

PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA

Annual Report
(April 1, 2008 - March 31, 2009)

New Delhi

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Press Council of India

Soochna Bhawan, 8, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003

Chairman: Mr. Justice G. N. Ray

Editors of Indian Languages Newspapers (Clause (A) of Sub-Section (3) of Section 5)

NAME	ORGANIZATION NOMINATED BY	NEWSPAPER
Shri Vishnu Nagar	Editors Guild of India, All India Newspaper Editors' Conference, Hindi Samachar Patra Sammelan	Nai Duniya, New Delhi
Shri Uttam Chandra Sharma	All India Newspaper Editors' Conference, Editors Guild of India, Hindi Samachar Patra Sammelan	Muzaffarnagar Bulletin, Uttar Pradesh
Shri Vijay Kumar Chopra	All India Newspaper Editors' Conference, Editors Guild of India, Hindi Samachar Patra Sammelan	Filmi Duniya, Delhi
Shri Sheetla Singh	Hindi Samachar Patra Sammelan, All India Newspaper Editors' Conference, Editors Guild of India	Janmorcha, Uttar Pradesh
Ms. Suman Gupta	Hindi Samachar Patra Sammelan, All India Newspaper Editors' Conference, Editors Guild of India	Saryu Tat Se, Uttar Pradesh

Editors of English Newspapers (Clause (A) of Sub-Section (3) of Section 5)

Shri Yogesh Chandra Halan	Editors Guild of India, All India Newspaper Editors' Conference, Hindi Samachar Patra Sammelan	Asian Defence News, New Delhi
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Working Journalists other than Editors (Clause (A) of Sub-Section (3) of Section 5)

Shri K. Sreenivas Reddy	Indian Journalists Union, Working News Cameramen's Association, Press Association	Visalaandhra, Andhra Pradesh
Shri Mihir Gangopadhyay (Ganguly)	Indian Journalists Union, Press Association, Working News Cameramen's Association	Freelancer, Bartaman, West Bengal
Shri M.K. Ajith Kumar	Press Association, Working News Cameramen's Association, Indian Journalists Union	Mathrubhumi, New Delhi
Shri Joginder Chawla	Working News Cameramen's Association, Press Association, Indian Journalists Union	Freelancer
Shri G. Prabhakaran	Indian Journalists Union, Working News Cameramen's Association, Press Association	The Hindu Group of Publication

NAME	ORGANIZATION NOMINATED BY	NEWSPAPER
Shri Kalyan Barooah	Press Association, Indian Journalists Union, Working News Cameramen's Association	Assam Tribune, Guwahati
Shri S.N. Sinha	Working News Cameramen's Association, Indian Journalists Union, Press Association	Freelancer

Owners & Managers of Big, Medium and Small Newspapers (Clause (B) of Sub-Section (3) of Section 5)

Shri Hormusji Nusserwanji Cama	Indian Newspapers Society	Bombay Samachar, Maharashtra
Shri T. Venkatram Reddy	Indian Newspapers Society	Andhra Bhoomi, Andhra Pradesh
Shri Anil Jugal Kishore Agrawal	Indian Newspapers Society	Amravati Mandal, Maharashtra
Shri Kundan Raman Lal Vyas	Indian Newspapers Society	Janmbhoomi Pravasi, Maharashtra
Shri Ramesh Gupta	Indian Newspapers Society	Tej Weekly, New Delhi
Shri Sushil Jhalani	Indian Federation of Small and Medium Newspapers	Arun Prabha, Rajasthan

Managers of News Agencies (Clause (C) of Sub-Section (3) of Section 5)

Shri V.S. Chandrasekar	Press Trust of India
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Nominees of University Grants Commission, Bar Council of India and Sahitya Academy (Clause (D) of Sub-Section (3) of Section 5)

Shri Paranjay Guha Thakurta	University Grants Commission
Shri Milan Kumar Dey	Bar Council of India
Dr. Lalit Mangotra	Sahitya Academy

Members of Parliament Nominated by Speaker, Lok Sabha and Chairman, Rajya Sabha (Clause (E) of Sub-Section (3) of Section 5)

Dr. Sebastian Paul	(Lok Sabha)
Shri Bharatsinh Madhavsinh Solanki	(Lok Sabha)
Shri M.A. Kharabela Swain	(Lok Sabha)
Shri Yashwant Sinha	(Rajya Sabha)
Dr. K. Keshava Rao	(Rajya Sabha)

Secretary : Smt. Vibha Bhargava

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Foreword

We have pleasure in placing the 30th Annual Report of the Press Council of India in the hands of the readers for the year 2008-2009.

The present report gives a detailed account of the various activities undertaken by the Council in discharge of its objects during the year under review. It also analyses the complaints received from and against the press and the matters adjudicated during the year, the working of the Council and of its Committees. It also contains as usual, an account of the state of the press in the country as well as in the world and refers to some major developments in the press during the year.

Time and again a need has been felt and voiced by many for vesting the Council with sufficient power to enforce its directions. The Council has, along with other amendments, proposed suitable amendments to the Press Council Act, 1978 for the purpose. These proposals have been forwarded to the Government and are pending consideration. We can only hope for an early action in the matter.

The Council continues with its efforts in striving to meet the expectations of the press and the public from this authority in its advisory as well as adjudicatory role.

New Delhi
March 31, 2009

G.N. Ray
Chairman
Press Council of India

CHAPTER – I

General Review

Year 2008-2009 marks in several ways a transitional stage in media behaviour. The year witnessed as much jubilation over the rapid strides made by the media in terms of circulation and technology, as concern over the media coverage of some events like the Uma Khurana case or Arushi murder case or Mumbai Blasts or Batla House shoot out. According to UNESCO, the literacy rate in India is about 61 percent while the number of literate youth is above 76%, signalling growth rate in education sector. Growing literacy and new technology have resulted in India emerging as a second largest newspaper market. Indian newspapers sales increased from 11.2% in 2007 and is expected to increase upto 35.51% in next five years period. Newspaper advertising revenue were up 64.5% over previous five years. Facts have given boost to the foreign direct investment in print media especially ever since the government allowed 100% equity for publishers proposing to publish edition of international dailies in India. The US based Financial Times sees big opportunities for expansion. The big media houses of India are entering into joint ventures with the top notch media companies of international repute. According to survey of India media and entertainment scenario “media industry recorded a growth of 16% in 2007 over a previous year. The magazine industry size registered a growth of 15 % during the year 2007. The newspaper publishing market is expected to reach Rs. 243 billion in coming times.

On the international front, the gloom haunts the newspaper industries in the major part of the world. The economic recession had led to shrinking circulation, dwindling advertising revenue, growth of the internet edition and rising newsprint prices have together put the pressure on their margins. The media houses in USA and Europe are now outsourcing their editorial work whereas scenario is different in the developing world. Newspaper, some backed by government, other by business moguls and international conglomerates are springing up from Rawanda to Tajikstan, attracting leaders and advertising money. The media freedom continued to reel under pressure in many parts of the world. Journalists in Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and many countries of Africa are facing threats to their life while discharging their professional duties. The other area of concern was the preservation of press freedom in the country. It is not a very happy position that from Kashmir to down South the journalists faced roadblock in discharging of their duties. As per International

Press Institute's annual "World Press Freedom Review" India was ranked 3rd deadliest place for journalists in 2008.

The Press Council, in discharge of its functions, kept an eye on these and more developments as detailed hereinafter.

Introduction

The Press Council of India was re-established in the year 1979 with the avowed object of preserving the freedom of the press and of maintaining and improving the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India. One feature of the Council which distinguishes it from any other similar tribunal or body around the world is that it is comprised mainly of representatives from the newspaper world who are charged with the responsibility of regulating the conduct of their brethren in the same sphere. It is in this context that it has come to assume the role of a self-regulating body of the newspapermen themselves.

The re-established Council which has completed 30 years of its existence at the close of this financial year can claim to have fulfilled a very valuable purpose. The ever increasing number of complaints, including those from incumbents of high offices or public offices, signify the recognition and respect the Council has earned for itself from both the press and the public for its impartiality and independence and as guardian of Press liberty.

The present Press Council has been established under the Press Council Act, 1978, for the purpose of preserving the freedom of the Press and of maintaining and improving the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India. The Council came into being in April 1979. Its jurisdiction extends to the whole of India. The Council consists of a Chairman and twenty-eight other members.

The Chairman is a person nominated by a Committee consisting of the Chairman of the Council of States (Rajya Sabha), the Speaker of the House of the People (Lok Sabha), and a person elected from amongst themselves by the members of the Press Council. Of the other members, thirteen are working journalists, of whom six are editors of newspapers and remaining seven are working journalists other than editors. Six members are those who own or carry on the business of management of newspapers. One member is a person who manages a news agency. Three members are persons having special knowledge or practical experience in respect of education and science, law and literature and culture, of whom respectively one is nominated by the University Grants Commission, one by the Bar Council of India and one by Sahitya Academy. The remaining five members of the Council are Members of

Parliament, of whom three are from the Lok Sabha and two from the Rajya Sabha. The Chairman and other members hold office for a period of three years. The Chairman may continue in office after the date of expiry of three-year period till a new incumbent is nominated but for not more than six months. However, the term of office of a member nominated in his/her capacity as a Member of Parliament comes to an end as soon as he/she ceases to be a member of the House from which he/she is nominated.

In 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 of citizenship; to encourage the growth of a sense of responsibility and public service among all those engaged in the profession of journalism; 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 the news agencies; and to concern itself with developments such as concentration of or other aspects of ownership of newspapers and news agencies which may affect the independence of the Press.

The complaints received by the Council broadly fall into two categories: complaints by the Press and complaints against the Press. Any person feeling aggrieved about anything done which is likely to impair or interfere with the independence of the Press may approach the Council. Similarly, anybody aggrieved by any publication or non-publication in any newspaper or journal may lodge a complaint with the Council for breach of the recognised canons of journalistic ethics and taste. The Council is empowered to make observations in respect of the conduct of any authority including Government, if it considers it necessary, for the performance of its functions under the Act. On the other hand, if it finds that a newspaper or a news agency has offended against the standards of journalistic ethics or public taste or that an editor or working journalist has committed any professional misconduct, it can warn, admonish or censure the newspaper, the news agency, the editor or the journalists or disapprove the conduct of the editor or the journalist. Thus, the Council has a lot of moral authority. Its decisions are final and cannot be questioned in any court of law. The decisions of the Council have generally been honoured and accepted by the media and the authorities alike.

One of the unique features of the Press Council of India is that it has been set up under an Act of Parliament, while parallel institutions of similar bodies in most countries of the world are mostly voluntary organisations and it is the only body to inquire into cases of the interference with the press freedom. Notwithstanding the fact that a substantial part of its funds is augmented by grants-in-aid from the Government, it has full functional autonomy and independence from government control in the discharge of its statutory responsibilities.

Justice G.N. Ray nominated Chairman for the second term

As per the provision of the Press Council Act, 1978 the nomination of the Chairman is to be made by a Committee constituted of the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and a member from among the members of the Press Council. The Council met at New Delhi on February 8, 2008 to select a nominee of the Council on the nominating Committee for the selection of the Chairman. The Press Council members unanimously elected Mr. Uttam Chandra Sharma to be their nominee on the Committee for the purpose. His name was forwarded to the Chairman of Rajya Sabha as per the requirement of the rules prescribed in this behalf.

The Nomination Committee renominated Mr. Justice G.N. Ray as the Chairman of the Council for the second term. This was notified in the Gazette of India on May 19, 2008 (Annexure-B).

Changes in Membership

During the reviewed year Dr. K. Keshava Rao, M.P. Rajya Sabha, was nominated as member of the Press Council for the remaining Xth term w.e.f. September 19, 2008 (Annexure-C) vice the vacancy of Dr. (Smt.) Prabha Thakur, M.P. Rajya Sabha who tendered her resignation as member of the Council under provisions of Section 6(5) of the Press Council Act, 1978 upon her appointment as National President of Mahila Congress.

Tributes

Shri Binod Kumar Mishra, a veteran journalist and former member, Press Council of India, between 1982-1988 expired on November 15, 2008. The Council deeply condoled his demise and paid rich tributes to him. It passed resolution recording his valuable contribution to the Press Council of India.

