the country, more so when elections approach. Reporting untrue, baseless, prejudiced, irrelevant and defaming news item/s both during electoral process and also in day to day commercial activities have shocked the conscience of the nation and obviously the Press Council of India. To tackle this menace the Press Council of India has constituted several sub-committees to study the phenomenon of paid news syndrome which surfaced during the previous State Assembly elections.

To uphold the freedom of the press, several Committees have been constituted to deal with various subjects related to the press and journalists ranging from safety of journalists to issuance of guidelines on media reporting during elections, to name a few. While some of the Committees have prepared and submitted their reports, such as the Report on Safety of Journalists; the Report on the Killing of Journalists in two separate incidents that occurred in Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh; and the Report on the Issue of Advertisements from Sikkim, Uttarakhand and Telangana, while other Committees are in the process of examining/investigating the matters referred to them.

Since 2012, several discussions were held at national and international levels in order to establish a South Asian regional media council for effective exchange of views, sharing

rich experiences/knowledge and to promote peace, stability, amity and prosperity in the region in the age of a vibrant media expansion and public diplomacy. The Press Council of India taking a lead has formed a Sub-committee to take the process forward and is also planning to meet the Bangladesh Press Council very soon.

I firmly believe, attack on even one working journalist in India is a direct violation of the right to freedom of the press. In this context, when I read the reports of the Reporters without Borders of last few years focussing on the position/ ranking of India, I noticed, though India's rank has improved over the past few years but, reportedly the situation of freedom of the press in India has not witnessed any good times. Further, I learned that the reports published in RWB website during the year 2014-2015 did not mention the intervention of the Press Council of India in those reported incidents of acts of violence against journalists and violation of freedom of press in India. The Council conducted a study of all the reports related to India's Press Freedom and initiated talks with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to further a discussion with RWB organisation to learn from RWB's experience and share our contributions/interventions in upholding the freedom of a responsible press in India.

While discharging its advisory functions, the Council has given advise to the Ministry in matters of paid news and have answered to various parliamentary questions posed to the Ministry from time to time. The Council, in order to safeguard the freedom of press had taken suo-moto actions in various instances, to mention a few, the Council took suo-moto cognizance in the matter when Government of NCT of Delhi vide its Circular dated 6.5.2015 tried to deal with the instances of defamatory imputations covered under Section 499/500 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 against Hon'ble Chief Minister, Hon'ble Ministers and various others functionaries of the Govt. of NCT of Delhi and against the Orders/instructions issued by the Union Home Ministry restraining the bureaucrats from sharing information with journalists. Further, the Council also took suo-moto cognizance of incidents of threats, assault, disappearances and killings of journalists and media persons, with the intention to make the state and administration act promptly, responsibly and prevent such heinous crimes in future. One important intervention made by the Council in upholding the freedom of press is achieved through the suo-moto cognizance of the Assam Rifles intrusion with the freedom of press in Nagaland.

Financial autonomy of the Press Council is essentially necessary therefore it has been suggested to for restructure the levy on media houses so that the administrative set up of the Council is suitably expanded.

Finally, I would like to thank the Hon'ble members of the Council for their patience and invaluable inputs in carrying out functions of the Council smoothly and efficiently throughout the financial year. Not to mention the efforts of the staff who has enthusiastically discharged their duties in carrying out the decisions of the Council from time to time. Hereby, I present to the readers the Annual Report 2015-2016 with the hope that the report would be sufficiently informative and further the objectives of establishment of the Press Council of India.

New Delhi
March 31, 2016

Chandramauli Kumar Prasad
Chairman
Press Council of India

Chapter – I

General Review

Introduction

The Press Council of India is a Statutory Quasi-Judicial Authority, set-up under the Press Council Act of 1978. During the year under review the Council steadily worked towards promoting harmony and balance between the freedom of the press on the one hand and the maintenance and improvement of the standards of newspapers and news agencies, performing a mulfi-faceted role. On the other hand its acts as a quasi- judicial authority with all the powers of a civil court and on the other, in its advisory capacity, it guides the press as well as the authorities on any matter that they may have a bearing on the freedom of press and in its preservation.

The Council is a body corporate having perpetual succession. It consists of a Chairman and twenty -eight other members. The Chairman is, by convention, a retired/sitting judge of the Supreme Court of India who is nominated by a Committee consisting of a Chairman of the Council of States (Rajya Sabha), Speaker of the House of the People (Lok Sabha) and a person elected from amongst themselves by the 28 members of the Council. Of the 28 members, thirteen represent the Working Journalists, of whom, six are to be editors of news papers and remaining seven are to be working journalist other than editors. Six members are from amongst persons who own or carry on the business of the management of the newspapers, two each representing the big, medium and small newspapers. One is from amongst persons who manage news agencies. Although it consists of people primarily connected with the Press, it has few members representing the interest of education, literature, law and culture. Three of its members belong to the category of persons having special knowledge or practical experience in respect education, science, law and literature and culture, of which, one is nominated by the University Grants Commission, one by the Bar Council of India and one by the Sahitya Academy. Five are members of Parliament, two nominated by the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha and three nominated by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha. They represent readers interest/public opinion. The term of the office of the Chairman and the members is three years. The Act stipulates that they can be re-nominated for not more than one term.

An extremely healthy feature of the Press Council of India is the scheme and the procedure of the nomination of its Chairman and other members. Despite being a statutory body, the Government and its authorities have been kept out of the nomination process. A totally non-subjective procedure, which leaves no scope for interference or influence by the Government or any other agency, has been evolved with ingenuity.

While enacting the Press Council Act in the year 1978, the Parliament was of the opinion that the Press Council should function as a body independent of the Government control, authority or interference, it provided that the Council may, for the purpose of performing its functions under the Act, levy fees at the prescribed rates from the registered newspapers and the news agencies. Further the Central Government has been enjoined to pay to the Council by way of grants such sums of money as the Central Government may consider necessary for the performance of its functions under the Act. The Press Council combines in itself the independence of a self-regulatory internal mechanism and the compulsory submissions of all the newspapers to its jurisdiction.

The objects of the Press Council of India as embodied in Section 13 of the Act of 1978 are to be preserving the freedom of the Press and to maintain and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India. The Act also confers an advisory role on the Council in that it can, either *suo-motu* or on a reference made to it by the Government under Section 13(2) of the Act, undertake studies and express its opinion in regard to any Bill, legislation, law or other matters touching the Press and convey its opinion to the Government or the persons concerned. In a case of issues concerning public importance, touching its statutory responsibilities, the Council may *suo motu* take cognizance and constitute a Fact Finding/Special Committee to make an on-the spot inquiry.

In the furtherance of its objects, some of the important functions which the Press Council is required to perform are to help newspapers and news agencies to maintain their independence; to build up a code of conduct for newspapers, news agencies and journalists in accordance with high professional standards; to ensure on the part of the newspapers, news agencies and journalists the maintenance of high standards of public taste and foster a due sense of both the rights and responsibilities to keep under review any development likely to restrict the supply and dissemination of news of public interest and importance; to promote a proper

functional relationship among all classes of persons engaged in the production or publication of newspapers or in news agencies; and to concern itself with development such as concentration of or other aspects of ownership of newspapers and news agencies which may effects the independence of the press.

What sets the Press Council of India apart from other parallel institutions worldwide is that while it has been set up under an Act of Parliament, and notwithstanding the fact that a substantial part of its funds comes by way of grants-in-aid from the government, it has full functional autonomy and independence from governmental control in the discharge of its statutory responsibilities.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 8 (1) of the Press Council Act, 1978 the Council not only constitutes Inquiry Committees but also ad-hoc Committees from time to time to facilitate and speed up the pace of work assigned to its as per Press Council Act, 1978. The Inquiry Committees are headed by the Chairman and ad-hoc Committees headed by member of the Council as Convener as suggested by Chairman.

Working of the Council April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016

Meetings of Council and its Committees

As per Section 3 of the Press Council Act, 1978 (Procedure for Conduct of Meetings and Business) there shall not be less than four ordinary meetings of the Council in any one year and the interval between any two ordinary meetings shall not be normally longer than four months. The full Council which held six sitting during the reviewed year to discuss matter having vital bearing on press freedom and its standards.

Pursuant to section 8 (1) of the Press Council Act, 1978, the Council for the purpose of performing its functions under the Act, constitutes from amongst its members, Committees for general and specific purpose from time to time keeping in view the requirement of the tasks assigned.

The Inquiry Committees are headed by the Chairman of the Council. The composition of the two Inquiry Committee of the Council in the year under review is detailed below:

Inquiry Committee - I	Inquiry Committee - II
1. Shri Ramesh Gupta	1. Shri Bipin Newar
2. Shri Uttam Chandra Sharma	2. Dr. Suman Gupta
3. Shri Prakash Dubey	3. Shri Krishna Prasad
4. Shri Prabhat Kumar Dash	4. Shri Kosuri Amarnath
5. Shri Rajeev Ranjan Nag	5. Shri C.K. Nayak
6. Shri S. N. Sinha	6. Shri Sondeep Shankar
7. Shri Prajnananda Chaudhuri	7. Shri Hormusji N. Cama
8. Shri Ravindra Kumar	8. Shri Gurinder Singh
9. Shri Kundan Raman Lal Vyas	9. Shri Vijay Kumar Chopra
10. Shri Keshav Dutt Chandola	10. Shri G. Sudhakar Nair
11. Shri Pankaj Vohra	11. Shri Apurba Kumar Sharma
12. Dr. K.Sreenivasarao	12. Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi, M.P. (Lok Sabha)
13. Shri Prabhat Jha, M.P. (Rajya Sabha)	13. * Shri G. Hari, M.P. (Lok Sabha)
14. Shri Pratap Simha, M.P. (Lok Sabha)	14. * Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi, M.P. (Rajya Sabha)

***Membership ceased w.e.f 11.12.2015.**

The Inquiry Committees, presided over by the Chairman of the Council, shouldered the major quantum of the workload of the Council by initiating inquiries in respect of the complaints received by the Council. The proceedings of the Inquiry Committees are open to the general public. The parties to the cases are required to adduce relevant evidence, oral or documentary and are also allowed to be represented by lawyers/authorized representative. The Inquiry Committee at the close of their respective inquiries, considered the records and oral submissions advanced by the parties and submitted their recommendations, with regard to the cases inquired into, to the Council for final decision. In the Eleventh meetings held during the financial year, the Committees considered a total of 265 matters and made recommendations to the Council for final adjudication of the said matter. Four matters were directly adjudicated by the Council.

The Council has also decided that the two Inquiry Committees hold three days sitting with 20 matters per day to clear the backlog. Accordingly the Council prepared a yearly calendar of meetings i.e. 2016.

Reports of the Council

- 1) Report for killing of a Shri Jagendra Singh, Journalist at Shahjahanpur. The report has been adopted by the Council on 8.7.2015 and covered in Chapter IV.
- 2) Report to probe prevention of reporter of Sakshi Daily and Namaste Telangana newspapers for attending the official press conferences of the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. The report has been adopted by Council on 8.7.2015 and covered in Chapter V.
- 3) Report on Safety of Journalists. The report has been adopted by the Council on 8.7.2015 and covered in Chapter VI.
- 4) Report on killing of Shri MNV Shankar, Part time correspondent of Andhra Prabha Daily and assault on Shri Stephen Babu, Editor, Crime Today, Andhra Pradesh in separate attack by unknown assailant. The report has been adopted by the Council on 11.12.2015 and covered in Chapter VII.
- 5) Report on the issue of Advertisement from Sikkim, Uttrakhand and Telangana. The report has been adopted by the Council on 17.3.2016 and covered in Chapter VIII.

The important Sub-Committee and Fact Finding Teams which functioned during the period under review:

- 1) Fact Finding Team to enquire for killing of Shri Jagender Singh, Journalist at Shahjanpur, U.P.
- 2) Fact Finding Team to enquire for killing of Shri M.N.V. Shankar, Part Time correspondent of Andhra Prabha Daily and assault on Shri Stephen Babu, Editor, Crime Today, Andhra Pradesh in separate attack by unknown assailant.
- 3) Sub-Committee to examine the issue of Advertisement.
- 4) Sub-Committee regarding establishment of South Asian Alliance of Press Council's (SAAPC).

Advisory Function

In its advisory capacity the Council provided the Government and other authorities with its views on variety of issues, some of the important ones are as follows:

Communication received from Ministry of I&B forwarding letter of Shri Binod C. Agrawal, Taleem Research Foundation, Ahmedabad regarding Press Freedom and Press Laws

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting while forwarding a copy of the PMO's letter dated 10.4.2015 attaching herewith letter of Shri Binod C. Agrawal, Taleem Research Foundation, Ahmedabad regarding Press Freedom and Press Law has sought Action taken in the matter. Shri Agrawal has requested to consider setting up enlightened group of experts and citizens to review archaic press and media laws within the framework of First Amendment in the Constitution of United States of America which guarantees individual and press freedom.

The Council informed the Ministry that these Acts draw strength from the provisions made to curb action having a bearing on the wider canvas of the society and the nations. It is, therefore, necessary to consider the penal provisions vis-à-vis newspapers in the light of the import and impact of the referred activities. Therefore, taking reference to Council's mandate of adjudicatory and advisory jurisdiction, Government may have these examined by the concerned departments of the Governments, where the press/media representatives may find due representation.

Communication received from MIB regarding Oral Evidence before the Committee on Government Assurance to Parliament Questions (Lok Sabha).

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting was informed that the Committee on Government Assurances (Lok Sabha) will take an Oral Evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of I&B on 6th May, 2015 on assurances given in reply to Parliament Questions during the 12th Session of 13th Lok Sabha and 9th Session of 15th Lok Sabha, pending with the Ministry and requested to make it convenient to attend the Oral Evidence.

The main question of the Committee posed to the Ministry was as to whether Press Council of India is being empowered or not as per assurances given by the Minister to the various Parliament Questions before the Lok Sabha. The second question relates to Paid News and its definition as per law. The third question pertains to how Electronic Media should be regulated.

The Council while reiterating its stand on Powers of the Council and paid news item has forwarded the speech delivered by Hon'ble Chairman on Paid News at Vijayawada to the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting in the matter.

Communication received from MIB forwarding letter of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) regarding Report on Bennett Coleman & Co. Ltd.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting while forwarding a copy of the letter dated 18.6.2015 of Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority of India (IRDAI) regarding report on Bennett Coleman and Company Ltd. has sought comments in the matter. In the letter the Relevant Point No.3 “whether any legal proceedings/strictures/penalties have been passed/imposed against the company (BCCL)”.

The Council has informed to Ministry that Council can only Warn, Admonish or Censure any erring newspaper and no penalties are imposed. The Council has also forwarded the adjudications rendered by the Press Council of India in respect of the Bennett Coleman & Co. Ltd.

Shri Kosuri Amarnath, Member, PCI has appraised regarding physical attacks on journalists of print and electronic media.

Shri Kosuri Amarnath vide email dated 19th May, 2015 drew the attention of the Council while forwarding clipping published in India Journalist Union news letter dated 5th May, 2015 has requested for comments, suggestions and criticism on the articles.

The Council in its meeting held on 8.7.2015 at New Delhi discussed the matter and passed the following resolution:

“It is resolved that the Council shall take up all cases of attacks on any working journalist (s), fatal or otherwise, as the Council is mandated to protect the freedom of the Press which flows from freedom of expression, irrespective of the platform/or forum of journalism.”

Communication received from MIB regarding examination of subject “Programmes for Consumer Protection” by the Standing Committees on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting forwarded a copy of OM dated 29.7.2015 of Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Department of Consumer Affairs regarding examination of subject “Programmes for Consumer Protection” by the Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution has sought comments/information on Q.No.4{e} under the title “Misleading Advertisements”. The Q.No.4{e} is as under :-

“Whether Department of Consumer Affairs have taken up the matter with Ministry of Information & Broadcasting regarding lack of adequate power in Press Council of India Act to deal with misleading advertisement in print media? If so the details.”

The Council has informed to the Ministry that so far Press Council of India is concerned it does not have any information as to whether the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution have taken up the matter with the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting regarding lack of adequate power in the Press Council Act to deal with misleading advertisements in print media. However, proposal regarding empowerment of the Council to effectively implement its mandate as well as establishment of Media Council is already pending consideration with the Government. It was further informed that Shri Kundan R. Vyas, Member, Press Council of India is also a member of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution’s Inter-Ministerial Monitoring Committee on Misleading Advertisements.

Report of World Press Freedom Index-2014 published by Reporters Without Borders (RWB)

The Council initiated suo-motu cognizance on the report of World Press Freedom Index 2014 in the report that India is 140th position out of 180 Nations though its 2015 Index shows some improvement in ranking from 140th to 136th.

Having gone through the World Press Index, 2014, it has been noticed that it ranks the performance of countries according to index calculated based upon various parameters which include media pluralism and independence, respect for the safety and freedom of journalists and legislative institutional and infrastructural environment in which the media operate. The report is reportedly based partly on a questionnaire sent to partner organizations of RWB (18 ‘freedom of expression’ non – governmental organizations located in all five continents) and its over 150 correspondents around the World, as well as to journalists, researchers, jurists and human rights activists. It appears to take account to the legal framework for the media (including penalties for press offences, the existence of a state monopoly for certain kinds fo media and how the media are regulated) and the level or independence of the public media. It also reflects violations of the free flow of information on the internet. Acts of physical violence against journalists, netizens, and media assistants, including abuses attributable to the state, armed militias, clandestine organizations, and pressure groups; are also part of the final score.

The mandate of the Council is to see that media is allowed to function with absolute freedom, without any impediment from any quarter, be the government or any other agency. In order to understand the gravity of the matter, the Council called the report from Secretary General, Reporter Without Border in the matter on 22nd September, 2015 which is still awaited.

In the matter the Hon'ble Chairman apprised to Hon'ble Minister for Information and Broadcasting seeking advice for the Press Council of India to interact with or write to the RWB on the issue. In response thereto, the MIB vide its letter dated 21.8.2015 forwarded a copy of the Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs' letter dated 31.7.2015 whereby he stated that there is no harm in having an interaction with RWB on this matter. Accordingly, a D.O. letter dated 22.9.2015 was sent to Shri Christophe Deloire, Secretary General, Reporters Without Borders, Paris, France for discussion of the matter.

Press Council Guidelines on Bihar Elections

The Press Council of India issued its guidelines on media reporting during Bihar Elections.

Orders/Directions of Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in the matter of Smt. Geeta Sharma (Mother of Kum. Astha Sharma) Vs. UOI and others.

The Registrar General, Hon'ble High Court of Delhi was informed vide Council's letter dated 22.2.2016 that in pursuance of the Hon'ble Court's order dated 24.11.2015 in respect of subject matter, the Council has issued Press Note for adherence of the directions of the court by the print/electronic and social media are as under.

Under the Order of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi, the media advised to refrain from reporting the proceedings of case of Smt. Geeta Sharma Vs UOI & ors. (Writ petition (Criminal No. 2527/2015 & CRL M.A. No. 17045/2015))

Under directions of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi dated 24.11.2015 in the matter of Smt. Geeta Sharma Vs. UOI & ors. (Writ petition (Criminal) No. 2527/2015 & CRL M.A. No. 17045/2015) the media viz. print, electronic as well as social media, is advised to refrain from covering/reporting the proceedings of the case.

The Hon'ble High Court has observed that the petition is purely personal and private in nature without any public interest/importance and reporting would not only cause irreparable loss to the parties but have an adverse impact on the

child of the parties as well. While passing the order the Hon'ble High Court relied on the principle as enunciated in "United Nations, Economic and Social Council, Siracusa Principles on the Limitation and Derogation Provisions in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, as per Clause I (B) (ix) (38), which read as under:

"ix. "restrictions on public trial"

38. All trials shall be public unless the Court determines in accordance with law:

- (a) the press or the public should be excluded from all or part of a trial on the basis of specific findings announced in open court showing that the interest of the private lives of the parties or their families or of juveniles so requires; or
- (b) the exclusion is strictly necessary to avoid public prejudicial to the fairness of the trial or endangering public morals, public order (order public), or national security in a democratic society."

The media is called upon to comply with the directions of the Hon'ble Court.

Suo-motu Action

Regarding to the Circular dated 6.5.2015 issued by Government of NCT of Delhi concerning defamatory imputations-jeopardising freedom of press.

The Press Council of India came across of various newspaper reports and the Circular dated 6.5.2015 issued by the Government of NCT of Delhi "to deal with the instances of defamatory imputations covered under Section 499/500 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 against Hon'ble Chief Minister, Hon'ble Ministers and various others functionaries of the Govt. of NCT of Delhi", while taking suo-motu cognizance of the matter. In this regard the Press Council of India issued a Press Release on 12.5.2015. The Council also issued a letter on 13.5.2015 to the Government of NCT of Delhi and requested them to furnish the reason, circumstance and necessity of issuing the said Circular.

In response thereto, the Secretary/Directory, Directorate of Information & Publicity, Government of NCT of Delhi vide his letter dated 29.5.2015 informed that the Government of NCT of Delhi vide impugned circular had tried to formulate a policy and outline the procedure to deal with the instances

of defamatory imputations covered under Sections 499/500 of IPC against Chief Minister, Ministers and various other functionaries of GNCT of Delhi. According to him, the aim is to make the Government functionaries aware of the Law and lay down a procedure of taking action in case the Law is violated. He informed that the said Circular is in no way intended to threaten or curb freedom of press as the Government of NCT of Delhi is fully committed to freedom of press being fourth estate of democracy. He has requested the Council to drop further proceeding against the Government of NCT of Delhi. On 7th July, 2015 Government of NCT at Delhi has withdrawn the circular dt 6-5-2015. The matter placed before the council on 7th August, 2015 and the report was noted and taken on record.

Regarding to the disappearance of Shri Chayan Sarkar, Journalist, Uttar Banga Sambad, Alipurduar District West Bengal

The attention of the Press Council of India was drawn by the Indian Journalists Union (IJU) and Press Club of Sikkim with regard to the disappearance of West Bengal journalist-Shri Chayan Sarkar. The Council initiated suo-motu cognizance of the matter and called report from the Government of West Bengal. In response of Council's notice, the Deputy Secretary of Government of West Bengal, Home Department (Internal Security Branch) however vide his letter dated 17th November, 2015 has forwarded a copy of the report dated 28th October, 2015 IGP (L&O), West Bengal for information. It was stated in the report that during investigation it was found that Shri Chayan Sarkar made last contact with one Shri Sumonto Singh, a fellow reporter of Uttarbanga Sambad. Shri Singh revealed that Shri Sarkar himself created a scene of kidnapping and had kept his bike and purse at the reported place of incident. Shri Singh and Shri Sarkar went on the bike of Shri Shri Singh to Kamakhyaagut Railway Station and from there he did not know where Shri Sarkar had gone. According to the report, on 7th August, 2015 Shri Suman Kanjilal, a fellow reporter of Uttarbanga Smabad reported to Alipurduar Police that he received a call from Shri Sarkar from Cooch Behar Truck terminus. Cooch Behar Police rescued Shri Sarkar and got him admitted at NBMC & Hospital, Siliguri. As per statement of Shri Sarkar, he was under great stress for last several months as his wife had filed a divorce suit against him and that he created the scene to earn her sympathy so that he wants her back to be united with his family. Shri Sarkar was sent to Alipurduar Court to record his statement under Section 164 Cr. PC from where he was handed over to family members.

Keeping in view the prompt action taken by the Government of West Bengal and it was decided to allow the matter to rest.

Regarding threats to media by Shri Vijay Bahadur Pal, State Minister of Uttar Pradesh

The Press Council came across a news report appeared in “Times of India” issue dated 13th August, 2015 captioned “We know how to cut scribes down to size: UP min” reporting that Shri Vijay Bhadur Pal, State Minister of Uttar Pradesh threatened journalist for giving ‘bad press to the government’ saying Samajwadi Party knows how to cut such scribes down to size during a cycle rally in Kannauj. Shri Pal said that “some journalists think they can frighten us through their writing. They don’t know if Samajwadis get enraged, they will be cut down to size”.

On perusal of the report, the Council initiated suo-motu cognizance of the matter and requested the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh to take necessary action in the matter. Simultaneously the report also called from Shri Vijay Bahadur Pal, State Minister of Uttar Pradesh. The Press Council of India also issued a press release on 14th August, 2015.

In response to Council notice, Shri Vijay Bahadur Pal, State Minister of Uttar Pradesh stated that wrong sense was drawn of few words of his speech in distorted manner, which was said in other reference during a public meeting. According to him he always given respect to freedom of press and he had no intention to challenged freedom of press.

Regarding attack on the office as well as on journalists/workers of Hindustan newspaper and inaction of police.

The attention of the Press Council of India was drawn regarding attack on the office as well as journalists/workers of Hindustan newspapers by Shri Dines Yadav, BJP Councilor supporters and in action of police. The news report published in ‘4PM’ issue on 18th August, 2015.

On perusal of the report it appears that the incident disclosed and attack on the freedom of press and Council initiated suo-motu cognizance of the matter and called a report from the Government of Uttar Pradesh. In response of Council’s letter, the Government of Uttar Pradesh submitted its report and stating that on 18th August, 2015 a case 245/2015 under Sections 147/148/307/323/279/337 was registered on the complaint of Shri Pritam Gaud against Shri Mahendra Yadav,

Shri Vijay Pratap Yadav and Shri Deepak Kumar Yadav, Shri Virendra Yadav, Shri Banu Yadav and others. Shri Pratap Kumar Yadav and Shri Virendra Yadav were arrested on 19th August, 2015. He has further stated that Shri Anuj Kumar Chauhan (Hindustan Office) filed a case 246/2015 under Sections 147/336/323/307 against Councillor, Shri Dinesh Yadav, Shri Mahendra Yadav and Shri Sonu Yadav. Shri Mahendra Yadav and Shri Sonu Yadav were arrested on 19th August, 2015 but Shri Dinesh Yadav, Councillor is yet to be arrested. Since some accused have been arrested by Uttar Pradesh Police. The matter reported to the Council on 17th March, 2016.

Regarding Orders/instructions issued by the Union Home Ministry restraining the bureaucrats from sharing information with journalists.

The Press Council of India came across news report issued by Deccan Chronicle dated 24th July, 2015 that Union Home Minister had issued a gag order on bureaucrats restraining them from sharing information with journalists. It was also reported that the Union Home Ministry on 23rd July, 2015 passed an order on the instructions of Union Home Secretary, L.C. Goyal curtailing the movement, interaction and access of the media. The move has come under sharp criticism as it seeks to gag the media saying that media persons will be instructed “not to have briefings and meetings with officers “of the Ministry.

In view of gravity of the matter the Council initiated suo-motu cognizance in the matter and request to Ministry of Information & Broadcasting to file response on the issue given facts of the case.

In response Council letter, the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting dated 6th October, 2015 forwarded a copy of the response 21st September, 2015 of Ministry of Home Affairs in which they have stated that the ADG (Media) Ministry of Home Affairs has been designated as the single point for dissemination of all publicity material to the Media including clarifications sought by the media. They further stated that the Ministry of Home Affairs already clarified to the Media persons that the said Office Memorandum has been issued only to regulate flow of information to Media persons from the Ministry by covering the points of disseminations.

Keeping in view of above, the matter referred to Council. On 11th December, 2015 and the matter was discussed in the Council meeting and decided to refer to the Inquiry Committee for indepth consideration looking into all aspects of issue following due procedure and make recommendations. The Inquiry Committee

in its meeting on 15th March, 2015, the representative of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Information & Broadcasting have informed the Inquiry Committee that the Office Memorandum aforesaid was issued for streamlining the dissemination of news. They have also assured that the Government will not act in any manner detrimental to the Journalists in collecting the information of public interest. In fact, they have stated that the Government will facilitate them in collecting information which are in public interest.

In view of the aforesaid, the Inquiry Committee is not inclined to proceed further in the matter and accordingly recommends for closure of the matter.

Regarding concerning the Circular No. Q16j; k 0415/1272/izØ-63/fo'kk v dated 27.8.2015 issued by the Government of Maharashtra on sedition in the wake of the ruling of Bombay High Court.

Reference recent controversy surrounding the circular issued by the Government of Maharashtra on sedition in the wake of the ruling of Bombay High Court, Press Council of India has initiated suo-motu cognizance of the matter. The Hon'ble Bombay High Court while disposing of Criminal Public Interest Litigation No. 3 of 2015 (Sanskar Marathe Vs. the State Government of Maharashtra and others) by Order dated 17th March, 2015 recorded the undertaking given by the Advocate General of the State Government of Maharashtra the home Department will issue the guidelines in the form of a Circular to all the Police personnel. From the tenor of the Order, it is evident the same was to protect the citizens from unnecessary harassment. In light of the aforesaid observation of the Bombay High Court that the State Government of Maharashtra has issued a circular dated 27th August, 2015 as also its clarification. After careful consideration of the circular issued by the State Government of Maharashtra Hon'ble Chairman, was of the view that prima facie the circulars do not reflect the observations of the High Court in its true spirit and the words and the expression used in the circulars are possible to be misconstrued and misunderstood, which shall have the potential of encroaching upon the freedom of the press.

The Council initiated suo-motu cognizance of the matter and called report from the State Government of Maharashtra to furnish the reason, circumstances and necessity of issue the aforesaid circulars on 11th September 2015 which is awaited. The press release was also issued on 10th September, 2015 in this matter. The matter is under consideration.

Regarding killing of Shri Hemant Yadav, journalist by unknown miscreants at Chandauli, Varanasi, U.P.

The Press Council of India has come across some news reports appeared on Times of India and Nav Bharat Times under the caption “TV Journalist shot in UP, third killing in 4 months” and “Pheer Ptakaar Ki Hatya” in its issue dated 15th October, 2015. It has been reported in the news item that Shri Hemant Yadav, TV Journalist was shooting by two motor cycle borne miscreants in Chandauli district on 3rd October, 2015. It has been further reported that Shri Hemant, who hailed from Ahikaura Village was returning home from market when he was intercepted by miscreants. The assailants opened fire at him and escaped as Yadav fell down. The police has register FIR against un identified miscreants.

In view of gravity of the matter the Council initiated suo-motu cognizance of the matter and called report/facts of the incidents from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh.

In response Council letter, the Superintendent of Police, Chandauli vide his report dated 20th October, 2015 has informed that due to financial dispute the journalist was killed by miscreants on 3rd October, 2015. Smt. Sangeeta Deve wife of Shri Hemant Yadav, Journalist register a case No. 92/2015 under Section 307/302 IPC against unknown persons in Dhanapur Police Station Chandauli. He has further informed that all the accused have been arrested along with weapons. The matter is under investigation. He has also informed that they have provided Security to family of Hemant Yadav, Journalist and others journalist in the District and also direction was passed to all Circle Officers/SHO's for taking preventive step, so as to avoid untoward incidents.

According to the report file by Superintendent of Police, Chandauli that the killing of Shri Hemant Yadav, Journalist due to family dispute and not on account of any journalistic activity.

The matter was reported to the Council.

Regarding assault on journalist by the goons of ruling party of West Bengal during Municipal Elections.

The attention of the Press Council of India was drawn towards assault on media persons by the goons of ruling party of West Bengal during Municipal Elections at Bidhannagar on 3rd October, 2015.

In view of gravity of the matter the Council initiated suo-motu cognizance of the matter and called report from the State Government of West Bengal.

The Council constituted three-member Fact Finding Team on 7th January, 2016 comprising of S/Shri Prabhat Kumar Dash, Rajeev Ranjan Nag and Dr. Suman Gupta to investigate the fact of the case of assault on journalists during Municipal Elections in West Bengal on 3rd October, 2015.

The Fact Finding Team visited to Kolkatta (West Bengal) w.e.f 28th -29th January, 2016 and hold inquiry/discussion with the media persons and others concerned authorities to collect the evidence to prepare the report in the matter. The Fact Finding Team submitted its report on 16th March, 2016 and it yet to adopt by the Council.

Regarding murder of Shri Mithilesh Pandey, Reporter, Dainik Jagran in Gaya, Bihar

Attention of the Council was drawn towards regarding murder of Shri Mithilesh Pandey, Reporter, Dainik Jagran in Gaya district in the midst of State Assembly elections on 24th October, 2015 by unidentified masked assailants at his home. Shri Pandey was shot at point blank and died instantly, Shri Pandey is the fifth journalist killed in the country during the ten months of this year.

The Council initiated suo-motu cognizance of the matter and called report from the State Government of Bihar. The Additional Superintendent of Police, Gaya, Bihar informed that some accused have been arrested by Bihar Police and further informed that raids are being conducted regularly to arrest other offenders. The matter is under examination.

Regarding Notification on Nagaland Media by Assam Rifles issue on 24.10.2015

The Press Council of India has come across news report appeared on Times of India under the caption “Assam Rifles trying to gag Nagaland media” in its issue dated 17.11.2015. It has been reported in the news item that three English dailies Nagaland carried blank editorials on National Press Day to protest a recent notification by Assam Rifles accusing them of offering intentional or unintentional support to banned militant outfit National Socialist Council of Nagaland (Khaplang).

On perusal of the report it appears that incident disclose and attempt to curtailment of the freedom of press, the Council initiated suo-motu cognizance of the matter and called the Director General, Assam Rifle to furnish the reason, circumstances and necessity of issuing the aforesaid notice. The report from the Chief Secretary Nagaland has been called. The Council also issued a Press Release on 19th November, 2015 simultaneously.

The Council considered the matter in its special meeting held on 11.12.2015 at Guwahati. In pursuance thereof, meeting between the Editors, State Government of Nagaland and Assam Rifles was organized in Dimapur on 14.1.2016 to discuss and resolve the issues. The meeting was attended by Editors of Nagaland Page, Morung Express and Eastern Mirror and Inspector General Assam Rifles (North) and Colonel General Staff Headquarters Inspector General Assam Rifles (North). Though no representative from State Government of Nagaland was present, a meeting was convened involving free and open discussion and exchange of constructive viewpoints. Consequently, a Joint Statement was drafted which was agreed to and signed by the participants present. The Press Council issued press release on 22nd January, 2016 simultaneously. Guidelines on the issue are brief entrusted to a Committee set up for the purpose.

Regarding attacks on Lokmat Newspaper offices in Maharashtra.

The Press Council of India came across a news report under the caption “Mob attacks Marathi daily’s offices over illustration” appeared in Times of India newspaper issue dated 2nd December, 2015. It has been reported in the news that taking offence to an illustration published in Marathi newspaper on November 29, a mob of around 50 peopled attacked the Jalgaon office of the daily and smashed glass panes in the reception. It has been further reported that protests were also witnessed in Dhule, Nanded and Aurangabad but there were no reports of anyone being injured or of any loss to property. It has also been reported that the newspaper issued a corrigendum and apologised for hurting the sentiments of a particular community.

On perusal of the report it appears that incident disclose and attempt to curtailment of the freedom of press, the Council initiated suo-motu cognizance of the matter and called report from the State Government of Maharashtra and the Editor, Lokmat, Jalgaon, Maharashtra.

In response to the Council’s letter dated 7th December, 2015 Shri Sudhir Mahajan, Editor, Lokmat vide his reply/report dated 25th December, 2015 has

informed that the article is based on various terrorist activities going on in the World. The aim behind the article was to present that global phenomena regarding terrorism and there was no intention to hurt any religion or desecrate God of any religion. According to the editor, to maintain communal harmony and to avoid misunderstanding to maintain law and order they have published explanation on the next day of the attacks on the offices of Lokmat in Maharashtra, a clarification in this regard was published on the first page of Lokmat.

The reply dated 6th January, 2015 is received from Shri (Dr.) Jalinder Supekar, IPS, Superintendent of Police, Jalgaon and stated that the Muslim people misunderstood the picture of saving box, which was Pig animal where Arbi language Allah Rasul Mohammad” was written on his mount so Muslim people attacked on Lokmat Press in Jalgaon. The MIDC Police Station Incharge along with staff urgently visited and controls to maintain the law and order. According to the respondent, the Lokmat newspaper’s director did not register FIR but Muslim people register an FIR Cr. No. 325/2015 under Section 295/295A dated 29th November, 2015 in MIDC Police Station.

Regarding attack on a Ms. Nikhila Henary, Journalist, The Hindu at Osmania University Campus by the police.

Attention of the Council was drawn regarding attack on Ms. Nikhila Henary, Journalist, The Hindu at Osmania University Campus by the Police Officials on 10th December 2015 during coverage the Beef Festival planned by some students group.

On perusal of the report, it appears that the incident disclose and attempt to curtailment of the freedom of press, the Council initiated suo-motu cognizance of the matter called report from the State Government of Teleangana.

In response to Council notice, the reply was received from Assistant Commissioner of Police, Kachiguda Divn, Hyderabad on 13th February, 2015 and this matter referred to the Inquiry Committee.

Regarding to threat to media in Tamil Nadu.

Attention of the Council was drawn towards the two reports appeared in Hindustan Times under the captions “Reporting under Shadow of defamation gun in flood ravaged Chennai” and “In Flood-hit Tamil Nadu, CM won’t speak and officials can’t be quoted “on the situation under which the Journalists and the editors were working. It was also reported that the State Government Seems to have unleashed a reign of terror by slapping defamation cases against media organisations/ editors/ reporters at slightest criticism.

On perusal of the report, it appears that the incident disclose and attempt to curtailment of the freedom of press, the Council initiated suo-motu cognizance of the matter and called report from the State Government of Tamil Nadu which is still awaited. The matter was placed before the Council on 13th March, 2016 and passed the order “It is resolved that the Council may not take suo-motu cognizance in respect of specific cases which are pending in the court of law. However, this will not preclude the Council to keep under review any development likely to restrict the supply and dissemination of news of public interest and importance as per section 13 of the Press Council Act, 1978”.

Regarding sedition case against Namadhu Manasatchi, Tamil weekly in Puducherry.

Attention of the Council was drawn the report appeared in the Hindu on 10th December, 2015 reporting that a sedition case filed against a Tamil Weekly “Namadhu Manasatchi” for allegedly publishing a false and seditious report on public healthcare. On the basis of a complaint given by the Directory of Health & Family Welfare, the Grand Bazar Police Station, Puducherry, registered a criminal case against the weekly under Section 124-A of IPC. A separate complaint has also been filed with the Sub-Divisional Magistrate of Puducherry (North) for initiating action under Section 108 Cr. PC..

On perusal of the report it appears that the incident disclose and attempt to curtailment of the freedom of press, the Council initiated suo-motu cognizance of the matter and called report from the State Government of Puducherry.

In response to Council notice, the reply was received from Shri V. Jeeva, Under Secretary to the Government of Puducherry, Chief Secretariat (Health), Puducherry on 8th January, 2016 and Dr. V. J. Chandran, IPS, Senior Superintendent of Police (L&O), Puducherry on 4th January, 2016. The matter is under active consideration.

Regarding threats faced by the media organisations, editors and working journalists in Manipur.

Attention of the Council was drawn towards the threats faced by the media organisation, editors and working journalists in Manipur in the recent days the member of the Council appraised that a respected editor and Impact TV Editor-in-Chief and Secretary, Editors Guild of Manipur Shri Yumnam Rupachandra Singh received death threats from a militant organisation and a bomb was found at the gate of his house in the evening of 14.12.2015. Further informed that

all the newspapers in the state closed their publication on 16.12.2015 and not even a single newspaper hit the stands on 17.12.2015 and in their editions dated 16.12.2015 they left the editorial space blank. All the television news channels stopped their news broadcasts on that day to protest against threats to the media, impinging on the freedom of the media. Further that the two months back the media establishments in the state received a press note announcing floating of a new militant group but there was no independent confirmation the claims made in the press note, the print and electronic media organisations did not publish/broadcast the news. Annoyed over the refusal of the media to give publicity to their claims, some unknown persons telephoned news organisations and issued death threats and claimed that they planted a grenade in front of Rupachandra Singh's residence. In this regard All Manipur Working Journalists Union (AMWJU), Editors Guild of Manipur and other journalists and civil society organisations condemned the militant threats to editors and working journalists and demanded that security should be provided to them and they will not succumb to threats and carry out their mission.

The Council while considering the matter noted that the incident disclose and attempt to curtailment of the freedom of press, the Council initiated suo-motu cognizance of the matter and called report from the State Government of Manipur and a press release was also issued simultaneously.

In response to Council notice, the reply was received from Shri Bidyarani Ayeqpam, Under Secretary (Home), Government of Manipur on 31st March, 2016 enclosing report of Dr. A. K. Jhaljit Singh, Superintendent of Police, Imphal West District, Manipur dated 15th January, 2016. The matter is under active consideration.

Regarding report carried in The Hindu alleged misbehaviour by the President, DMDK Party with the journalists.

Attention of the Council was drawn to wards misbehaviour of Shri Vijayakanth, President, Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK) with journalist 27th December, 2015 by spitting on them and questioning their credentials at a Press Conference. Further reported that this was not the first time that Shri Vijayakanth had reacted with caustic words in a press conference. The behaviour of the leader of opposition evoked strong condemnation across social media and from journalists.

The Council while considering the matter noted that the incident in serious nature, the Council initiated suo-motu cognizance in the matter and called views/

comments from the Shri Vijayakanth, President, DMDK, Chennai and reply is awaited.

Regarding intimidate and threat to Shri Siddharth Varadarajan, Editor of The Wire by students members of ABVP in Allahabad University.

Attention of the Council was drawn towards a Press Statement issued by the Editors Guild of India regarding intimidation and threats to Shri Siddharth Varadarajan, Editor, The Wire by student members of the ABVP in Allahabad University.

The Council while considering the matter noted that the incident is serious nature, the Council initiated suo-motu cognizance in the matter and called the report from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh the reply is awaited.

Regarding attack on a Ms. Revati Laul, Journalist in Ahmedabad.