The Press Council also noted the sad demise of Ms. Amita Malik, a veteran columnist and film critic. It recalled her perseverance in writing for the Press Council's publication on the National Press Day-2006 Souvenir despite her failing health. Rich tributes were paid to the departed soul.

New Logo of the Press Council of India

An amendment in the State Emblem of India (Regulation of Use) Rules, 2007 and State Emblem of India (Prohibition of Improper Use) Act, 2005 recognized statutory authorities amongst the bodies authorised to use the emblem along with the name of the authority. In order to reflect the statutory autonomous quasi judicial stature of the body created/functioning under an Act of Parliament, accordingly a synchronized design depicting the logo of the Press Council of India and State Emblem of India for use in official stationery etc. was adopted by the Council and has been reflected on the cover of this report.

Working of the Council April 1, 2008 - March 31, 2009

Meetings of Council and its Committees

Section 8(1) of the Press Council Act, 1978 lays down:-

“For the purpose of performing its functions under this Act, the Council may constitute from among its members, such Committees for general or special purposes as it may deem necessary and every Committee so constituted shall perform such functions as are assigned to it by the Council”.

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 requirements of the task assigned. Generally all Committees i.e. Standing Committees and *ad-hoc* Committees are headed by the Chairman of the Council. The Committees of the Council, especially the Inquiry Committees, bear large quantum of work load. The composition of the two Inquiry Committees of the Council is as follows.

Inquiry Committee (I)

1. Shri Vishnu Nagar
2. Ms. Suman Gupta
3. Shri K. Sreenivas Reddy
4. Shri M.K. Ajith Kumar
5. Shri G. Prabhakaran

6. Shri S.N. Sinha
7. Shri T. Venkatram Reddy
8. Shri Kundan Raman Lal Vyas
9. Shri Ramesh Gupta
10. Shri Sushil Jhalani
11. Shri Milan Kumar Dey
12. Dr. Sebastian Paul, M.P.
13. Shri Bharatsinh Madhavsinh Solanki, M.P.
14. Dr. Prabha Thakur, M.P.(Ceased to be a member of the I.C./Council upon her resignation)
15. Dr. K. Keshava Rao, M.P.

Inquiry Committee (II)

1. Shri Uttam Chandra Sharma
2. Shri Sheetla Singh
3. Shri Vijay Kumar Chopra
4. Shri Yogesh Chandra Halan
5. Shri Mihir Gangopadhyay (Ganguly)
6. Shri Joginder Chawla
7. Shri Kalyan Barooah
8. Shri Hormusji Nusserwanji Cama
9. Shri Anil Jugal Kishore Agrawal
10. Shri V.S. Chandrasekar
11. Shri Paranjoy Guha Thakurta
12. Dr. Lalit Mangotra
13. Shri M.A. Kharabela Swain, M.P.
14. Shri Yashwant Sinha, M.P.

The two Inquiry Committees, presided over by the Chairman, shoulder the major workload of the Council. In the inquiry before the Committees, which is open to public, the parties are entitled to adduce relevant evidence, oral or

documentary and make submissions in support of their contentions. They are also allowed to be represented by lawyers. At the close of the inquiry, the Committee makes a report of its findings on the allegations contained in the complaint together with its reasons and submits the records of the case to the Council for final decision. During the financial year, the two Inquiry Committees held 10 sittings and heard a total of 172 matters including adjourned cases and made their recommendations in 135 matters to the Council for final adjudication. Besides 443 matters were decided under the proviso to Section 14(1) of the Press Council Act.

The full Council held three sittings during the reviewed year to discuss matters having vital bearing on press freedom and its standards. The workload of the Council has increased manifold.

The important Sub Committees which functioned during the period under review were:

1. Fact Finding Committee in the complaint of Shri Samiudeen Neelu, Reporter, Amar Ujala, Lakhimpur, Khiri (U.P.) against Ms. N. Padmaja, the then Senior Superintendent of Police, Lakhimpur, Khiri, (U.P.).
2. Assessment Committee regarding complaint of the Managing Director and Editor-in-Chief, Karavali Ale, Mangalore against anti-social elements and police authorities.
3. Sub Committee to examine the issue of threats/ problems faced by small and medium newspapers for collection of news and those affecting their stability due to non-adoption of Model Accreditation- Advertisement Rules framed by the Council.

Reports Adopted by the Council:-

- **State of Newspaper Scene-2007**

Subsequent to the one of the recommendations drawn up at the International Symposia organized by the Press Council of India on November 16-17, 2006 which stated that: The Press Council's and similar bodies may take steps to facilitate research on the societal impacts of the media globalization, the Press Council of India assigned the job to Centre for Media Studies to undertake a short term research project on Assessment of Newspapers Scenario-2007. The Council adopted the report prepared by Centre for Media Studies on July 14, 2008 in its meeting held on October 13-14, 2008. The said report can be seen in January, 2009 issue of PCI Review, the in-house quarterly journal of the Council and is also displayed on the website of the Council.

- **Report of the Council on the Complaint of the Managing Director and Editor-in-Chief, Karavali Ale, Mangalore against Anti Social Elements & Police Authorities.**

Following reports of arrest and production of the editor of Karavali Ale before the courts handcuffed, an Assessment Committee was deputed to Karnataka. The Council on March 2, 2009 adopted the report of the Assessment Committee which examined the charges of attack on Editor-in-Chief of Karavali Ale, and its office by anti-social elements and the unsatisfactory role of the police authorities in subsequent days. The detailed text of the report can be seen in Chapter - IV of this Annual Report.

Opinions

In its advisory capacity the Council provided the Government and other authorities with its views on:-

1. Reference from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting regarding Draft Cabinet Note on the amendments to certain provisions of the Industrial Dispute Act, 1947
2. “Growth of Print Media in Liberalized Economy”. : To Consultative Committee of MPs attached to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
3. Opinion Polls/Exit Polls during Election Process: To Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice—examination of the Representation of the People (Second Amendment) Bill-2008
4. Reference from Government of India regarding implementation of the provisions of UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
5. Meeting with Departments/Ministries on “NGO Database” and “National Policy on the Voluntary Sector”

Complaints before the Council

During the year under review, a total of 726 complaints were instituted in the Council. Of these, 185 complaints were by the Press against authorities of the Government for violation of press freedom and 541 complaints were directed against the press for breach of journalistic ethics. With 759 matters pending from the last year, there were a total of 1485 matters for disposal by the Council. Of these, 581 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 for not being pursued, withdrawal or on account of matters having become *sub-judice*. Out of these 581 matters, three matters were directly placed before the Council for adjudication. In all 904 matters were being processed at the close of the year. A detailed statement of the institution and disposal of complaints is at Annexure-A.

Suo motu Cognizance

The Council took *suo motu* cognizance of the incidents of violation against mediapersons and threats to press freedom in the following cases:

1. Harassment of Journalist on the basis of the news report published by Jansatta in its issue dated 21.4.2008.
2. Attack on the offices of Andhra Jyoti on the basis of news report published in The Hindu issue dated 27.5.2008.
3. Sedition and treason charges against The Times of India, Ahmedabad by the City Police Commissioner on the basis of the news items published in The Hindu and The Indian Express dated 2.6.2008 and The Times of India, dated 3.6.2008.

Since the government has chosen to proceed with the matter and the case being *sub-judice* the issue has been kept pending for the present.

4. Attack on Loksatta Editor's home, on the basis of news report published by The Hindustan Times, The Indian Express and The Hindu dated 6.6.2008.
5. Attack on the editorial office of a Nepali Daily, Hamro Prajashakti, Gangtok, Sikkim as per the press release dated 5.7.2008 issued by the Sikkim Pradesh Congress Committee, Gangtok.
6. Attack on the media freedom in Jammu & Kashmir on the basis of a news report published by The Indian Express, New Delhi issue dated 3.9.2008.
7. Bid to attack The Hindu office in Coimbatore on the basis of a news item published by The Hindu in its issue dated 14.10.2008.
8. Killing of journalists in Assam and Manipur on the basis of attention drawn by the former member PCI and press release, issued by the Journalist Union of Assam and news items published in The Hindustan Times dated 25.11.2008.
9. An SOS, subversion of Press Freedom in Mangalore and Udupi on the basis of complaint filed by the Editor-in-Chief Karavali Ale, Mangalore.

Updation of guidelines on HIV/AIDS Reporting

The Press Council of India under the mandate of Section 13(2) (b) of the Press Council Act, 1978 is to build up a set of guidelines to facilitate the functioning of the media. Therefore, in pursuance of Order of Hon'ble Court of Juvenile, Thiruvananthapuram in a writ petition no. CMP 52/2008 filed by National Network of Positive People objecting to an incident relating to visual screened by the media of two children afflicted with HIV/AIDS, the Council in consultations with the representatives of UNAIDS and activists in the field has updated the guidelines drawn up in 1993 on HIV/AIDS and the Media. The Council while adopting these guidelines on October 13-14, 2008 proposed their dissemination with translation in other languages to facilitate better understanding of the issue in state by regional and local media.

Seminars and Workshops

During the period under review the Council encouraged debates on media matters through various seminars/conferences/meets.

Following the successful completion of National and Regional workshops by the Supreme Court of India, National Legal Services Authority, Press Council of India and Editors Guilds of India on "Reporting of Court Proceedings by Media and Administration of Justice" the need for in depth training to the legal Correspondents/ Journalists was felt. Thus, five days residential training course on "Reporting of Court Proceedings by Media and Administration of Justice" for Legal Correspondents/Journalists was organized by National Legal Services Authority and IGNOU in association with Press Council of India and Editors Guild of India from 7th - 11th December 2008 at Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi.

The Press Council of India in collaboration with the Editor's Guild of India and Tilak Patrakar Bhawan Trust organized a workshop in Nagpur on January 21, 2009 on 'News Coverage During Crisis : Rights and Responsibilities of Media'. The workshop spread into three Sessions including inaugural session was addressed by Council members and eminent mediapersons. Many other prominent personalities held active panel discussions on the subject.

National Press Day Celebrations, 2008

National Press Day was observed on November 16 with discussion on "**Women and Media**". H.E. Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, President of India, inaugurated the celebrations in the capital. A Souvenir carrying valuable articles from eminent personalities was also released on the occasion. Similar deliberations

were held at various levels throughout the country and the newspapers also dedicated the day to declare their commitment to a free and ethical press.

Website Updation

One of the performance targets set out by the Council for the year 2008-2009 was to prepare data pertaining to the Adjudications Rendered by the Council since its inception in complaints filed by the Press and against the Press and Index of Orders of the Press and Registration Appellate Board since 1982. This target was duly achieved.

The Indexes which provide a bird's eye view of the nature of decisions rendered by the Council will shortly be uploaded on Council's website with an objective to provide access to general public. The browser will be able to take the decisions of the Council in specific complaint adjudication wise and also publication wise.

The website of the Council was also enriched with latest activities of the Council for greater transparency.

Matters Considered by the Council

Communication received from Shri V.K. Chopra, Member, Press Council of India regarding DAVP

Shri V.K. Chopra, Member, Press Council of India while referring to the main objectives of the Press Council, to preserve the freedom of the Press and to maintain and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India submitted that to a large extent independence of a newspaper depends upon its economic viability and that DAVP advertisements are a major source of this stream of revenue for all newspaper publication and this constitutes 80 to 100 per cent for most of the small and medium ones. There have been many instances of notices issued by the Press Council of India to DAVP on issues relating to empanelment, payments, rate revision etc. for which newspaper publications have lodged complaints to the Press Council in the recent past. Unfortunately none of these issues seem to have been attended to by the DAVP.

He stated that it has become imperative on the part of the Press Council now to exercise the power as vested in a civil court and summon the concerned officers of the DAVP to evolve solutions to the issues without any further delay. He has requested the Council to initiate necessary steps in this regard.

The matter was discussed by the Council in depth emphasizing the need to ensure that the direction and observations of the Council are given due attention and implemented by the Central and State Governments. The matter

had been taken up with the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting for ensuring the response of the DAVP in the complaints before it.

- **Communication received from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting regarding minutes of the meeting of Consultative Committee of MPs attached to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting held on 2.6.2008**

The Council considered the reference from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting w.r.t. minutes of the meeting of the Consultative Committee of MPs attached to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting held on 2nd June, 2008 regarding granting more power to the Press Council of India, and the need for setting up Institutes of Journalism that would provide quality training to journalists along with lines of IIMC.

The Council deliberated the matter at length and appreciated views of the Consultative Committee for its keenness to strengthen the mechanism of the Press Council and supporting the amendments for empowerment of the Council and also reiterated that there should be one authority to monitor the media functioning and its freedom, and the Central Government should bring the Electronic Media under the purview of the Press Council of India so that the guidelines drawn can cover the electronic media as well to encourage it to act with responsibility as well as freedom.

- **Reference received from Legal Luminary, Shri Fali S. Nariman regarding adherence of Code of Conduct by newspapers published in India**

Shri Fali S. Nariman, Legal Luminary *vide* his letter dated 13.6.2008 furnished a copy of the advertisement material published in the newspapers regarding their adherence to the code of practice of the Press Council of Ireland and Press Ombudsman. He suggested that similar exercise may be undertaken in India.

The Council appreciated his suggestion as it appeared to be a positive step for the newspapers in India to subscribe to the code of conduct built by it for years together with modification as per Indian environment. Similar awareness campaign was undertaken by the Council way back in 1999 and 2004. The Council opined that similar exercise may be undertaken again so as to give the matter wider publicity through registered national as well as regional newspapers besides recognised press associations including P.I.B.

DUJ reference regarding Jamia Coverage; Batla House Encounter

The Delhi Union of Journalists *vide* its communication dated 4.10.2008

sought urgent intervention in the matter relating to press coverage of Batla/Jamia Encounter for *suo-motu* action. Filing a report on the Delhi Encounter: A look at the media coverage, DUJ submitted that the unethical reporting of the said episode attempted to divide communities. DUJ stated that in view of the serial blasts in the country a call for restraint and ruling from the Press Council is required. Subsequently, similar request was also received from National Commission for Minorities to examine the media reports on the said encounter.

Shri Yogesh Chandra Halan, Member, Press Council of India who was requested by the Council to examine the matter has submitted his report. The report is to be considered in ensuing financial year.

- **Guidelines on caution against overseas employment advertisements**

The Council considered a letter dated 14.8.2008 received from the Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi which administers the Emigration Act, 1983 regulating overseas recruitment informing that advertisers are not complying with the requirement of indicating the registration number or permit number in overseas recruitment advertisements. Very often such advertisers turn out to be unregistered or illegal recruiting agents who cheat the prospective emigrants by overcharging and landing them with unscrupulous foreign employers. Similarly, the foreign employers who advertise without obtaining permit also tend to deviate from the terms and conditions of employment mentioned in the advertisement.

The matter was earlier considered by the Council way back in 2003 and it had issued an advisory to the press in this regard which it appears the press is not willing to enforce apparently for revenue considerations.

As requested by the said Ministry the Council decided to reiterate the advice replacing the name of Ministry of Labour with that of Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs to make the press understand the importance of accepting only law-compliant advertisements for overseas recruitment.

- **Communications dated 6.11.2008 and 12.12.2008 received from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting seeking comments with regard to Committee of Governors (CoG) to study and recommend strategies for speedy Economic Development and Empowerment of Women.**

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting *vide* its letter dated 21.10.2008 while referring to the Constitution of a Committee of Governors to study and recommend strategies for speedy socio economic development and empowerment

of women and its term solicited the comments of the Council on Point 4(x) of Terms of reference which read as follows:-

“To suggest how to utilize media, both traditional and the state of art, to instill a heightened sense of awareness in the society about gender equality and eradication of social evils”

The Council reiterating its proposals already made over the years stressed on the deliberation of 2008 National Press Day from which two major recommendations that emerged were sent to the Government. These were:-

1. “Keeping in view the recent Media boom, a deliberate policy for ensuring adequate representation of women both in public and private sectors of the media is required, not only for giving women a source of livelihood but also to ensure their adequate and effective representation as women journalists are competent and have skill to analyse or handle women related issues with sensitivity. The society therefore, must make arrangements to provide adequate security to the vulnerable section of women in the media to promote their participation at all levels”, and
2. “The Media has a potential in contributing to the advancement of women. It can create self regulatory mechanism that can help to eliminate misleading and improper gender based programming. The media should play a salutary and a liberating role to give to women the distinctive and exclusive space, which must belong to them to enable them to generate the ethical and moralizing impulses for the entire society”.

- **Nomination for the Felix Houphouet- Boigny Peace Prize-2009**

In recognition of the contribution of the Press Council of India to the principles of press standards and freedom in the country the Government of India has nominated the Press Council of India for the Felix Houphouet-Boigny Peace Prize-2009 set up by UNESCO.

- **C.W.6804/2007-Indian Federation of Working Journalists Vs. Press Council of India**

The Hon'ble High Court of Delhi declined to pass any order in the C.W.6804/2007 filed by Indian Federation of Working Journalists against the Press Council of India for not accepting its claim for recognition under Section 5(4) of the Press Council Act, 1978 for the 10th term. The Indian Federation of Working Journalists was however, given liberty to apply for next Press

Council with directions that the application will be heard by the Press Council on merits and as per the norms laid down by the Press Council for its new constitution.

- **Amendment to the Press Council Act, 1978 and Rules & Regulations made thereunder**

The matter of amendments to the Press Council Act, 1978 has been considered by the Council time and again in the light of the experience from time to time. These proposals were returned by the Central Government for views of the present Council in the matter. The Council in its meeting held on October 14, 2008 had an in-depth discussion on the amendments proposed. Subsequently in its March 2, 2009 meeting the Council finalized the amendments proposed to the Press Council Act, 1978. The same have been forwarded to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for necessary action. The proposed amendments can be seen at Annexure-J

- **Office Memo. No. 17/2/08-PPC dated 16.2.2009 issued by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting regarding constitution of Media Consultation Committee for media facilitation under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India has constituted a Media Consultative Committee for media facilitation under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to serve as a forum of regular consultations between government and various professional media bodies; to provide a platform for exchange of views on concerns of civil society; to discuss concerns of media organizations on various regulatory/policy/procedural matters; the Committee will meet at least twice a year or as and when necessary. The Press Council of India is to be represented on the Committee by its Secretary.

- **Misuse of Press Council of India's Name**

The Council time and again noted with concern the existence of some fake bodies misusing the name of the Press Council. It also took note of the fact that some of the authorities were also ignorant about the said fake organizations misusing the name of the Press Council of India.

The Council cautioned the public and approached the concerned authorities in the States to cancel the registration of these fake organizations/bodies. A press release to this effect was also issued on May 13, 2008. An appropriate amendment in the Press Council Act, 1978 is also on anvil in this regard.

- **Guidelines for Publication and Dissemination of Results of Opinion Polls/Exit Polls**

In pursuance to the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, the Election Commission of India issued the following directions with regard to dissemination of results of opinion polls and exit polls regarding elections to the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies of the States/Union Territories by any media/agency/organization/individuals:

No result of any opinion poll or exit polls conducted at any time shall be published, publicized or disseminated in any manner, whatsoever, by print, electronic or any other media, at any time-

- (a) during the period of 48 hours ending with the hour fixed for closing of poll in an election held in a single phase; and
- (b) in a multi-phased election, and in the case of elections in different States announced simultaneously, at any time during the period starting from 48 hours before the hour fixed for closing of poll in the first phase of the election and till the poll is concluded in all the phases in all States.

The Council in wake of forthcoming Lok Sabha Election issued advisory to the media to follow guidelines on election reporting formulated by it. Similarly, the Council also issued advisory for observance by the authorities/agencies which are involved in electoral process to allow media to place of election process within the frame work of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, and Rules 32 and 53 of Conduct of Election Rules, 1961

Vigilance Activities

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 and Section Officer (Admn.) functioned under the direct supervision of the Secretary (CVO) and Chairman of the Council. It conducted regular surprise checks to prevent/combat any corrupt practices in the Secretariat.

Grievance Redressal Mechanism

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. Such general aggrieved public, who desire to meet the Director of Grievance in connection with their grievances, may 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.

Citizen's Charter

The Citizen's Charter of the Council containing all the necessary details of the organisation is available in the booklet form in the Library of the Council, and can be accessed in the official website of the Council. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the Library of Parliament of India have been provided with the charter. Timely reviews/internal and external evaluation shall be undertaken by the Council for feedback in the level of satisfaction among citizen's.

Hindi Diwas-2008

The 14th of September has been declared as the Hindi Diwas in India. Like every year, Hindi Fortnight (Pakhwada) was observed in the Secretariat. On the occasion a workshop was organized on 10th of September on "Administrative & Technical Terminology, Noting Drafting" for employees of the Press Council of India. As a part of "Hindi Pakhwada" a debate was also organized on the subject "Rashtra Ke Akta Aur Akhandta Mein Hindi Ka Yogdan". Two prizes were distributed among the employees of the Council. The employees of the Press Council of India were also given four awards under 'Protsahan Yojana' for their participation and contribution in encouraging the use of language in the office practices and procedures. The adjudications and other pronouncements of the Council were recorded in bilingual form and brought in public domain.

A Workshop was also organized on 24th March, 2009 to promote Hindi in the Council on the topic *viz.* "Section 3(3) of Official Language Act, other rules and quarterly report of Rajbhasha.

Press & Registration Appellate Board

Section 8C of the Press & 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. During the year Shri Ramesh Gupta functioned as a Member of the Board.

At the beginning of the period under review, 12 appeals were pending before the board and eight new appeals were preferred. The board held four sittings during the year. Out of these 20 appeals, eight appeals were disposed off, 12 appeals are pending for consideration before the Appellate Board.

State of the Press –India

The media in India represents a confluence of paradoxes: tradition and modernity, anarchy and order, diversity and unity, conflict and cooperation, news and views, feudalism and democracy, the free market and monopoly.

Despite India's recent economic growth and longstanding democratic government, the country remained a dangerous place for journalists. While journalists in the conflict ridden north and northeast continued to practice their professions in the line of fire, their colleagues in the rest of the country frequently faced intimidation and attacks from political parties and religious extremists.

Year 2008-2009 saw the country surcharged with tension created by series of coordinated terrorist attacks that struck more than a dozen locations in the commercial capital, Mumbai, killing more than 170 and wounding hundreds. Witnesses became journalists as they twittered upto 100 messages a minute, posted pictures to flicker and transmitted cell phone video to television networks, all of which provided a hectic yet compelling real time account of the horrific three day siege in late November 2008. The instantaneous spread of information on the assault- which hit two lavish hotels, a railway station, a Jewish Centre, hospital among other sites- illustrated as much as any recent event the extraordinary revolution in media and communication. Media's flip-flop in Aarushi murder case is also a prime example of the impact media can have on the public opinion and psyche and its role in opinion moulding.

The reporting of the above issues brought the media as much acclaim as criticism. The absence of self-regulation by media in covering such sensitive issues led the government to mull over content-regulations.

Given below are a collection of reports that cover important developments in the Indian press during the year 2008-2009.

Readership Surveys

More people in India want the media to be free to publish news and ideas "without government control" than those who would prefer some state intervention, a worldwide survey on freedom of press said on May 1, 2008. The survey by "WorldPublicOpinion.org", released to commemorate World Press Freedom Day, also found that a "modest" majority of Indians realised the importance of media freedom. On the question of more freedom for media, Indians were somewhat divided, with about 36 per cent backing the proposition and 19 per cent favouring *status quo*. Interestingly, however, 32 per cent actually favoured restriction of freedom for the media in India. (**The Hindu, New Delhi dated May 2, 2008**)

Print publication advertising revenues in Indian generated \$2.4 billion in 2007, or 48 per cent of all of the country's media advertising revenues, Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC) said in recent report. TV ads generated 41 per cent. With the economy having grown at an average rate of 8.75 per cent in the last four years, middle class incomes have risen, boosting demand for niche magazines on health, leisure and finances.