It has come to the notice of the Council through Press Statement issued by Delhi Union of Journalists and various news reports regarding attack on a Revati Laul, Journalist in Ahmedabad. It has been reported in the news reports that a convict in a Gujarat riots case, out of parole, allegedly, assaulted a journalist in Ahmedabad when she was punched and slapped by Suresh Chhara when she asked him some questions during an interview at his house in Naroda area of Ahmedabad. It has been further reported that Ms. Laul was treated at a government hospital and she later lodged a complaint with the police.

The incidents disclose and attempt to curtailment of the freedom of press, the Council initiated suo-motu cognizance of the matter and called report from the State Government of Gujarat.

In response to Council notice, the reply was received from Shri Police Inspector/Reader – To-Police Commissioner, Office of the Commissioner of Police Ahmedabad on 1st March, 2016 was informed that the FIR was lodged in connection with the alleged attack on Journalist at Sardarnagar Police Station, Ahmedabad vide Cr No. 3015/2016 under Sections 323, 294(B) of Cr. P.C. and the further investigation was carried out by Crime Branch Ahmedabad and the matter is active under consideration.

Regarding murder of Shri Tarun Kumar Mishra, Bureau Chief, Jan Sandesh Times in Sultanpur, U.P.

Attention of the Council was drawn towards murder of a journalist on 13th February, 2016 in Uttar Pradesh. According to reports said Shri Tarun Kumar

Mishra, Bureau Chief of Jan Sandesh Times was shot at in Gosai Gaon Tehsil, Sultanpur by two persons on motor cycle while he was going to work. Reports further said Mishra was targeted for his writings against the 'mud-mafia' which seemed to have the support of the ruling party.

On perusal of the report, it appears that the incident disclose and attempt to curtailment of the freedom of press, the Council initiated suo-motu cognizance of the matter and called report from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh. Simultaneously, the Council requested to Dr. Suman Gupta, Member to file a report in the matter.

In response to Council letter, Dr. Suman Gupta filed the report in the matter on 16th March, 2016 and the reply of State Government of Uttar Pradesh is awaited. The matter is under active consideration.

Regarding attack on journalists in Patiala House Court premises in New Delhi.

Attention of the Council was drawn by the members of the Council towards attack on journalists in the Patiala House Court premises by anti-social elements while covering the alleged case of sedition of a JNU student. They informed that the incident happened when the JNU Students Union President Shri Kanhaiya Kumar was to be produced before the court on 15.2.2015. During the brutal attack some journalists including women scribes were injured too. It has been further informed that all these things happened even though there was a heavy presence of the Police which refused to intervene despite repeated requests by those who were being beaten up. They further informed that the responsibility of the police to provide protection to journalists who were discharging their duty. They further informed that some journalists unions and associations have given a call for observance of a Black Day on February 19.

The incidents disclose and attempt to curtailment of the freedom of press, the Council initiated suo-motu cognizance of the matter and called report from the Commissioner of Police, Delhi Police Headquarters, New Delhi and the reply is awaited.

Regarding attack on a Ms. Malini Subramaniam, Senior Freelance Journalist in Bastar, Chhattisgarh.

Attention of the Council was drawn while forwarding a copy of the news report published in The Hindu issue dated 19th February, 2016 has been reported

that Ms. Malini Subramaniam, freelance journalist was forced vacate her home on 18th February, 2016 by her landlord allegedly under pressure from the police in Jagdalpur, Bastar district (Chhattisgarh) and she was forced to leave Jagdalpur town. Further reported that there was an attack on her residence on the night of 7th February, 2016 by a group called Samajik Ekta Manch, reputed to be a vigilante group created by the police. Report further say that the police targeted the journalist because of her reportage which exposed some of their illegal and extra constitutional actions. Ms. Subramaniam is a senior journalist of print and electronic media for the last three decades and hounding her out of Jagdalpur is a clear case of attack on freedom of the media.

The incident disclose and attempt to curtailment of the freedom of press, the Council initiated suo-motu cognizance of the matter and called report from State Government of Chhattisgarh on 29th February, 2016 and the reply is awaited.

Regarding registration of a FIR against The Milli Gazette for allegedly publishing fabricated news.

Attention of the Council was drawn towards registration of a case against Shri Pushp Sharma, Journalist, The Milli Gazette. The relevant clippings appeared in The Indian Express, The Pioneer and Hindustan Times. It have been reported in the news items that the Delhi Police questioned a journalist for at least four hours in connection with a story published under his name in The Milli Gazette on the AYUSH Ministry alleged not considering Muslim candidates as Yoga Trainers or Teachers for World Yoga Day 2015. Further reported that the police also registered an FIR under IPC Section 153-A (promoting hatred among communities) and Section 468 (forgery for purpose of cheating) against The Milli Gazette for publishing the article based on what newspaper and the journalist, Shri Pushp Sharma, said was an RTI reply sent by the Ministry. They also reported that the AYUSH Ministry denied that it had sent the reported RTI reply. Police sources confirmed that Shri Sharma, who has been asked to 'join the probe' was question at Kotla Mubarkpur PS two days after an Under Secretary at the ministry lodged a complaint in this regard. According to the news reports, Shri Sharma confirmed that the police took him to the Kotla Mubarakpur PS where they misbehaved and threatened to implicate him in a false case while showing an RTI copy that they had received from the AYUSH Ministry. Shri Sharma informed them that he has three separate copies of RTI replies and that he stood by the story. His stand is that the RTI reply came to him from the Ministry. It has been further reported that the Ministry in its complaint stated that the RTI reply was fake.

The incidents disclose an attempt to curtailment of the freedom of press, the Council initiated suo-motu cognizance of the matter and called the report from The Police Commissioner, Delhi Police Headquarters, New Delhi and the reply is awaited.

Regarding to summoning the reporters of Sakshi newspapers, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh.

Attention of the Council was drawn while forwarding a copy of the complaint of Indian Journalists Union in the complaint has informed that the Andhra Pradesh Police summoned four reporters and two desk journalists of Sakshi newspaper to appear before them in Mangalagiri Police Station on 21st March 2016 and questioned them on the source of the news stories that appeared in the newspaper on the goings on in the Amaravathi Capital Region in the last few weeks. They further informed that one Deputy Superintendent of Police and one Inspector of Police grilled the reporters and desk journalists and asked them to reveal the source of their stories as some farmers of the region filed complaints against the newspaper that their stories 'hurt their sentiments'. According to him, it is illegal to summon the reporters of a newspaper to the police station and ask them about the news stories and the source under the guise of investigation as under the PRB Act, only the Editor and Publisher of the newspaper are responsible for the content of the newspaper and the Reporter is not liable unless the story appears under his byline.

The incident disclose an attempt to curtailment of the freedom of press, the Council initiated suo-motu cognizance of the matter and called the report from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh and issued a press release simultaneously.

The reply of the State Government is awaited.

Regarding arrest of Shri Prabhat Singh, journalist at Chhattisgarh.

The Press Council of India came across news under the caption "Latest journalist arrest in Chhattisgarh is for a WhatsApp dig at a cop" appeared in the Indian Express issue dated 23.3.2016 regarding arrest of Shri Prabhat Singh, Journalist in Chhattisgarh.

On perusal of the report, the Council initiated suo-motu cognizance of the matter and called the report from the State Government of Chhattisgarh and issued a press release simultaneously.

The reply of the State Government is awaited.

Complaints before the Council

During the year under review, total of 265 complaints were instituted in the Council. Of these, 48 complaints were by the Press against authorities of the Government for violation of press freedom and 217 complaints were directed against the press for breach of journalistic ethics. With 1261 matters pending from the last year, there were a total of 2163 matters for disposal by the Council. Of these, 914 matters were disposed of during the year, either by way of adjudication or through summary disposal by the Chairman on account of settlement by the mediation of the Chairman or due to lack of sufficient grounds for holding inquiries or non-pursuance; withdrawal or on account of matters having become *sub-judice*. Out of these 914 matters four (04) matters were directly placed before the Council for adjudication. In all 1249 matters were being processed at the close of the year. A detailed statement of the institution and disposal of complaints is at **Annexure - A**.

Press and Registration Appellate Board

Section 8C of the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867 entrusts to the Press Council of India, the Appellate Jurisdiction over the Magisterial Orders of non-authentication of a Declaration under Section 6 or its subsequent cancellation under Section 8B of the said Act. The board consists of a Chairman and another member to be nominated by the Press Council of India from among its members.

The Board headed by Chairman, and another member to be nominated to the Press Council of India from among its members. The names of the Board's members are S/Shri Ramesh Gupta and Keshav Dutt Chandola. The Board held three sittings between April 1st, 2015 to 31st March, 2016 and dealt with Ten appeals and disposed of the same. Details of Appeals are at Annexure-B.

National Press Day 2015

The National Press Day 2015 was centered on "The Impact and Import of Cartooning and Caricature as a Medium of Expression of Opinion." The commemoration 2015 was being dedicated to two legendary cartoonists Shri R. K. Laxman and Shri Rajinder Puri. The Council in collaboration with Cartoon Academy had also organised an exhibition of illustration of the Hon'ble President on the occasion of National Press Day. The celebrations were inaugurated by Hon'ble Shri Pranab Mukherjee, President of India, Col. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, Hon'ble Minister of State for Information and

Broadcasting graced the occasion as Guest of Honour, along with Mr. Justice Muhammed Mamtaz Uddin Ahmed, Chairman, Bangladesh Press Council, and its Members Mr. Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul, Mr. Reasuddin Ahmed, Bangladesh Press Council, Mr. Shyamol Chandra Karmakar, Secretary, (Joint Secretary to the Govt.), Bangladesh Press Council. The National Awards for Excellence of Journalism 2015 in different categories comprising of a citation and specified cash award were conferred by Hon'ble President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee and Col. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathor, Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting on November 16, 2015 on the occasion of National Press Day and were chosen by a jury comprising of Mr. Ravindra Kumar, Convenor, Mr. Uttam Chandra Sharma, Mr. S. N. Sinha, Mr. Rajeev Ranjan Nag, Dr. Suman Gupta, Mr. Prakash Dubey, Members, Press Council of India and Mr. Sudhir Tailang, Cartoonist .

Whereas no entry could qualify for the top honour, Raja Ram Mohan Roy Award, Mr. Sujit Chakraborty of the Indo Asian News Service, Tripura and Mr. Vinoy Mathew, Mathrubhumi, Calicut have been jointly given Certificate for Rural Journalism and Developmental Reporting. Mr. Sharad Vyas, Mid – Day, Mumbai was chosen for Investigative Journalism. Mr. Shahbaz Khan, Press Trust of India, New Delhi was chosen for Photo Journalism - Single News Picture Category and Mr. Tashi Tobgyal, Indian Express, Noida had been chosen for Photo Journalism – Photo Feature and Mr. C. R. Sasikumar, The Indian Express, Noida was selected for Award in the category of Best Newspaper Art covering cartoons, caricatures and illustrations.

To mark the occasion, a souvenir on the subject was released by Col. Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, Hon'ble Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting. The States also commemorated the Day in a befitting manner.

Interaction with World Press Bodies

The Council also continued its process of consultation and dialogue with press/media Council and similar bodies in different part of the world for active encouragement to preservation of the press freedom and promotion of its standards and ethics worldwide.

In the occasion of National Press Day, 2015 the Council received delegation from Bangladesh. The Chairman, Bangladesh Press Council Mr. Justice Muhammed Mamtaz Uddin Ahmed and their delegation and Members Mr. Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul, Mr. Reasuddin Ahmed, Bangladesh Press Council,

Mr. Shyamol Chandra Karmakar, Secretary, (Joint Secretary to the Govt.), Bangladesh Press Council reached in New Delhi on November 15th, 2015. The delegation also took part in the National Press Day functions. The Bangladesh delegation interacted with the members of the Council and briefed about the composition, functioning and powers of the Bangladesh Press Council. The members of the Council also discussed the issues of the paid news, safety of journalists and jurisdiction over electronic media and its functions and contents. The interaction was of mutual benefit and the two sides agreed to take the deliberations forward in future interactions.

Official Language – Celebration of Hindi Diwas

The Council paid particular attention to the propagation of Hindi in its official use. The office of the Press Council of India has been notified under Section 10(4) of the Official Language Rules, 1976 (as amended, 1987) for achieving a target of 80% working knowledge of Hindi.

Regular meetings of the Council's Official Language Implementation Committee were conducted during every quarter. Quarterly workshops relating to official language were organised for the benefit of its employees. Simultaneously, arrangements had been made to send officials of the Council to various training programmes conducted under Hindi Teaching Scheme (such as Hindi typing, Pragma, Praveen, Prabodh, basic training for using Hindi on computers) by preparing roasters to achieve targets mentioned in Annual Programme 2015-16 for transacting the official work of the union in Hindi. The following staff members attended the Hindi Typing Training/Pragma, Praveen, Prabodh, basic training for using Hindi on Computers): Smt. Nishi Vadhwa, Assistant Director (Official Language), S/Shri Kuldeep Singh, Ram Krishan, Varun Dass, MTS during the year.

To emphasize the use of Hindi, Hindi fortnight (Pakhwada) was observed in the Secretariat of the Council from 14.9.2015 to 28.9.2015. On this occasion on September 23rd, 2015 documentary films "Samvidhan ke sakshi" and "14 September, 1949" were shown in the Secretariat of the Council. Hon'ble Chairman and Secretary of the Council in the messages emphasized use Hindi in the Council. The employees of the Council were also given awards and certificates under "Hindi Protsahan Yojna". The name of the officials are S/Shri Achru Ram, Ajay Kumar, Sunil Kumar, Suraj Pal and Sandeep Negi for their participation/contribution in encouraging their valuable use of Hindi language in the office practices and procedures. Besides publication of Varshik Report (Hindi), the

adjudications and other pronouncements of the Council were recorded in bilingual form and brought in public domain. On January 6th, 2016, the Deputy Director (Implementation), Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India conducted inspection regarding use of Official Language in the Council and Deputy Director was satisfied with the working of the Council in order to ensure implementation of official language in the office. The Deputy Director also suggested as to how Council can achieve more targets of promoting progressive use of Hindi in official work and his suggestions were taken for improvement.

During the period under review Secretary, and Assistant Director (Official Language) of the Council attended a meeting organized by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting namely Hindi Salahkar Samiti, which was headed by Mr. Arun Jaitely, I&B Minister, regarding implementation of Hindi language to increase in working knowledge of Hindi in all the media units under Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Levy of Fee

During the reviewed year Finance Committee considered the rates of fee to be levied from the registered newspapers and news agencies prescribed in Rule 10 of the Press Council Rules, 1979. It further decided that the revision of rates of fee levied on newspapers should be immediately taken up as they were last revised in 1988.

To augment Council's revenue, the Finance Committee has proposed the Council to approach the Government to review the levy of fee.

The Council recommend to enhance the Levy of fee and letter was issued to Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for necessary action.

During the financial year 2015-2016 the Council written off the demand of 9372 newspapers whose names were not found mentioned in the demands raised for the last five years. For the same were conveyed to RNI, DAVP and State Information Departments that these publications are not in existence. The Finance Committee further recommended initiating revenue proceedings against the rest of newspapers 9993 by issuing legal letters to newspapers in default between 1979 to 2014 which are shown as active newspapers filing return with the RNI but not paying levy of fee to the Council.

During the reviewed year the Council was written off an amount of Rs. 24,72,306/ outstanding demand of defaulter newspapers of following States/UTs as follows:

S. No.	State	Amount
1.	Manipur	Rs. 5,100/-
2.	Assam	Rs. 16,825/-
3.	Chandigarh	Rs. 1,64,300/-
4.	Chhattisgarh	Rs. 85,650/-
5.	Haryana	Rs. 2,01,750/-
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	Rs. 72,950/-
7.	Punjab	Rs. 8,85,351/-
8.	Tripura	Rs. 4,750/-
9.	Tamil Nadu	Rs. 9,82,930/-
10.	Uttarakhand	Rs. 52,700/-
	Total	Rs. 24,72,306/-

Transparency Mechanism

The Secretary of the Press Council of India is the Chief Vigilance Officer of the office. The vigilance set up of the Council, consisting of Deputy Secretary, Under Secretary (Admn.) and Section Officer (Admn.) functioned under the direct supervision of the Secretary (CVO) and Chairman of the Council. It conducted regular and surprise checks to prevent/ combat any corruption practices in the Secretariat.

The grievance redressal mechanism is in place at the internal and external level which comprises of Director of Grievances being the Secretary, Press Council of India. General public, who desirers to meet the Director of Grievance in connection with their grievances, can do so on all Wednesdays between 4.00 p.m. and 5.00 p.m. in the office. The staff related grievances are attended to by the Staff Grievance Officer of the Council being the Deputy Secretary.

The Citizen's Charter of the Council containing all the necessary details of the organization is available in the official website of the Council. Timely

reviews/ internal and external evaluation shall be undertaken by the Council for feedback in the level of satisfaction among citizen's/client's.

Reservation policy of Government of India for SC/ ST/ OBC/PH etc. is being implemented in the Secretariat of the Council.

Other Activities

During the year under review Eight officials of the Press Council of India took participate in Inter – Media Badminton Tournament, 2016 organised by Badminton Club of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting during 18th to 21st March, 2016 at Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, New Delhi. Mrs. Isha Garg, Assistant obtained 1st position in Women's Singles, Women's Doubles and Mixed Doubles, Ms. Monika Sharma, LDC obtained 1st position in Women's Doubles and 3rd position in Mixed Doubles, Shri Sher Singh Rawat, LDC obtained 3rd position in Men's Singles and Shri Rohit Singh Assistant obtained 3rd position in Mixed Doubles in the tournament. Other participants were given participation certificates.

Right to Information

Under the provision of the RTI the Press Council of India has taken all due cases to comply the Act. The Council nominated branch incharges of its Sections as Public Information Officer and their Section Officers as Assistant Public Information Officers. The Council received 25 applications under RTI, Act, 2005 and disposed off during the period under review.

Nomination and Resignation of Members

During the reviewed year Shri Apurba Kumar Sharma, Senior Advocate and Member, Bar Council of India and Shri Pratap Simha, M.P. were nominated as members of the Press Council of India vice Shri Ramchander Rao N. Advocate and Shri Rajeev Pratap Ruddy, M.P. for the remaining term vide gazette notification 15th May, 2015 respectively. **Annexure - C.**

State of the Press - India

Given below are collections of reports that cover important development in the World of the Indian Press during the year under review.

Saluting the fearless journalism of “the most sacked editor,” Vinod Mehta, Congress president Sonia Gandhi on Saturday hoped the younger generation of

journalists would draw inspiration from his life and fight bigotry and obscurantism with the same courage and fearlessness.

She was addressing the G. K. Reddy Memorial National Award function, in which Vinod Mehta was posthumously awarded in the presence of the former Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh. The award was presented to his wife Sumita Mehta. It was instituted by T.S.R. Foundation founded by Rajya Sabha member T. Subbarami Reddy, a nephew of G.K. Reddy. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated 10th May, 2015)**

The Editors Guild of India deplored the controversial circular issued by Delhi government regarding defamatory news, calling it a “crude attempt” to “still” media criticism and demanded its immediate withdrawal.

The Guild said it is shocked by the circular asking public officials to report “defamatory imputations” relating to the Chief Minister, ministers and public officials in respect of their conduct in relation to their public functions for the purpose of launching criminal defamation proceedings against the media, thereby enthroning “intolerance as official policy”.

“At a time when the trend is towards greater transparency and openness in public administration, this crude attempt to still media criticism of officials performing public functions is deplorable,” the Guild said in a statement.

The Guild said that is strange that a Chief Minister and a party that rode to power on a popular democratic platform should turn “intolerant” when in office. **(The Tribune, New Delhi dated 11th May, 2015)**

Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on 10th May said his government will help “good” journalists who want to start a newspaper or a news channel.

The Chief Minister made the comments during a Google hangout chat with AAP volunteers. The remarks came at a time when the Delhi government is being accused of gagging the media after a new media circular which tells officials to report defamatory content.

“The media keeps showing us in a negative light. But don’t worry about that. The people of Delhi are happy with us and as far as starting a media house is concerned; we don’t want to do that. There are good people in the media too, who are not happy. If some senior people come together and want to start a news channel or newspaper, the government will help them. We also want an honest

media house which shows news “Kejriwal said.” **(The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated 11th May, 2015)**

Says this results in hypes and shrill debates for more viewership

The Digital news medium is still struggling to arrive at an adequate financial model. The problem with the electronic media is that the cost of distribution is more than the cost of content. Hence, there is an obvious compromise on the cost of content as the quantity of advertisement available is almost stagnant or having marginal growth, said Minister of Information and Broadcasting Arun Jaitley.

He was addressing a seminar organised by the Indian Institute of Mass Communication on ‘Establishment of a Communication University’.

The situation prompts news channels to compete with each other for viewership, resulting in hypes and shrill debates. In this process, the other side of the story is over looked.

He further said that while most organisations will have its own priorities, some others may compromise giving rise to the problem of paid news which is particularly prevalent during elections.

Jaitley said the need of the hour is to get students trained in various forms of reporting in different languages. He, however, added that the best training for a journalist always comes when he is on his feet.

According to him, when a journalist is on his feet, he either stays grounded completely just keeping to his kind of reporting or he gets spurred by the fact that some people are overtaking him and, ergo, he has to outdo them. **(The Pioneer, New Delhi dated 15th May, 2015)**

‘Lack of adequate financial model challenge for media’

Information and Broadcasting Minister Arun Jaitley on 14th May suggested that the government cannot check publication or airing of paid news in media as the Supreme Court a decade and a half ago held that “commercial speech” was also “free speech”.

The minister was delivering the inaugural address of a seminar, organised here to explore possibility of setting up a special university for mass communication and media studies.

“Is there a way we can check it (paid news) or the Broadcasting Content Complaints Council (BCCC) can check it. I have very serious doubts. A decade and a half ago, the Supreme Court in a judgment decided that commercial speech is also free speech.

“So those who market paid news might find this interpretation of the Supreme Court coming to their aid if the BCCC were to proceed against paid news because that is commercial speech,” Jaitley said.

The apex court’s judgment was in the context of advertising, he added. The Union minister said absence of an “adequate financial model” in electronic media was leading to many challenges as the cost of distribution was much higher than the cost of preparation of content.

When the cost of distribution is so high, there is an obvious compromise on the cost of content as the quantum of advertising available is almost stagnant or maybe growing marginally. As a result, the channels begin competing for eyeballs and resort to various means including creating “hype” and “shrill debates and campaigns”, he said.

The instances of paid news, which are more prevalent during elections, are also the result of the lack of an “adequate financial model” in media houses, he added. Despite all the shrill debates and sensational news in media, the readers of the newspaper and viewers of the news channels look for something which are “more objective” and “closer to reality”, the minister noted.

“At the end of the day, viewers and readers are king. Today, they are groping in the dark to find news closer to reality. I think, there is an opportunity for conventionalists to hit back. Readers are looking for objective news. The space for conventional news is again going to emerge rather than anchor driven news,” he said.

The minister said there was need for trained persons in media. “When a journalist is on his feet, either he stays grounded completely and sticks to his kind of reporting or he gets swayed that some people are overtaking him and, therefore, he has to outdo them. And that kind of training, I don’t know, if a university can probably provide to them,” he said. **(The Decan Herald, Bangaluru dated 15th May, 2015)**

The Electronic Media Monitoring Centre (EMMC) of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry has reported 13,000 instances of violations of regulatory norms by television channels in 2013-14.

These violations came to light after Guntur-based Edara Gopi Chand, an activist with Media-Watch India, waged a three-year battle to expose the poor regulation of content on India's TV channels. Using the RTI Act, Mr. Chand succeeded in getting the EMMC to disclose information on TV channels violating programming and advertising codes after the Central Information Commission issued an order in March. After the EMMC disclosure in May, many violations in 2014-15 have been exposed.

EMMC data show 5,566 violations pertaining to distracting 'part-screen' and 'scrolling' ads that interfere with the programme and 'paid promotional programmes' telecast in the garb of news/interviews. By Rule 7(10) of the Cable Networks Rules, 1994, all advertisements should be clearly distinguishable from the programme and should not in any manner interfere with the programme such as using the lower part of the screen to carry captions, static or moving messages alongside the programme.

The EMMC reports 2,965 instances of surrogate advisements of liquor/tobacco products. It found 1,245 instances of misleading advertisements, which include superstitious and deceptive ads of *kavachas*, *yantras*, medicines, creams and so on, claiming to possess miraculous powers which are otherwise serious offences under the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1955.

"Merely publishing statistics of violations is meaningless unless the names of the violating channels and the nature or gravity of each of these violations is revealed. It is an open secret that the I&B Ministry sits on these reports without taking any action. It issues occasional 'advisories' to which no channel pays heed," Mr. Chand said.

Free speech excuse

According to information on the EMMC website, 37 per cent of the violations in 2014 pertained to vulgarity or obscenity and 11 per cent related to representation of women. But National Commission for Women chairperson Lalitha Kumaramangalam told *The Hindu* that no complaints pertaining to TV channels were received by her office, although complaints about social media often reach her.

"Even if complaints against TV channels do come to us, there is so much hoo-ha over freedom of speech these days, I wonder what concrete action we could initiate against them," she said.

Mr. Chand said that when the Ministry enforces the regulations by prohibiting telecast of the offending channel for a few days, TV channels scream government regulation and approach the courts for relief, thus preventing any action. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated 18th May, 2015)**

Four months after the Paris office of the French satire magazine was attacked by two gunmen, leaving 11 dead, Charlie Hebdo has plunged into deeper crisis. Its leading cartoonist, Luz, who designed the Muhammad cartoon for its comeback edition, has announced he is quitting the magazine.

In an interview to French daily, Liberation, Luz confirmed rumours about his decision to quit later this year. The cartoonist, who is an icon of sorts in France, declared that news “doesn’t interest me any longer” and says he is suffering from an anxiety, “the fear of being bad” (at what he does). He said the killing of his fellow cartoonists had given him insomnia. With eight members of the core team assassinated, including their most prominent cartoonists, the work load on him had increased. Luz said each edition led to “torture” even though he continued in solidarity, it was difficult for him to work because like the rest of the Charlie Hebdo team he is “devoured” by “grief, pain and anger”.

“I shall no longer be Charlie but I will always be Charlie,” he added, making a reference to the slogan “Je suis Charlie” (I am Charlie) that caught on with the magazine’s supporters in France and the world over.

Earlier this week, another controversy broke when the magazine took disciplinary action against its Franco-Moroccan journalist, Zineb El Rhazoui. In a letter, the management said it had tried to remind her of work obligations. Rhazoui told French media that she was “shocked” and revealed that she and her husband had received death threats.

The journalist said she is in hiding and like her other colleagues found it hard to work in the “chaos” and under constant police protection. The magazine has since retracted its decision to take Rhazoui. She was part of the group of 15 (out of 20) employees who wrote an open letter to the management asking for an equal share of ownership of the satirical journal. **(The Hindustan, New Delhi dated 20th May, 2015)**

A journalist was seriously injured after he was allegedly shot at by three unidentified persons in Kandhla town of Shamli district, the police said. Vinay Balyan, a journalist working at Hindi daily Amar Ujala, was shot at by three bike - borne persons while he was returning home last night, said Vijay Bhushan, SP,

Shamli. He was rushed to the hospital where his condition was stated to be stable, he said, adding, a case has been registered in this connection and efforts are on to nab the accused. **(The Asian Age, New Delhi dated 27th May, 2015)**

The Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity (DAVP) has empanelled 7,800 newspapers, comprising small, medium and big entities. The total annual value of display advertisements released through the DAVP by different departments to empanelled newspapers was around Rs. 298 crore during 2014-15.

The previous year, the sum was Rs. 373 crore. By the time celebrations of the Narendra Modi government's one year in office have run their course, Rs. 5 crore would have been spent in print alone for half-page advertisements in all the papers.

Yet the question of non-existent newspapers remains unanswered. Officials of the Rural Development Ministry have complained after a casual enquiry that many newspapers on the DAVP list exist only on paper.

The officials carried out their own investigations by sending a communication to the District Collectors of 600 districts to provide the list of five widely circulated newspapers. They found that the list did not tally with the list furnished by the DAVP. More was to come. The officers alleged that the circulation figures of some of the small newspapers were inflated. All it required was a chartered accountant to certify the figures. No one bothered to question or examine the figures, said a senior official.

Additionally, when requested, the newspapers were unable to provide back copies or copies for a month, raising doubts about the regularity of their appearance. In some instances, a few copies were dropped at the offices of the Press Information Bureau and the DAVP.

Going by the government's own figures of ad spend in print, the small newspapers stand to gain Rs 40-odd crore each year. Officials had complained that close to 57 newspapers were added by the DAVP to the media lists of the Ministry. The number of dubious beneficiaries raised the question of the purpose of placing such advertisements in papers that did not even exist. But it is the money that draws everyone. A small-time publisher spoke of a nexus between some officers and beneficiaries in the release of advertisements on a quid pro quo basis.

Vipin Gaur of the Newspaper Association of India, which represents the small and medium newspapers, admits problems exist. “In fact, some papers exist only to take government advertisements and they keep the relationship going,” he says.

A few years ago, officials found 190 newspapers in the country had the same editorial content, in some cases the content was repeated week after week. Officials at the Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI), which registers the titles of newspapers and is authorised to conduct investigations on receipt of complaint, say they are not empowered to take action. As of March 31, 2014, 99,660 newspapers were registered in India, of which 19,755 submitted their annual statements. The Press Registration of Books and Periodicals Act requires newspapers to furnish their annual statement to the RNI. Little is done when they do not comply, and officials admit that there were a lot of bad apples in the trade. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated 28th May, 2015)**

Stating the importance of the relationship between the media and the judiciary, Chairman of the Law Commission of India Justice A P Shah on 29th May said that there is a “constant conflict between the judiciary and the media” and that it is important for both the institutions to get the balance right. Justice Shah was speaking at the convocation of the 2014-2015 batch of the Express Institute of Media Studies (EXIMS) at the India International Centre on Friday.

Addressing the student, Justice Shah said for the “proper functioning of democracy”, free press and independent judiciary “cannot exist in isolation”.

“The need for the court to maintain its authority on one hand and the importance of the freedom of the press to comment on matters of public interest on other hand must always be reconciled to maintain the balance between institutions,” he said.

Justice Shah also referred to the “Clear dangers of a parallel trial conducted by the media” and its impact on public perception”.

“Sensationalising of issue not only distorts public perception but also erodes the public’s confidence in the judicial system. The line between the right to comments on sub judice matters and interference in administration of justice often gets blurred.. It is a complete myth that the judges will not be influenced, even subconsciously, by public perception on what they read in newspaper”, he said.

However, he appreciated the “constant” reporting by the media on the “failure of the justice system”.

Justice Shah cited examples of positive influence of media intervention - the BMW hit-and-run-case, and the murder cases of Jessica Lall, Priyadarshini Mattoo and Nitish kataria. He also pointed out the reporting on the Aarushi Talwar murder case as an example of media trial with unsubstantiated leaks.

Justice Shah handed over postgraduate diploma certificates to students and special awards to Aranya Shankar, the topper of the batch. Abhisekh Angad and Meghna Malik were declared best all-rounders and Rajgopal Singh was given the Dean’s Award. **(Indian Express, New Delhi dated 30th May, 2015)**

As appointments to the Prasar Bharati Corporation go, there is nothing professional about them. 29th May, 2015 the Information and Broadcasting Ministry, headed by Arun Jaitley, appointed Veena Jain Director-General of Doordarshan News on the terms and conditions set by the Union government. Such appointments are the norm rather than the exception.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the Chairman of the corporation, both kept in the dark about the appointment, refused to offer their comments, though officials in the Ministry tried to make it sound like a routine affair.

In the coming days, a flurry of appointments to the Prasar Bharati Board can be expected. Currently, four posts have been lying vacant for long, sources said. Two names under consideration, though *The Hindu* could not confirm it, are Ashok Tandon, who was media adviser to Atal Bihari Vajpayee when he was Prime Minister, and singer Anup Jalota. If appointed, they will join Muzzafar Ali and Samir Kumar Barua, both appointed by the United Progressive Alliance government.

Government’s say

The government has had a say in appointing the head of the corporation since its inception in 1997, and for all talk of autonomy, even tweets expressing concern at the lack of it by none other than Prime Minister Narendra Modi, his government has not shied away from exercising control over the affairs of the corporation.

With the government appointing Ms. Jain, the Prasar Bharati Board, which includes the Chairman, the CEO and full-time and part-time members, has been rendered ineffectual. The order announcing her appointment was not marked to

the Board. All these lead to some attendant questions on the relationship the Board enjoys with the government.

Sources say CEO Jawhar Sircar has been facing a tough time in getting his proposals cleared by the Board and the Ministry, which bankrolls the budget of the corporation. Not all is well between Mr. Sircar and senior officials of the Ministry. But Mr. Sircar's term is secured by the Act, and sources believe the appointment is just another way of sidelining him.

In not informing the CEO and the Chairman about the appointment, the government has not been true to the spirit of the Prasar Bharati Act, which says appointment of members of the corporation, including directors-general of All India Radio and Doordarshan, will be done by the corporation after consultation with the recruitment Board.

The Modi government could have acted differently by expediting the means to form a recruitment Board, which has not been announced since the inception of the corporation.

The corporation has a sizeable number of cadres drawn from the Information Services over which the Information and Broadcasting Ministry has control, the Programme Services and the Engineering Services. Faced with dwindling advertising revenue and a dip in viewership, the recent appointments will be watched for the ability to turn around the fortunes of the corporation. Autonomy can take a walk. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated 31st May, 2015)**

Media Round UP

Senior Editor of The Indian Express Shyamlal Yadav has been conferred with the Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi Award by Makhanlal Chaturvedi National University of Journalism and Mass Communication for the year 2013. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan handed him the award here at Samanway Bhawan on 7th April.

Praising Yadav's work, Chouhan said he had used the Right To Information (RTI) Act for investigative journalism and unearthed several stories.

He said that journalists must bring the wrongdoings of governments to the fore using innovative ways of investigative journalism and must follow the principle of "*Na kahoo se dosti, na kahoo se bair* (Friendship with none, enmity with none)." Chouhan also said: "Journalism has given a new direction to the

country's politics. Had journalism not been there, the political scenario would have been entirely different."

Started in 2007, this award is given every year to one journalist for creative contribution in establishment and promotion of values, searching for truth, working for people, social uplift and independent conscience through journalism. The award comprises Rs 2,00,001 in cash, a citation and memento. Also, it is given not for one story, but for sustained dedication and achievement. He's the youngest recipient of the award. **(Indian Express, New Delhi dated 9th April, 2015)**

Continuing his hard stand against a section of media houses, minister of state for external affairs Gen. (Retd.) V.K. Singh pushed for a media regulatory body to function as an effective "watchdog".

Gen. Singh, who has been under attack for referring to some journalists as "prostitutes", said he has been repeatedly attacked since 2012 by certain "media workers" (Sic), who not only cooked up stories, but also did enormous harm to the institution that he was then heading -- the Indian Army (during the tenure of the then UPA - 2 government).

"The (then) government of India, perhaps not wanting to take on these 'media workers', who would hide behind the larger umbrella of the 'National Media', failed to act," the former Army Chief said in a statement. He said that he had complained to the home ministry in 2013 about "planted stories and their immediate sources" and added that he would be happy to forward the complaint that was filed with the MHA to the Broadcaster's Association, should it publicly commit itself to forming an impartial body with specific time lines.

"It is time that the media itself seriously looked at creating an effective watchdog organisations that has power to actually nip this malice in the bud. Today the media own credibility is at stake and unless there is effective internal policing, this problem threatens to go completely out of hand," he said.

He said they are not only going scot free but also keeping up a "steady flow of misinformation". **(Deccan Chronical, Hyderabad dated 10th April, 2015)**

Days after being embroiled in a controversy over the use of the word "prostitutes" for the media, minister of state for external affairs V. K. Singh said he apologies to journalists barring a small section of media person who were carrying out a "motivated campaign" against him.

He argued that he never used the word for the entire press and said he believes that 90 per cent of the media is doing its job with responsibility. “I apologies if the 90 per cent felt bad. I used the word for 10 per cent and they deserved that word” Gen. Singh told agencies. He claimed that there were have been worst terms used by others for this 10 per cent media, including “bazaaru” and “paid”. **(The Asian Age, New Delhi dated 12th April, 2015)**

The Delhi police on 2nd May, 2015 arrested newspaper baron and chairman of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Ltd (DCHL) T Venkatram Reddy for allegedly beating up a private finance adviser and threatening to kill him, police said.

Police have also arrested Reddy’s driver Rakesh who was accompanying him and his four other associates to threaten the adviser, Munish Makkar, at his residence in south Delhi’s Mehrauli.

Later in the day, Reddy and his driver were produced before a city court which sent them to police custody for three days.

Reddy was last arrested in February this year in Hyderabad by the CBI’s Bengaluru-based Banking Securities and Fraud Cell for allegedly causing a loss of over Rs 350 crore to Canara Bank.

Senior police officers said Reddy was released on bail in the first week of April. On April 29, he, along with Rakesh and four other associates, went to Makkar’s home and allegedly threatened him with guns. Makkar was also allegedly attacked with the but of a pistol. Police said investigation revealed that Makkar had helped Canara Bank collect evidence against Reddy on the basis of which the CBI was roped in. **(The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated 3rd May, 2015)**

Eminent Journalist, writer and renowned Tagore researcher Amitabha Chowdhury passed away at his south Kolkata after a prolonged illness. He was 88.

Credited with introducing politics in kitchens through his crisp reports, Chowdhury was awarded the Padma Shri in 1983. He was associated with three leading Bengali dailies, Anandabazar patrika, Jugantar and Aajkal, over more than three decades, and wrote around 40 books, mostly on Rabindranath Tagore. He was also counted among the leading limerick writers in Bengali. **(The Sunday Times, New Delhi dated 3rd May, 2015)**

Dismayed by the attacks on journalists across the world and the impunity surrounding the violence against the media, the World Association of Newspapers and News Publisher (WAN-IFRA) on Sunday made out a case for governments, international institutions and the media industry to give higher priority to journalists' safety.

In a resolution adopted during the 67th World News Media Congress, 22nd World Editors Forum and 25th World Advertising Forum in Washington D.C., the WAN-IFRA Board noted that at least 1,127 journalists had been killed in the line of duty since 1992.

Of these, over 50 per cent were print journalists and in the vast majority of cases, those killed were local journalists.

In more than 90 per cent of the cases, no one was brought to book, the Board pointed out in its resolution. (**The Hindu, New Delhi dated 2nd June, 2015**)

A journalist was allegedly attacked by a group of people here with four persons having been booked over the incident, police said.

The incident comes on the heels of the case of murder of a journalist in Shahjahanpur in which an Uttar Pradesh minister is a key accused.

According to Pilibhit SP JK Shahi, Haider, a reporter for the electronic media has complained that he was attacked by one Anand and his associates as he had done stories which had not gone down well with the accused.

“On 14th June I got a call regarding a robbery case. But when I reached the spot, Anand and some three four others surrounded me and started beating me up. They hit me with the butt of a revolver and also dragged me for 100m by a car.” Alleged Haider, who claimed he was left unconscious in the attack which took place in the Purnanpur area here.

He said a passerby later come to his aid and brought him Paharpur police station.

The SP said that the journalist has been sent for a medical examination and prompt action will be taken to bring the accused to justice.”

An FIR has been registered against, among others, Uttar Pradesh minister for backward classes welfare, Ram Murti Verma and inspector (Chowk)

Sri Prakash Rai in connection with the killing. (**The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated 16th June, 2015**)

A 40-years-old local journalist was burnt to death allegedly by three persons, suspected to be closely linked to mining mafia, who set him ablaze apparently over his refusal to withdraw a court case police, said on Sunday.

The burnt body of Sandeep Kothari, who was abducted from Katangi tehsil in Balaghat district two days ago, was found lying near the railway track at Sindi in Wardha district of Maharashtra on Saturday night, police said.

Additional Superintendent of police Neeraj Soni said Mr. Kothari was out on bail for the last two months in a rape case. “His [Kothari’s] body was identified by his brother.”

The BSP demanded a CBI probe into the murder, saying the scribe’s family was “tormented” by the said mafia as he had “exposed” their activities.

Police arrested three persons, Rakehs Nasyani, Vishal Dandi and Brijesh Duharwal, all from Katangi, in connection with Mr. Kothari’s murder.

The Sub-Divisional Officer of Police (SDOP) J.S. Markam said they suspected that the three were engaged in illegal mining and running chit fund companies.

They had allegedly kidnapped Mr. Kothari and set him ablaze. “We are investigating the case from all angles and a police team is camping in Nagpur. It will be premature to conclude the exact reason behind the kidnapping and killing,” Mr. Markam said. (**The Hindu, New Delhi dated 22nd June, 2015**)

The government has banned entry of journalists, NGO activists and filmmakers into jails for writing articles or taking interviews of inmates, except under special requests. The decision has come after a huge controversy erupted over jail inmates being interviewed by journalists including British filmmaker Leslee Udwin who made a documentary on the December 16 gangrape case by interviewing the convicts in Delhi’s Tihar jail much to the surprise of the jail authorities.

“No private individual, press, NGO or company should ordinarily be allowed entry into the prison for the purposes of doing research, making documentaries, writing articles or interviews etc,” joint secretary in the home ministry Kumar

Alok said in an advisory sent to all states and UTs. **(The Asian Age dated 25th July, 2015 at New Delhi)**

Gurgaon BJP MLA Umesh Agrawal courted a controversy after he allegedly manhandled two journalists, who had reported a story on a rape case involving the leader.

Not only did Agrawal try to slap the duo at an eatery in Sonapat, but also threatened them of dire consequences.

Mail Today has accessed the CCTV footage, which is over 2 minute 19 seconds long, capturing the legislator's attack.