Growing prosperity in rural areas is also encouraging demand for publications in India's more than 20 official regional languages. Revenue for newspapers and magazines in India – where reading at least one newspaper in the morning is sacrosanct – grew at an average rate of 15 per cent in the last four years, higher than anywhere in the world, PWC said. The growth is helped by a young demographic, more working women, rapid urbanisation and smaller households, PWC added in its report. **(The Indian Express, New Delhi dated May 12, 2008)**

Growth of electronic media has not affected print media, which in fact has actually grown further both in terms of circulation and readership, according to the Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Mr. P.R Dasmunsi. The Ministry has given approvals for publication of 284 magazines in this sector. While an overwhelming number of these pertain to the scientific and technical categories, a good number relate to the specialty sector pertaining to general reader interest like lifestyle and entertainment.

According to the survey of “India Media & Entertainment Scenario” conducted jointly by FICCI and Price Waterhouse Coopers, the print media industry stood at Rs. 149 billion in 2007 and recorded a growth of 16 per cent over previous year. During the same period the magazine industry size was estimated at Rs.19 billion and registered a growth of 15 per cent. According to the study, Indian print media is projected to grow by 14 per cent over the next five years and magazine publishing to grow at a higher rate of 15 per cent. **(The Statesman, New Delhi dated June 3, 2008)**

Growing literacy and new technology have resulted in India emerging as the second largest newspaper market in the world, according to a research report by the World Association of Newspapers (WAN). The new figures show that the four largest markets for newspapers are: China, with 107 million copies sold daily; India, with 99 million copies daily; Japan, with 68 million copies daily; and the United States, with nearly 51 million.

Indian newspaper sales increased 11.2 per cent in 2007 and 35.51 per cent in the five year period. Newspaper advertising revenues in India were up 64.8 per cent over the previous five years. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated June 4, 2008)**

The advertising industry in India is growing at a healthy pace, despite the recessionary trends from the overseas market. The Rs. 20,717- crore industry has clocked a smart 17% increase in 2008, over 2007, with advertising in print continuing to hold the largest share of the pie at 47%. Advertising on the box came in a close second, cornering 41% of the advertising pie, according to a new advertising outlook report.

Print did seem to lose some steam in the second half of 2008 and lost a 1% share compared to 2007. TV on the other hand, gained a minuscule 1% share in comparison to 2007. The report noted that both print and TV continue to dominate the ad market with a combined share of 88%. The surprise feature in 2008 was the Internet. Though on a very small base, advertising on the net has grown at 45% and has reached a respectable size of Rs.363 crore. The report has projected an increase of only 2% for the ad industry in 2009. (**The Times of India, New Delhi dated February 2, 2009**).

If low cover price and large dependence on advertisement money are bane for India's print media (news papers and magazines) at present, there is no hope for any relief in the future.

The slowdown in economic activity has adversely impacted the fortunes of print media in the current financial. In 2008-09 total revenue of the industry is expected to reach Rs.18, 390 crore, only 6 per cent higher than the previous fiscal. It predicts that the year 2009-10 will be difficult too as the industry's revenue growth will be marginally better at 7 per cent. (**The Deccan Herald, Bangalore dated February 18, 2009**)

Press – A Ringside View

Foreign Direct Investment in the Media

With web editions flooding the Internet, the UPA Government plans to tweak the country's media policy to allow foreign news and current affairs magazines to print their Indian version, without any restriction on reporting local news.

The Information and Broadcasting Ministry has proposed that the content allowed would be up to "100 per cent identical to the foreign magazine", with "the Indian publisher free to add local content". The Indian publisher would also be free to insert local advertisements," say the proposed guidelines.

However, permission would be granted only to Indian companies registered under the Indian Companies Act, with the largest Indian shareholder – individually or collectively – holding at least 51 per cent of the paid-up equity.

Foreign investment up to a maximum of 26 per cent would be permissible, with the cap including foreign direct investment from foreign entities, non-resident Indians, persons of Indian origin and portfolio investments by recognised foreign institutional investors.

“Permission would be conditional on at least 3/4th of the Directors on the Board of Directors of the applicant Indian company and all key executives and editorial staff being resident Indians,” say the guidelines. **(The Indian Express, New Delhi dated June 10, 2008)**

The government’s move to allow Indian editions of foreign news and current affairs magazines has drawn flak from political parties, leading editors and opinion-makers who feel that this would undermine the media’s right to freedom of expression, as enshrined in the Constitution, and will be detrimental for the Indian media. **(The Times of India, New Delhi dated June 27, 2008)**

In a major decision that will inject new vigour into print media, the government on 18.9.2008 allowed Indian editions of foreign magazines with news and current affairs content with 26 percent FDI.

With this decision, foreign magazines can come out with Indian editions with local as well as global contents at cheaper prices.

Earlier, only 26 percent FDI was allowed in Indian print media while foreign magazines were allowed through facsimile edition. **(The Deccan Chronicle, Hyderabad dated September 19, 2008)**

In continuation of the Government’s relaxation of norms for foreign journals in India, the Centre has cleared the publication of facsimile editions of foreign newspapers in the country. The Wall Street Journal became the first foreign paper to get the nod.

Issuing the guidelines, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting also mandated that 75 per cent of the Boards of Directors of the publishing companies should be resident Indians. The magazines have been allowed to reproduce their foreign editions entirely, while permitting them to add local content and advertisements. **(The Pioneer, New Delhi dated February 12, 2009)**

Content Regulations *vis-a-vis* Self – Regulation of Electronic Media

The Information and Broadcasting Ministry has set up a media-monitoring centre to keep a watch on channel content. The Ministry is expected to come out with a set of guidelines shortly even though there is no consensus on the issue between the government and private broadcasters.

Located at the Prasar Bharati office, the Rs. 16-crore Electronic Media Monitoring Centre, can monitor over 100 television channels simultaneously.

The centre's main focus would be to keep track of programmes that violate the Programmes and Advertising Codes under Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995. It has been designed on a web-based system, which facilitates monitoring of channels and signals, can record content and retrieve recorded footage.

The Code prescribed under the proposed Broadcasting Bill has however come under fire with TV channels, describing it as an attempt to control the media. The National Broadcasters Association has also submitted its own proposals on content regulation to the Ministry. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated June 15, 2008)**

The News Broadcasters Association (NBA) – a collective of private news and current affairs channels – on August 22, 2008 announced the setting up of a 'News Broadcasting Standards (Disputes Redress) Authority' to enforce its Code of Ethics and Broadcasting Standards.

The former Chief Justice of India, J.S. Verma, will Chair the Authority, which will become operational from October 2. The other eight members have been equally divided into the 'eminent persons' and 'editors' categories.

The Authority has been established as part of the NBA's commitment to the government that it would regulate itself as an alternative to the long-pending proposal for setting up a regulatory authority for the broadcast sector. Earlier, the NBA drew up its code of ethics and submitted it to the government. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated August 23, 2008)**

A new set of government guidelines will now regulate television content.

The Information and Broadcasting Ministry has decided to review its content code after it drew flak from the courts for the falling quality of TV content.

Till now, only the News Broadcasters Association has constituted a Committee headed by former Chief Justice of India, J.S. Verma for complaints. There is no such body for entertainment or sports channels even though the Indian Broadcasting Foundation has submitted a draft on self-regulation. "The government should approve the draft for us to set up a complaint redressal body," a foundation official said.

The ministry officials, however, said the industry was not eager to regulate itself. Moreover, the programme code under the Cable Network (Regulation) Act had been found to be grossly inadequate. "We need a more comprehensive and elaborate code to protect ethos of citizens," an official said. **(The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated October 29, 2008)**

Television Channels run by religious and political entities may not stay on air for long, if the government accepts the recommendations of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). TRAI is the policy recommending body for the broadcast sector. TRAI Chairperson Nripendra Mishra, in his letter to Information and Broadcasting Secretary Sushma Singh, said restricting religious and political organisations from running TV channels “will ensure the... medium is used for advancing public interest” and “for greater realisation of the common man’s right to be informed fully and fairly”. TRAI has recommended that such channels be phased out in three-four years. TRAI also recommended stricter code for religious content in the proposed Broadcast Regulatory Bill. **(The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated November 13, 2008)**

Reality Shows have come under the government scanner for a totally unexpected reason – to find out whether the shows involving children are putting a stress on them, thereby affecting their education.

On this issue, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights has issued a notice to Labour Secretary, Sudha Pillai asking the Ministry to submit a report on the impact of these popular TV shows on performing children *vis-à-vis* time to study and play. The UN Convention on Child Rights prescribes enough studying and playing time for each child. **(The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated June 10, 2008)**

Blaming ‘saas bahu’ serials for their skewed portrayal of women and ignorance of the legal system, the National Commission for Women has demanded a regulatory system to check content on television and the internet.

The Commission has mooted changes in the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act keeping in view the spurt of television channels, their content and technological changes on the web. **(The Times of India, New Delhi dated June 25, 2008)**

The Press Council of India has urged the government to constitute a media commission to study the problems being faced by the media industry, said the Council Chairman Justice G.N. Ray.

“We have suggested that the Press Council be converted into a Media Council to include the visual media. But the government is not keen in this regard” he said adding the government is contemplating some other regulations.

The government can constitute a media commission and based on the recommendations of the commission it can think about a regulatory body. **(Sunday Express, Kozhikode dated September 21, 2008)**

Ban on Exit Poll

The Union Cabinet gave its approval to the proposal to restrict the telecast of exit polls till the last polling in an election is over and also amend the Representation of the Peoples Act, 1951 in this regard.

The government said the restriction on the telecast of exit polls would enable the voters to exercise their right to vote without being influenced by the projection of the exit polls after the one phase of voting was over and the other phases of voting were yet to be completed. **(The Tribune, Chandigarh dated October 17, 2008)**

Though the Election Commission of India has tried to rein in exit and opinion polls, banning publication and dissemination of such polls in the 48-hour period before the end of the polls, the Parliamentary Committee on law and justice has come out in support of exit polls, calling these an essential part of democratic process.

In its 33rd report on “The Representation of the People (Second Amendment) Bill, 2008” tabled in Parliament on February 18, 2009, the Committee has come out in support of exit polls.

The committee has also recommended that the government should handle the complicated issue cautiously and the media may be allowed to conduct exit polls during elections. “However, reasonable restrictions should also be there so that free and fair elections are not affected in any manner by the dissemination of the results of the exit polls,” the report adds. **(The Asian Age, New Delhi dated February 19, 2009)**

Private broadcasters on 10.10.2008 came down heavily on the Government decision to restrict telecast and publication of exit polls during elections till the conclusion of the final phase of polling, terming it a move that violates their freedom of expression. **(Deccan Herald, Bangalore dated October 11, 2008)**

- The Jammu and Kashmir government has asked the vernacular press to refrain from publication of advertisements of separatists asking people to boycott the ensuing elections in the state or be ready to lose its advertisements.

The Government advertisement policy clearly prohibits publication of certain objectionable material. Any newspaper violating it is required to be de-listed from the list of newspapers approved for government advertisements. **(The Tribune, Chandigarh dated November 5, 2008)**

- The centre on February 11, 2009 abolished customs duty on import of newsprint as well as glazed newsprint. **(The Statesman, New Delhi dated February 12, 2009)**

- With the proliferation of new and emerging media like Internet, Internet TV and FM radio, the government is seriously considering a proposal to set up a Commission to frame comprehensive guidelines to cover all media.

The proposal for setting up a Media Commission on the lines of earlier such exercises initiated by former Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru and Morarji Desai was discussed at a meeting of consultative committee meeting of parliamentarians. **(The Asian Age, New Delhi dated February 16, 2009)**

- The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting announced a short – term stimulus package for the media on February 27, 2009, increasing the rate for Directorate of Advertisement and Visual Publicity (DAVP) advertisements by 10 per cent. The higher advertisement rate will be applicable only till June 30, 2009 and will be subject to documentary proof of loss of revenue in non-governmental advertisements as compared with the same period last year.

The Ministry will also waive the 15 per cent agency commission on DAVP advertisements until June 30, this year. Minister of State, Information and Broadcasting Ministry, Anand Sharma announced on February 27, 2009. **(The Indian Express, New Delhi dated February 28, 2009)**

Media Coverage of IPL Matches

Discounting the crucial role the media play in highlighting the game, the IPL governing body has refused to grant accreditation to websites for the event, and claimed sole copyright over all news photographs clicked by newspapers and agencies during the games.

With all newspapers having online editions, this means media organizations have been barred from uploading their own images online, a ridiculous demand which now threatens a media boycott of the much-hyped event unless BCCI does a rethink on its petty commercial agenda. **(The Times of India, New Delhi dated April 5, 2008)**

Television channels have decided to boycott the coverage of the IPL matches in wake of confrontation of IPL with print media. Main TV Channels decided to boycott the coverage of IPL from the midnight of April 18, 2008. News Broadcasters Association, the umbrella organization of TV Channels has taken this decision. The Association has apprised its decision to Shri Lalit Modi, Chairman, IPL. These TV Channels were opposing the decision of the IPL to give exclusive news rights of the IPL matches to Sony Network and IPL's refusal to discuss the issue. **(Dainik Jagran, New Delhi dated April 16, 2008)**

The News Broadcasters Association (NBA) an organisation of leading television news channels decided to cover the Indian Premier League (IPL) matches following an “amicable settlement of footage and accreditation issues.”

The breakthrough came at a meeting between NBA representatives and IPL Chairman and Commissioner, Lalit Modi in Mumbai. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated April 19, 2008)**

Media Reportage of Aarushi Murder Case

The Information and Broadcasting Ministry is considering issuing showcause notices to some television channels for reported character assassination of Aarushi Talwar, after the Noida police claimed she and Hemraj, the family servant, were very close. Aarushi’s father, Rajesh Talwar had been arrested on charges of killing both of them. The Information and Broadcasting Ministry had received representations from some child rights organizations on the Aarushi case but were examining whether action can be taken against the channels under programme code, officials said.

The Woman and Child Development Ministry has also written to the Information and Broadcasting Ministry, seeking action. Organisations like HAQ for Child Rights have been demanding action against the media for insensitive reporting in the case. **(The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated June 6, 2008)**

Nupur Talwar, mother of young Aarushi who was found murdered in neighbouring Noida last month, has urged the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights to restrain filmmakers from producing serials on her daughter’s killing.

In the letter, Nupur said Balaji Telefilms, taking undue advantage of publicity of the case, had claimed on record that it would incorporate Aarushi’s killing as part of a popular daily soap “Kahani Ghar Ghar Ki.” **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated June 10, 2008)**

The government directed *Star TV* to withhold telecast of an episode of TV serial *Kahani Ghar Ghar Ki*, in which Aarushi murder case was proposed to be dramatised. Information and Broadcasting (I&B) Ministry officials met senior *Star TV* representatives following complaints from the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCP CER) and Union Minister, Renuka Chowdhury. **(The Times of India, New Delhi dated June 11, 2008)**

Everyone is in the grip of Aarushi frenzy, lapping up every bit of information coming their way in the murder case, suggest television viewership data compiled from homes across India’s heartland. The data show that people are

more interested to know about who killed the Noida schoolgirl, than watch an IPL cricket match or Bollywood big draws Shah Rukh Khan and Salman Khan on TV. The news channels have reported a jump in their viewership ever since the news of the murder broke, possibly India's biggest crime story after the Nithari serial killing case of 2006.

For the news channels, it all started on May 16, when the news of the murder broke. According to TAM, the TRP of Hindi news channels jumped about two points. The jump was confirmed by aMAP too. The Head of a Hindi news channels said the Aarushi case was single most important factor for the jump. "To me, the only difference in the news content during the period was the Aarushi murder case. All that news channels ran around the clock was programmes on the twin murder case and that fetched high TRP," he said. **(The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated June 13, 2008)**

The Supreme Court directed the media to exercise restraint while reporting on the Aarushi-Hemraj double murder case. A bench headed by Justice Altamas Kabir said newspaper and television journalists should report the case with objectivity so as not to cause any prejudice to the reputation of the teenager's family and friends.

The direction came while the court was hearing a public interest litigation filed by advocate Surat Singh, seeking a direction to protect the reputation of Aarushi's family. He alleged the media and police maligned Aarushi's family and demanded action against the investigators for keeping the teenager's father in custody for 50 days, before declaring him innocent.

The petitioner has accused the media and police of indulging in character assassination of the dead girl. Singh has requested the court to direct Director Generals of Police of all states to ensure no information is leaked to the media regarding a criminal case while its investigation is pending. **(The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated July 13, 2008)**

Media Coverage of Mumbai Terror Attacks

The live coverage by the electronic media of the recent terror attacks in Mumbai has not been received well by the authorities. The Maharashtra government is drafting a proposal, by which it can black out news channels in situations like terror attacks.

A senior officer from the state home department said that the proposal would be sent to the Centre, as it is a subject under the Information and Broadcasting Ministry's jurisdiction. "The news channels showed rescue operation live. This could have proven dangerous if the terrorists had access to news channels. They would have known every move made by the security forces,"

he said. The new proposal is to black out news channels for the entire length of the operations carried out by security agencies. **(The Asian Age, New Delhi dated December 4, 2008)**

With the media's allegedly irresponsible coverage of the Mumbai terror siege under the scanner, the Information and Broadcasting (I&B) Ministry is set to introduce a set of specific guidelines for reporting on "emergency situations".

I&B Minister for State, Anand Sharma is learnt to have issued directions for instituting a 'Standing Media Consultative Committee' under the I&B Secretary to frame guidelines for coverage of emergency situations like terror strikes, natural disasters, riots and so on. This Committee would have representatives from the Editors Guild of India and Broadcasters' Associations as its members. **(The Indian Express, New Delhi dated December 5, 2008)**

Former Chief Justice J.S. Verma, who heads the News Broadcasting Standards Disputes Redressal Authority, on December 18, 2008 announced the "guidelines for telecast of news during emergency situations". The guidelines are said to have been "spontaneously accepted" by all 14 broadcasters running 22 news channels.

The guidelines stipulate that no 'live' contact can be made with perpetrators of the crime, their hostages/victims and security personnel involved during the course of the operation, no operational details can be made public during the course of action, avoiding unnecessary repeats of archival footage and broadcast of "distressing visuals and graphics."

While no specific penalty provisions for non-compliance of these guidelines were delineated by the authority, Justice Verma said existing provisions and powers that the authority is vested with, will also apply here. The authority is empowered to admonish, warn, censure, express disapproval and/or impose a fine up to Rs. 1 lakh upon the broadcaster and/or recommend to the concerned authority for suspension/revocation of license of such a broadcaster and also take *sou-motu* cognizance of any breach of content guidelines besides acting on complaints. **(The Indian Express, New Delhi dated December 19, 2008)**

Under fire from the media, the government has nixed its plan to provide authorised video footage to television channels during emergency situations. Seeking to distance itself from the controversial proposal to amend the Cable Television Network Regulations Act, highly placed sources in the government said that the proposal was only a suggestion made by various agencies and did not have the approval of the political establishment. **(The Times of India, New Delhi dated January 17, 2009)**

Attacks on Press

- Activists of a Dalit organisation attacked the office of a leading Telugu newspaper “Andhra Jyothi” on May 26, 2008 and went on a rampage, damaging windowpanes and torching furniture. The reason for their ire was a lead story, published in the daily, making critical comments about leaders of the dalit organisations, who resort to blackmail tactics and strike deals with the ruling political dispensation.

Enraged over the report, a group of over 20 MRPS workers, armed with batons, petrol bottles and stones, drove in two vans to the newspaper office at the posh Jubilee Hills area and gave vent to their ire. **(The Tribune, Chandigarh dated May 27, 2008)**

The editor and two journalists of Telugu daily ‘Andhra Jyoti’ were arrested on June 24, 2008 night under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act following a complaint of abuse lodged by a Scheduled Caste organisation.

The arrest came after the complaint by Madiga Reservation Samithi President, Krishna Madiga on May 28, accusing the newspaper staff of “abusing him by his caste”. **(The Times of India, New Delhi dated June 25, 2008)**

Media and major political parties were up in arms throughout Andhra Pradesh on 25th June 2008 to protest against the arrest and imprisonment of the Editor of Andhra Jyothi, K.Srinivas along with two reporters of the daily.

Mr. Srinivas and the two journalists were produced before the VI Metropolitan Magistrate on June 24, 2008 midnight and remanded to 14-day judicial custody. They were sifted to the Chanchalguda Central Prison on June 25, 2008 morning after detention overnight in Banjara Hills police station. The Andhra Jyothi management moved a bail petition in the Andhra Pradesh High Court praying for their release and the court posted the matter for 26th June. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated June 26, 2008)**

Editor of the Andhra Jyothi, Telugu daily, K Srinivas and two reporters were given bail on 26th June but could not be released from jail as the bail documents did not reach to the jail authorities before 5:30 pm.

The sixth Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge granted unconditional bail to K. Srinivas on payment of Rs. 10,000 surety. **(Deccan Herald, Bangalore dated June 27, 2008)**

- Activists of a radical pro-Marathi organisation on June 5, 2008 attacked and vandalised the house of Kumar Ketkar, Editor of *Loksatta*, the Marathi newspaper of *The Indian Express* Group, protesting against an editorial that

mocked the state government plans to install a 309-foot-tall statue of Shivaji in the Arabian Sea Off Marine Drive.

Some 70-80 men belonging to the Shiv Sangram, considered a socio-religious outfit and led by former NCP MLC Vinayak Methe, hurled stones, broke windowpanes, tarred doors and windows and tried to break into Ketkar's house in the Kopri area of Thane. They also burnt copies of Loksatta on the road outside the house.

Justifying the attack, Methe told *The Indian Express*: "After so many years, the state government has passed the proposal of installing Chhatrapati Shivaji's statue in the Arabian Sea. He (Ketkar) has used derogatory language against Chhatrapati Shivaji to oppose the move. So our workers attacked his residence in protest."

"It was a physical reaction to atrocious writing," Methe said. **(The Indian Express, New Delhi dated June 6, 2008)**

- Newspaper offices across Manipur have decided to defy the shutdown order of the underground militant outfit Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP) and resume publication from June 18, 2008. The decision was taken at an emergency general body meeting of the All Manipur Working Journalists' Union and the Editors' Forum Manipur on June 17, 2008 in the wake of threats from the Lanheiba group of the KCP (Military Council) over the publication of a statement issued by its propaganda, communication and technical officer, Tamnganba Meitei.

The meeting also decided not to entertain any press statements that would come after 7:00 p.m. and resolved not to entertain any statements released by the militant factions. On June 15, the group had asked media houses to stop publications from June 16, 2008 and threatened editors and reporters with dire consequences if they kept their offices open and continued to work.

As a result, no publications were brought out on June 16 and 17, 2008. Heavily armed state police commandoes were seen guarding some of the media houses in Imphal on June 16, 2008. The All Manipur Working Journalists' Union that discussed the issue over the past two days appealed to the militants not to interrupt the functioning of the dailies in the state. **(The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated June 18, 2008)**

Newspapers will go off the stands in Imphal from November 20, 2008 demanding a judicial inquiry into the murder of a journalist in the city on November 17, 2008 night. Local television news channels have already gone off the air from November 19, 2008.

Konsam Rishikanta Singh, a sub-editor working for *The Imphal Free Press*, a leading English newspaper published from the state capital, failed to turn up for the night shift on November 17, 2008. Soon after, his bullet-riddled body was recovered from near the Langol Hills, outside Imphal. **(The Indian Express, New Delhi dated November 20, 2008)**

Shri Jagjit Singh Saikia, a young talented journalist and a staff reporter of Aamar Assam from Kokrajhar was reportedly gunned down by some militants at his office situated at Brahma complex. Journalists' Union of Assam has condemned the killing and demanded a high level inquiry so that the culprit should be brought to book. **(Press release dated November 22, 2008 issued by Journalists' Union of Assam, Guwahati)**

Grave concern has been expressed by the Prime Minister over the recent killings of the journalists in Assam and Manipur. The Prime Minister has spoken to the Chief Ministers of both the States advising them to take immediate steps for prompt and fair investigations into the killings and to take adequate measures to ensure the security and safety of all journalists in their states, a statement issued by the media unit of the PMO said on November 24, 2008. **(The Times of India, New Delhi dated November 25, 2008)**

Anil Mazumdar, 37, Executive Editor of Assamese daily Aji, became the 21st journalist in Assam to have been assassinated since 1991, the year the trend of muzzling the media began. Mazumdar was gunned down just outside his home on March 24, 2009 night in Guwahati. The police, as in the other three killings this year, are yet to identify the killers.