Sources said Agrawal was eyeing a ministerial berth in the recent Cabinet expansion of the Khattar government in Haryana. However, he was denied the same after reports about his alleged involvement in a rape case surfaced. A FIR about the rape was registered at the Tilak Nagar police station in Delhi. Agrawal, who was miffed over the reports, vent out his frustration at the two journalists after he spotted them at Sukhdev Dhaba in Murthal on the Delhi Sonapat Road.

The two Gurgaon- based journalists, Devendar Bhardwaj (India News) and Prashant Vats (Aaj Tak) were on their way to Shimla for a trip and had stopped at the eatery to have lunch. The incident occurred when the two journalists approached Agrawal, who was having lunch at the eatery with his son and daughter.

A Delhi- based woman had claimed that she was raped by Agrawal in a hotel room in Faridabad in the month of February this year. The case is still underway at the Tis Hazari Court in the Capital.

When contacted, Agrawal's media coordinator Sukhbir Chauhan refused to comment on the matter. Agrawal did not respond to the phone calls made by Mail Today **(Mail Today, New Delhidated 26th July, 2015)**

Former Supreme Court Judge Mr. Justice C K Prasad, Chairman Press Council of India while addressing recent assaults on journalists and speaking with Himanshi Dhawan, Prasad discussed this vital issue, guidelines on hotly debated criminal defamation – and PCI seeking charge of electronic media too:

PCI's noted a number of recent attacks on journalists – is there a marked increase?

Statistics don't suggest more numbers of journalists being attacked – but when something happens in a gap of four weeks, it becomes a matter of concern.

Only recently, a couple of journalists have been killed.

Is PCI seeking a separate law to tackle intimidation of journalists?

Yes, a Press Council sub-committee submitted this recommendation. PCI adopted the report because assault to a journalist with reference to their work becomes very serious.

The problem is, simple hurt, as we call it in law, is a non-cognisable offence, meaning if somebody assaults you, you have to go file a complaint. You can't go to a police station.

If your mobile's stolen, you can go to the police station and lodge a complaint. I personally believe you'll feel worse if someone slaps you, rather than if he steals your mobile. Theft of a mobile's a cognisable offence – assault on a person is not.

Consequently, the procedure's long-drawn. You go to court, file a complaint, meet lawyers. It's very difficult.

If a journalist is assaulted or intimidated in connection with performance of duty, it should be a cognisable offence. We've recommended punishment for five years. If somebody assaults someone today, i don't think anyone goes to jail – there may be a fine of Rs 500.

But if there's an attack on a journalist about work, there should be a minimum punishment, say, six months which may extend to five years.

There's also discussion on whether defamation should be a penal offence.

When I assess it objectively, civil litigation in this country is very cumbersome. Criminal litigation is a little faster – therefore, people resort to that.

If you say there shouldn't be criminal defamation, it is too bold a statement.

My view is that for the defamatory act, where the prosecution will lie, that has to be decided. A defamatory statement is read widely. Somebody files a case in Kerala. Another files a case in Assam. That creates problems.

There should be guidelines. With respect to a particular defamatory article, one can file only in one particular place. The law may contemplate the case be filed only where the article's been published. You can't ask a journalist to go to 30 places for one defamatory article.

But you can't curtail citizens' rights also – you must make efforts that cases are clubbed together.

The earlier PCI chair sought for PCI to be renamed Media Council, taking electronic media also under its ambit – what's your view?

I stand by the Council's view that electronic media be brought under PCI. When the Press Council was constituted, electronic media was unknown here. Today, it has significant impact.

We've decided we'll take cognisance of cases of threat of killing or assault of journalists even if they're from electronic media. **(The Times of India, New Delhi dated 27th July, 2015)**

Followed by the demolition of his under construction building in Doon, Journalist Ashok Pandey, who is known for initiating the sting operation on Chief Minister's secretary Mohd. Sahid, has expressed fear of death from the Uttarakhand Chief Minister Harish Rawat.

Meanwhile the BJP has come forward support of the Journalist and staged a dharna in the capital and said that the reaction of the government is a result of the political vendetta targeting the journalist whose team had carried out the sting operation.

In a statement senior journalist Pandey said that he and his family fear for their lives, "If any thing happens to me or my family than the Chief Minister would be responsible for the same", he said, adding that he will also be meeting Governor K K Paul in this regard.

This reaction came after the Mussoorie – Dehradun Development Authority demolished the under construction building of Pandey in Tagore villa in view of the unauthorized construction. The administration is reportedly assessing properties and other assets of the Journalist.

The State BJP however has come forward to show their solidarity with the journalist and came out on the streets. The BJP workers and leaders led by state President Teerth Singh Rawat and leader of opposition Ajay Bhatt sat on a dharna and protested against the state government. “The action against the journalist justifies that the sting operation CD is genuine, “said the State President adding that the party stands with the journalist and strongly opposes his harassment.

On the contrary reacting on this issue CM Harish Rawat said that if the BJP is supporting the journalist than perhaps they have masterminded it. **(The Statesman, New Delhi dated 5th August, 2015)**

Editors Guild expressed shock and outrage at the notices to channels urging the ministry to withdraw them.

“It is also time for a re-examination of the broadcasting regulations that on the face of it look over broad and leave room for misuse in violation of the right to freedom of expression under Article 19 1(a) of the Constitution. It is shocking that the I&B Ministry should have issued notices to ABP News, NDTV and Aaj Tak for their coverage of the Yakub Menon issue under the cable TV regulations. Those regulations were never meant to be used to stop the free and vigorous discussion of matters of public interest however disagreeable the content might be to the government. **(The Times of India, New Delhi dated 9th August, 2015)**

A Parliamentary panel has asked the Information and Broadcasting Ministry to expeditiously formulate an appropriate policy to curb paid news. In its 12th report, the Standing Committee on Information and Technology said the I&B Ministry has submitted notes to the Law Ministry of amendment in the Representation of people Act and the Press Council Act for examination. **(Mail Today, New Delhi dated 14th August, 2015)**

Between 1990 and 2015, 80 journalists were killed in the line of service and all cases, except one, are either pending in courts or the charge sheet is yet to be filed.

Stating this position to highlight the pitiable state of affairs regarding protection of journalists covering sensitive cases, the Press Council of India on 14th August demanded the Supreme Court in a PIL proceeding to issue directions for safety of journalists and provide them protection as available to whistle blowers under the Whistle blowers Protection Act.

The affidavit by PCI was filed in response to a PIL filed by a journalist Satish Jain demanding guidelines to protect journalists and CBI investigation into attacks on journalists. The PCI said safety of journalists required “highest priority”. A fact-finding Committee of the PCI visited 11 states and reported how cases relating to attack on journalists required to be categorised as a separate crime since police and state administration were not serious to pursue them.

According to the “Death Watch List” compiled by the Vienna-based International Press Institute, India is ranked as the ninth “deadliest” country for journalists. In the last two-and-a-half decades, 80 journalists were killed and almost all of the cases are pending in courts or under investigation. Only in one case involving the gang rape of a Mumbai woman journalist in 2013, better known as the Shakti Mills rape case, the culprits were handed down exemplary punishment by a fast track court within a year.

An independent analysis of cases involving journalists showed that only 6.7 per cent of such complaints got solved and culprits punished. **(The Pioneer New Delhi dated 15th August, 2015)**

To protest against states’ failure to bring to book perpetrators of violence against journalists, the Press Council of India wants media to protest symbolically by blacking out news for two minutes on November 2 every year.

“The PCI may proclaim November 2 as the National Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists and ask all newsrooms across the country to observe two-minute silence,” it said in an affidavit filed before the Supreme Court in the case of UP journalist Jagendra Singh’s murder.

Requesting the SC to lay down guidelines on safety of journalists, the PCI said, “Journalists reporting sensitive stories are in the position of whistle blowers who are entitled to protection. Safety of journalists requires the highest priority to protect the freedom of speech as also the freedom of information available to every citizen under article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution.”

The print media regulatory body said around 80 journalists were killed in the last two decades but almost all cases were pending trial. “In states like Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Manipur, Jammu and Kashmir, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand, not a single person was convicted for killing or attacking journalists. In these states, more than 60 journalists were killed in the last two decades,” it said.

The PCI said it has recommended the government enact a law to deal with crimes against journalists. It said in the absence of a specific law, cases relating to such offences keep pending in trial courts.

After a four-year study, the PCI said, “Most of the journalists felt that whenever a scribe was killed, the state, including the CM and politicians, react and promise stringent action. After the din and noise die down, no further action is taken. Most states never come forward to compensate the families of the slain journalists.”

The PCI seemed worried by the trend of journalists threatened with character assassination using names of women. **(The Times of India, New Delhi dated 19th August, 2015)**

The Press Council of India has sought a clarification from the Union Government over a gag order the home ministry issued last month to restrict media access to senior officials.

In a letter sent to the Information and Broadcasting Ministry, the Council, the statutory body to regulate the print media in the country, sought an explanation on why a “section of the central government had asked senior officials not to share information with journalists”.

“We were concerned with reports about some ministries formally and informally issuing such orders, so we have sought a response from the government within the next six weeks,” the Council’s chairperson, Justice (retired) C.K. Prasad, said during an interaction with media persons in the capital.

The Home Ministry had on July 23 issued an internal note saying the additional director-general (media) would be the “single point for dissemination of all publicity material to the media”, including clarifications sought by them.

It had further said that mediapersons would be asked by the additional director-general not to have “briefing(s)” or “meeting(s)” with “officers other than in the media room”.

The Defence Ministry had issued a similar note, while other ministries and departments are believed to have given such instructions to officials informally. Despite objections from the press, the restrictions have not been removed.

Officials in the I&B Ministry said they were yet to receive the letter from the Council. “We will first see the content of such a letter and then decide how to respond,” said a senior official.

Asked about the government notices to four television news channels over the coverage of Yakub Memon’s hanging, Justice Prasad said “irresponsible media is better than controlled media”. But journalists, he added, should express dissent within the framework of national interest.

It was not clear why he used the word “irresponsible”.

Two of the channels that were sent show cause notices by the Information and Broadcasting Ministry had telecast an interview with a person claiming to be absconding underworld don Chhota Shakeel, a close associate of Dawood Ibrahim, the alleged mastermind of the 1993 blasts.

The third channel had telecast a panel discussion where Memon’s lawyer challenged the apex court verdict and the President’s decision to turn down the blast convict’s mercy petition.

Speaking on assaults on journalists across the country, Justice Prasad said the Council had recommended that such attacks should be made a cognisable offence under a special law. “This suggestion is under consideration with the government,” he said. “We have also suggested that November 2 every year be marked as a national day to end impunity for crimes against journalists.”

According to data compiled by the Council, about 80 journalists have been killed in various parts of the country over the last two decades. **(The Telegraph, Calcutta dated 21st August, 2015)**

Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, while speaking at ‘Orientation programme for the members’ at Delhi Assemblé Hall acknowledged that over 99 per cent of journalists are ‘dead-honest’.

Media and legislatures are not on the different sides of the table but on the same side. Both need each other, as media needs news and set the accountability for them, and legislators need media, so that their voices could be heard,” said the Chief Minister. He further added that a big credit goes to the media for the success of his Aam Aadmi Party (AAP).

“We are in the power now, though we were just TRP for media once, and it did not take us seriously,” said

Mr Kejriwal, while quoting several examples, also asked to set the accountability of the media as well.

“Though the media is a democratic institution and fourth pillar of democracy, the question arises that is the structure within the media houses is democratic or not,” said Mr Kejriwal, adding, “Over 99 per cent of the journalists are dead-honest and they work very hard. We saw that during our protests and then we became friends”.

Mentioning an earlier media report, that claimed Mr Kejriwal for stating that he don't need NTPC electricity and claimed power cuts in summers, Mr Kejriwal said that even as we provided proofs to the media house against its complaints they didn't correct the facts. **(The Statesman, New Delhi dated 27th August, 2015)**

The Centre will soon file a petition seeking review of the Supreme Court's order that photographs of only the President, the Prime Minister and the Chief Justice of India should be carried in government advertisements.

Attorney general Mukul Rohatgi told a bench headed by Justice Ranjan Gogoi that the review would be filed in the next two weeks. By then, it would also respond to the contempt petition accusing the Centre of not appointing an ombudsman to ensure government advertisements were in line with the Supreme Court guidelines issued on May 13.

Rohatgi later said, “I have advised the government to move a review in the case. We want the court to consider our plea that official advertisements need to carry photographs of ministers as well and not just that of the Prime Minister.”

According to him, government advertisements show-case the work done by various ministries and it was, therefore, important that the photograph of the minister concerned was there too. They were also the elected representatives of the people and discharge a public duty.

After hearing the AG, the bench fixed October 27 to hear the contempt pleas of petitioner NGOs Common Cause and Centre for Public Interest Litigation.

Four states---West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Mizoram and Karnataka--- have already filed petitions seeking review of the Supreme Court order. The four states want the Supreme Court to review its order restraining publication of the photographs of Chief Ministers. The court will also hear the states' review

petitions on the next date. (**The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated 6th October, 2015**)

The Press Council of India on 6th October, 2015 said it was examining the reports of attacks on the media in Bisada village, near Dadri. It has also sought a response from the West Bengal government on recent attacks on media during local body elections.

Speaking to Times of India, Press Council of India, Mr. Justice C.K. Prasad, Chairman, PCI said, “We have asked the state government (of West Bengal) to provide a report on the incidents of violence against media persons. We are also examining the issue of attacks on media in Bisada.”

The attacks on the media have come under fire from several journalist bodies including the Editors Guild of India who condemned “use of violence against media” and described the attacks as “a crude attempt to bring pressure on those who are getting closer to the truth.” It urged the governments of West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh to “identify the people who led the attack and those who encouraged such action, to face legal process.”

“For the past few weeks reports from West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh show that those in authority do not flinch from attacking or look the other way when media personnel face such situations,” The Guild noted adding that the media was doing its job in ascertaining facts in places of conflict like Dadri or covering the municipal polls in Kolkata. “Free and fair polls require the atmosphere be such and violence to say the least is unacceptable,” the Guild said.

The attacks were also condemned by the Indian Women’s Press Corps and the National Union of Journalists. The National Union of Journalists said, “We consider these attacks as an attack on the democracy and freedom of the Press.” (**The Times of India, New Delhi dated 7th October, 2015**)

Veteran Journalist Ved Bhasin, credited with institutionalizing journalism in Jammu and Kashmir, passed away on 5th November night after a brief illness. He was 86.

Bhasin, Founder Editor and Chairman of Kashmir Times Group of Publications, breathed his last at his Gandhi Nagar residence. (**The Indian Express, New Delhi dated 7th November, 2015**)

Readers in Nagaland woke up on 16th November, 2015 the National Press Day- to find that many of the leading newspapers had kept their editorial

columns blank to protest alleged censorship by the Assam Rifles (AR). In a joint statement, editors of six newspapers charged the paramilitary force with trying to “censor [and] weaken” the media in the State.

Asserting their right to uphold “freedom of speech and expression” in accordance with the guidelines of the Press Council of India, the editors said they would “continue” to produce news content in a fair and unbiased manner.

In a notice, issued by a Colonel of the General Staff of the AR, Rajesh Gupta, the papers were instructed to refrain from publishing news related to Naga insurgent group NSCN- Khaplang [NSCN-K]. The notice said that “any article which projects the demands of NSCN-K and gives it publicity is a violation under the Unlawful Activities [Prevention] Act, 1967 and should not be published by your newspaper.” The papers earlier published a story where NSCN-K had threatened the lawmakers for derailing the Naga struggle at the behest of the Centre,” NSCN-K alleged that Naga “cohnorts” were “actively collaborating” with the Narendra Modi government to “reimpose ban” and to “strangulate the NSCN-K economically,” the papers reported.

Following the publication of these reports, the AR issued the notice asking the papers to refrain from “publicity” to NSCN-K.

Formed in 1988, the NSCN-K is a breakaway faction of the NSCN-IM, which is currently engaged in peace talks with the Centre Annoyed by the notice, the editors said they reported “news by, or from, banned organizations... in the spirit of transparency, inclusivity and fairness” in order to engage diverse State groups in a constructive manner. The newspaper reports “at no point... sought to support a banned organization or to in cite and promote violence,” the statement said. They also questioned whether the AR’s letter was an attempt to curb the freedom of the press in the State. (**The Hindu, New Delhi dated 17th November, 2015**)

Journalist Hemendra Narayan, who covered the Northeast for the India Express between 1983 and 1987, passed away at his apartment on 17th November. (**The Indian Express, New Delhi dated 18th November, 2015**)

On November 16, when the country celebrated the National Press Freedom Day, three newspapers in Nagaland were published with blank editorials to protest a notification from the Assam Rifles that had the effect of muzzling press freedom.

The notification had warned newspapers against carrying statements made by militant outfits. The Press Council of India has served notice suo motu on the Assam Rifles and the State Government.

“We are worried about the implications for the freedom of the press and have sought a detailed explanation,” PCI Chairman, Chandramouli Kumar Prasad told The Hindu in an interview.

India’s ranking

Mr. Prasad said he was worried about the ranking of India on World Press Freedom index published by Reporters without Borders. The index for 2015 places India at 136 among 190 nations. “If what the report says is indeed true and I have my reasons to disbelieve it--- it is a failure of the Press Council. It means we have not carried out our statutory obligations. I question the ranking process itself. I have sought information from them,” he said.

Mr. Prasad said he did not share the perception of Reporters without Borders, given the number of newspapers and journalists in India. “Look at the size of newspapers and the number of journalists in India. If five out of one lakh of them unfortunately get killed, how can you judge us on the basis of this? You cannot rank us on the basis of just numbers. The report has to be in the context of the journalists India has,” he said. “It is not the case that attack on journalists has increased.” He said the PCI served notice on Union Minister General (retd.) V.K. Singh for his comments that Journalists should be sent to Agra Mental Hospital, While Mr. Singh said his comments were reported out of context, Mr. Prasad clarified that he was seeking an explanation from the Minister as well as from the newspapers concerned.

“Since this is not the first time Mr. Singh has had issues with the Press, I have decided to seek a full explanation...”(**The Hindu, New Delhi date 20th November, 2015**)

The Delhi government on 26th November, 2015 introduced a bill proposing amendments to the Working Journalists Act that envisages imprisonment of up to one year and penalty extending to Rs.10,000 for any violations.

Tabling the bill in the Delhi Assembly, city labour minister Gopal Rai said the “shortcomings” in the current law were coming in the way of implementation of several recommendations of the Majithia Wage Board for journalists and non-journalists.

“The Working journalists and other newspaper employees raised several issues regarding payment of salaries and also lack of proper provisions to enforce reasonable wages/salaries for working journalists and other newspaper employees” Mr. Rai said.

The Working Journalists and other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions (Delhi Amendment) Bill, 2015 seeks to address the “shortcomings” in providing adequate compensation and strengthens the penal provision in cases of non-adherence to the Act.

The proposed amendments to Section 18 of the Act stipulate imprisonment of up to six months and a fine which may extend to Rs.5,000 for non-payment of the due wages to an employee. Further, the amendments envisage more stringent penal provision under section 18(1) and 18(1A) which include imprisonment as well as provisions of enhanced fine which will provide an effective deterrence for the violators of the Act.

According to this amendment, the words “punishable with fine which may extend to Rs.500” shall be substituted by the words “punishable with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year, and shall also be liable to fine which may extend to Rs. 10,000.”

Mr. Rai alleged that no media organization has so far implemented the recommendations of Majithia Wage Board in the city. **(The Asian Age, New Delhi dated 27th November, 2015)**

Court cases

In a major set back to Delhi Chief Minister Minister Arvind Kejriwal, the Supreme Court stayed the implementation of a Delhi government circular on initiating defamation proceedings against media for publishing or broadcasting news that damages the reputation of the Chief Minister, the Council of Ministers and the government.

“Issuing a notice to Mr. Kejriwal, a bench of Justices Dipak Misra and Prafulla C Pant, ordered as an interim measure a stay of the circular dated 6 May 2015, till further orders.

Asking Mr. Kejriwal to explain why the directorate of information has issued “such circular”, the court sought a reply within six weeks and listed the matter for further hearing on 8 July.

According to the circular issued by Delhi state information and publicity department, if any officer associated with the Delhi government feels that a published or aired item damages his or the government's reputation, he could file a complaint with the Principal Secretary (Home).

The Circular also stated that after getting a go-ahead from the Director (Prosecution), the matter should be referred to the law department and after taking approval from the government, a case should be filed.

In the past, Mr. Kejriwal had claimed that there is a "conspiracy to finish off the AAP" among a "very large" section of the media.

The Delhi government refused to comment on the SC's stay order on its circular on filing of defamation cases against media houses for publishing or broadcasting news that damage the reputation of the CM. the Council of Ministers and the government. **(The Statesman, New Delhi dated 15th May, 2015)**

The Supreme Court on 22nd June issued notice to the Centre, Uttar Pradesh government and the Press Council of India on a writ petition for a Centre Beuro of Investigation CBI probe into the brutal killing of a journalist in Shahjahanpur allegedly by the 'mining mafia' by setting him ablaze.

A vacation bench of Justices M.Y. Eqbal and Arun Mishra issued notice on the petition filed by Satish Jain, editor, *Janbhawna Sandesh* newspaper after hearing senior counsel Adish Aggarwala, who argued that this was a serious incident affecting the freedom of the press. The bench asked the respondents to file their response in two weeks Counsel also cited the subsequent killing of a journalist in Madhya Pradesh to drive home the point that media persons were being attacked across the country.

The petitioner submitted that the present petition was being filed against the attack caused to the freedom of press and attack on Indian democracy. Pointing out that the threats and attacks on journalists were on the increase and it was a pan India issue, he wanted the apex court's interference to lay down guidelines for the protection of journalists and the media.

The petitioner cited the dying declaration of the victim saying, "Why did they have to burn me? If the ministers and his goons had a grudge, they could have beaten me instead of pouring kerosene and burning me....."

Jagendra Singh was allegedly set on fire during a police raid at his house in Awas Vikas Colony of Sadar Bazar area on June 1. (**The Asian Age, New Delhi dated 23rd June, 2015**)

After holding hearing over 19 days, the Supreme Court on Tuesday reserved its verdict on the constitutional validity of criminal defamation law. A bench of justices Dipak Misra and Prafulla C Pant will pronounce its verdict on a batch of 27 petitions filed by a TV channel, journalists and politicians including Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi, BJP leader Subramanian Swamy and Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal.

The court is to decide whether Section 499 and 500 of Indian Penal Code are to be removed from the rule book and if not then whether the penal provision should remain as it is. The penal provision makes defamation an offence punishable by up to a 2-year jail term.

The Centre and various state governments stoutly opposed the plea for quashing of criminal defamation law on the ground that it worked as a deterrent to prevent people from maligning others' reputation. They contended that scrapping of the law would lead to anarchy in the society when people would get away with impunity even after destroying the reputation of a person.

Attorney general Mukul Rohatgi had told the court that such a penal provision was a must in the present era of social media when reputation of a person can be sullied in the fraction of a second.

While hearing the case, the bench had expressed its disapproval over the present practice of multiple complaints being filed by many people across the country against a person for allegedly making a defamatory statement. (**The Times of India, New Delhi dated 14th August, 2015**)

The Supreme Court on 13th October, 2015 asked the Centre to respond to a plea by an NGO challenging the publishing of Prime Minister's photograph in government advertisements.

A Bench led by Justice Ranjan Gogoi issued notice to the government on a plea by the NGO, the Centre for Public Interest Litigation, seeking a judicial review of the court's verdict exempting the Prime Minister from a ban on politicians' photographs, including Chief Ministers, on government advertisements.

The order was uploaded on the Supreme Court website late on Tuesday evening.

The Supreme Court posted the case for open court hearing on October 27.

In its application, the NGO contended that the exemption from the ban “gives him [the PM] and the political party he belongs to, mileage over the political opponents.”

“Recent advertisements would show that such advertisements have the potential to create partisan politics, favouring party in power and putting Opposition in bad light.” The petition, represented by advocate Prashant Bhushan, stated.

In its May 13 verdict, the Supreme Court issued guidelines for the publication of government advertisements and held that publication of photographs of politicians and government functionaries, including Chief Ministers, defeated the public interest behind advertising welfare schemes and encouraged “personality cults.”

However, the Bench led by Justice Gogoi, exempted the President, the Prime Minister and the Chief Justice of India from this ban, leaving it to their discretion to decide whether they wanted their pictures published in the advertisements or not.

The NGO said the exemption given to the Prime Minister undermined the letter and spirit of the court’s guidelines and defeated the very purpose involved in disseminating information to the citizens about government schemes, policies, welfare programmes and achievements. (**The Hindu, New Delhi dated October 14th, 2015**)

World Media in Indian Press

USA

Three German reporters and an American journalist are suing the police in the Missouri town of Ferguson over their treatment during racially charged riots last year, a press watchdog confirmed on 2nd April, 2015. Reporters without Borders said it “fully supports” the legal action against the Ferguson police department by the journalists who alleged battery, false arrest and unreasonable search and seizure. The Ferguson police were sharply criticized for their heavy-handed actions in August during unrest triggered by the fatal shooting of an unarmed black teenager. “Arrests of Journalists while gathering information and

covering demonstrations are inadmissible in the country of the First Amendment,” said director or RWB. **(The Asian Age, New Delhi dated 3rd April, 2015)**

A woman TV reporter and a cameraman were today killed during a live broadcast when a “disgruntled” ex-employee of the TV station opened fire in the US state of Virginia before succumbing to injuries from a self inflicted gunshot wound.

The WDBJ journalists who were killed were reporter Alison Parker, 24, and cameraman Adam Ward, 27. They were interviewing a woman about a shopping plaza in Moneta, a small community near Roanoke city--around 400 km south west of Washington DC-- when they were shot by the gunman identified as Vester Lee Flanagan II, 41, of Roanoke.

Then gunman is believed to have fired six or seven times, WDBJ General Manager Jeff Marks said. **(The Tribune, Chandigarh dated 27th August, 2015)**

China Egypt and Iran top the list of the World’s leading jailers of journalists in a new annual report by the New York based Committee to Protect Journalists.

Eritrea, Ethiopia and Turkey also figured prominently on the list. The report released early 15th December, 2015 says a quarter of the 199 journalists worldwide who were in prison as of December 1 because of their work were in china.

The Communist Party-run country under President Xi Jinping had 49 journalists behind bars, the highest number for China since the CPJ began its annual survey in 1990.

The report also singled out three jailed Chinese who were not included on its annual list: the three brothers of a US-based journalist with Radio Free Asia who covers China’s treatment of his ethnic group, the Muslim Uighurs.

CPJ calls the jailing of Shohret Hoshur’s brothers an act of retaliation for his reporting and an example of “the lengths to which China is willing to go to silence its critics.”

Egypt was second on the list with 23 journalists in prison, up from a dozen a year ago and zero in 2012.

“Perhaps nowhere has the climate for the press deteriorated more rapidly than in Egypt,” the report says, accusing President Abdel- Fattah el-Sissi. **(The Asian Age, New Delhi dated December 16, 2015)**

Malaysia

A Malaysian political cartoonist known for skewering the country's ruling regime was charged 3rd April, 2015 with what his lawyer called a record nine counts of sedition, one of dozens of targets in a deepening clampdown on civil liberties.

Zulkifli Anwar Ulhaque -- who goes by the pen name Zunar -- has faced sedition charges previously for his cartoons and had collections of his works banned, but the current charges stem from his Twitter criticism of the February jailing of opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim.

"How can I be neutral if even my pen has a stand? Being neutral in Malaysia means you are supporting the corrupt government," Zunar told the Malaysian Insider news portal afterward.

The defiant cartoonist had earlier arrived at a Kuala Lumpur courthouse to face the charges dressed in a purple mock prison jumpsuit, clowning for journalists with a set of handcuffs.

His lawyer Latheefa Koya later said nine sedition counts related to individual tweets were entered, calling it a Malaysian "record high" for a single court appearance.

A single sedition conviction can result in three years in jail.

"We will fight this. Sedition is being used in the most ridiculous fashion," she said.

The political coalition that has ruled for 58 years keeps a tight rein on mainstream media and moves to squelch criticism of its recurring corruption scandals and alleged rights infringements.

But since stumbling to its worst-ever showing in 2013 elections against the Anwar-led opposition, Prime Minister Najib Razak's government has moved to tighten its grip, launching an accelerating free-speech clampdown.

Dozens of government critics, including opposition politicians, academics, activists, and journalists, have been arrested for sedition or other charges. **(The Asian Age, New Delhi dated 4th April, 2015)**

Ukraine

A Prominent Ukrainian Journalist known for his pro-Russian views was shot dead on 9th April in Kiev by two masked gunmen, the interior ministry said, a day after a former lawmaker loyal to ousted President Viktor Yanukovich was also killed.

Oles Buzina, 45, was known for his pro-Russian a opinion Pieces published in Ukraine's Sevodnya daily newspaper, which is part of the media empire of Ukraine's richest businessman Rinat Akhmetov. He ran in the election in 2014 for a parliamentary seat for the Russian Bloc party, but was not elected. **(The Asian Age, New Delhi dated 17th April, 2015)**

United Nation

Press freedom is a fundamental right that should be granted to all, said United Nations secretary-general Ban Ki-moon.

Ban, who issued a joint statement with Unesco director-general Irina Bokova, and United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein on Sunday added that press freedom was part of freedom of expression.

The three, in announcing that the theme for World Press Freedom Day 2015 is "Let journalism thrive," stressed the importance of the press in creating a sustainable global development agenda.

"In 2015, states are accelerating to reach the Millennium Development Goals and shaping a new global sustainable development agenda," said the three.

They pointed out that freedom of expression and press freedom are essential to success at every level.

Ban, Bokova, and Zeid said that the existence of the media is important for citizens of the world to both access and impart information.

They said that freedom of expression and press freedom "are not luxuries that can wait until sustainable development has been achieved".

"It is an enabler for the enjoyment of all human rights and, therefore, vital to good governance and the rule of law," said the three.

They added that quality journalism gives citizens the ability to make informed decisions about their society's development.

“It also works to expose injustice, corruption, and the abuse of power,” they said.

They said that the safety of journalists working all over the world should be enhanced, seeing the importance of journalism.

“Journalism must be able to thrive, in an enabling environment in which they can work independently and without undue interference and in conditions of safety,” said the three.

They pointed out that at least one journalist is killed each week, in conflict and non-conflict zones.

“We must redouble efforts to enhance the safety of journalists and put an end to impunity, and this is the goal of the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity, spearheaded by Unesco and supported by other UN entities,” they said.

“They added that the representation of women in the media, both at the “decision-making level and in the coverage of issues” should be increased. “Men and women must participate equally in making and sharing the news,” they said. **(The Statesman, New Delhi dated 5th May, 2015)**

France

Salman Rushdie, Niel Gaiman attend controversial event, but Ondaatje, Peter Carey miss NY ceremony

Under armed security and a cloud of conflicted opinions and emotions, the French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo was presented a freedom of expression award on 5th May, 2015 night from the PEN American Centre.

Editor-in-chief Gerard Biard and critic-essayist Jean-Baptiste Thoret accepted the freedom of expression courage award to a standing ovation following a weeklong debate — alternately thoughtful and divisive — over whether the honour was deserved.

Salman Rushdie and Neil Gaiman were among hundreds of writers, editors and others from the publishing world cheering for Hebdo at the literary and human rights organisation’s gala at the American Museum of Natural History,

where awards also were given to playwright Tom Stoppard, Azerbaijani investigative journalist Khadija Ismayilova and Penguin Random House CEO Markus Dohle.

Just as notable were those who would not, and could not, be there.

Michael Ondaatje, Peter Carey and four other writers scheduled to be table hosts withdrew because of objections to what they considered the magazine's offensive cartoons of Muslims. More than 200 writers, among them Joyce Carol Oates and Michael Cunningham, signed an open letter criticising PEN. The gathering on night was overwhelmingly supportive of Hebdo and the award if only because so many opponents stayed home, some by choice, some citing scheduling conflicts.

Those who spoke recalled absent friends. While introducing Stoppard, actress Glenn Close paid tribute to the late Mike Nichols, who directed her in a Broadway adaptation of Stoppard's *The Real Thing*. Ismayilova, given the PEN/Barbara Goldsmith freedom to write award, has been imprisoned since December and was represented by fellow journalist Emin Milli. Biard and Thoret came on behalf of colleagues killed in the January shooting at the magazine's Paris offices that left 12 dead.

In accepting the award, Biard noted the magazine's history of shocking readers with its irreverent drawings of religious figures.

"Growing up to be a citizen is to learn that some ideas, some words, some images, can be shocking," he said. "Being shocked is a part of democratic debate. Being shot is not."

While virtually everyone stood and clapped for Hebdo, not everyone was an admirer. The Iranian-born novelist Porochista Khakpour, a table host, said that she had no plans to applaud even as she affirmed her support for PEN's mission. Roz Chast, the best-selling author and *New Yorker* cartoonist, called the Hebdo illustrations "sort of stupid and ham-handed".

"But if I didn't support their right to publish them I wouldn't be here," she said. (**The Asian Age, New Delhi dated 7th May, 2015**)

Russia

Moscow-based channel Russia pulled up by the Information and Broadcasting Ministry for airing a video clip containing several indecent shots last year.

The channel, which apologised for the mistake and assured that it will be more careful and vigilant about the content exhibited in India, was issued an advisory to adhere to Programme and Advertising Codes, according to the Ministry.

In its advisory, the Ministry said a show cause notice was issued to the channel after it was noticed that in December last year it ran visuals which appeared to offend against good taste and decency.

Responding to the notice, M/s Lamhas Satellite Services Limited, as the distribution partner of Russia Today, submitted that they did not intentionally or unintentionally try to vilify the portrayal of women in general and that the show was an extract from another program purely based on abstract, experimental artistic pursuit as depicted in the clip.

The company also said that they had instructed the Channel to strictly abide by the Cable TV Regulation Act and it had premised to be more careful and vigilant about the content exhibited in India. **(The Indian Express, New Delhi dated 27th July, 2015)**

Syrian Arab Republic

A Syrian journalist working for pro-government media was killed early on 27th July as he was reporting on clashes in east Damascus, state media and a monitoring group said. In a breaking news alert, Syrian state television reported the “death of National Defence Forces journalist Thaer al-Ajlani as he was covering the clashes in the Jobar area”. Jobar is still mostly controlled by rebel groups including Al-Qaeda’s Syrian affiliate Al-Nusra Front. State news agency SANA also reported Ajlani’s death, saying that he was covering government clashes “with takfiri (extremist Sunni) terrorist organisations” for radio station *Sham FM*. **(The Asian Age, New Delhi dated 28th July, 2015)**

Chapter-II

Adjudications in Complaints Regarding Threats to Press Freedom

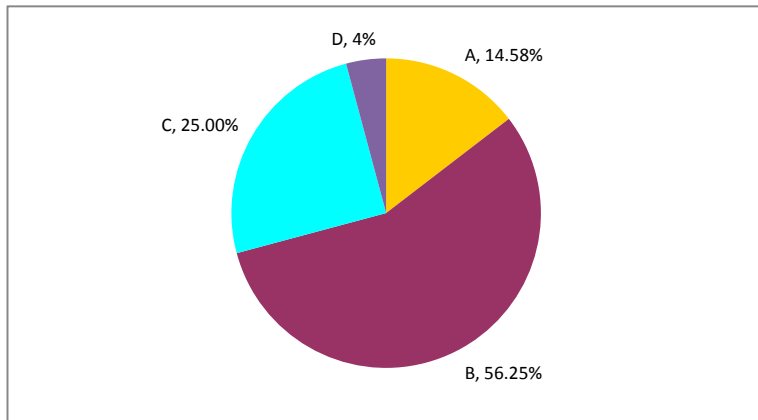
The Press Council of India is mandated by the statute to keep under review any development likely to impinge upon the freedom of the press. Such threat may emanate from any source, be it from elements within the society or political parties and their representatives or government authorities or militants or even from within the press itself taking the shape of editorial -management disputes.

While 117 matters of this nature were pending from the previous year, 236 fresh cases were registered in the year under review. A total of 353 matters thus required consideration. Of these, 49 matters were disposed off through adjudications which also included one matter directly considered by the Council. 161 matters were dismissed or disposed off for lack of sufficient grounds for holding inquiry or where satisfactory amends had been made by the concerned authorities or matters fell outside the Council's charter or became sub-judice or for non-pursuance on the part of the complainants. The remaining 143 matters were under process at the end of the period under review.

Adjudications on complaint carrying allegations of attempt at curtailment of the freedom of the press, either by way of threats, physical or vocal, or denial of concessions and privileges, by the authorities have been analysed in this chapter.

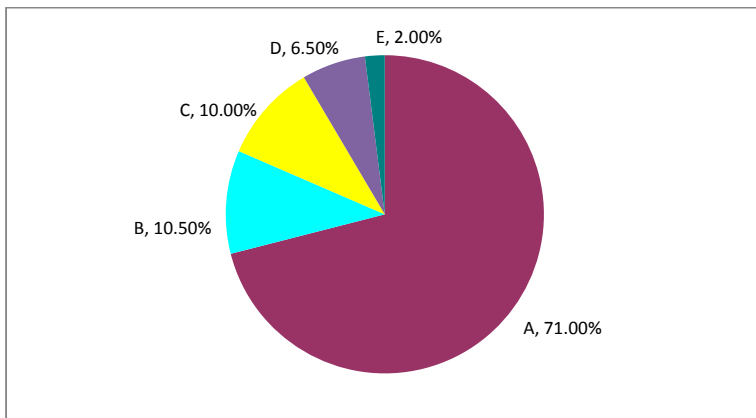
Categories of Complainants

- A. English Press
- B. Indian Languages Press
- C. Journalist Associations/News Agency
- D. *Sou-motu*

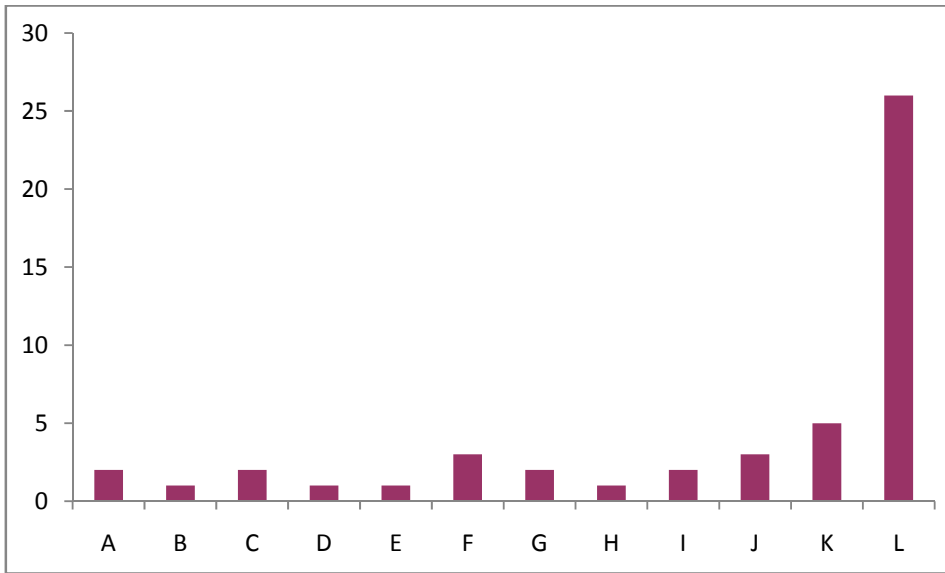


Categories of Respondents

- A. Police/Government Authorities
- B. Information Department
- C. Institutions/Private Companies/Newspaper Management
- D. Private Persons
- E. Public Persons



Statewise Distribution of the Complainant Publications



Key to abbreviation

Total No. cases: 49

(Including one matters adjudicated directly by the Council)

A	Assam	2
B	Andhra Pradesh	1
C	Bihar	2
D	Chhattisgarh	1
E	Daman & Diu	1
F	Delhi	3
G	Madhya Pradesh	2
H	Odisha	1
I	Rajasthan	2
J	Tamil Nadu	3
K	Uttarakhand	5
L	Uttar Pradesh	26

Harassment of Newsmen

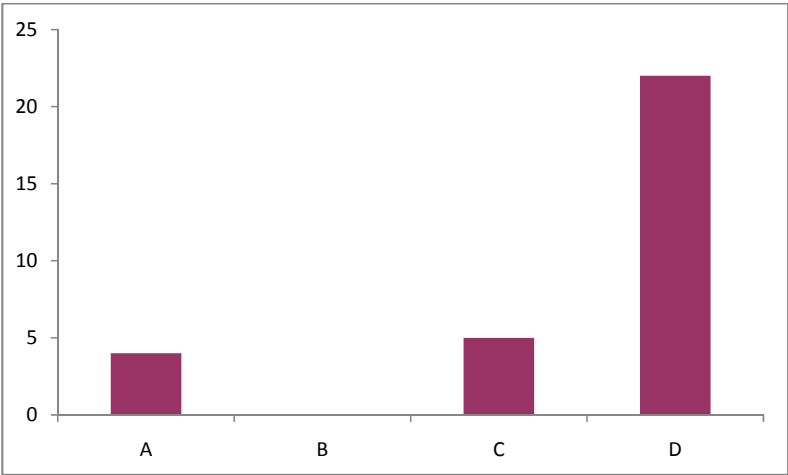
For bringing to the fore the unsavory conduct of the authorities by way of articles/news in discharge of their professional duties, the journalists have to often bear the brunt. Manhandling, implication in criminal cases, etc. are some of the methods adopted by the authorities to compel pressmen to toe their line. Similarly, threats to life, property and family of the pressmen are also tactics adopted by vindictive militant outfits and anti-social elements to thwart the journalists in their fearless reporting and when they highlight their misdemeanors. The escalating number of cases of harassment of journalists manifests the failure of endeavors to check such violations of human rights.