In 1991, the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) set the trend by killing teacher-journalist Kamala Saikia for criticising its ideology. The next few years claimed six prominent scribes before Parag Kumar Das, allegedly a pro-ULFA scribe was killed on May 17, 1996. **(The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated March 26, 2009)**

- On the seventh day of a news blackout in the Kashmir Valley, a Srinagar English newspaper *Greater Kashmir* and its sister publication in Urdu *Kashmir Uzma* hit the stands on 31.8.2008 although with a reduced number of pages.

No other newspapers could be published from the summer capital because of the hostile conditions thrown up by the government-imposed curfew and harassment of journalists and other staff at the hands of security personnel who even attacked many of them on the pretext of enforcing the restrictions.

The cable operators have shut down the national and international news broadcasts in protest following local television news broadcasts were ordered off the air on August 24, the day when a clampdown on separatists began.

Also, the authorities have blocked some of the websites whereas Internet services in some areas have been affected, as well.

Newspapers published from New Delhi, Chandigarh and Jammu have huge readership in the Valley but curfew restrictions have blocked their distribution as well. **(The Asian Age, New Delhi dated September 1, 2008)**

The Jammu and Kashmir police seized all copies of a leading English daily, *Greater Kashmir* and Urdu daily, *Kashmir Uzma*. Describing it as an attack on the freedom of press, a *Greater Kashmir* Spokesman said “We will not be cowed down by such measures and we will continue to highlight the problems of the people of Jammu and Kashmir”. **(The Tribune, Chandigarh dated November 8, 2008)**

- Activists of the Periyar Dravidar Kazhagam (PDK) along with a few advocates and law college students, raised slogans and burnt copies of *The Hindu* on October 14, 2008 in Coimbatore criticising an article on the Sri Lankan Tamils issue that appeared on the editorial page of the newspaper. Some students tried to enter the newspaper office, and a stone was hurled at the building.

The demonstrators were demanding that *The Hindu* withdraw the article and tender an apology. Even as the police were trying to remove them, they burnt copies of the newspaper. The incident has been condemned by the General Secretaries of the Indian Journalists Union, Coimbatore Press Club and Chennai Press Club describing the incident as an assault on the freedom of press. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated October 15, 2008)**

- The police on January 4, 2009 arrested the Director and Chairman of Chitra Publications Pvt. Ltd., B.V. Seetaram near Karkala in Udupi district in connection with an old case.

Deputy Superintendent of Police of Karkala Sub-division, Santhosh Kumar said Mr. Seetaram was being arrested in connection with an old case registered at a police station in Shirva village in Udupi district. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated January 5, 2009)**

The Indian Newspaper Society has condemned the systematic manner in which *Karavali Ale*, published from Mangalore and Dharwar, is being targeted by elements in the Sangh Parivar who seem to be aided by the Karnataka Government.

The Chairman of the Press Freedom Committee of the Society and Editor of *The Statesman*, Ravinder Kumar has urged the national leadership of the BJP to take immediate steps to rein in the Karnataka government, and to take stringent action against those involved in the handcuffing of Seetaram. “Such

practices have no place in a democracy and the constitutional right to freedom of speech must be guaranteed by the state. **(The Sunday Statesman, New Delhi dated January 18, 2009)**

Members of a Committee set up by the Press Council of India (PCI) to look into the handcuffing of B.V. Seetaram, Chairman and Director of Chitra Publications Pvt. Ltd. Publishers of ‘Karavali Ale’ and other issues will submit its report in February 2009.

The report will look into the coercive methods adopted to stop the newspaper’s circulation, according to K. Srinivas Reddy and Kundan R. Vyas, who constitute the two members Assessment Committee. They visited the office of “Karavali Ale” on January 19, 2009 and met the Superintendent of Police, N. Sateesh Kumar. **(The Hindu, Bangalore dated January 20, 2009)**

The Karnataka High Court on February 11, 2009 imposed costs of Rs.10, 000 on the State for illegally detaining B.V. Seetaram, Managing Director of Chitra Publications, Mangalore, and also deprecated the mechanical manner in which magistrates issued body warrants against him.

It partly allowed a *habeas corpus* petition by S. Rohini, wife of Mr. Seetaram, against his illegal detention and made absolute an interim order it had passed on February 3, 2009 releasing him forthwith. Coming down on the police a Division Bench said there seemed to be an attempt by them to detain Mr. Seetaram in one case or another. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated February 12, 2009)**

Court Cases

In a dramatic turn-around, the Supreme Court hearing of the TV sting case of a Gujarat city court issuing warrants against the then President, APJ Abdul Kalam, Chief Justice of India, V.N. Khare, another judge of the Supreme Court and a senior advocate has decided to blunt its attack on the media for allegedly showing the judiciary in poor light. For the past year the Court has demanded nothing less than an apology from TV reporter, Vijay Shekhar for committing a wrong act-bribing four advocates Rs.40,000 to obtain warrants on false complaints from a local court in Ahmedabad in 2004. The Bench headed by Chief Justice, K.G. Balakrishnan invited revised suggestions from the Centre, Bar Council of India, Bar Association of India and other interested parties to examine the chinks within the system that exposed the slip by the magistrate.

The turnaround resulted after arguments in the case on April 9, 2008 saw an interesting debate on whether a reporter conducting a sting should be judged

for his action of committing a wrong to expose a wrong or by his intention to expose a wrong by any means whatsoever.

The Bench had favoured the view that the journalist was at fault since he induced a wrong by paying a bribe. Moreover, he telecast the sting without seeking permission from the Court and projected the entire judiciary in bad light. The Bench had, however, agreed to let off the journalist on an unconditional apology.

The journalist took the defence that an apology was not required since he had acted responsibly to place the issue before Supreme Court prior to its telecast. The then Chief Justice of India, V.N. Khare against whom two warrants were got issued, took serious note of the matter and asked the Centre and Bar Council of India to reply with suggestions on containing this lapse in the system.

The court after conceding that the reporter did the act with a bonafide intention agreed to soften its stand by suggesting that it would be open under law to proceed against the reporter for any act done by him. **(The Pioneer, New Delhi dated April 10, 2008)**

The Delhi High Court on May 6, 2008 sought response from the Delhi Police on a petition filed by a senior journalist, Alok Tomar seeking to quash criminal proceeding against him. Tomar is facing proceeding for reprinting the controversial depiction of Prophet Mohammad in a magazine edited by him in 2006. He contended that the same cartoon was published in other newspapers but no action was taken against them. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated May 7, 2008)**

The newly appointed Ahmedabad City Police Commissioner, O.P. Mathur has filed a case of "sedition and treason" against the Ahmedabad edition of *The Times of India*, its Resident Editor, Bharat Desai, and its crime reporter, Prashant Dayal. The FIR was lodged with the Navrangpura Police station, against the newspaper for running a campaign on the front page of the edition during the last five days against Mr. Mathur.

In articles written by Mr. Dayal, Mr. Mathur was described as an agent of the former underworld don, Abdul Latif, who was killed in an encounter in 1998, and through him being connected with Dawood Ibrahim and the Inter Services Intelligence. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated June 2, 2008)**

Gujarat Governor, Nawal Kishore Sharma promised on June 3, 2008 to seek a full report from the state government on the sedition charges brought against *The Times of India* by Ahmedabad Police Commissioner, O.P. Mathur. Sharma said that if required he would also meet political heads about the case.

Sharma's promise, which came on a day when *TOI* moved the Gujarat High Court seeking quashing of the sedition charges, was made to a delegation of journalists which met him to demand withdrawal of the charges. They presented him a memorandum, which he promised to read thoroughly. The *TOI* petition is scheduled to be heard by a High Court vacation judge on June 4, 2008. **(The Times of India, New Delhi dated June 4, 2008)**

The Gujarat High Court on June 5, 2008 granted anticipatory bails to the resident editor of the Ahmedabad edition of *The Times of India*, Bharat Desai, and its crime reporter, Prashant Dayal, in view of the complaints of sedition and criminal conspiracy filed against them by the City Police Commissioner, O.P. Mathur. The bail granted by Justice Z.K. Saiyed cover all the three complaints of similar nature filed by Mr. Mathur on June 1 and 2, 2008 following a series of articles in the front page of the newspaper alleging his links with the former underworld don, Abdul Latif, who was killed in an encounter in 1998.

The newspaper, however, withdrew its petition praying for quashing of the complaints filed by Mr. Mathur. Withdrawing its plea, the advocate for the newspaper told the High Court that the State Government was likely to consider a solution to the *Mathur-TOI* impasse over filing of the complaints.

It reserved its rights to file the petition afresh for quashing the complaints if the State Government initiative failed to bear fruit. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated June 6, 2008)**

Ahmedabad Police Commissioner, O.P Mathur filed two new FIRs against *The Times of India* even as *Times of India* handed over a representation to Modi's Principal Secretary, K. Kailasnathan, and copies were provided to the Minister of State for Home, Amit Shah, Chief Secretary, Manjula Subramaniam and Principal Secretary (Home), Balwant Singh.

The new FIRs, filed a day after the Gujarat High Court granted anticipatory bail to *The Times of India* staffers, take the number of FIRs to five. In FIRs, Mathur has also included the name of an illustrator with *The Times of India*. While *The Times of India* has reserved its right to move court for quashing of the FIRs, it has requested the state to withdraw the charges to safeguard the freedom of press. **(The Times of India, New Delhi dated June 7, 2008)**

The Press Council of India has written a strongly worded letter to Gujarat Chief Minister, Narendra Modi asking him to stop newly appointed Ahmedabad City Police Commissioner, O.P Mathur from filing cases against the *TOI*.

Chairman of PCI, Justice G.N. Ray in a letter dated June 4, referred to various newspaper reports on the sedition cases filed against the *TOI*,

Ahmedabad, and said, “You may consider advising the appropriate authorities to deny him (Mathur) permission to file the case.”

Justice Ray’s letter annexes Supreme Court rulings that restrain public officials from filing suits for defamation. Mathur has filed five FIRs booking resident editor of *TOI*, Ahmedabad, and others under sedition and conspiracy after a series of reports on Mathur’s ability to ensure safety of Ahmedabad residents in light of his alleged underworld links. (**The Times of India, New Delhi dated June 11, 2008**)

Resident Editor and Correspondent of *The Times of India* newspaper approached the Gujarat High Court once again on June 16, 2008 seeking to quash the police complaints of sedition filed against them, even as the CID recorded statements of some journalists. (**The Hindu, New Delhi dated June 17, 2008**)

The Supreme Court on August 25, 2008 set out to examine whether any mechanism exists under the Cable Television Network Regulation Act, 1995 to rein in electronic channels for going on air with unverified facts or half-truths.

Issuing notice to the Centre and the channels, the Bench asked the Information and Broadcasting Ministry to suggest details about the mechanism for implementing the legislation in case of erring channels. The notices were issued in the wake of a petition filed by the Bapu Asaram Ashram Trust that revolted against media reports on television that showed the ashram in bad light over two separate incidents of death involving minor boys in Ahmedabad and Madhya Pradesh. But the court refused to grant interim prayer made by the trust seeking ban on any future telecast against the ashram. Dismissing it as a “general prayer”, the Bench of Chief Justice, K.G. Balakrishnan and Justice P. Sathasivam said, “We do not know what is the truth. You cannot seek a general guideline saying nothing can be published”. (**The Pioneer, New Delhi dated August 26, 2008**)

Observing that “sting operations” by the electronic media have become a “business” these days, the Supreme Court on October 14, 2008 issued notice to *NDTV* in the case relating to the debarring of senior advocates, R.K. Anand and I.U. Khan for four months by the Delhi High Court.

On a notice to the *NDTV CEO*, which had aired a sting operation to show that Anand and Khan had tried to influence a key prosecution witness (Kulkarni) in the accident case, the apex court clarified that the news channel was not being made a formal party to the case. The channel would have to explain the authenticity of the chips, CDs and cassettes relating to the sting operation.

Another view that emerged during the two hour long hearing was that sting operations were being used for blackmail. **(The Tribune, Chandigarh dated October 15, 2008)**

Being aggrieved by the order of the conviction and sentence passed by the JMFC, Kalyan whereby the editor, Janmabhoomi was convicted under Section 500 of IPC and sentenced to undergo S.I. for five months in a defamation case for publishing an article about match fixing mentioning therein the name of Shri Nitin B Shah, who had filed the said case, the editor had filed criminal appeal in the court of Additional Sessions Judge, Kalyan.

The said court *vide* its order dated November 15, 2008 allowed the appeal in view of the fact that the editor had no interference for having the defamation matter published against Shri Nitin B. Shah. **(Judgement dated November 15, 2008 in the Court of Additional Sessions Judge, Kalyan in Criminal Appeal No. 14/2004(Shri Kundan Raman Lal Vyas, Editor, Janmabhoomi vs State of Maharashtra and Shri Nitin B. Shah)**

The routine harassment by cable operator may soon become a thing of the past. Referring to a recent ruling of the Punjab and Haryana High Court- in the case of Satellite TV Channels Association Vs State of Punjab and etc. the North Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM), Gurgaon, JS Sangwan, has issued notices to all cable operators in the city to adhere to the Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act 1995 or face the music.

In the notice, the SDM has warned cable operators to refrain from relaying news and advertisement strips on the local cable channel, which is in contravention of the Act, and asked to stop relaying the strips with immediate effect. **(The Indian Express, New Delhi dated November 27, 2008)**

Newspapers and magazines no longer need to mask or crop the brand name or logos of a cigarette or other tobacco products appearing in a photo they plan to print.

The Delhi High Court, which recently lifted ban on smoking scenes in films, also struck down a Health Ministry rule that prohibited newspapers from carrying photos displaying cigarettes or other tobacco brands. Chennai-based publishers, Kasturi and Sons had moved the court against a show-cause notice issued by the Ministry for printing a photograph in their newspaper, *The Hindu*, of Formula One race driver whose jacket carried the logo of Cigarette Company. It was construed to be commercial advertisement under Rule 4(8) of Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act. The restriction on newspapers under Rule 4(8) violated the right to equality and freedom of expression as it created a distinction between the electronic and print media, which was unreasonable, and restricted freedom of press, Justice S.K. Kaul said.

“The gateways provided for the electronic media under rule 4(8) are different from the ones for the print media. Thus, in a Formula One race the electronic media can show a live footage where the winner may be wearing a tobacco brand but the print media can’t show the photograph of a winner in the same form. Such a distinction and the consequent restriction on the print media would be wholly unsustainable”, he said. **(The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated January 28, 2009)**

Mr. Ravindra Kumar, Editor, *The Statesman* and Mr. Anand Sinha, Printer & Publisher, were arrested on February 11, 2009 on a complaint by a resident of Eliot Lane, Kolkata and charged under Sections 295A (deliberate act with malicious intent to outrage religious feelings) and 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention) of the Indian Penal Code.

They were produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Mr. S.S. Anand, who granted them bail. The arrests were in connection with the publication of an article by Johann Hari of *The Independent* of London by *The Statesman* in its issue of 5th February.

Upon learning that a case had been registered by the Kolkata police *The Statesman* contacted senior officers and offered to assist its investigation, and to aid efforts to defuse tensions in the city. Following this, the arrests were made on February 11, 2009. **(The Statesman, New Delhi dated February 12, 2009)**

Media Update – India

Awards, Launches etc. etc.

The former Prime Minister, I.K. Gujral on March 31, 2008 presented the Chameli Devi Award 2007-08 for outstanding woman journalist to Rupashree Nanda of the *CNN-IBN* for her focussed reporting on the deprived and the dispossessed people of rural India. The jury commended the works of Pallavi Aiyar of *The Hindu* based in China for giving the Indian readers a glimpse of the different facets of China and Nirupama Subramanian, also of *The Hindu*, for reporting from Pakistan despite the tough conditions there. Aditi Tandon for her investigative articles in *The Tribune* and Deepti of *ETV* were also appreciated. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated April 1, 2008)**

It appears to be curtains for *National Herald*, one of the oldest newspapers of the country started by Jawaharlal Nehru 70 years ago, as its publication was suspended indefinitely from April 1, 2008.

The newspaper, associated with Congress Party, suspended its publication in the backdrop of a huge financial crisis. Launched on September 9, 1938 in Lucknow, *National Herald* was one of the leading dailies till about two

decades back, but it had been incurring heavy losses of late. **(The Statesman, New Delhi dated April 2, 2008)**

Jamia Millia Islamia recently opened the Centre for Culture, Media and Governance (CCMG) that seeks to enhance integration and development of inter-disciplinary research in media in India and South Asia.

The Centre aims at contributing towards examining and developing new approaches, creating an archive of media research data which would be of value to researchers across South Asia and comparative perspectives across mediascapes and regions. **(The Tribune, Chandigarh dated April 10, 2008)**

Retired IAS officer Arun Bhatnagar has been appointed new Chairman of the Prasar Bharati, replacing M.V. Kamath. **(The Tribune, Chandigarh dated May 2, 2008)**

Avishek G. Dastidar, a senior correspondent with *The Hindustan Times*, has been selected for the 32nd Matrushree Media Award for 2008 for his work in the environment and social awareness beat. **(The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated May 5, 2008)**

The Times of India takes another huge step in enlarging its national footprint by taking to Jaipur an edition that is printed there and reflects the concerns of its residents. **(The Times of India, New Delhi dated May 5, 2008)**

The Times of India's growth story continues. With a circulation of 3.5 million, it is the world's largest English newspaper across formats, sizes and genres. And it keeps breaking fresh ground. Taking another stride forward *The Times of India* launches an edition in Goa. **(The Times of India, New Delhi dated May 7, 2008)**

The Prem Bhatia Memorial Award for the best political reporting in 2008 was presented to Nirupama Subramaniam, *The Hindu's* correspondent in Pakistan. The Prem Bhatia Award for Environmental Journalism was presented to Keya Acharya, a Bangalore based freelance journalist. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated May 9, 2008)**

One of the oldest Urdu dailies of India, *Qaumi Awaz*, ceased publication in Delhi in April and with this came to an end a glorious chapter in Urdu journalism. *Qaumi Awaz* was no ordinary newspaper: It was founded by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in 1945, who wanted it to be an effective vehicle for the freedom struggle. Nehru correctly realised the role played by the Urdu press in the freedom movement. **(The Asian Age, New Delhi dated May 13, 2008)**

HT Media Ltd on 9th June 2008 said that it has formed a venture with German media group Hubert Burda Media to set up a printing press in India

in an attempt to tap what it called “growing media platforms” here and in the rest of Asia.

The joint venture marks Burda’s entry into the Indian market, one of the fastest growing media markets in the world. Burda will outsource some of its global printing requirements to the joint venture. **(The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated June 10, 2008)**

The Indian Institute of Mass Communication will be upgraded to an International Media University, Union Information and Broadcasting Minister, Priyaranjan Dasmunsi announced on June 12, 2008. “The Planning Commission has already approved the proposal and Ministry is working to make this institute a world class media education, training and research university by an Act of Parliament. This will fulfil the growing demand of the media industry to provide more trained and qualified professionals,” **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated June 13, 2008)**

Veteran journalist and former editor of *The Indian Express*, B G Verghese, and noted Assamese scholar and an exponent of Vaishnavite art, Keshavananda Deva Goswami, were awarded the prestigious Srimanta Sankaradeva Award on June 13, 2008. **(The Indian Express, New Delhi dated June 14, 2008)**

Prestigious Gerald Loyab Award was presented to Shri Sanjay Jha of Darbhanga, Bihar. Shri Sanjay is the first Indian Journalist to win this award. The award was presented to Shri Jha alongwith his three foreigner assistants for the programme “India’s Promise” in Television Daily Category. **(Dainik Jagran, New Delhi dated July 7, 2008)**

Chief Minister, Sheila Dikshit on July 12, 2008 distributed awards to various journalists at a function organised by the Journalist Association of India. Special Correspondent, *The Tribune*, Ravi Bhatia, has been conferred with the Best Male Journalist award in print media. Others in the award list are: Lifetime Achievement Sports Journalism award to Kewal Kaushik of *Times of India*, Lifetime Achievement award (all round) Prakash Bhargav of *UNI*, Best Crime Reporter (male) Neeraj Thakur of *ZEE TV*, Best Journalist (female) Sarita Barara and Best Current Affairs Critic Karan Thapar (*ITV*), said a press release. **(The Tribune, Chandigarh dated July 13, 2008)**

The Shalaka award was presented to senior journalist, Prabhash Joshi by Veteran poet, Kunwar Narayan in the presence of Chief Minister, Shiela Dixit in Kamani Auditorium. Shalaka is the highest award of Hindi Academy. **(Jansatta, New Delhi dated July 23, 2008)**

In a country with 340 television channels – 60 were launched this year alone – Australian media tycoon Rupert Murdoch announced the launch of another six.

Backed by an investment of Rs 420 crore (\$100 million) in the next 24 months, Murdoch's News Corp-owned *Star TV* is all set to expand its bouquet of regional channels."We'll invest \$100 million in India in the next 12 months to set up six regional channels under the Star brand," said the Chairman of Newscorp, the multi-billion dollar media conglomerate based in New York. **(The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated August 5, 2008)**

NDTV has won 25 awards in the News Television Awards 2008. *NDTV* managed to bag Numero Uno Hindi and Business News Channel of the year award along with Best Popular English News Channel. **(The Indian Express, New Delhi dated August 12, 2008)**

Sanjoy Narayan has joined *The Hindustan Times* as Editor-in-Chief. He comes here from *Business Today*, which he edited for over eight years. **(The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated August 20, 2008)**

The Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) is working on a plan to start a media research centre – the first of its kind in the country. The proposal for the media research centre is part of the Rs.650-crore plan the university has submitted to the Planning Commission for approval. "The Review Committee of the Commission visited the university last week. The committee seemed happy with the proposals for 13 new schools and centres the JNU wished to start. The media research centre is among them and it seems that it will get their nod," the Vice Chancellor of JNU said. **(The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated August 26, 2008)**

Kolkata bid a tearful farewell to noted industrialist, former Rajya Sabha member and Chairman of Hindustan Times Media Ltd. Dr. Krishna Kumar Birla on August 29, 2008. **(The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated August 31, 2008).**

H.Y. Sharada Prasad, the versatile media adviser to Indira Gandhi and two other Prime Ministers and an erudite scholar, died on September 2, 2008. He was known for his incisive writings in his columns. He was honoured with Padma Bhushan in 2000 and is also a recipient of the Indira Gandhi Award for National Integration in 2001. **(The Tribune, Chandigarh dated September 3, 2008)**

Ch. Kiron, Managing Director of Ushodaya Enterprises Private Limited which publishes *Eenadu*, a Telugu daily newspaper, was unanimously elected

as Chairman of Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC) for 2008-2009. (**The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated September 16, 2008**)

The Delhi Union of Journalists (DUJ) has been awarded the Appan Menon Memorial Award for the year 2008-09 for furthering the aims of its Delhi Media Centre for Research and Publications in the coming year.

According to the Trust, the award has been given to DUJ for continuing the work of preparing publications and conducting cultural activities like film shows, exhibitions and public lectures by eminent persons. (**The Hindu, New Delhi dated September 18, 2008**)

Hormusji N. Cama of *Bombay Samachar* weekly has been elected new President of the Indian Newspaper Society (INS) for 2008-09.

Paresh Nath of *Women's Era*, T. Venkatram Reddy of *Deccan Chronicle* and Rakesh Sharma of *Hindustan Times* (Patna) have been elected as new Deputy President Vice-President and Honorary Treasurer, respectively. (**The Deccan Herald, Bangalore dated September 20, 2008**)

The Assam Government has decided to confer the prestigious Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed award for national integration on *The Indian Express* Editor-in-Chief, Shekhar Gupta and actor Shabana Azmi. The award instituted by the government of Assam as part of the birth centenary celebrations of the former President of India, would be given to Gupta for 2006 and to Azmi for 2007. (**The Indian Express, New Delhi dated September 28, 2008**)

Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit conferred Citizen Journalist Awards on 22 people from different walks of life at a function on October 16, 2008.