The Council adjudicated a total of 31 such matters in this financial year. Of these the charges were several to be substantiated in four matters while no matter was dismissed on merits. In five others, the Council dropped inquiry when respondents concerned made adequate amends or assured protection. Remaining 22 complaints were disposed of for the matters having become sub-judice or when no action by the Council was found to be warranted in the matter. The graphical chart that follows makes the position more clear.

Harassment of Newsmen

Total No. of cases: 31

A. Upheld	4
B. Rejected	--
C. Assurance/Settled/Amends	5
D. Dropped for Non-pursuance/ Withdrawl/Sub-Judice/ Lack of Substance	22



Facilities to the Press

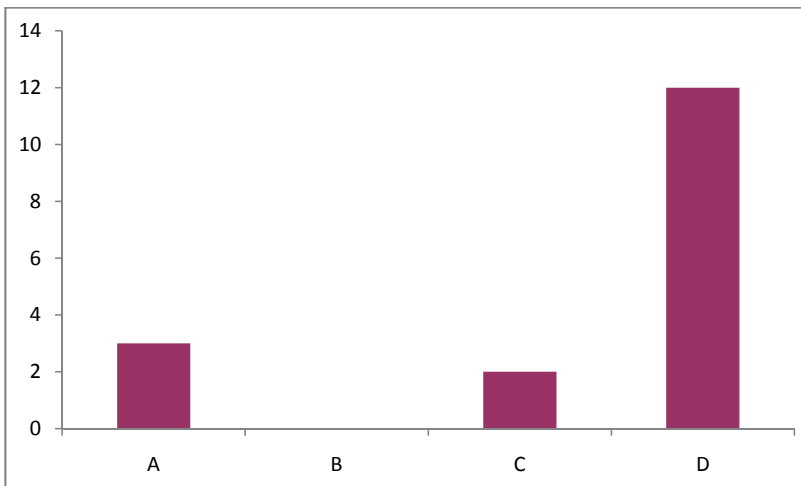
Facilities like accreditation, government advertisement, etc. are the backbone of the newspapers. While accreditation helps in collection and dissemination of news, release of advertisements pertaining to policies and schemes for betterment of general public by the government *inter-alia* provide newspapers financial support. Its absence poses a major hindrance to the existence of the paper. The Council has observed that at times, the authorities responsible to provide these facilities to the newspaper, use it as a tool to make the newspaper toe their line. The worst sufferers are the regional newspapers of small and medium category.

Complaints against biased withdrawal or denial of the above facilities abound, but not all are pursued till the stage of adjudication. However, of the 17 adjudications that fall under this category, three were upheld while in two matters the authorities concerned redressed the grievances of the complaining parties. 12 matters were disposed off for non-pursuance or for the matter having become *sub-judice* or when no action by the Council was found to be warranted after hearing the parties. The chart that follows makes the position more clear.

Facilities of the Press

Total No. cases: 17

A. Upheld	3
B. Rejected	--
C. Assurance/Settled/Amends	2
D. Dropped for Non-Pursuance/ Withdrawl/Sub-Judice/ Lack of Substance	12



Chapter-III

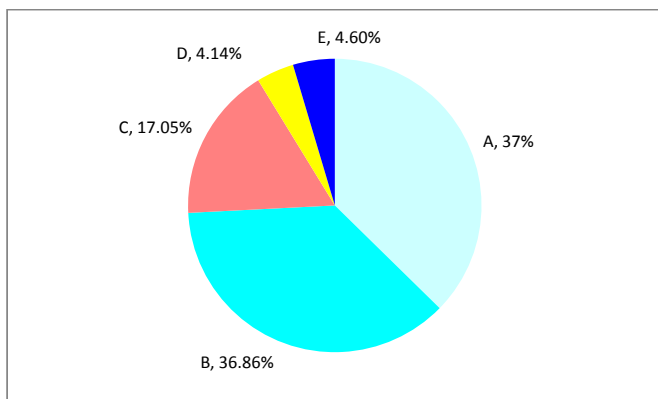
Adjudications in Complaints Filed Against the Press

The Press Council of India has been established for the purpose not only of preserving the freedom of the press but also of maintaining and improving the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India. For the latter purpose, the Council is required to build up code of conduct for newspapers; ensure on the part of newspapers, news agencies and journalists the maintenance of high standards of public taste and foster a due sense of both the rights and responsibilities of citizenship; encourage the growth of a sense of responsibility and public service among all those engaged in the profession of journalism; promote a proper functional relationship among all classes of persons engaged in the production and publication of newspapers or in news agencies; etc.

During the course of the year under reviews, the Council received 666 new complaints against the Press for the alleged violation of journalistic norms. Besides, there were 1144 matters pending from the previous year. Thus, the Council was to consider in all 1810 complaints against the press during the year under review. Of these, 217 matter were disposed off through adjudications and 484 through disposal at the preliminary stage, either by settling these to the satisfaction of the parties or lack of substance or on account of non-pursuance, etc. while one matter was directly placed before the Council for adjudication. Thus 1108 matters were pending in this category at the close of the financial year under review. The chart that follows makes the position more clear.

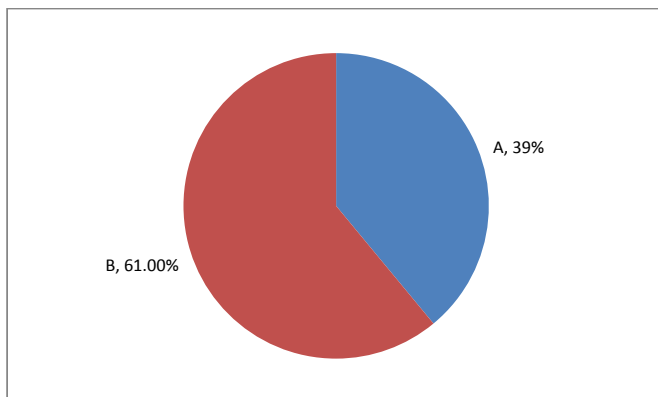
Categories of Complainants

- A. Government Authorities/
Government Officers
- B. Private Persons
- C. Institutions/Private Companies
Newspaper Associations
- D. Public Persons
- E. *Suo-motu*

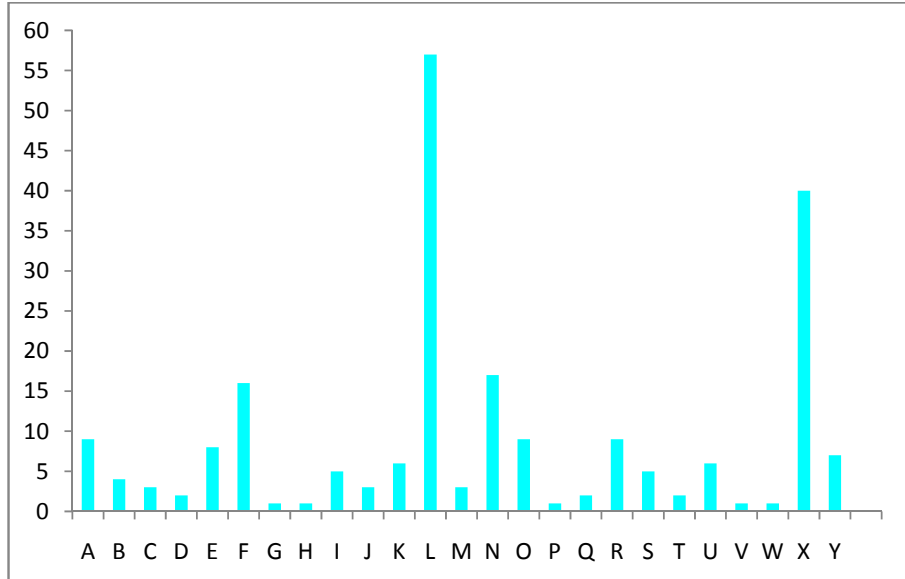


Categories of Respondents

- A. English Press
- B. Indian Languages Press



Statewise distribution of the Respondent Publications



Key to Abbreviation

Total No. Cases: 218

(Including one matter adjudicated directly by the Council)

A	Andhra Pradesh	9
B	Assam	4
C	Bihar	3
D	Chhattisgarh	2
E	Punjab & Chandigarh	8
F	Delhi	16
G	Daman & Diu	1
H	Gujarat	1
I	Goa	5
J	Himachal Pradesh	3
K	Jharkhand	6
L	Karnataka	57
M	Kerala	3
N	Maharashtra	17
O	Madhya Pradesh	9
P	Meghalaya	1
Q	Orissa	2
R	Puducherry	9
S	Rajashtan	5
T	Sikkim	2
U	Tamil Nadu	6
V	Tripura	1
W	Uttarakhand	1
X	Uttar Pradesh	40
Y	West Bengal	7

Principles and Publication

The Council had laid down clear norms of journalism to guide the press in the healthy discharge of its duties and attitude towards the readers.

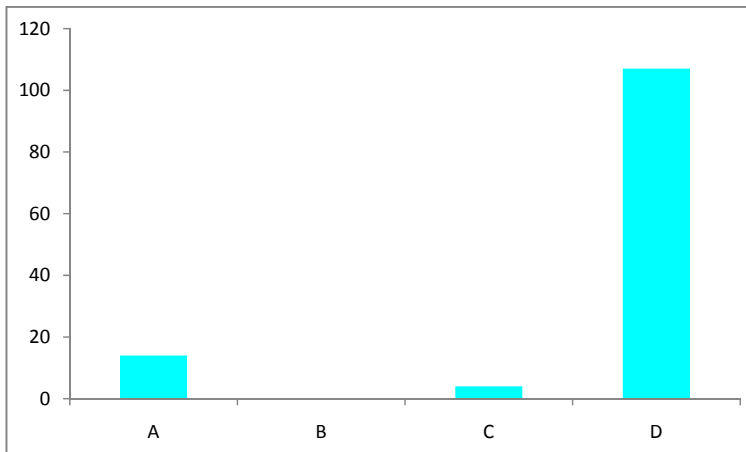
When newspapers publish inaccurate reports, write-ups etc. harmful to the reputation of an individual or public officials or when the reporting is based on incorrect sources or published with mal-intention, the person aggrieved sends rebuttal or clarifies facts through rejoinder giving his version of the story. The newspapers reluctant to publish the same with due promptitude and prominence, prompts the aggrieved party/person to knock the door of the Council. Through its adjudications, the Council helps the press to maintain the respect and dignity which the fourth estate deserves.

The Council received during this year several cases against newspapers, where the complainants were primarily aggrieved over the non-publication of their respective rejoinders/replies/contradictions by the respondent newspapers. 125 adjudications delivered this year fell under this category. Of these, 14 complaints were upheld with appropriate directions while no matter was rejected. Settlement was brought about four matters and remaining 107 complaints were dropped for non-pursuance, withdrawal or the matter having become sub-judice. The graphical chart that follows makes the position more clear.

Principles and Publications

Total No. cases: 125

A. Upheld	... 14
B. Rejected	...
C. Assurance/Settled/Amends	... 04
D. Dropped for Non-pursuance/ Withdrawal/Sub-Judice/ Lack of Substance	... 107



Press and Defamation

Journalists in a zeal to expose corruption in society or of public servant, public figures and others through the medium of newspapers, often overstep the limit of fair 'comment and run foul of the Law of Defamation. The complaints received by the Council against journalists/newspapers, it is alleged that the impugned publication is false and defamatory. It is therefore necessary for the reporters, editors, printers and publishers of newspapers to have at least, elementary knowledge of those aspects of law which are special interest of media such as law of defamation.

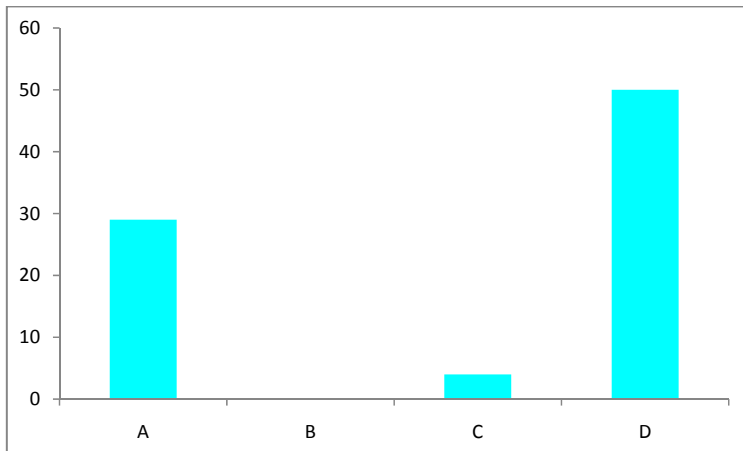
The Council has observed that the press at times uses the medium to gratify private spite or personal greed and avarice by defaming persons/institutions through the columns of the newspapers. This tendency is comparatively higher in the smaller or the fly-by night newspapers. Defamatory writings against individuals/institutions are published as a reprisal measure due to personal enmity; for blackmailing for money; or some other favours sought from the persons/institutions concerned.

The Council adjudicated 83 complaints this year pertaining to alleged defamatory publications. Of these, the press was found guilty of violation of journalistic ethics in 29 cases. In four matters, the Council was able to bring about reconciliation between the parties, whereas 50 complaints were disposed off for failure to pursue charges or on account of matters having become *sub-judice* or where no action by the Council was found to be warranted after hearing the parties. The following graphics explains the position.

Press and Defamation

Total No. of Cases: 83

A. Upheld	...29
B. Rejected	..._
C. Assurance/Settled/ Amends	...04
D. Dropped for Non-pursuance/ Withdrawal/Sub-Judice/ Lack of Substance	... 50



Press and Morality

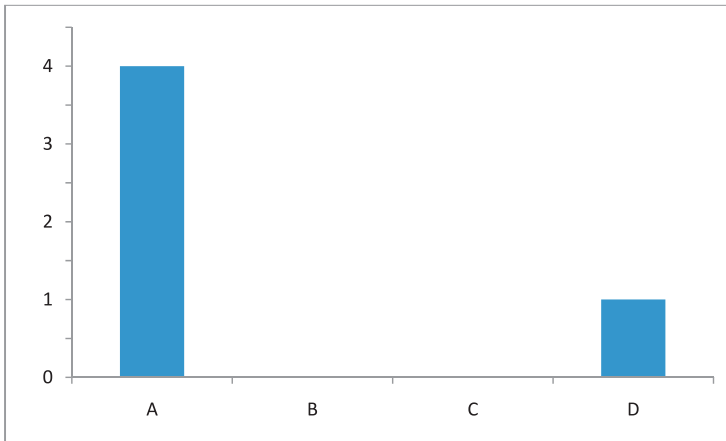
The role of the press in a democracy is that of a watchdog of the interest of the people. But, if this powerful watchdog is not reasonably restrained it might harm the very people whom it is supposed to serve. Barring occasional lapses, well established newspapers/magazines in India have maintained reasonable standards of professional rectitude even in the face of corruptive western ideas and influences. However, unfortunately there is a section the press which gets carried away by them much to the detriment of the strength of the moral fabric of Indian culture and traditions. It is the adolescent and susceptible mind which is their prime target and victim. Whenever the Council comes across such instances, it initiates action *suo-motu*. Apart from this, it also adjudicates upon complaints received on such merits.

The Council adjudicated five matters, the question of obscenity was adjudicated upon by the Council. The charges of offence against public taste and morality against the newspapers were upheld in four matters, while one matter was dropped on merits. The following graphical chart makes the position more clear.

Press and Morality

Total No. cases: 5

A. Upheld	4
B. Rejected	--
C. Assurance/Settled/Amends	--
D. Dropped for Non-pursuance/ Withdrawl/Sub-Judice/ Lack of Substance	1



Communal, Casteist, Anti National And Anti Religious Writings

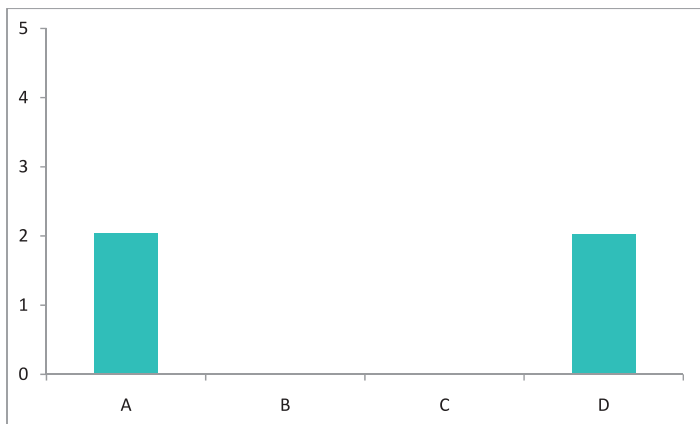
Recognising that the press which enjoys the utmost freedom of expression has a great and vital role to play in educating and moulding public opinion on correct lines in regard to the need for friendly and harmonious relations between various communities and religious groups forming the fabric of Indian political life and in mirroring the conscience of the best minds of the country to achieve national solidarity. The Press Council of India considers that this object would be defeated, communal peace and harmony disturbed and national unity disrupted if the Press doesn't strictly adhere to proper norms and standard in reporting on or commenting on matters which bear on communal relations.

During the period under review, the Council adjudicated four complaints under this category. Of these, two matters were upheld, while two was disposed off with observation. The following chart makes the position more clear.

Communal, Casteist, Anti National And Anti Religious Writings

Total No. of Cases: 4

A. Upheld	2
B. Rejected	--
C. Assurance/Settled/ Amends	--
D. Dropped for Non-pursuance/ Withdrawl/Sub-Judice/ Lack of Substance	2



Chapter-IV

Report on killing of Shri Jagendra Singh, Journalist at Shahjahanpur, U.P.

Chain of incidents and constitution of the Committee:

Press Council of India constituted a three-member Fact Finding Team to probe into the facts relating to death of journalist Jagendra Singh of Shahjahanpur district of Uttar Pradesh due to burning under mysterious circumstances. After burn injury, journalist Jagendra Singh alleged in his statement to media that he wrote against the minister and exposed him (Shahjahanpur Samachar). Therefore, Police and supporters of the minister as a reprisal measure poured Petrol on him and set him on fire.

After his death, this statement can be seen in video in which Jagendra Singh, admitted in the hospital said, "At the instance of the minister, Police and supporters of the minister poured Petrol on me and set me on fire." After eight days of allegations (June 8, 2015), the Hon'ble Chairman, Press Council of India Mr. Justice Chandramauli Kr. Prasad (Retired Judge of Supreme Court), taking suo motu action declared constituting a Fact Finding Team in Dehradun to probe into the facts of the matter after the death of Jagendra Singh. A three-member Fact Finding Team was constituted on 10.6.2015 vide PCI order regarding case no 13/52/2015-16. Team consisting of Shri Prakash Dubey, S. N. Sinha and Dr. Suman Gupta was assigned the responsibility to collect information from State Government as well as all the parties including Govt. after conducting on the spot inquiry.

Inquiry Procedure:

1. First of all, meeting with the family members of the journalist in paternal town Khutar. Listening to the views of local people.
2. Meeting with the residents after going to district headquarter Shahjahanpur. Listening to their views. Before that, collecting information from journalists regarding the whole incident and discussions held regarding their arguments, facts & evidences. Opinion and allegations of representatives of trade union of Shahjahanpur about the incident. Knowing facts about the incident from Shahjahanpur district administration and obtaining official intimation regarding action taken till the evening of that day i.e. June 16.

3. How seriously State Administration took this incident and which actions were taken? Inquiry from Chief Secretary and other officers to know the facts.
4. Discussion, if possible, with CM regarding steps being taken by administration, so as to understand that to what extent administration, especially Police, performed its responsibilities.
5. Was there any obstacle or hindrance created while conducting investigation of the deceased?

Fact Finding Team investigated in Shahjahanpur and Lucknow on 16.6.2015 and 17.6.2015 by meeting concerned people. On 16.6.2015, members of the team went to the paternal house of Jagendra Singh in Mohalla Kot of town Khutar in Shahjahanpur which is almost 200 kilometers away from Lucknow and met father Sumer Singh, wife Suman Singh, sons Rajendra Singh, Rahul Singh, daughter Deeksha Singh and his sister Lovely. Turn-by-turn obtained separate information from everyone regarding the incident.

All the three members of Fact Finding Team started their journey from Lucknow to Khutar of Shahjahanpur district on June 16 2015 at 10:00 a.m. Few people including father Sumer Singh, wife Suman, two sons and a daughter of deceased Jagendra Singh were sitting on Dharna outside the house. Khutar is more than 200 Kilometers away from Lucknow. Our prime object was to listen to the family of deceased first. The team reached the paternal house of Jagendra. The family members sitting on Dharna were surrounded by media persons of Print and Electronic Media. Therefore, the team took the family members inside their house and shared information. Meanwhile, Media persons were not allowed to interfere. The family members apprised them that Jagendra was threatened many a times before this incident. Once he had to face scuffle also. Jagendra's son Raghavendra filed FIR on his behalf. Father and sons of the deceased intimated that Jagendra received phone calls on May 31st night. He was called at Shahjahanpur. So he left for Shahjahanpur. On 1st June, Police reached at Jagendra's house in Shahjahanpur on the pretext of conducting inquiry. According to his son, Police tried to burn his body after pouring some inflammable element on him. His neighbours reached there when he blowed the guns. His neighbours and Police took him to the hospital. Father of Jagendra talked to Media including Electronic Media and pointed out Minister of State. Due to critical condition of Jagendra, he was sent to

Lucknow. Family members could not tell the name of the person, who called him a night before this incident. Even the Police did not pay heed to it.

His father Sumer Singh primarily placed four demands- 1. Minister of State (U.P), Rammurthy Verma was behind this deadly attack. Hence, he should be removed from the cabinet. 2. Seeking CBI inquiry of the whole case but before that, Shri Verma has to be arrested. 3. Our financial condition is not good. Our family was dependant on Jagendra's earnings. Government may provide monetary help. 4. At least one son of Jagendra should be offered govt job for survival of his family.

Members of Fact Finding Team talked to local residents and knew their views. Members, in a humble manner, told representatives of Print and Electronic Media, who were eagerly waiting to know the reaction of PCI, that 'we are not here to give bites or to make observations. Report of PCI will be issued after completion of inquiry.'

Suman Singh Wife, of the deceased Jagendra Singh told that "he (Jagendra Singh) came home on May 30th. He was at home in Khutar on May 31st and someone called him up in the evening. He apprised him that nephew of Rammurthy had asked him to meet. Thereafter, he went to Shahjahanpur. The very next day they got the news of this incident. He told me in the hospital that the people who set him on fire said 'burn his hands in such a way that he could not write in future.'" He was recovering. He used to go to washroom on his own. Suddenly on 8th June, his condition became critical. Doctors told that his lungs had stopped working. Now he was required to send to PGI (Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Medical Institute). Preparations were going on but he died in the hospital on 8th June.

Team of Press Council got information from Jagendra Singh's mobile phone call record (Mob no. 8090120320) of May 31st that he received a call at 9:24 p.m. As far as his family knew, 9651957712 was the number of minister's nephew Anil Verma. After attending to this call, he left. This phone call lasts for 49 seconds only. According to the numbers feed in Jagendra Singh's mobile, on May 31st 2015 he received a call from Pramod Shahi at 7 p.m., three calls from Kunwar Jeetendra till 7:36 p.m., a call from Dhanpal at 7:37 p.m. and then a call received on 9:24 pm from 9651957712 lasts for 49 seconds only. During discussion on next day, Inspector General of Police (Law and Order) told Fact Finding Team that investigation was still going on, therefore, information could not be shared.

Jagendra's father Sumer Singh who was weeping, intimated that his son got a threat earlier too and minister's supporters had beaten him so much that they broke his leg. In this regard, they even reported to Police but Police took no action as they were influenced by the minister. His eldest son Raghavendra told that after the death of his father, FIR given on their behalf could not be registered after passing of three hours. It was done only when they refused to set the dead body on fire. His dead body was set on fire after registration of their FIR.' Raghavendra Singh showed the identity cards to the Committee which were issued by the newspapers to his father, included IDs of Swatantra Bharat from 1.3.2005 to 31.12.2005, Jansandesh Times from 1.4.2014 to 31.4.2014, SGP-5 ID of ETV from 1.1.2012 to 30.6.2012 and UP working Journalist Card for 2013.

Raghavendra (son) told that District Officer and SP came home on June 15 but gave no information about any action being taken against Rammurthy Verma, Minister of state.

The team reached Shahjahanpur via khutar. More than 100 journalists including the supporters of Jagendra Singh were there in 'Vikas Bhawan'. Thirteen of them gave their statements in which their main concern was that there have been so many cases of attacks and brutality with the journalists but Police administration did not bother. Jagendra's case was also pending from last three months. Police administration ignored it. Some organizations and journalists gave memorandums to the team.

Few people were giving their opinion on the issues such as whether the deceased was a journalist, whether he was a fake journalist, blackmailing on the pretext of Journalism etc., Traders union alleged that deceased used to blackmail them and administration. The journalists alleged that Police had not investigated properly as they were influenced by a leader of district and a member of state council of ministers, Mr. Rammurthy Verma.

First question arises whether Jagendra Singh lost his life due to writing news item?

Everybody present there admitted that Mr. Jagendra Singh lost his life due to the publication and dissemination of news.

Thereafter, meeting was scheduled to be held with district administration. The members, suddenly changing their programme, decided to conduct on the spot inquiry i.e. Jagendra's house situated at Sadar. All the three members

decided that they would inquire into the incident in separate groups of people residing there. Dr. Suman Gupta inquired from the ladies of the locality. Other two members tried to know the facts by doing door to door survey & talking to the people present there. Jagendra's house was in poor condition as compared to other houses situated nearby. Few people stated that Police was least bothered because of the influence of higher authorities.

Meanwhile, we wished to know details of inquiry conducted by SP(city), who had already reached on the spot. According to CSP, Police reached Jagendra's house after 2 p.m. They knocked the door. Why did they go there? They went there not to probe the threat given to Jagendra for killing him but to arrest Jagendra for the case registered on May 12, 2015 against him for blackmailing. According to the statement given by SP's subordinates to SP and SP to members of the Team - Jagendra did not open the door. In fact, flames of fire were coming from inside the house. Constable was asked to go inside by jumping the wall. He saw that Jagendra had set himself on fire. Police took him to local hospital. SP city was also informed that Jagendra was not alone. A lady named Shalini was present in the house. Inspector Shri Prakash Rai, registered a case of suicide against Mr. Jagendra and Ms. Shalini Rastogi. Mr. Jagendra was admitted to Pandit Ram Prasad Bilsmil Hospital. Later he was admitted to Civil Hospital in Lucknow.

When the members came back from site of the incident, they had a late night conversation with District Officer Ms. Shubhra Saxena and SP(District), Bablu Kumar. Both of them admitted that they had not considered it necessary to meet the family of deceased till eight days after the incident. They pleaded that they would not get any help by meeting the family members who were sitting on Dharna after the attack & death of the victim. Administration and District head of police could not tell exactly whether inquiry into the matter was conducted from any of the names mentioned in the complaint of Jagendra Singh. Both of them, directly or indirectly reiterated that Dying declaration, Dying statement and statement before death was taken. His treatment was their priority.

District administration claimed that a lady named Shalini was present in the house at the time of incident. She has been found. There was delay in recording her statement. The lady in her first statement said that Jagendra was set on fire. Later she changed her statement and this was published in newspapers.

Few months back, another journalist named Narendra Yadav of Shahjahanpur became victim of an attack. Similarly, Police could not complete the trial. When SP was giving reply, another Police Officer whispered in ears of member (Prakash Dubey) that this was a separate issue. The journalist, himself, who became victim of attack is not telling the name.

It is absolutely false. Journalist Yadav shared his own experiences in Vikas Bhawan in the presence of everyone. Gave memorandum. Member of the Fact Finding Team asked promptly- what is the justification for not mentioning in the probe that the journalist is not telling the name.

The officer, who was nervous, kept mum.

At 10:00 am on June 17 2015, Fact Finding Team had a discussion in the room (Secretariat Annexy) of Chief Secretary of U.P, Mr. Alok Ranjan. The Team in first question to Chief Secretary (home), Chief Secretary (information and public relation), Additional Director General of Police (Law and Order) and Inspector General of Police (Law and Order) pointed out that, this incident took place on June 1st. Mr. Jagendra Singh died on June 8th. Meeting held on June 17th. Till then police could not make out from the concerned people? Completion of probe is far off. We were apprised of the number of policemen who were suspended. Inspector General of Police (Law and Order) tried to divert us in law & order, inquiry procedure & legal provisions. We clarified again & again.

1. Members of the Team don't want to go in depth whether deceased was a fake journalist or genuine? Whether he used to blackmail? Even after a fortnight, Police could not collect evidences that deceased set himself on fire or the policemen arrived there for investigation set him on fire? On the other side, on June 1st, the person having burn injury was talking to media and police. That statement is repeatedly called 'statement before death' by police and administration. Whether the administration, on the very first day, came to the conclusion that Mr. Jagendra would not survive. The representatives of administration argued that it was a statement taken before the death of Jagendra Singh. We wanted to know whether Police and administration knew that Jagendra used to go to washroom which was outside the ward, on his own? He outrightly refused to use bedpan? If the administration states that the medical officers asked the Police not to take the statements or investigate later, who was that medical officer? Has he recorded the reasons in writing to stop them from taking the statements?

2. Whether they have investigated the people who were pointed out by Jagendra or who were eye witnesses of the incident? Statements were recorded or not? If not, why? What is the reason for this delay? The Chief Secretary stated that on June 24th, administration would defend itself in the court. Till then inquiry will be completed. They and Chief Secretary (public relation) assured to provide information. The administration affirmed of impartial inquiry. They are not being pressurized and they will not let anyone to pressurize them. The attitude & behaviour of the officers was bonafide but they were not satisfied with the replies relating to delay in investigation and ignorance of many facts. Knowing this, even the officers were not appearing to be comfortable.

Meeting with CM- Meeting with CM took place at a govt. accommodation in Lucknow. Mr. Akhilesh Yadav asked the members of the Team that what did they want from him? Tell me, what are your demands? He asked. The members said- we have no demands. We just want to know that why the inquiry conducted into the death of deceased Jagendra could not come to a conclusion in 17 days? People whom the deceased hold guilty and those who were eye witnesses could not be put on trial. Police, on the pretext of providing medical facility to the deceased, stopped the investigation. The deceased received phone calls just before the Team. In this connection, before investigation conducted by the Committee, neither police had any information nor they bothered to pay any attention. The Chief Minister, while expressing grief over the incident said “thorough & fair inquiry would be conducted. Guilty will not be spared. Trust me. Till now, I was not aware of certain facts which you have brought to my notice. I will inquire into the matter.” The Minister Mr. Rajendra Choudhary and Chief Secretary (information and public relation) were also present during the discussion. The Chief Secretary stated that the action taken report was to be produced in the court on June 24th. Till then inquiry would be completed. CM stated on his own that he wanted to help the family of deceased. He was informed that none of the representatives of state administration met the family of deceased till the news of visit to be conducted by the Team made public. Matter to console them is far off. CM was informed about the four demands raised by the family of deceased. CM immediately said “we will meet his family members.” He gave indication that Rs. 25 to 30 lakhs would be given as compensation. He promised to give govt. jobs to at least one son, or if possible to both of them.

Attention of CM was drawn towards the accident of Dheeraj Pandey, journalist of Amar Ujala, Basti, met with the car of former MLA and no action was taken by Police. Dheeraj Pandey died during his treatment. CM has declared a compensation of Rs. 20 lakhs to the family of deceased.

The members, in view of observing status of inquiry conducted within 16 days, told CM outrightly that, at present, administration and particularly U.P Police fall under suspicion. If investigation is not conducted in an unbiased manner, credibility of U.P police will be in danger. We are least concerned whether somebody continued or removed as the minister of state. But administration, under the influence of power, had not investigated the matter despite the statement of victim. It has become a practice. How dare an inspector inquire a minister of state? Not only minister of state, who had been named, even other persons could not be put on trial.

In 1982, UP Govt. constituted a district level Standing Committee in every district with the purpose of making cordial relationships between journalists and district administration at district level. Under the Chairmanship of District Officer, SP and two accredited journalists of the district were ex-officio members and district information and public relation officer was ex-officio secretary. It was mandatory to have a meeting every month. Its main purpose was to look into the matters of harassment of the journalists. In 1993, a member of rural journalist association was also included in this Committee. In this regard, a govt. order was being issued on Chief Secretary level. The then Chief Secretary Javed Usmani primarily issued govt. order 1278/19-1-2013-09/1983 including the last 9 govt. orders. He, including four accredited journalists in it, also mentioned that the meetings of district level Committees are not being conducted every two months on regular basis in the Janpads. The Govt. took cognizance of incidents of beating and harassment of journalists in certain Janpads.

The journalists of Shahjahanpur apprised the existence of such type of committee but meetings were not being conducted. The journalist could not provide information about its members.

Chain of incidents

1. On June 1st 2015, in the presence of police Jagendra Singh was admitted to Ram Prasad Bismil Joint District Hospital of Shahjahanpur in half-burned condition by the police from his house situated in housing development colony of Shahjahanpur.

2. According to SP, Shahjahanpur, Bablu Kumar, on June 1st 2015, Police went to arrest Jagendra at 2:35 p.m. in case filed U/S 363/307/323/504/506 of IPC on May 12th against him. Jagendra Singh set himself on fire in order to escape from arrest. In order to arrest him for setting himself on fire, a case U/S 309/353/120 B of IPC was filed against Jagendra and Shalini Rastogi by police station in-charge Mr. Prakash Rai.
3. According to SP, when Police reached there to arrest him, the door, which was locked from inside, was tried to open. In the meantime, Police also tried to break the door as they saw the smoke coming outside. The policeman entered inside by jumping the wall.
4. Shalini, against whom Police filed case along with Jagendra, works in a Aaganvadi and lives in Kansiram colony of the same city. Shalini had given an application in court to file a case against minister of state Rammurthy Verma and his supporters for rape in which date of June 4th had been fixed. Various newspapers and Jagendra also published this news. According to police, Shalini did not go to her Aaganvadi centre since May 30th. When Police kept on monitoring her house after jagendra's death, then she came forward.
5. On the site of incident, members of the Press Council noticed that one iron strip of the door was not there. It seems that someone tried to break the door outside the house. The door was locked. Surprisingly, all the houses built in housing development colony, in which Jagendra's house is situated, are attached to each other and has two-three floors and nobody had seen this incident, which took place in the afternoon raises doubts. When members of the team tried to talk to people of the colony, nobody was prepared to give any statement. The residents of colony avoided them on the pretext that they were not at home at the time of occurrence of the incident.

Points of inquiry:

The following main points in this case emerged before Fact Finding Team:-

1. Whether the said incident took place due to news item written by Jagendra Singh.
2. Whether this incident took place in the presence of Police?
3. Which action was taken on behalf of Police and administration?

4. Which action was taken on the part of Government?

The Team also discussed the matter with Chief Secretary and other Police & Administrative Officers. In Chief Secretary's room, information obtained from Chief Secretary, Home Secretary, IG (law and order) and ADG (law and order) about the action being taken in this case by IG (law and order). It has already been mentioned earlier. ADG (law and order) stated that on the basis of FIR filed on behalf of son of Jagendra Singh in this case, Police Station in-Charge, Shahjahanpur Mr. Prakash Rai and policemen Krantiveer Singh, Subhashchandra Yadav, Mansoor Khan, Udayveer Singh have already been suspended. The names of Minister of State, Mr. Rammurthy Verma and others were also mentioned in the FIR but on the question of conducting inquiry from them, they stated 'we have already applied in court for obtaining copy of statement given by deceased before his death.' The statement given by Jagendra before his death in the presence of Magistrate is available in court. Here, it is worth mentioning that police got his statement recorded in the presence of Magistrate on June 1st immediately after admitting him to the hospital. Jagendra died in Shyamaprasad Mukherjee Civil Hospital of Lucknow, after passing of seven days. However, in the meantime, Jagendra alleged minister in his statement to media but police had not considered it necessary to take any statement even though full time inspector was deputed in the hospital for Jagendra. Police officers kept on reiterating the 'dying declaration' of Jagendra. The officers stated that they would have to produce action taken report in the court on June 24th.

Chief Secretary, Alok Ranjan assured the Team that the action would be taken. In this connection, the team discussed the matter with CM Akhilesh yadav at 11:00 a.m. at his govt. accommodation, 5 Kalidas Marg. CM met father and son of Jagendra Singh in Lucknow and informed them about financial aid of Rs. 30 lakh. He gave assurance that job would be given to both of his sons. The district administration gave a cheque of Rs. 30 lakh to the family of Jagendra Singh as declared by the CM. Due to administration, family got possession of the plot again. Administration also asked to add the name of wife of the deceased Suman Singh in the list of beneficiaries of Samajwadi Pension of State. Communique of UP Govt. enclosed.

Facts and Findings: Police neither gave security to deceased journalist Jagendra before his death nor showed any interest in investigation after his death. They kept mum on the incidents of brutality with other journalists. They only completed documentary formalities.

2. It is to be noted that instead of taking statement of Jagendra Singh, policemen approached his residence with the intention to arrest him for conducting inquiry in the case filed against him.
3. Jagendra Singh was called up and asked to come from khutar. A call was made from mobile no. 9651957712 at 9:24 p.m. A person named Anil Verma made a call for 49 seconds. We got this information from the mobile record of deceased in Khutar. Policemen did not pay heed to it while conducting inquiry. One MLA also called up the mobile of the deceased. The aforesaid team was not interested in knowing the name of MLA and the reason for calling.
4. To maintain amicable relations with the journalists in UP and to intact the freedom of Press, Standing Committees were constituted at district level twenty years ago. The then Chief secretary Javed Usmani directed to convene a meeting every two months in year 2013. Similarly, a Committee has been constituted in Shahjahanpur also but its meeting has not been conducted from so many months. Even the members could not inform us properly in this regard.
5. The representatives of district trade union of Shahjahanpur alleged that Jagendra blackmailed certain members of the board. The administration had not taken any action. Many memorandums were given. Why did the administration not take any action? The Chairman of trade union stated that he was also blackmailed. Does it mean that the main reason of blackmailing in journalism or yellow journalism is to protect unfair intention of committing misdeeds at the instance of certain selfish businessmen and bureaucrats?
6. In Uttar Pradesh, district public relation officer has been assigned the responsibility to check regular publication of newspapers. Chief Secretary (information and public relation) submitted that advertisements have been issued on the basis of regularity of publication. On the contrary, journalist associations and the journalists alleged that the newspapers, being published occasionally get advertisements under the patronage of Political parties. Whenever administration is in problem, it gives such type of excuses with the intention to defame newspapers and journalists. Such type of complaint has never been filed before any forum including Press Council of India by the State Government. Facts were not produced.

7. Instead of conducting prompt fair inquiry in complaints against deceased Jagendra or other journalists, local administration and other beneficiaries use such means as political pressure.
8. Incidents of using names of women for character assassination of journalists and to pressurize them are increasing day by day. Police repeatedly mentioned the presence of Aaganvadi worker Shalini in Jagendra's house but they did not care to find her and take her statement. Position of journalist Narendra Yadav's inquiry was also the same.
9. The Administrative Officers are taking the incidents of attacks on journalists lightly. District administration of Shahjahanpur didn't spare time to meet deceased or his family members picketing there. Meeting with journalist or his inquiry was not conducted by District administration in Basti. They could not succeed in finding the alleged driver or his relatives. Collector of Balaghat district in Madhya Pradesh declined to accept the memorandums of journalists regarding deceased Sandeep Kothari's inquiry. He stated that deceased was a blackmailer, raising two questions- A. the administration finds it improper to go to the house of deceased to collect information regarding the incident. Even after the death of a dacoit, administration attempts to know facts. There is no similarity between a journalist and a dacoit. B. There is a separate system of penalizing criminals including journalists. To avoid conducting inquiry on time, to declare a person, criminal even before taking any decision, to publicize it and tendency to write favouring himself and against the opposition encourages misdeeds.

Recommendations of Fact Finding Team:

1. Police and Administration had neither taken this incident seriously nor took cognizance of the statement given by deceased Jagendra. As a result, situation became out of control. It is absolutely clear.
2. It has been noticed that the incidents of filing cases by Jagendra Singh and his rivals, against each other were taking place, even then police did not take cognizance of the case in an unbiased manner.

Hence,

In view of seriousness and delay in investigation of the case, Government of UP should get this case thoroughly investigated from an impartial agency.

3. Whosoever commits crime, there should be system of penalizing him or her according to prevalent law. Simultaneously, State Government should always keep this in mind and devise such system that nobody could misuse his or her power to influence the investigation. First step that should be taken in this direction is to treat all the persons equally, whose names are mentioned in the FIR.
4. CM of UP assured the members of Fact Finding Team that the family members of the deceased would be given financial assistance. His sons could be offered jobs. The Govt. has declared compensation of Rs. 30 lakhs to the family and jobs to both of his sons.
5. Standing Committees should be made active for having dialogue with journalists and for reviewing complaints of harassment in UP.
6. Govt. of UP should study measures taken in other states to curb harassment of journalists and to protect freedom of speech. Independent review should be undertaken at least on Superintendent of Police level before filing a complaint against a journalist or arresting him.

Chapter-V

Report on probe concerning of Reporter of Sakshi Daily and Namaste Telangana newspapers for attending the official press conferences of the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh

The National Union of Journalists (India) and Indian Journalists Union complained to the Chairman, Press Council of India notice that the reporters of Sakshi daily and Namaste Telangana newspapers were prevented from entering the Andhra Pradesh, Chief Minister's official press conference at Hyderabad by security personnel.

After carefully considering the matter, Hon'ble Chairman felt that prima facie, prevention of Reporters of the two newspapers from covering the press conference, affects the freedom and dissemination of news to media.

He appointed a three member Fact Finding Team of senior journalists consisting of Shri Rajeev Ranjan Nag (Convener), Shri K. Amarnath (Member) and Shri Prajnananda Chaudhury, ABP (Member) to enquire into the matter.

Accordingly, the Team planned to visit Hyderabad on 5th October 2014 and wrote to the Government of Andhra Pradesh requesting to make necessary arrangement for the Team to hold its enquiry and the officers concerned should appear before it to give their version. Letters were also written to complainant Unions to present their plea.

However, the Government of Andhra Pradesh requested the Team to postpone its visit in view of intervening holidays due to festival season. The Team postponed its visit to a later date.

Meanwhile, the Information and Public Relations Department of Government of Andhra Pradesh invited the Reporters of Sakshi daily and Namaste Telangana daily to attend the Press Conference addressed by the Chief Minister on 22 October, 2014. They attended the press conference without any hindrance.

In view of the decision of the Government of Andhra Pradesh, the Committee decided to postpone its visit and wait for some time to see whether Government of Andhra Pradesh would continue the practice.

On enquiries made by the members of the Team, the Government of Andhra Pradesh is not placing any hindrance to the complainant newspapers since then. In view of the developments, the Convener decided to close the matter and report back to the Council as the cause of the complaint no more exists.

Chapter-VI

Report on Safety of Journalists

Introduction

The Press Council of India at its meeting on 19th September 2011 decided to appoint a Sub-Committee to examine the larger issue of Safety Journalists in the country after considering the representations made by the Indian Journalists Union, Maharashtra State Rural Journalists Union and some members of the Council in the wake of brutal murder of Jyotirmoy Dey of Mid-Day in Mumbai. By an order dated 17th October 2011, the Hon'ble Chairman, Justice Markandey Katju appointed a six member Sub-Committee with the following members:

1. Shri K Amarnath Convener
2. Shri Sanjay Dina Patil, MP
3. Shri Anil Jugal Kishore Agarwal
4. Shri Arvind S Tengse
5. Shri Sanjay Gupta
6. Dr. Ramasubba Iyer Lakshmiopathy

Later the following members were included making it a 10 member Committee

1. Shri Kalyan Barooah
2. Shri Rajeev Ranjan Nag
3. Shri Arun Kumar
4. Shri Uppala Lakshman

Visits to various states

The Sub-Committee visited the following 11 states and interacted with top Government officials and representatives of Journalists Unions/Associations and Press Clubs and with groups of journalists. Summary of the discussions the Committee had with government officials and journalists is given below.

Uttar Pradesh

The Committee held its first meeting at Lucknow on 27th March 2012 after the meeting of the Press Council of India. The Hon'ble Chairman, Justice Markandey Katju and Secretary, Smt. Vibha Bhargava were also present.

The Principal Secretary (Home), Director, T&PR department appeared before the Committee and stated that the state government was sensitive to the safety of journalists and strict action was taken whenever complaint of attack was made.

They stated that there were Grievances Redress Committees at district level and aggrieved journalists could approach them.

Members asked the officials to submit a report on attacks on journalists in the state the action taken on them. The Director stated that the details were not readily available. They promised to send a report to the Council later. However, the Council did not receive any such report so far.

At the interaction with journalists, several incidents of attacks on journalists were mentioned. They said police were inactive and not even a single person was punished in any case of attack on journalists. They said there should be a separate law for protection of journalists.

Maharashtra

In Maharashtra, the Committee visited Mumbai and Pune on 23rd and 24th April 2012. In Mumbai, the Director-General of Information and Public Relations Department and Inspector General of Police appeared before the Committee. They told the Committee that the Government of Maharashtra was aware of the gravity attacks on journalists in the state. They said the Cabinet appointed a Committee of Ministers to examine the feasibility of enacting a law for the protection of journalists and it was awaited.

The Inspector General of Police said between 2005-2012 police registered 243 cases in the entire state regarding harassment/assaults/attacks on journalists. He stated that majority of the cases were of bailable nature. He said the Director General of Police issued a circular to all District Superintendents of Police and Commissioners of Cities in the state asking them to provide necessary protection to journalists. When the Committee wanted to know whether there was any conviction in cases of attacks on journalists, he replied that most of the cases were under trial.

The Mumbai Marathi Patrakar Sangh in its representation to the Committee submitted that any attack on journalist on duty should be treated as non-bailable offence and such cases should be decided in minimum time through fast track Courts mechanism. The delegation also mentioned about the menace of bogus journalists who were indulging in blackmail and wanted action against them.

The representatives of the Mumbai Press Club said Jyotirmoy Dey was murdered in broad day light because of his writings against a member of the Maharashtra Legislative Council, sand mafia and liquor mafia. They said police registered cases against 180 journalists in the last five years and most of them were withdrawn after the journalists agitated. They also suggested that a separate law should be enacted for the safety of journalists.

In Pune, the Press Club representatives expressed concern over the increasing cases of attacks on journalists in the state. They also suggested separate law for protection of journalists.

Jammu and Kashmir

The Committee visited Srinagar on 18-20 June 2012 and interacted with officials of Information Department, Police Officers, Army Officers, Officers of BSF and journalists.

A meeting of the journalists with the members of the Committee was held on 18 June where about 60 journalists from print, electronic media and editors were present. The journalists said about 25 journalists were killed in the last 20 years while discharging their duties. They said the journalists were targets of the armed extremist elements, security forces and police.

They highlighted the challenges journalists faced in their day to day work. Apart from killings, several journalists suffered grievous injuries in attacks of the extremists and at the hands of the Para-military personnel.

A senior journalist said since 2008, the security forces personnel were beating up journalists who went to cover incidents whenever the extremists targeted the security establishments. He said on a single day about 25 journalists were beaten up by the security personnel even though they carried accreditation cards and curfew passes.

The representatives of the Photo-journalists said they were targets of attacks for the security forces and their cameras and other equipment were taken away and never returned.

Several senior journalists said that the Armed Forces Special Powers Act should be revoked as it was giving enormous powers to the security forces and they retargeting the media but no action could be taken against them. They also suggested that the journalists especially the video and photo journalists should be given special jackets so that they could be easily identifiable and the security

forces could not get an alibi to claim that they could not identify the journalists while dealing with miscreants.

The Committee members interacted with the Spl. Director General of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). He informed that the force has immense respect for the journalists as they were exercising the freedom of press guaranteed in the constitution. He made it clear that they did not have any intention to create hindrance to the work of the journalists.

He however stressed that "some incidents against journalists do happen as they interfere with the work of the forces while they were performing service to the nation." He assured the Committee that they would frame some guidelines so that the media could have access to information from the forces. He strongly opposed the suggestion for revocation of Armed Forces Special Powers Act as it was necessary in the national interest.

The Director General of Police, J&K who met the Committee in his office stressed that the police force was committed to ensure the safety of journalists. He said he was prepared to interact with the media and give all the possible information. He said he was prepared to take corrective action if incidents of attacks on journalists by the police personnel were brought to his notice. He said the police were prepared to supply jackets with Media imprinted on them at their cost.

The Committee interacted with Lt. General who headed the GOC 15 Corps. The army officials said they were trying to give as much information as possible to journalists whenever an incident occurred but could not allow the media come to the scene of operation while it was in progress as it might endanger their lives. He also stressed the journalists should exercise caution not jeopardize ongoing action. He agreed to designate a senior officer to co-ordinate with the media.

He suggested that the journalists should be trained to report from conflict zones and offered to organize such workshops/training sessions if the media personnel came forward.

West Bengal

The Committee Visited Kolkata on 2--3 July 2012 and held discussions with the officials and journalists.

At a meeting of journalists where more than 40 senior journalists and representatives of journalists' organizations present, it was stated that some

political elements was intolerant of media criticism and instigate police and anti-social elements against journalists. They said it was happening since last 35 years and change of political guard did not improve the situation. They cited several incidents of harassment and attacks on journalists in the last one year. And said the atmosphere of fear was prevalent among journalists.

Representative of a journalists body said there were about 50 cases of attacks on journalists in the last four years and no action was taken against the culprits. "Newspapers publish reports of attacks and police register cases but nothing happens later," she lamented.

On need for a separate law for protection of journalists, there were differing Views. Some suggested that there was no use of new law as the existing laws were enough to deal with such cases if the government had the will to act against the culprits as the attackers always had some political backing or the other. But some journalists said there should be special law and the punishment for attack against journalist should stringent.

The Committee interacted with the Director General of Police, Principal Secretary, Home Department of Government of West Bengal. The officials stressed that they were taking stringent action against those who attack the journalists. But when questioned to give details of cases registered and their outcome, they said the details were not readily available and they would intimate the Committee later.

Kerala

The Committee visited Thiruvananthapuram on December 5-6, 2012 and interacted with the journalists and government officials.

At a meeting with journalists, the representatives of journalists' organizations and individual journalists said there was lot of attacks on journalists from political parties, mafias and police. They cited several instances and said the police were not taking action after registering cases. Not a single was filed in the court in the last ten years. Police harass journalists and snatch away their cameras whenever photos were taken during agitations. "Everybody condemn attack on journalists. But nothing was done later to bring the culprits to book," they complained.

The Committee met Director General of Police, Principal Secretary, Home department. The Committee brought specific instances cited by the journalists to their notice. They promised to look in to them and do the needful. They said

the administration was sensitive to the freedom of the press and would not try to curb it any way.

The Committee called on the Minister for Information and Cultural affairs who said the government would appoint a High Power Committee to deal with cases of attacks on journalists with officials and representatives of the journalists.

Jharkhand

The Committee visited Ranchi on 14-15 March 2013 and held discussions with individual journalists, representatives of journalists' organisations and government officials about the safety of journalists in the State.

Most of the journalists and some editors spoke about the miserable state of working and living conditions of working journalists in the State. They complained that most of the newspapers including big papers were not giving appointment letter and not paying statutory wages as per the wage board recommendations.

They said journalists were facing threats from the extremist elements on one hand and police and other paramilitary forces operating in the extremist operating areas. There were also threats from the coal and land mafias operating in coal mining and forest areas. They said the rural journalists faced threats from not only from Maoists and police but also from local mafias of stone crusher owners and goons in small towns and rural areas.

There was a specific complaint that in the Maoist affected areas, the police were forcing the journalists to act as Special Police Officers (SPOs), thereby making them vulnerable.

Photo journalists' representatives said they were the worst victims of police and naxalites whenever there was conflict.

The family members of Mr. Pramod Kumar Munna, Editor of a local news magazine in Deogarh, a district town who was killed in December, 2007 complained that the investigation in to his murder did not make any progress even after a lapse of five years. They alleged that the journalist was murdered as he exposed the corrupt and illegal activities of a Minister in then Madhu Koda Government. The police were not taking interest due to political influence. They demanded that the case should be transferred to CBI.

An editor complained that the telephones of several journalists, particularly those dealing with Naxalites, were being tapped. Among those who appeared

before the Committee included representatives of Jharkhand Union of Journalists, Jharkhand Shramjeevi Patrakar Sangh and Jharkhand Press Club.

The Home Secretary and the Secretary, Information and Public Relations Department who met the Committee denied specific allegations of phone tapping and forcing the journalists to work as SPOs. They said told the Committee that the police were investigating the case of murder of Mr. Munna and there was delay because of lack of direct evidence. They said the CBI refused to take up the case citing work load when the State Government approached it.

Tripura

The Committee visited Agartala on 10-11 June 2013 and interacted with the working journalists, editors and representatives of the journalists' bodies. It also met top officials and the Chief Minister of the State and discussed the safety journalists in the State.

The journalists' organisations representatives said while the situation was by and large good, there were disturbing attacks on the journalists; one by police at MBB College in 2012 and one by doctors in 2013 at Agartala Medical College Hospital.

They pointed to a gruesome attack at the Gana Dhoot newspaper premises in May 2013 where a working journalist and two others were killed, even though it was not related to journalistic functions. They demanded that the family of the slain journalists should be adequately compensated.

Some senior journalists raised the issues of paid news, which corroded the moral fabric of the media, lack of job security and non-implementation of the wage board recommendations.

The Committee met Secretary, Home Department and Inspector General of Police (Law and Order), who apprised the Committee on the steps taken on the attacks on journalists in the last two years. They pointed out that except the two incidents; there were no complaints from the journalists in the last two decades.

They said the incident at Gana Dhoot where a proof reader was killed related to a private dispute and the police were investigating the case. They said the Government would favorable consider the demand for compensation to the slain journalist.

The Committee members called on the Chief Minister of the State and discussed the safety of journalists in the state. He also promised to consider the issue of paying compensation to the slain journalist in Gana Dhoot case.

Chhattisgarh

The Committee visited Raipur on 24-25 June 2013 and held hearing with the journalists and State Government Officials.

The representatives of Chhattisgarh Working Journalists Union, Chhattisgarh Union of Journalists, Raipur Press Club, Chhattisgarh Print Media Journalists Association and some individual journalists and Editors appeared before the Committee and expressed their opinions.

They said three journalists, Sushil Pathak in Bilaspur, Umesh Rajput in Chhura (Gariyabandh) and Nemichand Jain in Sukma, Bastar, were killed in the state in the last three years but so far there was no headway in the investigation by the police.

They further complained that there were several incidents of attacks on journalists in the districts of Korea, Champa, Janjgir, Korba and Raigarh but no one was arrested and there was no headway in the complaints filed by the journalists.

They complained that due political prejudices, some newspapers and news magazines were not given passes for the coverage of proceedings of the State Assembly.

The representatives of the journalists' bodies complained that the State Government was using the Public Safety Act to harass journalists writing about the naxalites and in some cases journalists were arrested and they could not get bail. They said the naxalites threatened them if they did not give publicity to their statements.

About eight journalists working in the remote and forest areas of the State where the Maoists were big force, requested the convener to meet to give them an appointment in private as they were afraid of private appearance. The convener and other members met them in the hotel, where they were staying without the presence of Government Officials.

They narrated their woes including non-payment of proper wages by the managements. They said the newspapers publish their stories on the situation

and on the activities of the Maoists but refused to acknowledge that they were writing for them when pressure came from the police or the Maoists. They said the Maoists threatened them whenever they suspected that the reporters carried information about their whereabouts to the police or intelligence agencies.

Likewise the police were pressuring them when they suspected that the reporters were informing their movement to the Maoists. They requested the Committee to understand their difficult situation and make recommendations to ensure not only their physical safety but also job and financial security. They said the State Governments should come to their rescue whenever they came under attack from the state players or non-state players.

They also requested that the managements of the newspapers and news channels should be forced to give them appointment letters and minimum wages as recommended by the wage boards. At present no newspaper was paying them statutory wages and regularly.

The journalists and their representatives spoke of poor salaries and security of employment. They alleged that except a few, no newspaper was implementing the wage board recommendations and the State Government did not take any action.

The Committee met the Chief Minister, Director-General of Police (DGP), Principal Secretary (Home) and Commissioner and Secretary of Information Department and discussed the issues relating to safety of journalists. The Chief Minister and other top officials said there was no harassment of journalists in the State and they were provided adequate security whenever they reported threats from extremists.

They said the investigations into the murder of journalists were progressing well and they were sure of bringing the culprits to justice. They assured the Committee that they would review cases filed against journalists and would be withdrawn if enough evidence was not found. The Chief Minister enumerated welfare schemes implemented by his Government for the journalists.

Assam

The Committee held its hearing in Guwahati on 11-12 September 2013 and met representatives of journalists, editors, individual journalists, the Chief Minister, Secretary, Home and I&PR Department and Inspector-General (Law and Order).

The Representatives of the Journalists Union appeared before the Committee and submitted that 26 journalists were killed in the state in the last 22 years and not a single culprit was punished so far. About 22 of them were killed by the militants of separate hues. Except in two cases, there was no progress in investigation and trial. They demanded there should be some time frame and each case of murder of journalist should be referred to a fast tract court.

They lamented that the North-East was the most dangerous place to work. On the one hand they did not have any security and on the other hand the journalists were the worst paid of the wage-earners. The cases of physical and mental harassment were increasing by leaps and bounds', the investigation in to such case was lethargic and far from satisfactory.

They also complained about the poor working and living conditions of the working journalists, particularly the rural journalists. They said except one or two big newspapers, no other newspaper, whether small or big, was paying the statutory wages recommended by the wage boards.

The officials said charge-sheets were filed in 12 cases so far and final reports were submitted in two more cases. The other cases were at various stages of investigation. When the Committee suggested that the cases might be referred to fast track courts, the officials said there were legal problems and they had to take the permission of the Guwahati High Court.

When the Committee brought this issue to the notice of the Chief Minister, he promised to get it examined and try to get the cases expedited.

The representatives of Assam Journalists Union, Assam Press Correspondents Union, Assam Tribune Employees Union, Journalists Forum of Assam, Press Club, Guwahati and several editors and individual journalists appeared before the Committee.

Meghalaya

The Committee visited Shillong on 13 September and held discussions with the working journalists, editors and government officials on the threats to the safety of journalists.

The journalists complained that they faced threats from some militant organisations who wanted their press releases be published in full. They said some miscreants were lobbing petrol bomb on their offices to intimidate them.

They said the press vehicles were targeted during bandhs and sometimes they were burnt down.

Some editors complained that they received threatening calls. Some lawyers were filing cases against journalists, editors and newspapers at slightest provocation to brow-beat them.

They also raised concerns over lack job security and low wages, while the editors of small newspapers complained that the government was discriminating them in issue of advertisements. They also lamented that the government did not raise the advertisement tariffs for the last 17 years or so inspite of rising cost of publication.

The journalists complained that some legislators were attacking them with impunity and cited the case of recent attack on a photo journalist by a legislator in the Assembly premises.

The Committee met the Minister for Home and Information and Public Relations and discussed the security of journalists. She assured the Committee that the Government would take all possible steps to protect journalists and they functioned without any fear or hindrance.

Manipur

The Committee visited Imphal on 25-26 September 2013 and interacted with the media persons and the State Government Officials.

The journalists, editors and representatives of All Manipur Working Journalists Union (AMWJU) stated that seven journalists were killed in the state in the last 20 years and scores of others were injured in attacks by the militant groups or firing by the paramilitary forces. They pointed out that not even a single case was solved and the perpetrators brought to justice.

The Journalists pointed out the neither State Government nor the paramilitary forces paid adequate compensation to the families of the journalists killed so far. They stated that the journalists were sandwiched between the militant groups; about 40 such groups were operating in the state; and the security forces.

They pointed out that several journalists were taken hostage by the militant groups whenever they thought they were not getting adequate coverage of their statements. It had become a routine for them to get threats from the militants or security forces.

In this connection, they cited a recent case of an editor of a local newspaper receiving a notice from the National Investigation Agency (NIA) asking him to disclose the source of a photo published in his paper in 2010 on a militant outfit celebrating its founding day.

The journalists complained that Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) which gave enormous powers and immunity to the security forces was often used to intimidate and threaten journalists.

The editors and representatives of the Journalists Union lamented that the newspapers were shutting down their publications whenever the militant groups make impossible demands or threaten the hawkers from distributing the newspapers. They cited a recent case when the newspapers ceased their publication for about a week after a militant group threatened the journalists.

The Committee interacted with Secretary and Commissioner, Information and Public Relations Department, Principal Secretary (Home), Director General of Police (DGP). It also met Inspector General of Assam Rifles and a representative of the Army and discussed the security of journalists.

The representatives of army and paramilitary forces said while it was not their intention to intimidate the journalists, some friction arose because of problems of identification of journalists when action was taking place.

The representatives of the paramilitary forces and army assured the sub committee that they had great respect towards journalists and their profession and they would interact with the representatives of the journalists to resolve their concerns. The police officers also assured the committee that they would hold discussions with the journalists' organisations at regular intervals and solve their problems.

The Committee called on the Deputy Chief Minister and apprised him of the threat perceptions of the working journalists in the State. He assured the committee that the government would take all possible steps to secure the lives of journalists who were an important part of the democratic process. He narrated the difficulties in the security situation as there were more than 50 militant outfits operate in the State. He also promised to float a fund to compensate the journalists and their families in the State.

Summary and Findings

The Committee visited 11 states and interacted with about 1200 working journalists, editors and representatives of the working journalists' organisations.

It also met top civilian and police officers in all the States it visited. In some States, the Committee also met Chief Ministers and Ministers. It discussed peculiar problems of the journalists were facing during their line of duty with Commanding Officers of the Army and the paramilitary forces in extremist activities affected States of Jammu & Kashmir and Manipur.

The Committee could not visit Arunachal Pradesh due to the non-cooperation of the State Government. The Council Secretariat tried its best to fix itinerary for the Sub-Committee at least four times. Each time the State Government authorities came up with lame excuses and sought postponement of the visit of the Committee. The Committee wanted to visit the State to have firsthand knowledge on the security journalists there after a series attacks involving the militants and security forces. As the term of the last Council came to a close, the visit was abandoned.

Most of the journalists felt that whenever a journalist was killed, the State Government concerned, including the Chief Minister and political leaders react and promise stringent action. After the din and noise died down, nothing happens. Most of the State Governments never come forward to compensate the families of the slain journalists. They were left to their fate. The journalists' community and their organizations also forgot about it and there was never a sustained and continuous follow up action until the case reached its logical conclusion.

They opined that most of the newspaper managements did precious little to put pressure on the State Administration or the police to pursue the cases of killing of journalists or the victims of attacks. In case of rural and small town journalists, the managements did not acknowledge that they were working for them.

The journalists across all the States the Committee visited, were of the unanimous view that the some effective mechanism should be put in place at the national level to probe and mete out effect punishment to the perpetrators of physical and fatal attacks on the journalists. They said the forces that encouraged and incited violence against the working journalists should also be exposed and punished.

Some journalists and editors said whenever ruling party politicians including ministers were behind the violence, the police and the political leadership would say publicly that the perpetrators however mighty there were, would brought to book, while denying the hand of their party men behind it.

Some family members of journalists who were killed, complained to the Committee that after the initial attention petered off, they were left to fend for themselves. In most cases the police take years to file the charge sheets and arrest the culprits, who usually had support of the political and official establishment.

In States like Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Manipur, Jammu & Kashmir, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand, not a single person was convicted for killing or attacking the journalists. In these States more than 60 journalists were killed in the last two decades.

In Assam, according to police records. 28 journalists were killed in the last two decades. The police admitted that charge sheets were filed only in 12 cases and in another two cases the investigations were completed. The cases where charge sheets were filed were pending in the courts at various stages. Records in two case were not immediately available, the police told the Committee. Not even a single accused was in jail as they were granted bail by competent courts.

In case of physical attacks on journalists, there was no record as they were buried in labyrinths of criminal cases as there was no specified category for cases filed for attacks on journalists. When the Committee members specifically asked the neither the journalists nor police and civilian officers who appeared before the Committee, could cite a single instance of attackers convicted.

Not even a single person was convicted so far in attack or murder of a journalist with the rare exception of Shakti Mills case where a photo journalist was raped in 2013 in Mumbai. It might be pointed out that Shakti Mills case, the judgment was given within 11 months as it was tried under anti-rape laws in a fast track court.

In some instances, under pressure from the working journalists organisations, public opinion and the Press Council of India, the cases were referred to the Central Bureau of Investigation. But nobody knew the results of their investigation. In one case where a journalist was allegedly killed by toddy mafia in Medak district of then Andhra Pradesh and now in Telangana in 2004, the State Government under pressure from Indian Journalists Union (IJU) and its affiliate Andhra Pradesh Union of Working Journalists (APUWJ) referred it to CBI but it did not pin point anybody for the murder. Later the case was dismissed for lack of evidence.

In last two decades, in the united Andhra Pradesh, 12 journalists were killed, one was killed in an alleged fake encounter, one was killed in a cross fire

between police and naxalites, one was killed by the naxalites, two were killed by unknown assailants 6 were killed in a blast planted by a mafia and one was killed by a rogue elephant when he went to cover its forays into villages abetting the forest in Srikakulam district. Not a single person was convicted so far in any case.

According to information given by the APUWJ, 27 journalists including cameramen were paid a compensation of Rs. 6 lakhs for their medical expenses and damaged equipment by the Andhra Pradesh government in the case of police attack on journalists covering the students agitation in the Osmania University campus on the recommendations of an Inquiry Committee appointed by the Press Council of India in 2011.

The top officers of Police, Paramilitary Forces and Army in Jammu & Kashmir and Manipur, who spoke to the Committee said in most cases, the journalists were either killed or injured in security action as they could not be identified by the lower ranks of the forces. (However, the representatives of journalists organisations disputed their claim and said most of the attacks by the cops and jawans were wanton.) They also opined that journalists should be imparted training in covering from the conflict zones.

The Commander of the 9th Corps in Srinagar and a top official of the Assam Rifles in Imphal suggested that the forces are ready to hold refresher courses for the journalists on reporting in conflict zones. In case of Kashmir, the Director General of Police told the Committee, the State Government was prepared supply jackets with bold inscription 'Press' on it to all journalists free of cost.

All the working journalists' organisations, senior journalists and editors, with whom the Committee interacted, suggested that there should be separate law to deal with attacks on journalists, whether fatal or causing injuries. Some of them suggested that the law should be amended to make any physical attack on journalist should be made cognizable offence and the culprits should be denied bail for six months or pendency of trial.

They also suggested that a provision should be made in the law to pay adequate compensation to the families including monthly pension to the spouse of the journalist killed. There should be stringent provisions and heavy punishment so that it could act as a deterrent. Some suggested that the one of the dependents of the slain journalist should be provided a government job commensurate with their qualifications.

The representatives of journalists organisations in Mumbai told the Committee that the Government of Maharashtra appointed a cabinet Committee to study the possibility of enacting a separate Act for the Safety of journalists in 2011 in the wake of day light murder of senior journalist Jyotirmoy De. They said the Committee reportedly recommended that a Law should be enacted in that regard. However, the cabinet rejected the same due differences among the coalition partners.

The Committee requested the officials of the Maharashtra Government to provide a copy of the report. They said it was yet to be considered by the government and it would be made available to the Committee after it was approved by the government until date, the Government Maharashtra did not supply the copy of the report to the Council.

Several State Government Stated that would consider seriously if the Central Government circulates a mode law for their adoption. The Chief Ministers of Chhattisgarh and Tripura with whom the Committee interacted said they were prepared to enact such a law if it was commended by the Press Council or the Government of India.

The Minister for Information and Culture, Government of Kerala also promised to consider enactment of such a law if they get a model law from Union Government or any other journalists' body.

Apart from the safety and security of journalists, the Committee received several representations from the senior journalists, journalists' organisations and editors in all the States on lack of job security, non-implementation of the statutory wages. Rural journalists seemed to be the worst sufferers.

Some self-employed editors complained against the State Governments for discriminatory practices in release of advertisements. They also complained about the lack of uniform accreditation policy in several States. There were also complaints that small newspapers published from small towns were discriminated against in accreditations and release of advertisements.

Even though these matters were out of the purview of the Committee, the Convener and other members brought these issues to the notice of the officials and other senior functionaries wherever it was possible and sought solution to their problems.

Observations

There are different versions of the number journalists killed world over in the last two decades. According to a report released by the Committee

for Protection of Journalists (CPJ), world over 1124 journalists were killed on the line of their duty between January 1992 and 30 April 2015. In India 56 journalists and three media workers were killed during that period.

In a presentation to the Intergovernmental Council of International Program for Development of Communications (IPDC), which met at Paris on 20-21 November 2014, the Director General of UNESCO reported that according to the information compiled by the organization 593 journalists were killed all over the world between 1 January 2006 and 31 December 2013. According to the report 12 journalists were killed in India during that period.

However, according to the 'Death Watch List' of the Vienna based International Press Institute, 845 journalists including 29 from India were killed during the same period. The Institute ranked India the ninth deadliest country for the journalists in the world in the last two decades.

According to an analysis by the research wing of the CPJ only 6.7 percent of the killings were solved and the culprits brought to the book in the world. The remaining cases are either still pending in courts of law or still unresolved

However, 80 journalists were killed in India in the last two decades, from 1990-2015. (The List of 80 Journalists, 3 members of family of a journalists and 5 media workers killed in India in the last two and half decades is given in Annexur attached) According to officials and representatives of the journalists organisations sources, most all the cases were still pending in the courts or the police are yet to file charge sheets. Only in one case, the Shakti Mills rape and murder of a woman journalist in 2013, the culprits were given exemplary punishment by the Court within a year. That might be because the case was tried under stringent anti-rape law in a fast tract court.

In Assam, even the officials admitted that out of 24 journalists killed in last 22 years, not even a single case was disposed of by the courts so far and in some cases the charge sheets were yet to be filed.

In Guntur district in Andhra Pradesh a journalist was killed in 2011 and the case is still in initial stages of hearing. Another journalist was killed in November last year and the police are yet to file the charge sheet in a court of law. In blast case, encounter case, naxals killing journalist case, Yadagiri case, the courts dismissed the cases for lack of sufficient evidence.

In Jammu & Kashmir and most of the north eastern States, the situation is precarious. The journalists there were facing multiple threats, from militant and extremist groups, mafias, security forces and political forces.

The scenario is same in most all the states in the country. The situation is not much different in other states.

Even though our country has robust democratic institutions and vibrant and independent judiciary, the killers of journalists are getting away with impunity. The situation is truly alarming and would impact on the functioning of the democratic institutions in the country.

Alarmed over the increasing killings of journalists all over the world, the United Nations General Assembly has been adopting resolutions almost every year since 2006 safety of journalists and calling upon the member states to conduct impartial, speedy and effective investigations' into violence against journalists and to 'bring the perpetrators of such crimes to justice.'

It entrusted task of collecting information on the safety journalists to UNESCO and since then it is collecting information from member States. In one of its reports on Safety of Journalists UNESCO said "Every journalist killed or neutralized by tenor is an observer less of the human condition. Every attack distorts reality by creating a climate of fear and self-censorship."

Organisations like International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), Committee for Protections of Journalists (CPJ) and Reporters without Borders called for legal frame work for the safety of journalists and for ending impunity to the perpetrators of violence against journalists.

The UN General Assembly proclaimed November 2 as the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists. The UNESCO asked news rooms all over the world to observe two minutes silence on World Press Freedom Day on May 3 to protest against murder of journalists.

In India several working journalists and editors organisations have also called for special legislative arrangement for violence against journalists with provisions for adequate compensations to the family of slain journalists, medical expenses in cases of injuries and replacement of equipment when it was destroyed in the attacks.

Recommendations

The Press Council of India may request the Government of India to:

1. Parliament may enact a law for safety of journalists with the following provisions;

- a) Anybody who attacks or intimidates a working journalist or editor by way of violence and or orally or by signs and gestures, it would be made a cognizable offence with stiff and deterrent punishment.
 - b) All the cases of attacks on journalists, fatal or otherwise, shall be referred to Special Courts which may conduct day to day hearings and the trial may be completed within one year of filing of charge sheet.
 - c) All cases of attacks on journalists, whether fatal or otherwise should be investigated by a special task force under the supervision of the Press Council of India/Court and investigation be completed within a period of one month.
 - d) Whenever a journalist is murdered, the case should be automatically referred to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) or any other national level investigative agency and the investigation may be completed within three months.
 - e) Any case against a journalist or an editor should be booked only after getting clearance from the Director General of Police. (Such a practice is in place in Madhya Pradesh at least on paper)
 - f) Whenever a journalist or editor is killed, Rs. 10 lakhs should be paid by the State Government concerned to his/her family members.
 - g) In case of grievous injuries a compensation of Rs. 5 lakhs should be paid to the journalist.
 - h) All the medical expenses of the injured journalist may be paid by the State Government concerned.
 - i) The management of the news organisation should treat the leave of absence of the injured journalist as on duty with full pay and allowances.
2. The Press Council of India may direct all the State Governments to constitute High Powered Committees with representation to representative organisations of working journalists and a nominee of the Press Council of India (PCI) to monitor investigation in to all cases of attacks on journalists or cases filed against the journalists. It may also direct the Union Government to constitute a High Powered Committee with an officer of the

rank of Additional Secretary to Government of India, a nominee of PCI and representatives of the National Organisations of working journalists recognized by the PCI.

3. The PCI may proclaim November 2, as the National Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists and ask all the news rooms across the country to observe two minutes silence in the news rooms to observe the day.
4. The PCI may appoint a Committee of its members to inquire into cases of attacks on journalists in the first meeting of every term with tenure of three years.
5. The PCI may direct the army and paramilitary commanders to appoint a nodal officer at the State headquarters in the States where they are operating against militants and extremists so that there is better co-ordination between the media and the forces particularly in States like Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh.
6. The Welfare Scheme being administered by the I&B Ministry should be given wide publicity as it is little known to journalists in the country. The representation in the Committee to sanction relief journalists should be broad-based. (The details of the scheme are given in Annexure attached)
7. The PCI may conduct short term refresher courses of two/three days duration and invite high level army/paramilitary/police officers to sensitise journalists working in the conflict zones.

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We thank the representatives of the working journalists and senior journalists who came forward to assist the Committee in its work in the State.

Last but not the least we are thankful to the staff of the Council, Bhim Singh and Naveen Joshi who accompanied the Committee to various States and extended the secretarial assistance.

List of Journalists killed in India since 1990

1. **Sandeep Kothari**, Working for Jabalpur based Hindi news papers as freelancer Balaghat District, Madhya Pradesh
June 20, 2015
2. **Jagendra Singh**, Freelance journalist and social media writer
Shajahanpur. Uttar Pradesh
June 8, 2015
3. **MVN Shankar**, Correspondent, Andhra Prabha, Chilakaluripet,
Guntur district, Andhra Pradesh
November 26,2014
4. **Tarun Kumar Acharya**, Correspondent, Kanak TV
and Sambad Oriya daily Khallikote town, Odisha
May 27,2014
5. **Sai Reddy**, Correspondent Deshbandhu
Bijapur district, Chhattisgarh
December 6, 2013
6. **Rajesh Varma**, Correspondent, IBN 7
Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh
September 7, 2013
7. **Rakesh Sharma**, Correspondent of Hindi local daily
Ettawah, Uttar Pradesh
August 24, 2013
8. **Narendra Dabholakar**, Correspondent, Sadhana
Pune. Maharashtra
August 20, 2013
9. **Sujit Bahattacharjee**, Proof Reader, Danik Ganadoot a Bengali Daily
Agartala, Tripura
May 19,2013
10. **L. Prakash**, Correspondent, Sakshi
Pedakakani, Guntur District,
Andhra Pradesh May 6, 2013

11. **Jitendra Singh**, Correspondent, Prabhat Khabhar
Khunti district. Jharkhand
April 27, 2013
12. **Nemi Chand Jain**, Freelancer
Sukma District. Chhattisgarh February 12, 2013
13. **Dwijamani Singh**, Reporter, Prime News daily
Imphal, Manipur
December 23, 2012
14. **Chaitali Santra**, Correspondent, Delhi based weekly Julm se Jung
South Banksara, Howrah district, West Bengal
September 27, 2012
15. **Rajesh Mishra**, Correspondent, Media Raj Hindi weekly
Rewa. Madhya Pradesh
March 1, 2012
16. **Chandrika Rai**, Freelancer for Nava Bharat and Hitavada
Umaria district, Madhya Pradesh
February 18, 2012
17. **Jyotirmoy Dey**, Sr. Editor, Mid day
Mumbai, Maharashtra
June 11, 2011
18. **Umesh Rajput**, Reporter, Nai Duniya Churi Village,
Raipur district, Chhattisgarh
January 23, 2011
19. **Sushil Pathak**, Reporter, Dainik Bhaksar
Bilapur, Chhattisgarh
December 20, 2010
20. **Anil Soni**, Journalist at a local hindi daily
Indore, Madhya Pradesh
October 8, 2010
21. **Bimala Prasad Talukdar**, Editor, Swatantra Awaj
Hojai, Assam
September 4, 2010

22. **Vijay Pratap Singh**, Reporter, Indian Express
Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh
July 20, 2010
23. **Nirupama Pathak**, Delhi based journalist
Killed in Koderma, Jharkhand
April 29, 2010
24. **Anil Mazumdar**, Executive Editor, Aji daily
Rajgarh. Guwahati. Assam
March 24, 2009
25. **Vikas Ranjan**, Correspondent. Hindustan
Rusera, Samastipur district, Bihar
November 25, 2008
26. **Jagajit Saikia**, Correspondent, Kokrajhar daily
Kokrajhar, Assam
November 22, 2008
27. **Javed Ahmed Mir**, Channel 9
Srinagar, J&K
August 13, 2008
28. **Ashok Sodhi**, Daily Excelsior,
Samba, J&K
May 11, 2008
29. **Mohammed Muslimuddin**, Asomiya Pratidin
Barpukhuri, Assam
April 1, 2008
30. **K Naga Raju**, Reporter Andhra Prabha
Srikakulam, Andhra Pradesh
October 20, 2007
31. **Bodosa Nrzary**, Editor, Bodoland TV
Bhabanipur, Kokrajhar district, Assam
April 1, 2007
32. **Kanak Raj Medhi**, Freelancer
Sualkuchi, Assam
October 29, 2006

33. **Arun Narayan Dekate**, Correspondent, Tarun Bharat
Nagpur, Maharashtra
June 10, 2006
34. **Prahlad Gowala**, Asomiya Khabar,
Golaghat, Assam
January 6, 2005
35. **Dilip Mohapatra**, Correspondent. Aji Kagoj
Bhagirathipura. Odisha
November 8, 2004
36. **Asiya Jeelani**, Freelancer,
Srinagar. J&K
April 20, 2004
37. **V. Yadagiri**, Correspondent, Andhra Prabha
Medak. Telangana
February 21, 2004
38. **Paramanand Goyal**. Correspondent. Punjab Kesari
Kaithal. Haryana
September 18, 2003
39. **Indra Mohan Hakasama**, Correspondent. Amar Asom
Agia. Goalpara district, Assam
June 24, 2003
40. **Dinesh Brahma**, Journalist, Assassin
Dhubri, Assam
March 24, 2003
41. **Parvaz Mohammed Sultan**, News and Features Alliance
Srinagar, J&K
January 31, 2003
42. **Vikram Singh Bhist**, Video Journalist,
Asian News International (ANI)
New Delhi January 9, 2003
(He was injured in attack on Parliament in 2001)
43. **Ram Chandar Chaterpatti**, Journalist with Poorasach daily
Sirsa, Haryana
November 21, 2002

44. **Yambem Maghajit Singh**, Correspondent, North East Vision
Imphal, Manipur
October 13, 2002
45. **Paritosh Pandey**, Correspondent, Jansatta Express
Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
April 14, 2002
46. **Moolchand Yadav**, Freelancer
Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh
July 30, 2001
47. **Thounaojam Brajamani Singh**, Editor, Manipur News
Imphal, Manipur
August 20, 2000
48. **Pradeep Bhatiya**, Correspondent, Hindustan Times
Srinagar, J&K
August 10, 2000
49. **V Selvaraj**, Correspondent, Nakkeeran weekly
Parambarur, Tamilnadu
July 31, 2000
50. **Adhir Rai**, Freelancer
Deoghar, Jharkhand
March 18, 2000
51. **Ratneswar Sarnia Shastri**, Sr. Journalist
Barpeta, Assam
December 31, 1999
52. **N A Lalruhlu**, Editor, Shan
Imphal, Manipur
October 10, 1999
53. **Irfan Hussain**, Cartoonist, Outlook
New Delhi
March 13, 1999
54. **Sbivani Bhatnagar**, Spl. Correspondent, Indian Express
New Delhi
January 23, 1999

55. **Jiten Sutiya**, Freelancer
Sivasagar, Assam
Month & Date not available, 1999
(Killed in a Grenade Explosion in SP's office)
56. **Alfarid Shazad**, Photo journalist
Sivasagar, Assam
Month & Date not available, 1999
(Killed in a Grenade Explosion in SP's office)
57. **Nurul Hoque**, Journalist in a local newspaper
Hojai, Nagaon, Assam
Month & Date not available, 1998
58. **S. Gangadhar Raju**, Staff Reporter, ETV
Hyderabad, Telangana
November 19, 1997
59. **S.Krishna**, Staff Reporter, ETV
Hyderabad. Telangana
November 19, 1997
60. **G.Rajasekhar**, Video journalist, ETV
Hyderabad, Tclangana
November 19, 1997
61. **Jagadish Babu**, Video journalist, ETV
Hyderabad, Telangana
November 19, 1997
62. **P.Srinivas Rao**, Video journalist, ETV
Hyderabad. Telangana
November 19, 1997
63. **Saidan Shafi**, Video journalist. Doordarshan
Srinagar, J&K
March 16. 1997
64. **Altaf Ahmed Faktoo**, Video journalist, Doordarshan
Srinagar, J&K
January 1, 1997

65. **Panja Ali**, Journalist in local newspaper
Kasugaon, Kokrajhar district, Assam
Month & Date not available, 1997
66. **Parag Kumar Das**, Executive Editor, Asomiya Pratidin
Guwahati, Assam
May 17, 1996
67. **Manik Deuri**, Freelancer
Diphu, Assam
April 26, 1996
68. **Gbulam Rasool Sheikh**, Correspondent,
Rehnuma-E-Kashmir & Saffron Times
Srinagar, J&K
April 10, 1996
69. **Dipak Swargiary**, Freelancer
Goreswar, Assam
September 24, 1995
70. **Mushtag Ali**, Photo journalist, AFP and ANI
Srinagar, J&K
September 10, 1995
71. **Pabitra Narayan**, Correspondent, North East Times
Sonari, Sibsagar district, Assam
August 19, 1995
72. **Ghulam Muhammad Lone**, Freelancer
Kangan. J&K August 29, 1994
73. **Chada Sridhar Reddy**, Reporter, Andhra Prabha.
Nalgonda, Telangana
June 1991 (Date not Available)
74. **Dinesh Pathak**, Sandesh daily
Vadodara Gujarat
May 22, 1993
75. **Bhola Nath Masoom**, Correspondent Hind Samachar
Rajpura, Punjab
May 18, 1992

76. **Bakshi Tirath Singh**, Correspondent, Hind Samachar
Dhuri, Punjab
February 27, 1992
77. **Ram Singh Biling**, Correspondent,
Azdi Awaz and Daily Ajil Jalandhar, Punjab
January 3, 1992
78. **Ghula Rasool**, Staff Reporter Udayam
Hyderabad, Telangana
December 30 1991.
79. **Kamala Saikia**, Correspondent, Ajir Asom
Sibsagar, Assam
August 9, 1991
80. **Mallepula Narendra**, Reporter, Eenadu,
Nizamabad, Telangana
January 29, 1991

Three family members of Chandrika Rai killed along with him in Madhya Pradesh on February 18, 2012. **Durga** (wife), **Jalaj** (son) **Nisha** (daughter)

Media workers killed:

1. **M. Vinod Kumar**, *Dinakaran*
May 7, 2007, in Tamil Nadu, India
2. **K. Muthuranalingam**, *Dinakaran*
May 7, 2007, in Tamil Nadu, India
3. **G. Gopinath**, *Dinakaran*
May 7, 2007. in Tamil Nadu, India
4. **Driver (Name not available)**, *Ganadoot*
Agartala, Tripura
May 19, 2013.
5. **Watchman (Name not available)**, *Ganadoot*,
Agartala. Tripura
May 19, 2013.

**MINISTRY OF INFORMATION & BROADCASTING
GUIDELINES FOR JOURNALIST WELFARE SCHEME**

(As modified w.e.f February 1, 2013)

1. **TITLE OF THE SCHEME:** The Scheme may be called the Journalists Welfare Scheme.
2. **PERIOD OF OPERATION:** It shall come into force with effect from 1st February, 2013.
3. **PURPOSE OF THE SCHEME.** To provide one time ex gratia relief on urgent basis to Journalists and their families A journalist for the purpose of this scheme would mean;
 - (i) A working journalist as defined under the Working Journalists and other Newspaper employees (Condition of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955, or
 - (ii) 'Media Personnel' whose principal avocation is that of reporting/editing for news channels of radio, TV or web based services and who is employed as such, either whole time or part-time, in or in relation to, one or more such establishments and includes news editor, reporter, photographer, cameraman, photo journalist, freelance journalists, but does not include any such person who
 - a) Is employed mainly in a managerial or administrative capacity, or
 - b) Is being employed in a supervisory capacity, performs, either by the nature of the duties attached to his office or by reason of the powers vested in him, function mainly of a managerial nature. Family for the purpose of this Scheme will mean the journalist, spouse, dependent parents and dependent children.
4. **CONSTITUTION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE SCHEME:** The Scheme will be constituted under the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and will be administered by a Committee comprising: Minister/Minister of State of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Govt. of India -Patron Secretary (I&B) Chairperson, Principal DG (M&C), PIB Member AS & FA Member JS (P) Member Dy Secretary/Director, Member Convener

5. **ELIGIBILITY FOR AVAILING ASSISTANCE FROM THE SCHEME:**
A journalist shall be eligible for relief from the Scheme, provided that-
- 1) He/she is a citizen of india,
 - 2) He/she is ordinarily resident of India,
 - 3) He/she should be accredited to PIB at the Headquarters of the Govt. of India or at the Headquarters (Capitals) of the State/UT Governments,
 - 4) Journalists who are not presently accredited to either the Government of India or an) State/UT Government shall also be eligible for relief from the Scheme if they have been journalists as defined under these guidelines for a minimum period of five continuous years.
6. **PROCEDURE FOR SANCTION FROM THE SCHEME:** Proposals received for assistance from the Scheme will be processed by the Principal Director General (Media & Communication), Press Information Bureau (PIB) and will be sent to the Committee with specific recommendation and supporting documents. The recommendation will be considered and decided by the Committee and the assistance will be released with the approval of Minister of Information & Broadcasting. However, in cases of urgency, the Chairman may initiate a case for approval of Minister of Information & Broadcasting. Such approvals will be reported in the next meeting of the Committee.
7. **APPLICATION FORM:** The application for the grant of financial assistance under this scheme shall be submitted to the Principal DG (M&C), PIB in the form prescribed in schedule -I. Any other additional information may be asked by the Committee. The Committee may amend the application format as and when required. The Committee may also suo moto take up cases for grant of financial assistance even if an application has not been received from the journalist/beneficiaries.
8. **ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE UNDER THE SCHEME:**
- (i) Upto Rs.5 lakh may be provided to the family under extreme hardship on account of death of the journalist.
 - (ii) Upto Rs.5 lakh may be provided to the journalist in case of permanent disability rendering the journalist incapable of earning a livelihood.

- (iii) Upto Rs.3 lakh may be provided towards the cost of treatment of major ailments such as cancer, renal failure, heart ailments requiring by pass/open heart surgery, angioplasty, brain hemorrhage and paralytic attack etc. This would be subject to the medical expenditure not being covered under CGHS, or any other insurance/ departmental health schemes, etc. However, relief under this provision is available to the journalist only upto the age of 65 years.
- (iv) Upto Rs.2 lakh may be provided in case of accidents causing serious injuries necessitating hospitalization. This would be subject to the medical expenditure not being covered under CGHS, or any other insurance/departmental health schemes, etc.

However, in case of non-accredited journalist, the quantum of assistance available for cases (ii), (iii) and (iv) above will be limited to Rupees One Lakh for journalists having worked as such for 5 continuous years and thereafter Rupees One Lakh for every additional 5 years of working in the same manner subject to the maximum ceiling provided in each case

- 9. **EXCEPTION:** Notwithstanding anything contained in these guidelines, the Committee if it feels necessary in very special/exceptional cases may recommend higher level of assistance or suggest any other deviation of the guidelines for approval of Hon'ble Minister of Information & Broadcasting.
- 10. **PAYMENT FROM THE SCHEME:** The payments shall be made from the budgetary allocations earmarked for the Journalist Welfare Scheme during the financial year.
- 11. **BUDGET HEAD:** 2220 Information and Publicity (Major Head) (Non Plan) 60 Others (Sub Major Head) 60.103 Press Information Services (Minor Head) 01 Press Information Bureau 01.02 Journalist Welfare 01.02.50 Other Charges.
- 12. **GENERAL:** Grant of financial assistance from the Scheme to any working journalist is not a matter of right. Assistance would be extended depending on the Committee's satisfaction regarding the eligibility/merits of the cases and the financial resources available for the purpose. The Committee reserves the right to reject or accept any application without assigning any reasons therefor.

Chapter-VII

Report on killing of Shri MNV Shankar, L Prakash and assault of G Stephen, Journalists in separate incidents in Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh

Introduction

In an order issued on 6th January, 2015 the Chairman, Press Council of India, Justice Chandramauli Kumar Prasad constituted a Fact Finding Team consisted of Kosuri Amamath, Convener, Prakash Dubey and N Ramchander Rao (since resigned), Members of the Council, to probe into killing of MNV Shankar, correspondent of Andhra Prabha daily and assault on G.Stephen Babu, Editor Crime Today, in Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh in separate attacks. Later it was asked also to inquire into the death of L Prakash, Correspondent of Saakshi daily at Pedakakani, in Guntur District. The Secretary of the Council communicated the decision to the members of the Committee on 9th January, 2015.

MVN Prasad, a part-time Correspondent of Andhra Pradesh daily at Chilakaluripet in Guntur District was brutally attacked by some unidentified persons on the night of 25th November, 2014 while returning home after filing his reports. He succumbed to injuries in the early hours of next day, 26th November in Guntur hospital.

G Stephen Babu, Editor of a local periodical Crime Today, was attacked with lethal weapons by some unidentified assailants on 4th January 2015 at Vinukonda town in Guntur District. He was severely-injured.

L Prakash, Correspondent of Saakshi daily was murdered on 6th May 2013 at Pedakakani in Guntur District by some unidentified persons.

Visit of the Fact Finding Committee

The Fact Finding Team visited Chilakaluripet and Vinukonda on 20th January, 2015 and held hearings where a delegation of the local Unit of Andhra Pradesh Union of Working Journalists (APUWJ) and local journalists gave evidence. Local police officials also appeared before the Committee. It held a hearing at Guntur on 21st January with local journalists and district police officials. The representatives of the APUWJ also appeared before the Committee and gave evidence.

Later the Committee held discussions with the Chief Secretary, the Principal Secretary (Home) and Director General of Police at State Secretariat in Hyderabad on 22nd January.

Hearings of the Committee at Chilakaluripet, Vinukonda and Guntur

At the hearing at Chilakaluripet, several journalists and representatives of the local unit of the Andhra Pradesh Union of Working Journalists (APUWJ) appeared before the Committee. They said that MVN Shankar was attacked near his office while on his way home. He was murdered because he exposed the activities of local mafia which sold kerosene and other goods from the Public Distribution Scheme (PDS) in black market at high premium. They said he earned the ire of those who were running gambling dens and illegal activities as he reported on them in his newspaper.

They said under pressure from the local journalists' community, the police named two rowdy sheeters Kishore Babu and Vijay Kumar. First they arrested Vijay Kumar. After the visit of the Committee Kishore Babu was also arrested.

The journalists alleged that while Kishore Babu and Vijay Kumar were directly involved in the attack, local politicians of the ruling party Vengala Rayudu and P Srinivas Rao, an ex-sarpanch of Timmapuram village near Chilakaluripet town, were the real brain behind the murder. They said both these politicians are the close followers of the local minister who was protecting them. They said Shankar exposed the illegal activities Vengala Rayudu and Srinivas Rao and they bore a grudge against him. Since they belonged to the ruling party, the police were not naming them in the case.

The local police officials who appeared before the Committee said they filed a FIR and vigorously pursuing the investigation. They said the District Superintendent of Police instructed them to complete the investigation early and nab the culprits. They said the Dy. Superintendent of the area was monitoring the investigation of the case. They also denied any political consideration or interference.

Except the representatives of the local journalists organisations, most journalists refused to speak publicly fearing repercussions from the local ruling party politicians. However, when the Committee met them individually, they opened up and alleged that both Kishore Babu and Vijay Kumar might have some grudge against Shankar, they would not have dared to kill him without active support

of Vengala Rayudu and Srinivas Rao. They said both of them were prominent followers of the present local minister.

The journalists did not hide the activities of Shankar. They said Shankar demanded money from Srinivas Rao in a land grab and illegal tobacco business case. That was the reason, why he was killed by mafia run under Rao's protection. They alleged that no newspaper management except a couple of big newspapers, paid remuneration to the part-time correspondents, forcing them to procure advertisements from the local politicians and businessmen, at times arm twisting them with threats of filing adverse reports against them in their newspapers. Most of them did not have any other source of income and survive on such tactics.

Attack on Stephen Babu

The Committee visited Vinukonda town on 20th January afternoon and held a hearing on the attack on Editor and owner of Crime Today, Stephen Babu. He was attacked by about half a dozen unidentified persons at Vinukonda town on 4th January 2015. He was accredited by Government of AP as journalist. Case was registered by police but no one was arrested.

The journalists refused to testify before the Committee in a public hearing. They were scared of Stephen Babu, who published news related to land deals, encroachments etc. Appearing before the Committee individually without the presence of others, they alleged that he used to write nasty articles against those who refused to pay him. He used to go the officials of various government departments and local bodies and threaten them that he would expose their corruption in his periodical if they did not pay him. He used to demand money for illegal construction, encroachment etc. He used to complain to municipal authorities against those, who refused to pay him. If the municipal officials did not take action, he would write against them.

One of the journalists admitted that he paid Rs. 10 thousand, when Stephen Babu threatened to publish a story against him as he built his house deviating from the approved municipal plan. One journalist termed Stephen as Petition Monger. A senior ruling party politician who represented the Vinukonda Assembly constituency previously and now in the upper house, under condition of anonymity told the members of the Committee at Guntur that Stephen Babu was a regular menace to the officials and peoples representatives.

Local police officials said they were investigating the case. They also revealed that some case of extortion, black mail were registered against Stephen Babu and they were pending before the Courts at various stages of trial.

Neither Stephen Babu nor his representative appeared before the Committee even though communication was sent to his address and adequate publicity was given in the local press about the visit of the Committee. Later he addressed a letter to the Committee saying that he could not appear before the Committee as he was recuperating from his injuries at his relative's house in Kamataka. He said that he was attacked for his bold reports exposing corruption and nepotism in the government machinery and public life. He demanded that the culprits should be brought to book and he should be adequately compensated.

Hearing at Guntur City

The Committee held a public hearing in Guntur City on 21st January and held from the representatives of Journalists organizations, senior journalists and police officials. The police were represented by the Addl. Superintendent of Police in the absence of the Superintendent of Police.

The representatives of APUWJ alleged that the real culprits in the Shankar murder case were being left out from the case due to political considerations. They demanded that high level probe should be conducted to bring out the truth in the case. They demanded that the government should pay adequate compensation to the family of the slain journalist.

APUWJ representatives and some senior journalists admitted that undesirable tendencies were creeping in to the profession at rural level but said it was due to the wrong practices of the news media managements. They said except a few honorable exceptions, no media management was paying any remuneration, leave alone statutory wages to the part-time correspondents/stringers in the state leading such practices. They lamented that the managements were forcing the rural journalists to double up as circulation and advertisement representatives. The State Government which should enforce recommendations of Wage Board for journalists and the provisions of Working Journalists Act was mute spectator to such unethical and illegal activities of the managements.

The police officials maintained that there was no political pressure on them in the case. They said they were investigating the case from all possible angles and would include anybody involved in the case in the charge sheet if new information came out during the investigation.

Investigating officer in Stephen Babu attack case claimed that accused are being arrested. He supported the story revealed by some senior journalists about alleged un-journalistic activities of Stephen Babu.

L Prakash murder case

The investigating police officer appeared before the Committee and reported that the investigating was complete in the case and a charge was being filed. He said the culprits were arrested and they were granted bail by the competent court. He assured that the case would be pursued expeditiously and bring the culprits to book.

Meeting with Chief Secretary and Top Police Officers at Hyderabad

The Committee met the Chief Secretary, Mr. IYR Krishna Rao, Principal Secretary (Home) Mr. B Prasad Rao and Director General of Police Mr. Ramulu to the Government of Andhra Pradesh at state secretariat in Hyderabad on 22nd January.

The Committee pointed out the Chief Secretary, Principal Secretary (Home) and Director General of PoLice that the police failed to take prompt action in all the three cases. They pointed out that the journalists, particularly in rural areas, were facing threats from criminals. They told them that delay in police and administrative action was leading to increased attacks on press persons.

The Committee told the top officers of the AP Government that unlike the government servants, the journalists had no protection, privileges or security making journalism a hazardous profession. They said that since the new capital was planned in Guntur district, the land mafia was more active and the government should deal firmly with them. They pointed out that the Chief Minister did not react to the incidents and did not announce any compensation to the victims creating an impression that the Government was not serious on the issue.

Chief Secretary heard the views of the Committee patiently and asked the Principal Secretary (Home) to take prompt action in cases of attacks on journalists. He said that a few journalists got involved in malpractices. He assured that the PCI would be kept informed on the action taken by the government in the matter.

After the Committee discussed the issue with some senior journalists and among themselves; We recommend:

1. A special law should be enacted for protection of journalists and the cases should be tried by a fast-track courts.
2. Attacks on journalists should be dealt with strong hand. Police and Administration should act without fear and bias. In some cases political

pressure is used to hush up cases. These politicians be exposed and punished under law.

It is feared that such incidents might increase because of greed of the land mafia in capital region in Andhra Pradesh

3. Most of the mofussil or part time journalists are not paid by their organisation. Journalists are asked to get advertisements. In this situation journalists face insecurity. In many cases newspaper refuse to own responsibility or help their staff members under threat and attack. The State Governments should be directed to act strictly to enforce wage board awards and provisions of the Working Journalists Act.
4. The PCI may also appeal journalists to be on alert so that criminal elements do not get active in garb of Media.

Chapter-VIII

Report on the issue of Advertisement from Sikkim, Uttarakhand and Telangana

The Council in its meeting held on December 19, 2014 while considering the issue threats/problems being faced by the medium and small newspapers for non-adoption of the Model Advertisement/Accreditation Rules-2014 framed by the Press Council had constituted a two member Sub-Committee to examine the issue of Advertisement comprising of S/Shri Gurinder Singh, Convenor and Prabhat Kumar Dash, Member.

The Committee visited Gangtok, Sikkim from November 4-5, 2015 and invited stakeholders from Big, Small and Medium newspapers as well as the authorities of the State Government of Sikkim to interact simultaneously on November 4, 2015 across the table to avoid communication gap and follow the principle of transparency.

About 25-30 Stakeholders form Big, Small and Medium newspapers and Nodal Officer appointed by the Government of Sikkim, namely Mr. Shyam Pradhan, Under Secretary, Information and Public Relations Department along with his team of officers were present in the Conference Hall, Information & Public Relations Department, Government of Sikkim, Gangtok.

DEPOSITION

Editors and publishers of various media organizations of Sikkim shared that media in Sikkim has failed to take up as a commercial enterprise and are facing financial constraints to run their newspapers in a smooth manner. The major grievance shared was the inordinate delay by departments to release payments for the government advertisements published in local newspapers despite a standing directive that all advertisement bills should be cleared within three months.

They submitted that Media Houses in Sikkim were not so big, and are dependent on Government advertisements and non- payment of bills by various government departments is one of the major problems. Bills of past 6-7 years are pending with the Information & Public Relations Department and there is no positive response from their side regarding the payment.

They said that the issue of delay in clearing the government advertisement bills can be resolved through a single window system and the State Government can also adopt the DAVP model for clearing the advertisement bills.

The stakeholders demanded a special advertisement package from the Union Government for Northeastern States, the advertisements which were 7 in numbers and were reduced to 3 in a year by the Sikkim Government should be restored back to 7 was the major concern.

The stakeholders also briefed on how many newspapers in Sikkim are on the verge of closure due to lack of desired government advertisements. It was also pointed out that several local weekly newspapers have been shut down and remaining are on verge of closure after the government advertisements were reduced.

They also demanded quarters for the journalists by the government and other benefits for accredited media persons like medical allowances for the journalists and free travel for accredited media persons in state transport.

The local media houses also demanded that the State Government must allocate two percent from the State funds for advertisements into the welfare fund for journalists.

Information & Public Relations department is not taking any responsibility for collection of advertisements dues from the concerned departments. They further submitted that whenever, they asked the Information & Public Relations Department regarding payment of bills, they said due to shortage of funds it is not possible.

Departments such as Tourism Department; HRD Department; Road & Bridges Department; Power Department; Rural Management Department; and Primary Health and Education Departments are not releasing their advertisement payments.

They also submitted that the readership of vernacular papers is dying due to the lack of interest in the young generation as they feel it is against the modern times.

There are many women Owner/journalists/editors in the State but they do not get any priority or incentives from the State Government.

They also submitted that earlier the government reimbursed the medical bills upto Rs.20,000/- to journalists which has now been withdrawn by the State Government.

There is no facility for the accredited journalists like free travelling in the state transport, concession in railway reservations. They further informed the Committee that the government has not created any welfare fund for the journalists of the State as reporting in the hill areas come under the threat of avalanche and landslides due to which many have lost their lives in the past and there is no future security of their kith and kin.

FINDINGS

1. Enhancement of Advertisements and its budget
2. Payment of bills in stipulated time
3. There should be an empanelment procedure in the State government.
4. Welfare fund for journalists & Small & Medium Newspapers
5. Priority to women owners/editors/journalists
6. Free govt. transportation for journalists
7. Encouragement to vernacular media
8. Special consideration for newspapers published from hill areas.

GOVERNMENT VIEW

The Secretary, I&PR Department, Ms. C.C. Wandge while interacting with the Committee submitted that curtailment of the advertisements is the decisions of the government as they are short of funds and it is just a temporary phase. A group of journalists have already met the Chief Minister in this regard who has assured them that this situation will not continue for long.

The Secretary informed the Committee that as and when they receive the grant from the government they will clear all the pending bills. The Secretary added that the department is giving priority to all language newspapers without any discrimination and all the facilities are being provided as per the guidelines.

The Secretary also apprised the Committee that the State Government provided medical facilities to the accredited journalists of the State and their families. The Secretary also informed that the transportation was free for local travel which will be extended throughout the state as directed by the Committee. The Secretary assured the Committee that whatever steps possible to enhance the conditions of the journalists and the Small & Medium Newspapers will be

taken as they were also concerned for the revival and survival of Small & Medium Newspapers.

They were thankful to the Press Council of India for coming to the State and raising the issues for the welfare of the State and its media fraternity. They agreed to implement the Model Code of Press Council of India in *toto*.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Advertisement Policy should be prepared in conformity with the Model Advertisement Rules-2014 prepared by the Press Council of India.
2. Advertisement rates should be revised after a specific period of time.
3. The Ratio of the advertisement should be 50% for Big, 35% for Medium and 15% for Small Newspapers.
4. Representation of Members of Press Bodies notified by the Press Council of India should be included in the inter departmental Committees.
5. There should be a centralized mechanism for payment of bills and those who are defaulters, their advertisements should not be issued by the Information & Public Relations Department to be published till the dues are paid.
6. Priority to be given to vernacular media while giving empanelment and issuing advertisements.
7. The budget should be enhanced for the Small & Medium Newspapers in the state as there are not much private players and the whole media fraternity especially small & Medium Newspapers earn their bread and butter through government advertisements.
8. There should be a journalist welfare fund for the benefit of the working journalist and Government should provide Life/Group Insurance to the journalists with a minimum payment and also provide them Health Insurance for their families.
9. There should be special incentives for women owners/editors/journalists, Information and Public Relations Department should encourage them and a corpus fund for the welfare of the journalists of the state should be created.

The Committee visited Dehradun, Uttarakhand from December 2-3, 2015 and invited stakeholders from Big, Small and Medium newspapers as well as the authorities of the State Government of Uttarakhand to interact simultaneously on December 2, 2015 across the table to avoid communication gap and follow the principle of transparency.

About 50-60 Stakeholders from Big, Small and Medium newspapers and Nodal Officer appointed by the Government of Uttarakhand namely Dr. Anil Chandola, Additional Director, Information and Public Relations Department along with his team of officers were present in the Conference Hall, Information & Public Relations Department, Government of Uttarakhand, Dehradun.

DEPOSITION

The stakeholders from Small & Medium Newspapers submitted that the previous Director General, Information & Public Relations Department had invited their suggestions for framing new Advertisement policy but the Government framed New Advertisement Policy without adding their suggestion. They informed that after implementation of new policy many Small & Medium Newspaper are on the verge of closing and new policy is framed tactfully to curtail the survival of Small & Medium Newspapers in the State.

They submitted that the Government imposing VAT, CST and other Bills on Small & Medium Newspapers which is costly and unbearable to Small & Medium Newspapers.

DAVP/PCI's Advertisement policy have not been adopted by the State Government.

They informed that there is no policy for checking of newspaper which are vernacular specially Urdu papers. People bring out Urdu newspapers just to get Government Advertisements. A large number of fake newspapers got the advertisements due to inefficiency of the Information and Public Relations Department. They submitted that there must be specific qualification for bringing out a newspaper.

The stakeholders submitted that a clause which is added in the new policy by the department for renewal of newspapers in every 18 months is not justified and this clause should have been removed by the State Government.

Bills from printing press are not demanded by DAVP, then how can State I&PR Department of Uttarakhand can demand of the same.

They submitted that the Committee constituted for the purpose is invalid because there are only 8 persons in the Committee and no one from the organizations which are notified by the Press Council of India.

Verification of circulation of newspaper is done by RNI only and the State Government should have not done this. They submitted that Regional Level Papers and State Level Papers should have been combined and VAT and other Taxes should have also been removed from the new Advertisement Policy.

There is no encouragement for the hilly areas papers as they go through lots of hardships in collecting news and distributing their paper.

They submitted that the major part of the budget allocated for the media is eaten up by the electronic media.

Survival of Small & Medium Newspapers is not possible if they will not get sufficient advertisements from the government. They also submitted that the new policy framed by the government is a tactic to eliminate the Small & Medium Newspapers from the State.

They also submitted that government has withdrawn the facility of bus pass from the accredited journalists and there are no medical facilities for the journalists in the State.

FINDINGS

1. Resentment in totality of the stakeholders in formation of the new advertisement policy of the State Government of Uttarakhand.
2. Priority is not being given to language newspapers while releasing advertisements.
3. Weekly, fortnightly and monthly newspapers are not being considered for Government advertisements.
4. Small & Medium Newspapers are not being considered for display advertisements.
5. Payment of Advertisement bills is not being made within a specified time.
6. The total budget sanctioned for advertisements in Rupees is not being utilized in the ratio of 50%, 35% and 15% for Big, Medium and Small newspapers respectively.

7. No representation of the Press Bodies in the newly constituted Inter Departmental Committee.
8. Electronic media taking the major share of the advertisement budget.

GOVERNMENT VIEW

While interacting with the Committee Shri Vinod Sharma, IAS, Director General-cum-Secretary, Information & Public Relations Department, Government of Uttarakhand informed the Committee that the print media advertisement rules had been made in favour of the media. He has informed that they will re-address the problems of the newspapers by exempting the taxes and agreed to follow the annexure-12 of DAVP Policy to simplify the procedure. He agreed to revisit the Advertisement Policy.

The Secretary informed that this is the first time in the State, when the advertisement rates have been increased for all types of newspapers by the department. The procedure for issuing advertisements has been made transparent and necessary amendments will be made as per the directions given by the Committee.

The Secretary stated that the government is providing free transportation facility in roadways buses to journalists accredited at the district and State levels and a government order will be issued soon after necessary amendments to facilitate free transport on roadways buses for district level reporters to go outside the State also.

He further apprised the Committee that the state government is taking all possible steps for the welfare of journalists. The journalists welfare fund had been increased and special care is taken of medium and small newspapers in advertisements released periodically.

He further apprised that in 2014-15 advertisements worth Rs.13.21 crores, Rs. 3.56 crore and Rs. 8.41 crore were released for big, medium and small newspapers respectively. Apart from this in the current financial year, about Rs.15 lakh has been spent in cases of reimbursement of medical treatment expenses of journalists.

Shri Sharma also informed the Committee that process is underway to implement the pension scheme as directed by the Chief Minister for journalists aged above 60 years. The State is also in the process of granting heritage status to recognized newspapers which are being published before the State's formation.

The Committee met the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttarakhand who is also the Minister of Information & Public Relations of the State. He welcome the Sub-Committee cordially & thanked Press Council of India for sending such a Committee to Uttarakhand. After elaborate discussion he assured to revisit the advertisement policy in *toto* & agreed to implement the Model Guidelines of Press Council of India & DAVP. He instructed the department officials to follow suit, He requested the Press Council of India to give some guidelines on multiple number of publication from one house & family. This type of publications is eating out the advertisement share of genuine players of the trade, he observed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Advertisement Policy should be prepared in conformity with the Model Advertisement Rules-2014 prepared by the Press Council of India.
2. Advertisement rates should be revised after a specific period of time.
3. The newspapers/periodicals should be exempted to specify the quantity of newsprint used, proportionate cost of the newsprint used, proportionate VAT, CST paid and printing expenses incurred and submit the same in a form of affidavit as these are measures only to find the shortcomings and discontinue advertisements.
4. The Information & Public Relations Department, Government of Uttarakhand should follow the directions/suggestions/rules/acts of the RNI and DAVP in case of circulation figures and rate contract, in letter and spirit.
5. The total budget sanctioned in rupees for advertisements should be distributed in the ration of 50% for Big, 35% for Medium and 15% for Small Newspapers, which has been totally ignored by the Information & Public Relations Department, Government of Uttarakhand.
6. Representation of Members of Press Bodies notified by the Press Council of India should be included in the inter departmental Committees.
7. Priority to be given to vernacular media while giving empanelment and issuing advertisements.
8. The newspaper/periodicals which have played a significant role in progress of the State should be considered in "Special Category" and to be provided extra facilities.
9. Some ways to be worked out by the Press Council of India to curtail fake publications of newspapers.

The Committee visited Telangana, Hyderabad from February 8-9, 2016 and invited stakeholders from Big, Small and Medium newspapers as well as the authorities of the State Government of Telangana to interact simultaneously on February 8-9, 2016 across the table to avoid communication gap and follow the principle of transparency.

About 35-40 Stakeholders from Big, Small and Medium newspapers and Nodal Officer appointed by the Government of Telangana, namely Shri Nagaiahkamble Joint Director, Information and Public Relations Department along with his team of officers were present in the Conference Hall, The Plaza, GMC Balayogi, Hyderabad.

DEPOSITIONS

Adhoc release of advertisements by the Government, delay in finalizing tariff sheets and billing, very few advertisements being released to the Small and Medium Newspapers and denial of advertisements and empanelmentetc, were among the issues that figured prominently when the Committee called the representatives from several small and medium newspapers and periodicals to present their case.

The Stakeholders from Small and Medium Newspapers informed the Committee they were facing many problems in the State. They were not getting advertisements for last one and half years since the formation of Telangana. They also submitted that the influential people from media who had a say are getting the advertisements regularly in the State. They also stated that there were no representation from Small & Medium Newspapers in the State Accreditation and Empanelment Committee. All the periodicals i.e. weekly, fortnightly and monthly were kept in an adhoc list and were given only one advertisement in the past one and a half years and were barred from getting any empanelment from the State Government. The common refrain from the representative was that the Information and Public Relations Department was not releasing sufficient number of advertisements to newspapers specially which belonged to Telugu and Urdu media and the priority is only given to english newspapers, who get more empanelment in the information department instead of other vernacular newspapers. How can we survive, if the government does not support in the form of advertisements was a common cry of Small and Medium Newspapers and the ones who were getting the advertisements the rates are very low, they pointed out that the budget sanctioned for advertisements in rupees is not being utilized in the ration of 50%, 35% and 15% for Big, Medium and Small Newspapers

as per provisions of DAVP. Accreditation and health cards too have been kept pending. They also informed the Committee that the Government is building houses for the working journalists, which was welcomed by the stakeholders but they also demanded the same for the owners of Small and Medium Newspapers as they were themselves journalists/reporters/cameramen and came under the same category.

FINDINGS

1. There should be transparency and equity in the Advertisement Policy. The Advertisement Policy should be elaborate so that the element of discretionary powers for the officials is minimized. The advertisement policy of the State Government may be in conformity with the Model Guidelines issued by the Press Council of India and Policy of the DAVP of Government of India to fulfill the motto of Press Council of India for an uniform advertisement policy across the country.
2. A Committee for empanelment and fixing tariff may be appointed and representatives of the stakeholders of Associations notified by the Press Council of India should be included in the Committee. The Committee should meet periodically and decide on applications of the newspapers for empanelment. There should be a mechanism to appeal against the decision of the Committee, if any newspaper is aggrieved over the decision of the Committee over tariff, or in case of rejection of empanelment.
3. Urdu media may be encouraged by giving priority in issuing advertisements as per the recommendations of the Gujaral Committee on Urdu Media.
4. Vernaculars newspapers like Telugu and Hindi should also be given due weightage while distributing advertisements.
5. Periodicals i.e. Weekly, Fortnightly and Monthly should be considered for empanelment and to be given regular advertisements.
6. Health Cards and Insurance for the journalists/owners and editors of Small & Medium newspapers should be issued.
7. Housing facilities to the working journalists should also be extended to the owners of Small &Medium newspapers.

GOVERNMENT VIEW

The Commissioner while interacting with the Committee submitted that necessary steps would be taken for empanelment and fixing of the rates for

newspapers by the end of March 2016 after taking into account the regularity of the newspapers. The Commissioner also added that the department has started observing regularity of the news papers since December, 2015 to consider the request of the newspapers as to the empanelment and tariff and similar action would be taken for empanelment of periodicals. The Commissioner added that the department has been giving priority to all language newspapers without any discrimination and all the facilities as per the guidelines. All the existing facilities shall be extended to periodicals also, once they are empanelled. The Commissioner also apprised the Committee that the State Government provided medical facilities to the accredited journalists of the State and their families and also have created a welfare fund for the journalists. Regarding the housing facilities, he said it is too early to tell who all will be beneficiary of the said scheme and most probably a Committee will be formed to decide the same. He agreed to all points of Model Code of Conduct except the DAVP ratio for issuing advertisement & said that for this he would have to take the government's view.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Advertisement Policy should be prepared in conformity with the Model Advertisement Rules-2014 prepared by the Press Council of India.
2. Advertisement rates should be revised after a specific period of time.
3. Periodicals should be considered for empanelment and should be given regular advertisements.
4. The Ratio of the advertisement should be 50% for Big, 35% for Medium and 15% for Small Newspapers.
5. Representation of Members of Press Bodies notified by the Press Council of India should be included in the inter departmental Committees.
6. The conditions of 10000 copies per publication day for empanelment of newspapers for government advertisements should be relaxed to 5000 for daily newspapers and 2000 for periodicals.
7. Priority to be given to vernacular media while giving empanelment and issuing advertisements.
8. To create welfare fund for the owners of small newspapers to make them self sufficient and housing facility may also be extended to owners of Small & Medium Newspapers.

Chapter - IX

Finances of the Council 2015-2016

The funds of the Council are primarily made up of (i) fee levied by the Council on newspapers/periodicals registered with the Registrar of Newspapers for India and on the news-agencies and other miscellaneous receipts, like interest on deposits etc., and (ii) Grant-in-aid from the Central Government in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

The Budget Estimates of the Council for the financial year 2015-16, as accepted by the Central Government in 2014-15 was Rs.663.00 lakhs. Revising the estimates for 2015-16 in January, 2015 the Central Government accepted the budget amounting to Rs. 647.00 lakhs (the Grant-in-aid element) with Council's revenue receipts estimated at Rs. 170.30 lakhs.

The Council in the year 2015-2016 received total grant-in-aid amounting to Rs.647.00 lakhs from the Central Government, whereas it collected Rs.178.37 lakhs as fees levied upon newspapers/periodicals and news agencies and accounted for other miscellaneous receipts, like interest on bank accounts, interest on F.D. Rs with the Bank, etc. during the year under report. Out of this Rs. 41.96 lakhs pertain to levy of fee. An amount of Rs. 52,830/- carried forward from 2014-15 was refunded to the Ministry of I&B in compliance with its letter No. G 22014/1/2015 dated 19/6/2015.

As the Final Grant for 2015-16 the Government accepted the following figures of finances for the Council:-

(Figures in lakh)

Gross sanctioned budget including Council's own receipt (Rs. 647+Rs. 170.30)	Rs. 817.30
Revenue Receipts	Rs. 178.37
Net Expenditure	Rs. 773.12
Unspent balance of previous year i.e. 2014-15 and the same was refunded to the Ministry of I&B on 19/6/2015	Rs. 0.53
Grant-in-aid from Govt.	Rs. 647.00

Section 22 of the Press Council Act, 1978," the accounts of Press Council of India shall be maintained and audited in such manner as may", in consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, be prescribed. The Annual account of the Press Council of India for the financial year 2014-15 which were maintained in accordance with the aforesaid provisions, were audited by the Audit party of the office of the Director General of Audit, Central Revenues, New Delhi and certified to be to their satisfaction. The Annual Accounts of the Council are annexed hereto.

Separate Audit Report of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India on the Accounts of Press Council of India for the year ended 31st March, 2016

We have audited the attached Balance Sheet of Press Council of India as at 31 March, 2016, the Income & Expenditure Account and Receipts & Payments Account for the year ended on that date under Section 19(2) of the Comptroller & Auditor General's (Duties, Powers & Conditions of Service) Act, 1971 read with Section 22 of the Press Council Act, 1978. These financial statements are the responsibility of the management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

2 This Separate Audit Report contains the comments of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India (CAG) on the accounting treatment only with regard to classification, conformity with the best accounting practices, accounting standards and disclosure norms, etc. Audit observations on financial transactions with regard to compliance with the Law, Rules & Regulations (Propriety and Regularity) and efficiency-cum-performance aspects, etc., if any, are reported through Inspection Report/CAG's Audit Reports separately.

3 We have conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in India. These standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatements. An audit includes examining, on a test basis evidences supporting the amounts and disclosure in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management as well as evaluating the overall presentation of financial statements. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

4 Based on our audit, we report that:

i We have obtained all the information and explanations, which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of our audit;

ii The Balance Sheet, Income & Expenditure Account and Receipts & Payments Account dealt with by this report have been drawn up in the format approved by the Ministry of Finance.

iii In our opinion, proper books of accounts and other relevant records have been maintained by the Press Council of India as per Section 19 and 20 of the Press Council Act, 1978 in so far as it appears from our examination of such books.

iv We further report that:

A. Balance Sheet

A.I Liability

A.1.1 CP Fund-₹ 994.11 lakh

The Council had earned interest amounting to ₹80.10 lakh (₹ 79.36 lakh on Term Deposit and ₹ 0.74 lakh on Saving Account) for CPF accounts, however, only ₹ 79.36 lakh was depicted as interest on CP Fund in Schedule-2. This has resulted in understatement of C P Fund and overstatement of Income by ₹ 0.74 lakh.

B. General

B.1. The Council is accounting Retirement Benefits viz., Gratuity, leave encashment on cash basis and not on actuarial basis which is in contravention of AS 15.

C. Grants-in-Aid

The Council had received a grant of ₹ 647.00 lakh under Non Plan from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting during the year 2015-16. The previous unspent balances of ₹ 0.53 lakh was surrendered. The Council had generated ₹178.37 lakh from its own resources. The Council utilize a sum of ₹773.12 lakh leaving a balance of ₹52.25 lakh as on 31st March 2016.

D. Management Letter

Deficiencies which have not been included in the Audit Report have been brought to the notice of the Council's management through a management letter issued separately for remedial/corrective action.

v. Subject to our observations in the preceding paragraphs, we report that the Balance Sheet, Income and Expenditure Account and Receipts and Payments Account dealt with by this report are in agreement with the books of accounts.

vi. In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the said financial statements read together with the Accounting Policies and Notes on Accounts, and subject to the significant matters stated above and other matters mentioned in Annexure to this Audit Report give a true and fair view in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in India:

- a. In so far as it relates to the Balance Sheet, of the state of affairs of the Press Council of India as at 31 March 2016; and
- b. In so far as it relates to Income and Expenditure Account of the surplus for the year ended on that date.

For and on behalf of the C&AG of India

Place : New Delhi
Date : 29/10/2015

Director General of Audit
(Central Expenditure)

Annexure I

1. Adequacy of internal audit system:

The Council does not have its own internal audit system. The internal audit of the Council was conducted by Chartered Accountants up to 2015-16.

2. Adequacy of internal control system:

The internal control system is inadequate due to:-

1. Risk Assessment and Management Information System which are necessary for smooth functioning of the Council were not in place in the Council.
2. The Assets Register was not maintained in the prescribed format.
3. Physical Verification of Fixed Assets & Inventories as on 31.03.2016 has been done.

3. System of physical verification of assets:

The physical verification of fixed assets namely furniture and fixture was under process for the period 2012-13 and for computer and accessories were conducted up to 2013-14. No verification was conducted during the last two years.

4. System of physical verification of inventory:

The physical verification of 'books and publication' stationery and other consumable items was conducted up to 2013-14 and no verification was conducted during the last two years..

5. Regularity in payment of dues

As per accounts, no payment over six months in respect of statutory dues was outstanding as on 31.03.2016.

Annexure to D.O. AMG-II/SAR/PCI/7-23/16-17

1. The Council has invested the CPF balance of ₹ 921.79 lakh in term deposit with banks which was in contravention of the pattern of investment prescribed by the Government of India, Ministry of Finance vide notification no. F. 5(88)/2006-PR dated 14.08.2008

BALANCE SHEET

As on 31st March 2016

PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31.03.2016

	Schedule	Current Year	Previous Year
LIABILITIES			
CAPITAL FUND	1	112,351,059	103,834,285
C.P.F. FUND	2	99,411,295	92,179,650
CURRENT LIABILITIES AND PROVISIONS	3	7,587,078	3,021,198
TOTAL		219,349,432	199,035,133
ASSETS			
FIXED ASSETS	4	9,111,169	5,519,123
INVESTMENTS-FROM EARMARKED FUNDS	5	99,562,484	96,054,245
CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS, ADVANCES ETC.	6	110,675,779	97,461,765
TOTAL		219,349,432	199,035,133
SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES	13		
CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND NOTES ON ACCOUNTS	14		

Sd/-
(C.K. PRASAD)
CHAIRMAN
PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA

Sd/-
(PUNAM SIBBAL)
SECRETARY
PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA

PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE
YEAR ENDED ON 31.03.2016

INCOME	Schedule	Current Year	Previous Year
Income from Levy Fees & Others	7	17,242,846	14,401,594
Grants from Govt	8	51,538,903	53,755,757
Interest Earned	9	9,844,633	9,226,206
TOTAL (A)	-	78,626,382	77,383,557
EXPENDITURE			
Establishment Expenses	10	51,541,663	51,468,862
Other Administrative Expenses	11	17,999,659	12,935,230
Finance Charges	12	-	100
Depreciation (Corresponding to Schedule 4)	4	1,190,433	1,065,397
TOTAL (B)	-	70,731,755	65,469,589
Balance being excess of Income over Expenditure (A-B)		7,894,627	11,913,968
- Prior Period Adjustment Cr. (Dr.)		(622,147)	
- Transfer to/from General Reserve	-		
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) CARRIED TO INCOME & EXPENDITURE A/C	-	8,516,774	11,913,968
SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES	13		

Sd/-
(C.K. PRASAD)
 CHAIRMAN
 PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA

Sd/-
(PUNAM SIBBAL)
 SECRETARY
 PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA

PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA
SCHEDULES FORMING PART OF BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31.03.2016

SCHEDULE 1 - CAPITAL FUND

	<i>Current Year</i>		<i>Previous Year</i>	
A. Capital Fund:				
Balance as at the beginning of the year	15,357,915		14,956,658	
Add: Funds Capitalised During the Year			401,257	
Add: Amount transferred from Income & Expenditure Account				
	15,357,915		15,357,915	
Less: Amount Written Off on condemned Assets	-	15,357,915	-	15,357,915
B. Income & Expenditure Account:				
Balance as at the beginning of the year	88,476,370		76,566,386	
Add/(Deduct): Balance of net income/(expenditure)	8,516,774		11,913,968	
transferred from Income and Expenditure Account				
Add/(Deduct): Other adjustment		96,993,144	(3,984)	88,476,370
TOTAL		112,351,059		103,834,285

SCHEDULE-2 - C.P.F. FUNDS

		<i>Current Year</i>		<i>Previous Year</i>	
a)	Opening balance of the funds		92,179,650		86,104,701
b)	Addition to the Funds:				
i.	Councils' Contr. To C.P.F.	1,695,160		1,726,108	
ii.	CPF Advances	-		543,677	
iii	Employees' Contr. To C.P.F.	10,118,440		9,365,766	
iv	Interest on C.P.F.Funds from Govt.	7,936,091		6,067,226	
v	Prior Period Adjustment	-	19,749,691	1,286,244	18,989,021
TOTAL (a+b)			111,929,341		105,093,722
c)	Utilisation/Expenditure towards objectives of funds				
	C.P.F. With drawls	(5,862,865)		(2,079,380)	
	Final Payments to Outgoing Employees	(5,252,803)		(10,834,692)	
	CPF Advances	(729,428)		-	
	Prior Period Adjustment	(672,950)			
	Receivable from General Fund A/c.	-	(12,518,046)	-	(12,914,072)
Net Balance of Fund as at the year end (a+b-c)			99,411,295		92,179,650

SCHEDULE-3 - CURRENT LIABILITIES AND PROVISIONS

A.	CURRENT LIABILITIES				
A.	Current Liabilities:				
1	Advances Received				
	- Advance Levy of Fee	1,140,059		876,259	
	- Levy Fee Suspense	138,235	1,278,294	138,535	1,014,794
2	Security Deposits		71,500		91,500
3	Unspent Grant		5,225,006		52,830
4	Other current Liabilities		457,483		1,344,243
5	Payable to Heir of Ex employee		554,795		517,831
TOTAL (A)			7,587,078		3,021,198
B. PROVISIONS					
			-		-
TOTAL (A+B)			7,587,078		3,021,198

SCHEDULE:4
SCHEDULE FORMING PART OF

PARTICULARS	GROSS BLOCK				
	COST AS ON	ADDITION DURING THE YEAR		SALE/TRF.	COST AS
	1.4.2015	UPTO 30th SEPT	AFTER 30th SEPT	DURING THE YEAR	ON 31.3.2016
AIR CONDITIONERS & COOLERS	1,432,534.00	83,699.00	-	-	1,516,233.00
ATTENDANCE RECORDING SYSTEM	82,000.00	-	-	-	82,000.00
CARS & BICYCLE	2,376,431.00	-	-	-	2,376,431.00
COMPUTER/ PERIPHERALS	6,254,268.00	-	74,904.00	-	6,329,172.00
CONFERENCE HALL					
- Civil Work	-	-	2,132,836.00	-	2,132,836.00
- Conference System	-	300,000.00	-	-	300,000.00
- Electrical Fittings & Fixtures	-	-	509,211.00	-	509,211.00
- Furniture & Fixtures	-	-	500,000.00	-	500,000.00
CONFERENCE SYSTEM	27,820.00	-	-	-	27,820.00
EPABX SYSTEM	293,730.00	-	247,755.00	-	541,485.00
FRANKING MACHINE	128,526.00	-	-	-	128,526.00
FURNITURE & FIXTURE	4,629,530.00	51,234.00	683,300.00	-	5,364,064.00
HEAT CONVERTOR & HEATERS	37,364.00	23,900.00	6,375.00	-	67,639.00
LEASE HOLD LAND	1,563,767.00	-	-	-	1,563,767.00
LIBRARY BOOKS	884,828.46	-	14,185.00	-	899,013.46
MOBILE PHONES	58,801.00	15,000.00	-	-	73,801.00
REFRIGERATOR	91,695.00	-	-	-	91,695.00
SOLAR WATER HEATING SYSTEM	110,227.00	-	-	-	110,227.00
STABELISERS	75,135.00	-	-	-	75,135.00
TAPE RECORDERS	6,618.00	-	-	-	6,618.00
TELEVISION	240,436.00	12,980.00	89,600.00	-	343,016.00
TYPEWRITER & DUPLICATOR	133,029.00	-	-	-	133,029.00
WATER DISPENSER	71,964.00	-	-	-	71,964.00
INVERTER & BATTERIES	-	30,500.00	-	-	30,500.00
JUICER MIXER GRINDER	-	7,000.00	-	-	7,000.00
Total	18,498,703.46	524,313.00	4,258,166.00	-	23,281,182.46

SCHEDULE:4
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31.03.2015

RATE OF DEPRICIA-TION	DEPRECIATION			NET BLOCK		
	UPTO 31.3.2015	FOR THE YEAR	WRITTEN BACK	TOTAL	W.D.V. 31.3.2016	W.D.V. 31.3.2015
15.00%	887,785.00	94,267.00	-	982,052.00	534,181.00	544,749.00
15.00%	61,331.00	3,100.00	-	64,431.00	17,569.00	20,669.00
15.00%	1,432,218.00	141,632.00	-	1,573,850.00	802,581.00	944,213.00
60.00%	5,906,690.00	231,018.00	-	6,137,708.00	191,464.00	347,578.00
		-				
15.00%	-	159,963.00	-	159,963.00	1,972,873.00	-
15.00%	-	45,000.00	-	45,000.00	255,000.00	-
15.00%	-	38,191.00	-	38,191.00	471,020.00	-
10.00%	-	25,000.00	-	25,000.00	475,000.00	-
15.00%	27,158.00	99.00	-	27,257.00	563.00	662.00
15.00%	225,273.00	28,850.00	-	254,123.00	287,362.00	68,457.00
15.00%	42,630.00	12,884.00	-	55,514.00	73,012.00	85,896.00
10.00%	3,230,950.00	179,146.00	-	3,410,096.00	1,953,968.00	1,398,580.00
15.00%	29,047.00	5,311.00	-	34,358.00	33,281.00	8,317.00
-	-	-	-	-	1,563,767.00	1,563,767.00
60.00%	607,630.43	170,574.03	-	778,204.46	120,809.00	277,198.03
15.00%	24,123.00	7,452.00	-	31,575.00	42,226.00	34,678.00
15.00%	54,317.00	5,607.00	-	59,924.00	31,771.00	37,378.00
15.00%	82,444.00	4,167.00	-	86,611.00	23,616.00	27,783.00
15.00%	72,572.00	384.00	-	72,956.00	2,179.00	2,563.00
15.00%	5,363.00	188.00	-	5,551.00	1,067.00	1,255.00
15.00%	129,164.00	25,358.00	-	154,522.00	188,494.00	111,272.00
15.00%	126,738.00	944.00	-	127,682.00	5,347.00	6,291.00
15.00%	34,147.00	5,673.00	-	39,820.00	32,144.00	37,817.00
15.00%	-	4,575.00	-	4,575.00	25,925.00	-
15.00%	-	1,050.00	-	1,050.00	5,950.00	-
	12,979,580.43	1,190,433.03	-	14,170,013.46	9,111,169.00	5,519,123.03

SCHEDULE- 5 INVESTMENTS FROM EARMARKED FUNDS

	<i>Current Year</i>		<i>Previous Year</i>	
1. Fixed Deposits with Schedule Banks				
- Against C.P.F. Fund	92,774,325		84,798,353	
- FDR Interest Accrued thereon	6,788,159	99,562,484	11,255,892	96,054,245
<i>TOTAL</i>		99,562,484		96,054,245

SCHEDULE 6 - CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS, ADVANCES ETC.,

		<i>Current Year</i>		<i>Previous Year</i>	
A.	<i>CURRENT ASSETS:</i>				
1.	<i>Sundry Debtors:</i>				
	- On Account of Levy Fees	88,074,774	88,074,774	77,512,485	77,512,485
2.	<i>Cash balances in hand</i>				
	(including Postage in Hands and imprest)				
	Imprest Account Balance	50,000		50,000	
	Postage Stamps in Hands	1,226	51,226	30,124	80,124
3.	<i>Bank Balances:</i>				
	- With Scheduled Banks:				
	Saving Accounts				
	- State Bank of Hyderabad - General Account	5,175,007		-	
	- State Bank of Hyderabad - Revolving Account	489,903		223,096	
	- State Bank of Hyderabad - Levy Fee Account	(1)		2,830	
	- State Bank of Hyderabad - C.P.F. Account	8,057,513	13,722,421.53	7,550,788	7,776,714
	Deposit Accounts				
	- State Bank of Hyderabad - Revolving Account	4,203,733		3,863,928	-
	F.D.R for Ex-employee Beneficiaries				
	- State Bank of Hyderabad - Shashi Tandon	275,542		252,078	
	- State Bank of Hyderabad - Ramesh Goel	152,305		139,335	
	- State Bank of Hyderabad - Sangeeta Malik	42,885		39,310	
	- State Bank of Hyderabad - Ajay Madan	53,367	4,727,832	48,822	4,343,473
	<i>TOTAL (A)</i>		106,576,254		89,712,796

SCHEDULE 6 - CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS, ADVANCES ETC.,

B. LOANS, ADVANCES AND OTHER ASSETS				
1	<u>Loans to Staff:</u>			
	- CGHS Advance to Hon'ble Chairman	-	-	
	- Cycle Advance	3,600	-	
	-Advance for Entertainment & Hospitality	21,830	-	
	- Festival Advance	71,925	74,175	
	- Housing Building Advance	346,072	508,504	
	- Scooter Advance	-	-	582,679
			443,427	
2	Advances and other amounts recoverable in cash or in kind lor for value to be received:			
	- On Capital Account		-	
	- Advance for Books Periodicals	13,212	9,200	
	- Advance to Parties	2,050,758	5,557,109	
	- TA Advance	250,743	278,057	
	- Tax Deducted at Source	791,434	791,434	
	- Others			
	- Other Advances		40,047	
	- Prepaid AMC		14,398	
			3,106,147	6,690,245
3	Income Accrued			
	a) On Deposits of Revolving Account		470,381	418,285
	b) on Deposits of Shashi Tandon (EX - EMP.)		15,233	21,766
	c) on Deposits of Ajay Madan		2,823	2,816
	d) on Deposits of Sangeeta Malik		923	961
	e) on Deposits of Ramesh Goel (EX - EMP.)		11,717	12,743
4	Deposits with Different Departments		48,874	19,474
	TOTAL (B)		4,099,525	7,748,969
	TOTAL (A +B)		110,675,779	97,461,765

SCHEDULE 7 - INCOME FROM LEVY FEES & OTHERS

		<i>Current Year</i>		<i>Previous Year</i>	
1	Levy fees received from Newspapers/ Periodicals/News Agencies	4,196,705		5,230,352	
	Add: Demand raised for previous year	16,967,350		-	
	Add: Advance of Previous Years adjusted			-	
	Add: Fees outstanding for current Year			14,074,150	
	Less: Fees received for previous Years	1,066,700		(2,169,204)	
	Less: Fees received for Current year	2,866,055		(2,770,612)	
	Less: Fees received in advance / suspense	263,950	16,967,350	(296,936)	14,067,750
2	Others (Specify)				
	- Sale of Waste Papers	9,354		-	
	- Fee for Information under Right to Information Act	3,018		1,469	
	- Income from Advertisement in Souvenir	-		25,000	
	- Others	263,124	275,496	307,375	333,844
	TOTAL		17,242,846		14,401,594

SCHEDULE 8 - GRANTS

	<i>Current Year</i>		<i>Previous Year</i>	
(Irrevocable Grants & Subsidies Received)				
- Central Government (Ministry of I & B)				
- Grant Received During the Year	64,700,000		61,400,000	
- Add: Unspent Grant for the Previous Year	68,380		15,550	
	64,768,380		61,415,550	
- Less: Grant Utilised for Interest on C.P.F. Funds	7,936,091		(7,190,156)	
- Less: Grant Utilised for Fixed Assets	-		(401,257)	
- Less: Unspent Grant related to previous year returned	68,380		(15,550)	
- Less: Unspent Grant for the Current Year	5,225,006	51,538,903	(52,830)	53,755,757
TOTAL		51,538,903		53,755,757

SCHEDULE 9 - INTEREST EARNED

	<i>Current Year</i>		<i>Previous Year</i>	
1 On Term Deposits:				
a) With Scheduled Banks	8,569,567		8,377,906	
- CPF Account (trf to General Fund)	391,901		334,869	
- Revolving Fund Account	485,448	9,446,916	147,598	
- General Fund Account				8,860,373
2 On Savings Accounts:				
a) With Scheduled Banks				
- General Fund Account	194,099		174,330	
- CPF Account (Trf. To General Fund)	74,062		64,748	
- Levy Fees Account	27,581		28,402	
- Revolving Fund (Loans & Advances)	12,841	308,583	19,560	287,040
3 On Loans:				
a) Employees/Staff				
- Scooter Advance	-		1,600	
- Housing Building Advance	17,448		16,235	
- Motor Car Advance	71,686	89,134	60,958	78,793
TOTAL		9,844,633		9,226,206

SCHEDULE 10 - ESTABLISHMENT EXPENSES

		<i>Current Year</i>	<i>Previous Year</i>
1	Salaries and Wages	42,374,433	40,469,043
2	Arrear of Salaries	511,243	773,715
3	OTA	33,438	15,578
4	Tution Fees Reimbursement	761,508	410,955
5	Medical Reimbursement	1,676,497	2,942,162
6	Bonus	186,041	200,048
7	L.T.C.	141,413	722,749
8	Encashment of E.L.	1,832,071	1,423,736
9	Contribution to Provident Fund	1,662,958	1,726,108
10	Traning to Staff	400	2,400
11	Honorarium paid to employees	-	185,000
12	Gratuity to Staff	2,361,661	2,597,368
Total		51,541,663	51,468,862

SCHEDULE 11 - OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

		Current Year	Previous Year
1	Electricity and Water	3,737,542	3,234,746
2	Office Expense	17,600	89,275
3	Insurance	25,573	-
4	Repairs and maintenance	2,543,541	2,002,832
5	Vehicles Repairs and Maintenance	405,598	368,140
6	Travelling and conveyance Expenses	4,622,538	3,274,455
7	Rent, Rates and Taxes	-	-
8	Postage, Telephone and Communication Charges	996,814	854,186
9	Printing and Stationary	1,107,015	1,029,956
10	Newspapers & Periodicals	161,823	142,999
11	Liveries to Class IV Staff	79,239	4,920
12	Hindi karyashala	2,000	7,500
13	Hindi Protsahan Award	4,920	11,000
14	Round off	-	-
15	Levy fees w/off	2,472,306	
16	Legal & Professional Charges	572,743	502,008
17	Entertainment	169,782	104,326
18	Exhibition & Seminar	976,014	898,528
19	Others- Sundries	1,961	100,284
20	Advertisement Exp.	-	281,051
21	Cartage & Freight	-	130
22	Other Exp..	86,936	28,894
23	AMC of Franking machines	13,740	-
24	Other books for different sections	1,974	-
	TOTAL	17,999,659	12,935,230

SCHEDULE 12 - FINANCE CHARGES

		Current Year	Previous Year
a)	On Fixed Loans	-	100
b)	On Other Loans (including Bank Charges)		
	TOTAL	-	100

PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA
SCHEDULE FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR
THE YEAR ENDED 31/03/2016

SCHEDULE 13- SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES:-

1. Accounting Convention

The financial statements are prepared on the basis of historical cost convention unless otherwise stated.

2. Method of Accounting

Council is following the accrual method of accounting unless otherwise stated.

3. Investments

- a) Investments against C.P.F. Fund are classified as earmarked investments
- b) Investments against Revolving (Loans & Advances) account are treated as current assets. c) Investments are shown at the principal value as increased by the interest accrued thereon.

4. Fixed Assets

- a) Fixed assets are stated at cost of acquisition inclusive of duties and taxes thereon. Other direct expenses related to acquisition are not capitalized.
- b) Capital Fund is maintained to denote the cost of fixed assets. S. Depreciation

5. Depreciation

Depreciation is being charged as per the rates prescribed in the Income Tax Rules at the Following rates i.e. Furniture & Fixture @ 10%, Computer/ Peripherals & Library Books @ 60% and Other Assets at the general rate@ 15%.

6. Government Grant

- a) Government Grants are accounted on cash basis.
- b) Grants utilized toward the addition of fixed assets are transferred to the Capital Fund.

- c) Grants utilized towards the interest on C.P.F. Fund are transferred to C.P.F. Account.
- d) Unspent Grant for the year is transferred to Reserve & Surplus to Further use in the next year.

7. Retirement Benefits .

- a) Retirement benefit is accounted on cash basis. No provision for Gratuity payable, leave encasement etc. is made
- b) The Council .is maintaining its own C.P.F. Fund.

Sd/-
(C.K. PRASAD)
CHAIRMAN
PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA

Sd/-
(PUNAM SIBBAL)
SECRETARY
PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA

PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA
SCHEDULE FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR
THE YEAR ENDED 31/03/2016

SCHEDULE 14- CONTINGENT LIABILITIES & NOTES OF THE ACCOUNTS

A. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

Claim against the Council not acknowledged as debts Rs. NIL (Previous Year NIL)

B. NOTES OF THE ACCOUNTS

I. Current Assets, Loan & Advances

- a. Balance in the Sundry Debtors, Advances for Books & Periodical and Advance to Parties have not been confirmed from the respective parties/departments
- b. In the opinion of the management of the Council the other current assets, loans & advances have a realizable value equal at least to the amount shown in the Balance Sheet, in the ordinary course of business.

2. Provision for Taxation

In view of the income of the Council being exempt from tax, no provision for taxation has been made.

3. Corresponding figures for the previous year have been regrouped/ rearranged, wherever necessary.

Sd/-
(C.K. PRASAD)
CHAIRMAN
PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA

Sd/-
(PUNAM SIBBAL)
SECRETARY
PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA

**PRESS COUNCIL
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR**

RECEIPTS	CURRENT YEAR	PREVIOUS YEAR
I. Opening Balance		
a) Cash in hand (Imprest Account)	50,000	10,000
b) Bank Balances		
- General Fund	1	1,475
- Levy of Fees Account	2,830	4,076
- Revolving Fund (Loan & Advance)	223,096	716,603
- C.P.F. Account	7,550,788	8,294,641
	7,776,715	9,016,795
c) Postage Stamps in Hand	30,124	40,048
II. Grants Received		
a) From Government of India (Minsitry of I & B)	64,700,000	61,400,000
III. Interest Received		
a) On Bank deposits		
- Term Deposits	3,214,305	4,726,991
- Saving Accounts	308,583	287,040
	3,522,888	5,014,031
b) Loans, Advances etc.	89,134	78,793
IV. Other Income (specify)		
Levy fees received from Newspapers/ Periodicals/News Agencies	4,196,255	5,230,352
Others except Profit on Sale of Asset	-	-
Leave Salary Received	257,763	183,084
Right to Information	3,018	1,469
Miscellaneous Reciepts	9,353	9,056
Recovery -		
-Salary(Misc)	5,112	5,476
- Of books	250	440
- Of EOL	5,362	109,319
- Income from Advertisment in Souvenir		25,000
V. Receipts from Matured Investments		
Encashment of FDRs		
- Revolving Fund Account	2,159,693	1,419,384
- C.P.F. Account	31,851,488	31,452,959
- General Fund	22,000,000	10,000,000

OF INDIA
THE YEAR ENDED ON 31.03.2016

PAYMENTS	CURRENT YEAR		PREVIOUS YEAR	
I. Expenses				
a) Establishment Expenses (Corresponding to Schedule 10)		49,878,705		51,297,038
b) Aministrative Expenses		12,256,828		8,678,189
c) Paid towards Expenses Payable		1,039,371		1,044,781
II. Payments made against funds				
Agt. Revolving Fund (Loans & Advances)				
- Disbursements of Loans				
- Festival Advance	-		139,500	
- House Building Advance	-		-	
- Moter Car Advance	-		-	
- CGHS advance to Hon'ble Chairman	-	-	12,000	151,500
Agt. C.P.F. Fund				
- Advance / Withdrawl to Staff	6,592,293		3,426,280	
- Final Payments to Outgoing Employees	5,252,803	11,845,096	10,878,437	14,304,717
III. Investments and deposits made				
a) Out Earmarked/Endowment funds				
- Agt. Revolving Fund (Loans & Advances)	2,499,498		2,504,235	
- Agt. C.P.F. Fund	29,179,212		38,015,280	
b) Out of own funds (Investments-Others)				
Security Deposits	22,000,000		10,000,000	
	20,000			
Towards Employee		53,698,710	-	50,519,515
IV. Expenditure on Fixed Assets &				
Capital work-in-progress				
a) Purchase of Fixed Assets				
- Library Books	2,510			
- Mobile Phones	15,000		6,510	
- Air Conditioners & Coolers	54,449		91,846	
- Furniture & Others	683,300		109,197	
- Epbax	247,755			
- Juicer & Mixture	7,000			
- Heat Convertor	30,275			
- Conference Hall	500,000			
- Computer & Perpharals	74,904		88,990	

RECEIPTS	CURRENT YEAR		PREVIOUS YEAR	
Towards Employee	-	56,011,181	-	42,872,343
VI. Any Other receipts				
a) Enchisement of Deposits				
b) Recovery of Advances				
- Housing Building Advance	162,432		163,527	
- From Parties	-		-	
- Festival Advances	2,250		120,750	
- Scooter Advances	-		10,400	
- Motor Car Advance	-		58,838	
- Cycle Advance	(3,600)		125	
- Table Fan Advance	-		-	
- CGHS advance to Hon'ble Chairman	-	161,082	15,500	369,140
c) Recovery from Employee				
- Travelling expense	-		23,051	
- Towards sale /transfer of fixed asset	-		11,661	
- C.P.F. Contr.	11,845,096	11,845,096	11,463,402	11,498,114
d) Amount trf from General Fund to C.P.F. Fund on account of:				
- Council's Contribution to PF	(1,694,454)		1,726,108	
- Interest on Employees' Cont.	5,236,013		4,661,729	
- Interest on Council's Cont.	2,700,078		2,528,427	
- Others	-	6,241,637	-	8,916,264
TOTAL		154,899,608		144,779,724

-Stabelizers	-		3,701	
-Franking Machine	-		-	
-Refrigerator	-	1,615,193	-	300,244
b) Expenditure on Capital				
V. Refund of surplus money/ Loans				
a) To the Government of India				
- Excess of Unspent Grant		52,830	15,550	15,550
VI. Finance Charges (Interest)				
		-		100
VII. Other Payments (Specify)				
a) Amount trf from General Fund to C.P.F. Fund on account of:				
- Interest on Employees' Cont.	5,236,013		4,661,729	
- Interest on Council's Cont.	2,700,078		2,528,427	
- Others		7,936,091	-	7,190,156
b) Advance				
- for Books & Periodicals	15,687		9,200	
- for Seminar	27,423			
- for Booking of Auditorium	29,400			
- for purchase of Stationery	280,000		32,366	
- for Capital Assets	213,564		60,000	
- for Others	2,237,062	2,803,136	3,315,857	3,417,423
d) Tax deducted at source				3,672
VIII. Closing Balances				
a) Cash in hand (Imprest Account)		50,000		50,000
b) Bank Balances				
- General Fund	5,175,007		1	
- Levy of Fees Account	(1)		2,830	
- Revolving Fund (Loan & Advance)	489,903		223,096	
- C.P.F. Account	8,057,513	13,722,422	7,550,788	7,776,715
c) Postage Stamps in Hand		1,226		30,124
		154,899,608		144,779,724

Sd/-
(C.K. PRASAD)
CHAIRMAN
PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA

Sd/-
(PUNAM SIBBAL)
SECRETARY
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Statement of Cases
April 1, 2015- March 31, 2016

S.No.	Particulars	Section-13	Section-14	Total
1.	Cases pending as on 31.3.2014	117	1144	1261
2.	Cases filed between April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016	236	666	902
3.	Cases adjudicated between April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016	48	217	265
4.	Cases directly reported to the Council	1	1	2
5.	Cases decided under the proviso to Regulation 5(1) of the Inquiry Regulations, 1979 between April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016	161	484	645
6.	Cases pending as on March 31, 2016	143	1108	1251

**Subject Index of Orders Passed
by the Press & Registration Appellate Board (2015-2016)**

S. No.	Parties	Date of Order	Category
1.	Appeal of Shri Vishnu Goel & Others, Indore against the Order dated 29.9.2010 passed by ADM, Indore, M.P.	June 12,2015	Disposed off with the direction that any observation/order passed earlier shall have no bearing on the merits of the case and it shall be open to learned judge in session of the suit to dispose off the same on merits merit in accordance with the law.
2.	Appeal of Shri Mohd. Yusuf Pharukh Khan, Organiser & Secretary, Hamrahi, Educational and Cheritable Trust, Vrahanmaharashtra Apang Vikas Shah Telecom, Thane.	June 12,2015	Dismissed
3.	Appeal of Shri Sanjay Agarwal & Others against the Order dated 27.5.2009 passed by District Magistrate, Dehradun, Utrkhand regarding cancellation of declaration of Dainik Bhaskar, Dehradun.	August 4,2015	Adjourned
4.	Appeal of Shri Keshav Dutt Chandola, Publisher, Nagraj Darpan, Hindi Weekly, Dehradun against the District accepting the Declaration made in respect of his newspaper for Haridwar Edition.	August 4,2015	Adjourned
5.	Appeal of Shri Dnyaneshwar Sitaram Karale, Editor, Swarvihar Weekly, Pune Maharashtra against the Order dated 21.3.2014 passed by Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Haveli Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Haveli Sub-division, Pune, Maharashtra.	August 4,2015	Adjourned

6.	Appeal of Shri Naresh Pahilarjrai Bajaj, Prop. Of Bajaj Publications & Publisher/ Editor/Owner, Hindmata Mirror, Daily Newspaper, Ulhasnagar, Maharashtra against the Order dated 14.5.2015 passed by the Hon'ble S.D.O./DDM, Ulhasnagar, Maharashtra.	August 4,2015	Disposed off with the direction to SDM to entertain the fresh declaration which the appellant had undertaken to file and consider the same on merits in accordance with law.
7.	Appeal of Shri Johnson, Publisher, Nellore Kathiravan, Tamil Daily, Thirunelveli, Chennai against the Order dated 17.7.2012 passed by SDM, Thirunelveli.	August 4,2015	Disposed off settlement arrived out.
8.	Application for restoration of Appeal – in the matter of Shri Manash Debnath, Publisher, Daikin Arohan, West Tripura against Order dated 29.11.2010 passed by DM/Collector, West Tripura, Agartala (Order of High Court dated 10.4.2015 for restoration)	August 4,2015	Order of the Board “let notice be issued to the appellant on the address given in the affidavit and also by email”
9.	Review application dated 30.4.2015 of Shri Lokendra Jain, Printer and Publisher of Bandhaviya Samacahr for review of the Order dated 16/1/2015 passed by the Hon'ble Board	January 8,2016	Dismissed
10.	Appeal of Shri Lokendra Jain, Printer & Publisher of “Bandhaviya Samachar against Order dated 15/5/2013 passed by ADM Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.	January 8,2016	Dismissed

The Gazette of India
EXTRAORDINARY
Part II-Section 3-Sub-Section (ii)
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
NOTIFICATION
New Delhi, the 15th May, 2015

S.O. 1299(E)—In pursuance of the provisions of sub-section (3) and (5) of Section 5 read with sub-section (6) of Section 6 of the Press Council Act, 1978 (37 of 1978), the Central Government hereby makes the following amendment in the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii), *vide* number S.O. 2608 (E), dated the 10th October, 2014, namely:-

In the said notification,----

(a) for serial number 22 and the entries relating thereto, the following shall be substituted, namely:-

"22	Shri Apurba Kumar Sharma Senior Advocate Member, Bar Council of India H. No. 13, J.B. Road, Silpukhuri, Guwahati, Assam-781003	Nominated by Bar Council of India"
-----	--	---------------------------------------

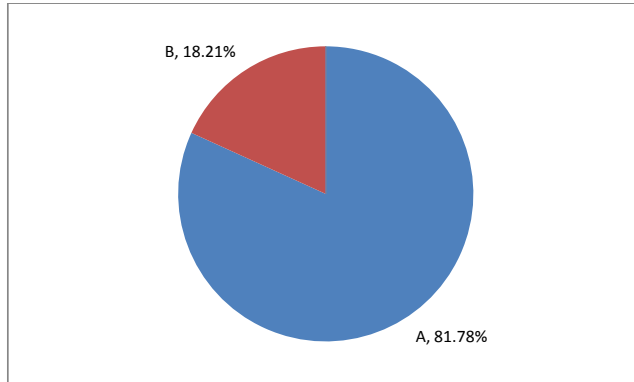
(b) for serial number 25 and the entries relating thereto, the following shall be substituted, namely:-

"25	Shri Pratap Simha Present Address: 36, South Avenue, New Delhi-110011 Perment Address: Jaladarshini DC-2 Cottage, Hunsur Main Road, Mysore- 570005, Karnataka	Nominated by the Speaker of House of the People."
-----	---	--

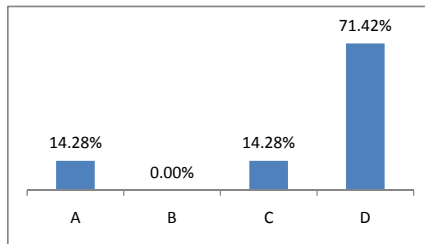
[F. No. M-22011/1/2014-PRESS]
MIHIR KUMAR SINGH, Jt. Secy.

Note : The principal notification was published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii) *vide* number S.O. 2608 (E), dated the 10th October, 2014

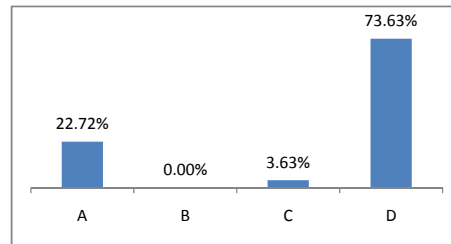
Graph of Adjudications 2015-16



Against the authorities



Against the Press



Foot Not:

- A: Upheld
- B: Rejected
- C: Assurance/Settled/Amends
- D: Dropped for Non-pursuance/
Sub-judice/Lack of substance

Subject Index of Adjudications in Complaints Regarding Threats to Press Freedom (2015-16)

Sl. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
Harassment of Newsmen			
1	Complaint of Shri S. P. Sabharwal, Chief Editor, Northern Post, Dehradun, against the Government of Uttarakhand and (i) Vinod Suman, Additional District Magistrate, (ii) Shri Dilip Jawalkar, District Magistrate, (iii) Shri Meharban Singh Bisht, City Magistrate, Dehradun.	August 7, 2015	Dispose of with observation
2	Complaint of Shri Geetartha Pathak, President, Journalists Union of Assam against the Police Authorities with regard to assault on journalists on 27.12.2013.	August 7, 2015	Dismissed the matter for default
3	Complaint of Shri Dayanand Sharma, Journalist, Sanskar Times, Moradabad (U.P.) against Police Authority (U.P.)	August 7, 2015	Sub-Judice
4	Complaint of Shri Avadh Kishore, Jaiswal, Correspondence, Daily News Activities, Lakhimpur-Khiri (U.P.) against Inspector-in-Charge, Police Station-Sadar, Lakhimpur-Khiri (U.P.).	August 7, 2015	Sub-Judice
5	Complaint of Shri Subhash Chandra Sharma, Journalist, Bijnor (U.P.) against Smt. Rubeena Mannan, Chairperson, Kirtpur Municipality, Bijnor (U.P.).	August 7, 2015	Disposed of the matter for default
6	Complaint of Shri MahantJwala Prasad, Co-editor, Hathras Gaurav, Weekly Newspaper (U.P.) against the Hathras Police Administration (U.P.).	August 7, 2015	Disposed of with direction
7	Suo-motu cognizance w.r.t. killing of Journalist in Raipur, Chhatisgarh.	October 9, 2015	Sub-Judice

Sl. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
8	Complaint of Shri Kashmir Sigh, Correspondent, Crime Line, Monthly Magazine, Alwar (Rajasthan) against Rajasthan Police, Jaipur	October 9, 2015	Dismissed the matter for default
9	Complaint of Shri Rajesh Kumar Siddharth, Editor, Ab Tak Nayay, Sitapur against Police Administration and Anti-Social Elements, UP	October 9, 2015	Disposed of with direction
10	Complaint of Shri Gopi Prasad Bharti, Chief Editor, Sasakta Bundelkhand, Lalitpur (UP) against Police In-charge, Dailwara, Lalitpur (UP)	October 9, 2015	Dismissed the matter for default
11	Complaint of Shri Bhagwati Prasad alias Bablu Chakraborty, Journalist, Etah, UP against anti-social elements and Police.	October 9, 2015	Dismissed the matter for default
12	Complaint of Shri Ashok Kumar, Correspondent, Aaj, Mau, UP against the Police and Anti-social elements	October 9, 2015	Non-Pursuance
13	Complaint of Shri Lavlesh Pandey, Chief Editor, CharchaAaj Ki, Indore, M.P. against anti-social elements and local police, M.P.	October 9, 2015	Non-Pursuance
14	Complaint of the General Secretary, UT Journalist Union, Daman and Managing Editor, Savera Times, Nani Daman against the Police Authorities	December 11, 2015	Disposed of with direction
15	Complaint of Shri Kanhaiya Lal Vishwakarma, Chief Editor, Bundelkhand Chetna, Lalitpur (UP) against Police and Anti-Social Elements	December 11, 2015	Dismissed the matter for default
16	Complaint of Shri Arun Kumar Correspondence, Aaj Ki Daastan, Hapur UP against 1) Shri Kiranpal, Head Constable, Delhi Police and 2) Shri Tejpal, Head Constable, Delhi Police, Delhi	December 11, 2015	Disposed of with observation

Sl. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
17	Complaint of Assam Press Correspondents, Union on behalf of Shri Sujit Kumar Ray, Asomiya Pratidin vs. CRPF Jawan & Police.	March 17, 2016	Disposed of with observation
18	Complaint of Shri Amresh Kumar Singh, Publihsner/Editor, Amit Lekh, Patna against the Respondents 1) Shri Neeraj Narayan, Trainee D.F.O. Valmiki Byagr Project, 2) Shri Animesh Prashar, Circle Officer, Baggha, 3) Superintending Engineer, Top Work Zone Irrigation Department, Bihar.	March 17, 2016	Dismissed the matter for default
19	Complaint of Shri Dharmender Singh, Purnia Division Bureau Chief, KewalSach&Sach Times, Kishanganj (Bihar) against Executive Officer, Municipal Council Kishanganj, Patna (Bihar).	March 17, 2016	Dismissed the matter for default
20	Complaint of Shri Satish Kumar Arya, Publisher/ Owner, Premwani, Saharanpur (U.P.) against the Assistant Registrar Farms and Societies, Saharanpur (U.P.)	March 17, 2016	Dismissed the matter for default
21	Complaint of Shri Dhirender Aswasthi, Owner/ Publisher, Vishwadharm Kalyan, Lakhimpur Kheri (U.P.) against Shri Nitish Kumar, IAS, Chief Development Officer, Lakhimpur Kheri (U.P.).	March 17, 2016	Dismissed the matter for default
22	Complaint of Shri Arun Kumar Dwivedi, Editor, Nari Samvedana, Lucknow (U.P.) against Tehsildar, Sindhauli, Sitapur (U.P.) and others.	March 17, 2016	Disposed of with observation
23	Suo motu cognizance w.r.t. attack on the office as well as on journalists/workers of Hindustan newspaper at Lucknow and inaction of Police. (13/103/15-16)	March 17, 2016	Disposed of with observation
24	Suo motu cognizance regarding attack on a journalist Shri Deepak Mishra in Kanpur (U.P)	March 17, 2016	Sub-Judice

Sl. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
25	Communication received from The Network of Women in Media, India regarding reported gang-rape of woman journalist in Mirzapur, U.P.	March 17, 2016	Disposed of with observation
26	Complaint of Shri Gopi Prasad, Editor, Sashakt Budnelkhand against anti social elements.	March 17, 2016	Sub-judice
27	Suo-motu cognizance w.r.t. theat to Journalist/ Media by U.P. Minister.	March 17, 2016	Disposed of with observation
28	Suo-motu cognizance w.r.t. murder of a T.V. Journalist Shri Hemant Yadav by unknown miscreants.	March 17, 2016	Sub-judice
29	Complaint of Shri M.B. Gajaraj, Journalist, Vellore (T.N.) against Tamil Nadu Police.	March 17, 2016	Disposed of with Direction
30	Complaint of Shri T. Krishnamurthy Raju, Publisher & Editor, Amaran, West Godavari (A.P.) against Police Authority and Anti-Social Elements	March 17, 2016	Disposed of with observation
31	Complaint of Shri K.P. Mari Kumar, Publisher, Uyirosai, Madurai against 1) Managing Director, New Generation Media Corp. (P) Ltd, 2) Editor, Puthiyathalaimurai TV and 3) Shri Ramanujam, Reporter, Puthiyathalaimurai TV, Chennai.	March 17, 2016	Dismissed the matter for default
Facilities to the Press			
32	Complaint of Shri Ram Charna Mali, Chief Editor, Vanvasi Express, Shahabad (Raj.) against Information & Public Relations Department, Rajasthan.	August 7, 2015	Disposed of with observation

Sl. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
33	Complaint of Shri Rajesh Dhyani, Editor, Jagruk Uttaranchal, Lansdowne (U.K.) and Others against Brigadier Shri Vinod Rayjada, Commandant Garhwal Rifles, Lansdowne (U.K.).	August 7, 2015	Disposed of with observation
34	Complaint of Shri Mumtaz Alam Khan, Editor, Hind Ki Kalam, Haridwar (U.K.) against Information & Public Relation Department, Dehradun (U.K.).	August 7, 2015	Disposed of with direction
35	Complaint of Shri Thakur Kumar (Manojanand), Editor, Thakur Sahab Times, Haridwar Uttarakhand against the I&PRD, Dehradun.	August 7, 2015	Dismissed the matter for default
36	Complaint of Shri Kailash Nath Verma, President & Shri Janki Sharan Dwivedi, General Secretary, Uttar Pradesh Working Journalist Union, Gonda (U.P.) against C.R.P.F. Inspector, Gonda (U.P.).	August 7, 2015	Assurance
37	Complaint of Shri Keshav Dutt Chandola, National President, Association of Small & Medium Newspapers of India, Kanpur against Press Magistrate, ACM III, Kanpur.	August 7, 2015	Dismissed the matter for default
38	Complaint of Shri Mahant Bhagwati Pratap Das, Correspondent, Aaj, Barabanki, UP against Information and Public Relations Department, UP.	August 7, 2015	Assurance
39	Complaint of Shri Mohd. Javed Kazmi, Owner, Printer, Publisher, Editor, Purvanchal Laher, Mau (U.P.) against DAVP.	August 7, 2015	Disposed of with observations
40	Complaint of Shri Ahmed Bharti, Editor, Nai Aawaz, Haridwar (U.K.) against the D.A.V.P.	August 7, 2015	Dismissed the matter for default

Sl. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
41	Complaint of Shri Dharmendra Nath Sharma, General Manager, Adhunik Avashakta, Pratapgarh, UP against DAVP	October 9, 2015	Disposed of with observation & advice
42	Complaint of Shri Sarvesh Kumar Suyash, Freelance Journalist and National President, All India Freelancer Journalist Federation, Kanpur, UP against the SDM, Kanpur and S.O. Kanpur, UP	October 9, 2015	Disposed of with direction
43	Complaint of Shri Vimlesh Gupta, Journalist, Shahjahanpur (UP) against Shri Surjan Lal, Shahjahanpur, UP.	October 9, 2015	Disposed of with Direction
44	Suo-motu cognizance w.r.t. "Cash for Coverage" to the journalist by the BJP leaders in Madhya Pradesh appeared in the Hindu.	December 11, 2015	Disposed of with observation
45	Complaint of Shri Jagannath Bastia, President, Puri Journalists Association, Puri, Odisha against the Chairman, Parliamentary Standing Committee and Chairman-cum-Managing Director, UCO Bank, Kolkata	December 11, 2015	Disposed of with observation
46	Complaint of Shri Ravi Batra, Delhi against the Editor, National Duniya, New Delhi	December 11, 2015	Disposed of the matter for default
47	Complaint of Shri Harjeet Dua, Freelancer, Delhi against the Information & Publicity Department, Government of NCT Delhi.	March 17, 2016	Dismissed the matter for default
48	Complaint of Shri R. Ramachandra Rao, Editor/Publisher, Lokam Pokada, Nellore against RNI.	March 17, 2016	Disposed of with Direction

**Subject Index of Adjudications in Complaints Filed
Against the Press (2015-16)**

Sl. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
Principles and Publication			
1	Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, Officer on Special Duty, (Expenditure and Monitoring) O/o the Chief Electoral Officer, Bangalore (Karnataka) against the Editor, Lokdarshan.	July 8, 2015	Assurance
2	Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, Officer on Special Duty, (Expenditure and Monitoring) O/o the Chief Electoral Officer, Bangalore (Karnataka) against the Editor, Sakal.	July 8, 2015	Dismissed the matter for default
3	Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, IAS, O.S.D. (Exp. Monitoring), Bangalore (Karnataka) against the Editor, The New Indian Express, Bangalore (Karnataka.)	July 8, 2015	Proceedings dropped with direction
4	Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, IAS, O.S.D. (Exp. Monitoring), Bangalore (Karnataka) against the Editor, Kannada Prabha, Bangalore (Karnataka)	July 8, 2015	Dismissed the matter for default
5	Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, Officer on Special Duty, (Expenditure and Monitoring) O/o the Chief Electoral Officer, Bangalore (Karnataka) against the Editor, Shakthi Daily.	July 8, 2015	Proceeding dropped
6	Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, Officer on Special Duty, (Expenditure and Monitoring) O/o the Chief Electoral Officer, Bangalore (Karnataka) against the Editor, Nyayada Haadi.	July 8, 2015	Proceeding dropped

Sl. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
7	Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, IAS, O.S.D. (Exp. Monitoring), Bangalore (Karnataka) against the Editor, Prajanudi, Mysore (Karnataka)	July 8, 2015	Proceeding dropped
8	Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, IAS, O.S.D. (Exp. Monitoring), Bangalore (Karnataka) against the Editor, Sadhvi, Mysore (Karnataka)	July 8, 2015	Proceeding dropped with direction
9	Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, IAS, O.S.D. (Exp. Monitoring), Bangalore (Karnataka) against the Editor, Kannada Belaku, Mysore (Karnataka)	July 8, 2015	Disposed of with Advice and Assurance
10	Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, IAS, O.S.D. (Exp. Monitoring), Bangalore (Karnataka.) against the Editor, Edda Dwani, Mysore (Karnataka)	July 8, 2015	Disposed with Advisory
11	Complaint of Dr. Ramesh Chandra Agarwal, Matrchhaya, Jaipur (Rajasthan.) against the Editor, Rajashtan Patrika, Jaipur (Rajasthan.).	July 8, 2015	Admonished
12	Complaint of Shri D. Gunasekaran, Registrar, Vishva Bharati, Shanti Niketan District Birbhum, West Bengal against the Editor, Hindustan Times, Kolkata.	July 8, 2015	Disposed of with direction
13	Complaint of Shri Lalit Kumar Jain, Bulandsahar, Uttar Pradesh against the Editor, GajGiregi, Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh	July 8, 2015	Censured
14	Complaint of Shri Deepak Kumar Viswakarma, District President, Uttar Pradesh Viswakarma, Mahasabha, Samajwadi Party, Mazdoor Sabha, Janpad Unnao, Uttar Pradesh against the Editor, Dainik Jagran.	July 8, 2015	Proceeding dropped

Sl. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
15	Complaint of Shri S.S. Ranawat, Bhilwara, Rajasthan against the Editor, Dainik Bhaskar, Raipur, Rajasthan.	July 8, 2015	Dismissed the matter for default
16	Complaint of Shri Babu Singh Kushwaha, Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh) against the Editor, Amar Ujala, Noida (Uttar Pradesh).	July 8, 2015	Dismissed the matter for default
17	Complaint of Shri Babulal Yadav (Maharaj Ji), Sant Kabir Nagar (Uttar Pradesh) against the Editor, 'Dainik Jagran', Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh)	July 8, 2015	Dismissed the matter for default
18	Complaint of Dr. Anand Singh, Director, Shiv Mandir Girls College, Bulandsahar, Uttar Pradesh against the Editor, Dainik Jagran, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh.	July 8, 2015	Dismissed the matter for default
19	Complaint of Shri Chetan Prakash Aggarwal, Mantri, Shri Chandi Mandir Prabandak Samiti (Regd.), Chandi Road, Hapur (Uttar Pradesh) against the Editor 'Bhanu Gunj', Uttar Pradesh.	August 8, 2015	Censured
20	Complaint of Shri Ambrish Gour, Senior Superintendent of Jail, Central Jail, Allahabad against the Editor, Hindustan, Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh	August 8, 2015	Dismissed the matter for default
21	Complaint of Shri Brij Mani Singh, Former Provincial Spokesman, Akhil Bhartiya Hindu Mahasabha, Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh) against the Editor, Dainik Jagran, Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh).	August 8, 2015	Dismissed the matter for default
22	Complaint of Dr. Dinesh Talwar, New Delhi against the Editor, Hindustan Times.	August 8, 2015	Dismissed the matter for default
23	Complaint of Shri O.P. Akela Jaunsari, State Secretary, Uttar Pradesh Safai Majdior Union, Nazibabad (Uttar Pradesh) against the Editor, Amar Ujala, Meerut (Uttar Pradesh)	August 8, 2015	Assurance

Sl. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
24	Complaint of Ms. Simran Juneja, Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh) against the Editor, 'Nav Bharat Times', Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh).	August 8, 2015	Disposed of with direction
25	Complaint of Shri H.B Rajaram, Air Marshal, AVSM, Air Officer In-charge Administration, New Delhi against the Editor, Eastern Chronicle, Guwahati.	August 8, 2015	Censured
26	Complaint of Shri Malik Javed Ansari, New Delhi against the Editor, Rashtriya Sahara.	August 8, 2015	Dismissed the matter for default
27	Complaint of Shri Charan Singh & Smt. Munni Devi, Moradabad (Uttar Pradesh) against the Editor, Amar Ujala, Meerut (Uttar Pradesh)	August 8, 2015	Dismissed the matter for default
28	Complaint of Shri Lokender Singh, Jhansi (Uttar Pradesh) against the Editor, 'Dainik Jagran', Jhansi (Uttar Pradesh).	August 8, 2015	Dismissed the matter for default
29	Complaint of Shri Pradeep Kumar Rana, Sub-Inspector, Vastan Vihar Station, Dehradun, Uttarakhand against the Editor, 'Crime Story', Dehradun, Uttarakhand.	August 8, 2015	Sub-judice
30	Complaint of Shri Naseem Ahamad Thekedar, Muzaffarnagar (Uttar Pradesh) against the Editor, Amar Ujala, Meerut (Uttar Pradesh U.P.).	August 8, 2015	Dismissed the matter for default
31	Complaint of Smt. Pushpa Devi, Etawah (Uttar Pradesh) against the Editor, Amar Ujala, Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh)	August 8, 2015	Dismissed the matter for default
32	Complaint of Shri Mazhar Hussain, Advocate, (Uttar Pradesh) against the Editor, Khusro Mail, Bareilly, (Uttar Pradesh)	August 8, 2015	Dismissed for non-pursuance
33	Complaint of Smt. Sunita Jain, Sagar (Madhya Pradesh) against the Editor, Dainik Bhaskar, Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh).	August 8, 2015	Dismissed the matter for default

Sl. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
34	Complaint of Shri P. Pattavi, President, Prithak Bastar Rajya Party, Raipur (Chhattisgarh) against the Editor, Dainik Bhaskar, (Chhattisgarh).	August 8, 2015	Dismissed the matter for default
35	Complaint of Shri R.N. Kundu, Kolkata against the Editor, 'The Statesman', Kolkata.	August 8, 2015	Dismissed the matter for default
36	Complaint of Shri Sunil Goswami, Indore against the editor, Dabang Duniya, Indore, Madhya Pradesh	August 8, 2015	Dismissed the matter for default
37	Complaint of Shri Meena Chandel, District Accounts Manager, National Rural Health Mission, District Health Society, Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh against the Editor, Patrika, Madhya Pradesh	August 8, 2015	Dismissed the matter for default
38	Complaint of Shri Virbhan Ajvani (I.P.S.), Superintendent of Police, Ajmer (Rajasthan) against the Editor, Mahanagar Times, Rajasthan.	August 8, 2015	Sub-judice
39	Complaint of Shri Jalinder K. Ramane, Inspector of Police, Nagpada Police Station, Mumbai against the Editor, Satya Shodhak Rahi, Mumbai (Maharashtra).	August 8, 2015	Disposed of with direction
40	Complaint of Shri Gyan Swaroop Ahuja, Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh) against the Editor, 'Times of India', Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh)	August 8, 2015	Disposed of with Direction
41	Complaint of Shri Surender Bhadur Yadav, Assistant Director, O/o the Post Master General, Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh) against the Editor, Bundelkhand Live, Banda, Uttar Pradesh	October 9, 2015	Disposed of with direction
42	Complaint of Shri Syed Arshad Ali, Assistant Manager- Legal, Lokmat Media Ltd. Nagpur (Maharashtra) against the State Editor, Dainik Divya Marathi, Dainik Bhaskar Group Corp. Ltd., Aurangabad (Maharashtra)	October 9, 2015	Dismissed the matter for default

Sl. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
43	Complaint of Smt. Vijaylaxmi Arun Pandya, Diu (UT) against the Editor, Don of India, Silvassa	October 9, 2015	Dismissed the matter for default
44	Complaint of Shri Srinivas B. Kotian, Mumbai against the Editor, 'Mumbai Mirror', Mumbai (Maharashtra)	October 9, 2015	Dismissed the matter for default
45	Complaint of Shri Premkumar Punamchand Sharma, Assitant Charity Commissioner, Wardha, Maharashtra against the Editor, Jan Madhyam, Amravati, Maharashtra	October 9, 2015	Disposed of with direction
46	Complaint of Mrs. Rashmi P. Naik, Goa against the editor, The Gaon, Panji, Goa	October 9, 2015	Dismissed the matter for default
47	Complaint of Shri Ajay Tyagi, Mumbai against the Editor, Hindustan Times	October 9, 2015	Disposed of with direction
48	Complaint of Shri A.K. Dixit, Deputy General Manager, Chandrapur (Maharashtra) against the Editor, Navbharat, Nagpur (Maharashtra)	October 9, 2015	Disposed of with direction
49	Complaint of Dr. Zafaul Islam Khan, New Delhi against the Editor, Dainik Jagran, Meerut	December 11, 2015	Cautioned
50	Complaint of Shri R.D. Chandrahas, Joint General Manager/Vigilance Officer, Ordinance Parachute Factory, Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh) against the Editor, Amar Ujala, Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh)	December 11, 2015	Disposed of with direction
51	Complaint of Shri Anup K. Pujari, Sagar, Madhya Pradesh against the Editor, 'Times of India', Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh	December 11, 2015	Dismissed for Non-Pursuance
52	Complaint of Dr. Binod Kumar Agarwala, Prof. & Head, Department of Philosophy, North Eastern Hill University, Shillong against the Editor, The Shillong Times, Shillong	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with observation

Sl. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
53	Complaint of Col. Sanjay & Lieutenant Colonel Sooraj S. Nair, Assam Rifles against the Editor, Tehelka, New Delhi.	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
54	Complaint of Shri Shyamal Pal, Gangtok (received through Shri K. Ganeshan, Director General, DAVP) against Himali Bela, Gangtok	March 17, 2016	Disposed of with observation
55	Complaint of Shri Randhir Nidhi, Jharkhand against the Editor, Ranchi Express, Ranchi.	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
56	Shri Nilabh Dhruva, Manager Legal, Bihar Urban Infrastructure, Patna, Bihar against the Editor, Hindustan.	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
57	Complaint of Shri Thakur Chandra Bhushan, Honorary Secretary, Outgoing Management, Deep Sahkari Grin Nirman Samiti, Jamshedpur (Jharkhand) against the Editor, Hindustan, Jamshedpur.	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
58	Complaint of Shri Sameer Kumar Da, Chief Engineer, Hind Ki Kalam, Co-Director, State Programme Management Unit, Drinking Water & Sanitation Department, Jharkhand, Ranchi against the Editor, Dainik Bhaskar, Ranchi, Jharkhand.	March 17, 2016	Dismissed non-pursuance
59	Complaint of Mohd. Nasim Ansari, Secretary, Intzamia Committee Data Nuruddin Shah Wakf, Mohalla Chowk Shikarpur, Begampur, Patna against Editor, Dainik Pindar, Patna.	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
60	Complaint of Shri Sandeep Kumar Verma, Nazibabad against the Editor, Outlook, Bijnor.	March 17, 2016	Warned
61	Complaint of Ms. Neerja Bhatla, Chairperson, Media & Protocol Division & Professor, Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology, AIIMS, Delhi against the Editor, Mail Today, New Delhi.	March 17, 2016	Assurance

Sl. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
62	Complaint of Sh. Yasar Shah, State Minister (Energy) against Amar Ujala, Noida	March 17, 2016	Cautioned
63	Complaint of Ms. Madhavi Singh, Lucknow against the editor, Times of India, Kolkata.	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
64	Complaint of Shri Sunil Kumar, Press Relations Officer, O/o the Director General Prison, Tihar, New Delhi against The Economic Times, New Delhi.	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
65	Complaint of Shri Brahmanand Shukla, President, Mohalla Suraksha Vikas Samiti, Salori, Allahabad against Hindustan.	March 17, 2016	Dismissed for non-pursuance
66	Complaint of Ms. Roshni Kaur, Director, (Public Relations) Krishi Bikash Shilpa Kendra, New Delhi against the editor, Dainik Statesman.	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
67	Complaint of District Election Officer, Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh against the Editor, Punjab Kesari.	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
68	Complaint of Shri Dhanraj Ranoji Gavali, Advocate & Ex. Dy., Mayor, Belgaum, Karnataka against the Editor, 'Taun Bharat', Belgaum (Karnataka)	March 17, 2016	Assurance
69	Complaint of Shri Abin J. John, Bangalore against the Editor, Rashtra Deepika.	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
70	Complaint of Ms. K. Daisy, Ennore, Chennai against Editor, DhinaThanthi.	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
71	Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, IAS, O.S.D. (Exp. Monitoring), Bangalore (Karnataka) against the Editor, Karnataka Zillapanchayath, Bangalore (Karnataka)	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
72	Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, IAS, O.S.D. (Exp. Monitoring), Bangalore against the Editor, Mahila Shakthi, Bangalore	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default

Sl. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
73	Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, IAS, O.S.D. (Exp. Monitoring), Bangalore (Kar.) against the Editor, Hai Gudugu-Sidiliu, Doddaballapur (Karnataka)	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
74	Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, IAS, O.S.D. (Exp. Monitoring), Bangalore (Karnataka) against the Editor, Hai Doddaballapur, Doddaballapur (Karnataka)	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
75	Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, Officer on Special Duty, (Expenditure and Monitoring) O/o the Chief Electoral Officer, Bangalore (Karnataka) against the Editor, Prajegale Prabhugale.	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
76	Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, Officer on Special Duty, (Expenditure and Monitoring) O/o the Chief Electoral Officer, Bangalore (Karnataka) against the Editor, Tarun Bharat.	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
77	Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, IAS, O.S.D. (Exp. Monitoring), Bangalore (Karnataka) against the Editor, Samyutka Karnataka, Bangalore.	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
78	Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, IAS, O.S.D. (Exp. Monitoring), Bangalore (Karnataka) against the Editor, Karunad, Belgaum	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
79	Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, IAS, O.S.D. (Exp. Monitoring), Bangalore against the Editor, Karnataka Alalu, Belgaum	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
80	Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, IAS, O.S.D. (Exp. Monitoring), Bangalore (Karnataka) against the Editor, Pudhari, Belgaum	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default

Sl. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
81	Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, IAS, O.S.D. (Exp. Monitoring), Bangalore (Karnataka) against the Editor, Pruthvi, Bijapur	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
82	Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, Officer on Special Duty, (Expenditure and Monitoring) O/o the Chief Electoral Officer, Bangalore (Karnataka.) against the Editor, Rajamarg.	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
83	Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, IAS, O.S.D. (Exp. Monitoring), Bangalore against the Editor, Kannada Prabha, Bangalore(14/755/13-14) (Paid News)	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
84	Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, IAS, O.S.D. (Exp. Monitoring), Bangalore against the Editor, Udayavani, Bangalore	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
85	Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, IAS, O.S.D. (Exp. Monitoring), Bangalore (Karnataka.) against the Editor, Suvarnavani, Bangalore	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
86	Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, Officer on Special Duty, (Expenditure and Monitoring) O/o the Chief Electoral Officer, Bangalore (Karnataka) against the Editor, Reshme Nadu.	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
87	Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, IAS, O.S.D. (Exp. Monitoring), Bangalore against the Editor, Deccan Herald, Bangalore.	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
88	Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, Officer on Special Duty, (Expenditure and Monitoring) O/o the Chief Electoral Officer, Bangalore against the Editor, Janamitra.	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default

Sl. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
89	Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, IAS, O.S.D. (Exp. Monitoring), Bangalore (Karnataka) against the Editor, Samyukta, Davanagere	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
90	Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, Officer on Special Duty, (Expenditure and Monitoring) O/o the Chief Electoral Officer, Bangalore (Karnataka) against the Editor, Prajavani. (Paid News)	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
91	Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, IAS, O.S.D. (Exp. Monitoring), Bangalore (Karnataka) against the Editor, Vijaya Karnataka, Chimoga (Karnataka)	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
92	Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, Officer on Special Duty, (Expenditure and Monitoring) O/o the Chief Electoral Officer, Bangalore against the Editor, MalenaduJothi.	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
93	Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, IAS, O.S.D. (Exp. Monitoring), Bangalore (Karnataka) against the Editor, Samyuktha Vijaya, Kolar	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
94	Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, IAS, O.S.D. (Exp. Monitoring), Bangalore (Karnataka) against the Editor, Priya Patrike, Kolar (Karnataka)	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
95	Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, Officer on Special Duty, (Expenditure and Monitoring) O/o the Chief Electoral Officer, Bangalore (Karnataka) against the Editor, Abhimanyu.	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
96	Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, Officer on Special Duty, (Expenditure and Monitoring) O/o the Chief Electoral Officer, Bangalore (Karnataka) against the Editor, Mandya Circle Weekly.	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default

Sl. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
97	Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, IAS, O.S.D. (Exp. Monitoring), Bangalore (Karnataka) against the Editor, Karavali Ale, Mangalore (Karnataka). (Paid News)	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
98	Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, Officer on Special Duty, (Expenditure and Monitoring) O/o the Chief Electoral Officer, Bangalore against the Editor, Udayavani.	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
99	Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, IAS, O.S.D., (Exp. Monitoring), Bangalore against the Editor, Varthabharathi, Mangalore.	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
100	Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, Officer on Special Duty, (Expenditure and Monitoring) O/o the Chief Electoral Officer, Bangalore (Karnataka) against the Editor, Mysore Praje.	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
101	Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, Officer on Special Duty, (Expenditure and Monitoring) O/o the Chief Electoral Officer, Bangalore (Karnataka) against the Editor, Shabdavedi.	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
102	Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, Officer on Special Duty, (Expenditure and Monitoring) O/o the Chief Electoral Officer, Bangalore (Karnataka) against the Editor, Nanjanagud Mithra.	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
103	Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, IAS, O.S.D. (Exp. Monitoring), Bangalore against the Editor, Times of India, Bangalore	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default

Sl. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
104	Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, Officer on Special Duty, (Expenditure and Monitoring) O/o the Chief Electoral Officer, Bangalore (Karnataka) against the Editor, Mysore Mitra	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
105	Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, IAS, O.S.D. (Exp. Monitoring), Bangalore (Karnataka) against the Editor, Media Maahiti, Mysore	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
106	Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, IAS, O.S.D. (Exp. Monitoring), Bangalore (Karnataka) against the Editor, Srinath Patrike, Mysore (Karnataka)	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
107	Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, IAS, O.S.D. (Exp. Monitoring), Bangalore (Karnataka) against the Editor, Praja Prabhutva, Mysore (Karnataka)	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
108	Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, IAS, O.S.D. (Exp. Monitoring), Bangalore (Karnataka) against the Editor, The Greater Mysore, Mysore (Karnataka)	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
109	Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, IAS, O.S.D. (Exp. Monitoring), Bangalore (Karnataka) against the Editor, Sidila Mari, Mysore (Karnataka)	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
110	Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, IAS, O.S.D. (Exp. Monitoring), Bangalore (Karnataka) against the Editor, Prajayoga, Tumkur (Karnataka)	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
111	Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, IAS, O.S.D. (Exp. Monitoring), Bangalore (Karnataka) against the Editor, Deccan Herald, Bangalore (Karnataka)	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default

Sl. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
112	Reference received from Shri Lokesh Kumar, D.S. I.A.S., District Collector & District Election Officer (Andhra Pradesh) against the Editor, Sakshi Jyothi, (Andhra Pradesh)	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
113	Reference received from Shri Lokesh Kumar, D.S. I.A.S., District Collector & District Election Officer (Andhra Pradesh) against the Editor, Sakshi, (Andhra Pradesh)	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
114	Reference received from Shri Lokesh Kumar, D.S. I.A.S., District Collector & District Election Officer (Andhra Pradesh) against the Editor, Andhra Jyothi, (Andhra Pradesh)	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
115	Reference received from Shri Lokesh Kumar, D.S. I.A.S., District Collector & District Election Officer (Andhra Pradesh) against the Editor, Surya (Andhra Pradesh)	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
116	Reference received from Dr. S.B. Deepak Kumar, I.A.S. District Election Officer-cum-Chairperson, District Level, MCMC, Puducherry against the Editor, Pudhuvai Bhoomi Fortnightly.	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
117	Reference received from Dr. S.B. Deepak Kumar, I.A.S. District Election Officer-cum- Chairperson, District Level, MCMC, Puducherry against the Editor, Namadu Manasatchi Puducherry.	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
118	Reference received from Dr. S.B. Deepak Kumar, I.A.S. District Election Officer-cum-Chairperson, District Level, MCMC, Puducherry against the Editor, Dinamani Daily, Puducherry.	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
119	Reference received from Dr. S.B. Deepak Kumar, I.A.S. District Election Officer-cum-Chairperson, District Level, MCMC, Puducherry against the Editor, Dinakaran Daily, Puducherry.	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default

Sl. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
120	Reference received from Dr. S.B. Deepak Kumar, I.A.S. District Election Officer-cum-Chairperson, District Level, MCMC, Puducherry against the Editor, Tamil Murasu, Puducherry.	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
121	Reference received from Dr. S.B. Deepak Kumar, I.A.S. District Election Officer-cum-Chairperson, District Level, MCMC, Puducherry against the Editor, Namadhu Murasu, Puducherry.	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
122	Reference received from Dr. S.B. Deepak Kumar, I.A.S. District Election Officer-cum-Chairperson, District Level, MCMC, Puducherry against the Editor, Dinathanthi, Puducherry.	March 17, 2016	Upheld
123	Reference received from Dr. S.B. Deepak Kumar, I.A.S. District Election Officer-cum- Chairperson, District Level, MCMC, Puducherry against the Dinamalar, Tamil Daily, Puducherry.	March 17, 2016	Upheld
124	Reference received from Dr. S.B. Deepak Kumar, I.A.S. District Election Officer-cum- Chairperson, District Level, MCMC, Puducherry against the Editor, Dinamalar, Tamil Daily, Puducherry.	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
125	Dr. S.B. Deepak Kumar, I.A.S. District Election Officer-cum- Chairperson, District Level, MCMC, Puducherry against the Editor, Malar Weekly, Puducherry.	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
Principles and Defamation			
126	Complaint of Shri Velagapdi Ramakrishna Baby, MLA and Shri Kotha Srinivasu, Vishakhapatnam against the Editor, Sakshi, Hyderabad	July 8, 2015	Sub-judice

Sl. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
127	Complaint of Shri Ramoji Rao, Editor, Eenadu, Telugu Daily, Hyderabad against the Editor, Sakshi, Hyderabad.	July 8, 2015	Disposed of with Assurance
128	Complaint of Shri S.H.M., Rizvi, Senior Superintendent, District Jail, Meerut against the Editor, Amar Ujala, Meerut (Uttar Pradesh).	July 8, 2015	Dismissed with default
129	Complaint of Shri Shabbir Ahmed Sheikh, Bhilvara, Rajasthan against the Editor, Rashtrdoot, Jaipur, Rajasthan.	July 8, 2015	Admonished
130	Complaint of Shri S.K. Mishra, Motor Licensing Officer, Transport Authority, New Delhi against the Editor, City Sixty Samachar.	July 8, 2015	Dismissed with default
131	Complaint of Shri S.K. Mishra, Motor Licensing Officer, Transport Department, I.P. Estate, New Delhi against the Editor, The Patriot of India, New Delhi.	July 8, 2015	Dismissed with default
132	Complaint of Shri P.D. Rai, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), Sikkim against the Editor, 'Hamro Prajashakti', Sikkim	July 8, 2015	Censured
133	Complaint of Col. Anil Kak (Retd.), Indore (Madhya Pradesh) against the Editor, 'Dainik Bhaskar', Indore (Madhya Pradesh).	July 8, 2015	Dismissed with default
134	Complaint of Shri Mohd. Saleem Khilzi, Advocate, Civil Courts, Sangrur, Punjab against the Editor, Hind Samachar, Punjab.	July 8, 2015	Dismissed for non-pursuance
135	Complaint of Shri Satpal Singh, District Mandi, Himachal Pradesh against the Editor, Jansatta, Mandi, Himachal Pradesh	July 8, 2015	Dismissed with default
136	Complaint of Shri Satpal Singh, District Mandi, Himachal Pradesh against the Editor, Divya Himachal, Kangda, Himachal Pradesh	July 8, 2015	Dismissed with default

Sl. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
137	Complaint of Shri Satpal Singh, District Mandi, Himachal Pradesh against the Editor, Amar Ujala, Kangda, Himachal Pradesh	July 8, 2015	Dismissed with default
138	Complaint of Shri Satpal Singh, District Mandi, Himachal Pradesh against the Editor, Punjab Kesari, Jalandhar, Punjab.	July 8, 2015	Dismissed with default
139	Complaint of Dr. Jagdish K. Dadhich, Mumbai against the Editor, 'Mid-Day', Mumbai.	August 8, 2015	Disposed of with direction
140	Complaint of Shri Rakesh Kumar Kushwah, Kanpur against the Editor, Electronic Market Report, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh.	August 8, 2015	Censured
141	Complaint of Ms. Punam Mehta, Joint Director, Pension & Pensioners Welfare Department, Regional Office, Kota (Rajasthan.) against the Editor, 'Rajasthan Patrika', Rajasthan.	August 8, 2015	Dismissed with default
142	Complaint against Shri Ranjit Singh, Patiala (issue emergent from the complaint of Shri Ranjit Singh against the Editor Chardikala, Patiala) for filing false declaration in the Council.	August 8, 2015	Dismissed with default
143	Complaint of Shri Sanjeev Kumar Kulshreshtha, Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh) against the Editor, Hindustan, New Delhi.	August 8, 2015	Dismissed with default
144	Complaint of Shri Sumeet Singh, Delhi against the Editor, The Patriots of India, New Delhi	August 8, 2015	Censured
145	Complaint of Smt. Pratibha Bhargava, Agar (Uttar Pradesh) against the Editor, 'I-Next', Agra (Uttar Pradesh).	August 8, 2015	Censured
146	Complaint of Shri Faseeh Akhtar, Chairman, Samajik Sanstha Kaumi Help Society (Regd.) Muzaffarnagar (U.P.) against the Editor, Shah Times, Meerut Meerut (U.P.).	August 8, 2015	Dismissed with default
147	Complaint of Shri Faseeh Akhtar, Chairman, Samajik Sanstha Kaumi Help Society (Regd.) Muzaffarnagar (U.P.) against the Editor, Dainik Jagran, Meerut (U.P.).	August 8, 2015	Dismissed with default

Sl. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
148	Complaint of Shri Sushil Kumar Varshney, General Secretary, Akhil Bharat Varshiy Shri Vaishya Barahasaini Mahasabha (Regd.), Aligarh (U.P.) against the Editor, Dainik Jagran, Kanpur (U.P.)	August 8, 2015	Disposed of with direction
149	Complaint of Shri Neelam Singh Bhandari, Pithoragarh (U.K.) against the Editor, Amar Ujala, Haldwani (U.K.)	August 8, 2015	Dismissed with default
150	Complaint of Shri Pradeep Kumar, Project Manager, Construction & Maintenance Unit (Ganga), Uttarakhand Pey Jal Nigam, Rishikesh (U.K.) against the Editor, Kranti Gatha, Rishikesh (U.K.)	August 8, 2015	Dismissed with default
151	Complaint of Shri Prashant Gupta, Meerut (U.P.) through his advocate Shri Sharad Jain, Meerut against the Editor, 'Dainik Janvani', Meerut (U.P.).	August 8, 2015	Disposed of with direction
152	Complaint of Shri Sheopal Singh, Ex-District Chairman, Congress Committee, Bulandshihar, UP against the Editor, Dainik Jagran, U.P.	August 8, 2015	Assurance
153	Complaint of Shri Hari Om Verma, Meerut (U.P.) against the Editor, Dainik Jagran, Meerut (U.P.)	August 8, 2015	Censured
154	Complaint of Shri Devender Kumar, Post Master, Grade-III, Muzaffarnagar (U.P.) against the Editor, Thanvi Muzaffarnagar Times, Muzaffarnagar (U.P.)	August 8, 2015	Dismissed with default
155	Complaint of Smt. Vibha Sharma, District Umria, M.P. against the editor, Jan Duniya, Umria, M.P.	August 8, 2015	Dismissed with default
156	Complaint of Shri Aman Kumar Singh & Smt. Yasmin Singh, Raipur (C.G.) against the Editor, Patrika, Raipur (C.G.)	August 8, 2015	Sub-judice
157	Shri Kamaldeep Verma, Advocate, Civil Court, Bijnor, UP against the Editor, Amar Ujala	October 9, 2015	Assurance

Sl. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
158	Complaint of Shri Kalyan Kumar, Media Advisor, M/s Jindal Steel & Power Ltd. New Delhi against the Editor, DNA, Mumbai	October 9, 2015	Dismissed with default
159	Complaint of Shri Surender Bhadur Yadav, Assistant Director, O/o the Post Master General, Gorakhpur (UP) against the Editor, Dainik Vishva Pariwar, Kanpur, UP.	October 9, 2015	Dismissed for non-pursuance
160	Complaint of Prof. Javaid Akhtar, Controller of Examinations, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh UP against the Editor Punjab Kesari, Jalandhar (Punjab)	October 9, 2015	Dismissed for non-pursuance
161	Complaint of Shri K. Vasant Kumar, Srikakulam, AP against the Editor, Sanchalana Sayamakala Patrika Satyam A.P.	October 9, 2015	Dismissed for non-pursuance
162	Complaint of Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot, Member of Parliament (RS) Ujjain (MP) against the Editor, Ratlam Darshan (MP)	October 9, 2015	Censured
163	Complaint on behalf of Shri Vaishnav Sahayak Trust, Indore (MP) against the Editor, Prabhat Kiran, Indore (MP)	October 9, 2015	Disposed of with direction
164	Complaint of Dr. Pandurang Phaldessai, Bardez, Goa against the Editor, Goa Doot, Marathi Daily, Goa.	October 9, 2015	Dismissed with observation
165	Complaint of Shri B.P. Singh, Joint Commissioner of Income Tax, Jalgaon, Maharashtra against the Editor, Sakal, Jalgaon, Maharashtra.	October 9, 2015	Warn with direction
166	Complaint of Shri Ravindra Singh, Mumbai against the Editor, Sangathan Bharat, Mumbai	October 9, 2015	Disposed of with default
167	Complaint of Mrs. Carrie Correia, Salcette, Goa against the Editor, O Heraldo	October 9, 2015	Disposed of with default
168	Complaint of Shri Nerion Albuquerque, Goa against the Editor, The Times of India, Kolhapur (Mah.	October 9, 2015	Dismissed with default

Sl. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
169	Complaint of Shri Rajendra Dagadu Gaikwad, Chakan, Khakan, Pune (through advocate) against the Editor, Janhindola, Thane	October 9, 2015	Disposed of with directions
170	Complaint of Shri Vijay Wadettiwar, Nagpur against the Editor, Lokshahi Warta, Nagpur	October 9, 2015	Sub-judice
171	Complaint of Shri Mahesh Dinkar Deshmukh, Advocate, Amravati (Mah.) against the Editor, Punya Nagari, Nagpur (Mah.)	October 9, 2015	Disposed of with direction
172	Complaint of Shri Dattatray Shivram Gavankar, Mumbai against the Editor, Janadhar Sandesh	October 9, 2015	Censured
173	Complaint of Dr. Pandurang Phaldessai, Bardez (Goa) against the Editor, Goa Doot, Marathi Daily, Panaji (Goa)	December 11, 2015	Dismissed with default
174	Complaint of Shri Mahender Kumar, Saharanpur (UP) against the Editor, Cheetein Aur Bauchharein, Saharanpur (UP)	December 11, 2015	Dismissed with default
175	Complaint of Prof. Sandeep K. Malhotra, Department of Zoology, University of Allahabad against Times of India, Lucnow	December 11, 2015	Censured
176	Complaint of Shri Prakash Kumar Joshi, Balangir, Orissa against the Editor, The Sambad, Orissa.	December 11, 2015	Dismissed with default
177	Complaint of Dr. Sunil Srivastava, Director and Superintendent in Chief, Mental Hospital, Bareilly (UP) against the Editor, Times of India	December 11, 2015	Dismissed for non-pursuance
178	Complaint of Dr. Munir Khalid, Bjinor (UP) against the Editor, Awam-E-Hind, Delhi	December 11, 2015	Disposed of with direction
179	Complaint of Dr. Munir Khalid, Bjinor (UP) against the Editor, Vidhan Kesari, Bjinor,UP	December 11, 2015	Disposed of with direction
180	Complaint of Dr. Munir Khalid, Bjinor (UP) against the Editor, Public Emotion, Bijnor	December 11, 2015	Disposed of with direction

Sl. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
181	Complaint of Dr. Munir Khalid, Bijnor (UP) against the Editor, Prayaan, Evening Daily, Bijnor, UP (14/548/14-15)	December 11, 2015	Disposed of with direction
182	Complaint of Shri Brijesh Mishra, Advocate, Tinsukia, Assam against the Editor, Dainik Janambhumi, Assam.	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
183	Complaint of Shri Sourav Basu Roy Choudhury, Agartala, West Tripura against the Editor, Pratibadi Kalam, Agartala.	March 17, 2016	Censured
184	Complaint of Shri Praveen Chandra Bhanjdeo, MLA, Odisha Legislative Assembly, Bhubaneswar against the Editor, Nirbhay.	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
185	Complaint of Dr. Nachiketa Banopadhyay, Registrar, Siodho-Konho-Birsa University, Kolkata against the Editor, Sambad Protidin.	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
186	Complaint of Shri Rajeev Ranjan Verma, Eye Hospital, Dani Bigha, Aurangabad (Bihar) against the Editor, Prabhat Khabar, Aurangabad (Bihar).	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
187	Complaint of Dr. Kanhaiya Prasad, Civil Surgeon cum C.M.O., Sadar Hospital Campus, Latehar, Jharkhand against the Editor, Dainik Bhaskar, Ranchi	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
188	Complaint of Shri Anand Vikram, West Bengal against the editor, Prabhat Khabar, Jharkhand.	March 17, 2016	Disposed of with direction
189	Complaint of Shri Anand Vikram, Burdwan, West Bengal against the editor, Dainik Bhaskar, Ranchi, Jharkhand.	March 17, 2016	Disposed of with direction
190	Complaint of M/s. Dharampal Satyapal Ltd., Delhi (through Advocate, Dhingra & Associates), New Delhi against the Editor, Adinor Sambad, Assam.	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default

Sl. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
191	Complaint of Shri Kanubhai Jethabahi Desai, Editor/Owner/Publisher/Printer, Hello Khelaru, Gujarat against the editor, Divya Bhaskar, Ahmedabad (Guj)	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
192	Complaint of Shri Siddharth Sanwaria, Advocate on behalf of M/s Shivangee Medicos, Chandigarh against the Editor, The Tribune, Chandigarh.	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
193	Complaint of Shri Arjun Chowdhry, New Delhi against the editor, Times of India, Delhi.	March 17, 2016	Dismissed for non-pursuance
194	Complaint of Shri Vikas Jain, Aliganj, Lucknow against Editor, Dainik Jagran	March 17, 2016	Dismissed for non-pursuance
195	Complaint of Sh. Rajeev Kumar, Chandoli, Uttar Pradesh against Dainik Jagran(14/600/12-13)	March 17, 2016	Dismissed for non-pursuance
196	Complaint of Shri Paban Singh Ghatowar, Former Union Minister, New Delhi against Agradoot, Guwahati.	March 17, 2016	Disposed of with direction
197	Complaint of Shri Rajesh Kumar Sharma, Advocate, Delhi against the Editor, Navodaya Times, New Delhi.	March 17, 2016	Disposed of with direction
198	Complaint of Shri Deepak Vats, Delhi against the Editor, Punjab Kesari, Delhi.	March 17, 2016	Disposed of Direction
199	Complaint of Shri Ajay Kumar Duraiswamy, Chennai against the Editor, Dinathanthi, Chennai.	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with the default
200	Complaint of Shri Ajay Kumar Duraiswamy, Chennai against the Editor, Dinamalar, Chennai.	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with the default
201	Complaint of Shri C.T. Ravi, Member of Karnataka Legislative Assembly, Chikmagalur against the Editor, 'Chikmagalur Suddigara, Karnataka	March 17, 2016	Censured

Sl. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
202	Complaint of Shri C.T. Ravi, Member of Karnataka Legislative Assembly, Chikmagalur against the Editor, Gauri Lankesh Patrike', Karnataka] M	March 17, 2016	Censured
203	Complaint of Shri Balachandra Rao Marpalli, Bangalore against the Editor, Brahmashtra, Bangalore	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
204	Complaint of Shri A. Soma Shekaraih, Bangalore against the Editor, BTS, Voice, Bangalore.	March 17, 2016	Disposed of with direction
205	Compliant of Shri C. Hanumantharayappa, Bangalore against the Editor, Naavu Bandeddavaru, Karnataka.	March 17, 2016	Censured
206	Complaint of Smt. G. Suvarnamma, M.A. Tahsildar, Andhra Pradesh against the Editor, Sakshi.	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with default
207	Complaint of Shri Cyrill P. Jacob, Kochi against the Editor, Janayugom, Trivandarum, Kerala.	March 17, 2016	Dismissed for non-pursuance
208	Complaint of Shri Cyrill P. Jacob, Kochi against the Editor, Mangalam, Kerala.] M	March 17, 2016	Dismissed for non-pursuance
Press and Morality			
209	Complaint of Shri Shyam Pannalalji Sharma, Member, Executive Committee, Berar General Education Society, Akola, Maharashtra against the Editor, Suryodaya, Maharashtra.	August 8, 2015	Censured
210	Complaint of Shri Kapil Marwaha, Chartered Accountant, Mumbai against the Editor, DNA, Mumbai.	August 8, 2015	Dismissed with Observations
211	Complaint of Shri Ved Prakash Gupta, General Secretary, Punjab Human rights Committee, Bathinda (Punjab) against the editor, Punjab Kesari	October 9, 2015	Disposed of with direction

Sl. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
212	Complaint of Shri Narender Tulsidas Popa, District Thane, Maharashtra against the Editor, Vartahar Naradvani Palghar, Thane, Maharashtra.	October 9, 2015	Censured
213	Complaint of Shri Sonu Maheshwari, Chairman, Noujwan Welfare Soch, Bhatinda, Punjab against Punjab Kesari	March 17, 2016	Warn
Communal, Casteist, Anti National And Anti-Religious Writings			
214	Complaint of Shri U. K. Ulakanatha Mallar, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu against the Editor, The New Indian Express, Coimbatore.	July 8, 2015	Dismissed with direction
215	Complaint of Shri V. Subramanian, Advocate, Tamil Nadu against the Editor, The Hindu, Chennai.	July 8, 2015	Disposed of with direction
216	Complaint of Shri Prof. N.K. Pandey, Director, Center for Information, Publication and Public Relations, Lucknow University, Lucknow (U.P.) against the Editor, Nishpaksh Divya Sandesh, Lucknow (U.P.).	August 8, 2015	Censured
217	Complaint of Shahid Ali, Advocate, National President (United Muslims Front) New Delhi against the editor, Hindustan Times	March 17, 2016	Dismissed with direction

Index of Principles enunciated in Adjudications in Complaints Threats to Press Freedom

Facilities to the Press

The newspaper cannot claim advertisements as a matter of right, these empanelment for issuance of advertisements has to be ensured by the authorities within the bounds of the duty notified policy and a given time framework. It is the duty of authorities acting as custodian of public funds, to ensure that such power is fair and equitable and is not misused. **(Complaint of Shri Mumtaz Alam Khan, Editor, Hind Ki Kalam, Haridwar, Uttarkhand Versus Information & Public Relation Department, Dehradun, Uttarakhand), (Complaint of Shri Thakur Kumar (Manojanand), Correspondent, Thakur Sahab Times, Haridwar Uttarakhand Versus the I&PRD, Dehradun) and (Shri Kailash NathVerma, President & Shri Janki Sharan Dwivedi, General Secretary, Uttar Pradesh Working Journalist Union, Gonda, Uttar Pradesh Versus C.R.P.F. Inspector, Gonda, Uttar Pradesh.**

Index of Principles enunciated in Adjudications in Complaints Filed Against the Press

Principles and Publication

The Press as a custodian of public's interest is expected to keep the guidelines drawn up by the Press Council w.r.t press accepting overseas employment advertisements. It is also necessary that not just the editorial but even the ad department of the newspaper be attuned to these provisions. (Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, Officer on Special Duty, (Expenditure and Monitoring) O/o the Chief Electoral Officer, Bangalore, Karnataka Versus the Editor, Sakal), (Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, IAS, O.S.D. (Exp. Monitoring), Bangalore, Karnataka Versus the Editor, Kannada Prabha, Bangalore, Karnataka) and (Reference received from Shri Pankaj Kumar Pandey, Officer on Special Duty, (Expenditure and Monitoring) O/o the Chief Electoral Officer, Bangalore, Karnataka Versus the Editor, Nyayada Haadi)

PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA, NEW DELHI