The Citizen Journalist Awards by IBN Network recognize citizens who have been reporting fearlessly and changing the system for a better tomorrow. (**The Hindu, New Delhi dated October 18, 2008**)

The Tribune, one of the most independent newspapers of the country, is launching another edition: This time from the celebrated city of Dehradun. The Dehradun Edition, to be launched on October 19, 2008, will meet the long-felt need of the readers of the city and the region around. (**The Tribune, Chandigarh dated October 20, 2008**)

Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh will hold charge of the key Information and Broadcasting Ministry during the indisposition of P.R. Dasmunsi, who is in hospital following a heart attack. A Rashtrapati Bhavan communiqué said Singh would hold charge of I&B till Dasmunsi, 62, is able to resume work. (**The Times of India, New Delhi dated November 12, 2008**)

The Sanskriti Awards 2008 were presented on November 14, 2008 to emerging talents from journalism, literature, art, music and social work.

The fairer sex ruled the awards with all five awardees being women. *Hindustan Times* Mumbai Correspondent, Chitragada Choudhury was awarded for her contribution to journalism. She was also youngest person to receive an award this year.

Inderjit Nandan received the award for literature, Ranjani Shettar for art and the sister duo Ranjani and Gayatri for music. **(The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated November 15, 2008)**

Rajdeep Sardesai, Editor-in-Chief, *IBN* Network, has been unanimously elected President of the Editors' Guild of India. He succeeds Alok Mehta, Chief Editor of *Nai Duniya*. At the Annual General Meeting of the Guild held on November 19, 2008, K.S. Sachidananda Murthy, Resident Editor, *Malayala Manorama* and *The Week*, was re-elected as Secretary General. Rohit Bansal, Senior Editor and COO of *India TV* was elected as Treasurer. **(The Tribune, Chandigarh dated November 20, 2008)**

The Prabha Dutt Fellowship- 2008 for Excellence in Journalism was announced at a function here in the capital. The fellowship was presented to Anupama Kumari, a reporter from Ranchi, by columnist and author, Sevanti Ninan. Anupama talked about her proposed project on "The illusion of flood control: False promises, dubious intentions, (The Koshi projects in Bihar and Nepal)". This fellowship is to encourage dedicated women journalists in the age group of 25 to 40 to pursue meaningful projects including research on a book in English, Hindi or any regional language. It is exclusively for print journalist. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated December 1, 2008)**

Three young journalists – Nusrat Ara, Tanveen Kawoosa and Deepika Thussoo – from Jammu and Kashmir have been awarded the Sanjoy Ghose Media Fellowship Award 2008-09. The fellowship is meant to encourage journalists to do grassroot reporting in a society that has witnessed turmoil and is seeking a positive change. **(The Tribune, Chandigarh dated December 14, 2008)**

In an already crowded English newspaper market in the Silicon Valley of India, the Bangalore edition of the *DNA* newspaper hit the newsstands on December 14, 2008.

If one were to go by the launch edition of the new newspaper, the new paper is going to give a tough fight to the well-established newspapers. The all colour newspaper launched in Bangalore, owned by a joint venture of *Dainik*

Bhaskar and the *Zee Group*, was conceived when the economy was going through a boom phase, but is launched when the Indian economy is going through one of its worst recessions. Interestingly, *Deccan Herald*, the oldest English mainstream newspaper published from Bangalore, announced on December 14, 2008 that it would go full colour in all its pages.

Even the esteemed *The Hindu* is also planning all-coloured pages shortly when they commission their new printing press. **(The Pioneer, New Delhi dated December 15, 2008)**

Media personality and *NDTV* Head, Prannoy Roy has been selected for the Thoppil Gopalakrishnan Memorial Award instituted by the Kerala based Media Trust for excellence in journalism. Dr. Roy was chosen by a six member jury headed by Kerala Education Minister, M.A. Baby for his outstanding contribution to Indian journalism. Parvathi Menon of *The Hindu* and Sebastain D'souza of *Mumbai Mirror* have been chosen for Special Jury awards. Ms Menon has been selected for the expose of sexual assault on a nun in Orissa's Kandhamal district during the attack on tribal Christians and Mr. D'souza for his pictures of the Mumbai attacks. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated January 6, 2009)**

The Hindustan Times' Senior Reporter, Jaya Shroff won the Bachpan Bachao Andolan's Boomdas Award 2009 for her "outstanding contribution in the field of journalism in the eradication of modern day slavery, in particular, child servitude and trafficking". Former Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court, M.K. Sharma gave away the award in a ceremony that honoured six others working to end child labour. **(The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated January 28, 2009)**

Hindustan, the Hindi daily of HT Media Group, launched its Allahabad edition, the sixth in UP. *Hindustan*, the third largest daily newspaper in the country has editions in Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, Delhi-NCR and Chandigarh. **(The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated January 29, 2009)**

The Times of India has won one of the world's leading media awards for simple and effective use of the English language. Britain's Plain English Campaign International Media Award 2008 was given to *The Times of India* for "demonstrating a positive attitude in raising the awareness of plain English within its press coverage throughout India." **(The Times of India, New Delhi dated February 13, 2009)**

Shri Alok Mehta, Chief Editor, *Nai Duniya* was conferred with Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi Award by the President, Smt. Partibha Devi Singh Patil for

his remarkable contribution in Hindi journalism. **(Nai Duniya, New Delhi dated February 19, 2009)**

Former Foreign Secretary, Chokila Iyer was on February 19, 2009 appointed as a Member of the New Broadcasting Standards (Disputes Redress) Authority set up to enforce the code of ethics and broadcasting standards for news channels.

Ms. Iyer, the first woman Foreign Secretary, has been appointed to the Authority under the “eminent persons” category. **(The Asian Age, New Delhi dated February 20, 2009)**

The centre has appointed Justice Gurbax Rai Majithia as the new Chairman of National Wage Boards for Working Journalists and Other Newspaper Employees. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated March 3, 2009)**

Ayesha Khan, Assistant Editor with *The Indian Express*, Ahmedabad has been selected for this year’s Drishti Media Award. **(The Indian Express, New Delhi dated March 3, 2009)**

Press Trust of India (PTI) has been named the “News Agency of the Year” by a U.K. - based magazine. The winner was decided on the basis of voting on the website of the magazine by its readers. PTI was chosen for its all-round performance, said C.B. Patel, publisher of the bi-lingual weekly, *Asian Voice*. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated March 16, 2009)**

The Chameli Devi Jain Award for Outstanding Woman Mediaperson for 2008 was conferred on Nirupama Subramanian, Islamabad correspondent of *The Hindu*, and Vinita Deshmukh, Editor of *Intelligent Pune*, on March 27, 2008. Ms Subramanian was selected for her dedication to responsible journalism in complex and delicate environments. Ms Deshmukh has been awarded for her campaigns that have been marked by grit and perseverance in the pursuit of truth and public welfare. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated March 28, 2009)**

World Media in Indian Press

United States of America

The Washington Post dominated the 92nd Pulitzer Prizes for journalism on April 7, 2008 winning six, including the prestigious public service award for its series exposing substandard conditions at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center, US.

The Post received honours for coverage of topics including private security contractors in Iraq, a violin virtuoso’s incongruous (and mostly overlooked)

performance in a Washington subway station, and US Vice-President Dick Cheney's sub rosa exercise of executive power.

With the newspaper industry obsessing over lost revenue and reader's shift to the Internet, *Post* journalists saw the newspaper's multiple prizes as confirmation of the continuing value of dogged reporting and artful writing. "Original reporting still matters," *Post* staff writer and blogger, Joel Achenbach wrote on the paper's website on April 7, 2008. Among the other winners were *The New York Times* – which took prizes for investigative reporting on foreign imports and for explanatory journalism about *DNA* – and *Investor's Business Daily*. The financial paper, based near Marina del Rey, California, took its first Pulitzer for the editorial cartooning of Michael Ramirez. **(The Indian Express, New Delhi dated April 9, 2008)**

Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation is in talks with Microsoft about joining in its contested bid for Yahoo, according to people involved in the discussions. The combination, which would join Yahoo, Microsoft's MSN and News Corporation's Myspace, would create a behemoth that would upend the Internet landscape.

The talks are a surprising twist in the two month long takeover story that began when Microsoft made a \$44.6 billion bid for Yahoo. Yahoo has resisted Microsoft's overtures, contending that it will not negotiate unless Microsoft raises its offer.

If News Corporation throws its weight behind Microsoft's offer, which could allow Microsoft to raise its bid, putting even more pressure on yahoo and its shareholders. At the same time, the alignment of Microsoft and News Corporation would remove a possible alternative for Yahoo, leaving it with fewer opportunities to escape Microsoft's grasp. **(The Indian Express, New Delhi dated April 11, 2008)**

On one floor is a bullet-scarred car used by American journalists in the Balkans. On another is the phone Rupert Murdoch used to make multibillion dollar media deals and in between there is one of the biggest remaining Chunks of the Berlin wall and the mangled remains of the communication tower from the 9/11 attack.

It is the world's newest and most expensive museum, dedicated to journalism, which opened in Washington on April 11, 2008. The \$ 450m (£225m) museum, clumsily named by the founders as *The Newseum*, is a celebration of journalism in America and worldwide, concentrating mainly on the 20th and 21st centuries.

There are sombre walls dedicated to journalists who have lost their lives in pursuit of news and bleak maps showing huge parts of the world without a free press.

Journalists given sneak previews have expressed admiration but with reservations. Howard Kurtz, a US media commentator who writes for the *Washington Post*, described the six-storey building, a dazzling piece of architecture in its own right, close to Congress, as a first class addition to the capital's cultural institutions.

The biggest portion of the museum dedicated to the British press is under a section called Sex, Crime, Scandal, with front pages from The *Sun* and *Mirror*. The museum was the idea of the Freedom Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of free speech. **(Deccan Herald, Bangalore dated April 13, 2008)**

US Cable Operator Cablevision is buying the *New York daily Newsday* from media group Tribune Company in a 650-million-dollar deal, the companies announced on May 12, 2008.

According to the terms of the agreement, Cablevision Systems Corporation will acquire about 97 percent of Newsday Media Group for 632 million dollars. The deal is being made through a partnership with Tribune Company, which will have three percent equity in *Newsday*. Tribune's media empire includes the major US newspapers the *Los Angeles Times* and the *Chicago Tribune*. **(The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated May 13, 2008)**

Time Warner Inc and Time Warner Cable Inc said that they would split into two companies and pay Time Warner Cable shareholders a one-time \$ 10.9 billion dividend. The move comes after pressure from investors for Time Warner to streamline its focus as a pure media content company and rescue its stock price. Time Warner Cable's one-time dividend of \$ 10.27 per common share will be payable immediately prior to completion of the separation. Time Warner will receive \$ 9.25 billion of this dividend. **(The Indian Express, New Delhi dated May 22, 2008)**

Most of the media coverage on medical research is marred by ignorance, sensationalism and a nexus among scientists, reporters and journals keen on hyping a study. The analysis, conducted by Gary Schwitzer of the University Of Minnesota School Of Journalism, found such reports failed to address costs, harms, benefits, the quality of evidence, and other treatment options. The project monitored coverage by top 50 American dailies with the highest

circulations and wire services. It included *Associated Press*; *Time*, *Newsweek*, and *US News & World Report*; and the *ABC*, *CBS* and *NBC* television network, among others. Schwitzer reviewed the ratings for 500 US health news stories published or aired over two years, and found that 62 to 77 percent of them were flawed. The poor and inadequate reporting, said Schwitzer, “raises important questions about the quality of the information US consumers receive from the news media on these health news topics.” **(The Asian Age, New Delhi dated May 29, 2008)**

Even for an industry awash in bad news, the US newspaper business went through one of its most severe retrenchments in recent memory. Half a dozen newspapers said they would slash payrolls, one said it would outsource all its printing, and Tribune Co., one of the biggest publishers in the country, said it might sell its iconic headquarters tower in Chicago and the building that houses the *Los Angeles Times*.

The increasingly rapid and broad decline in the newspaper business in recent months has surprised even the most pessimistic financial analysts, many of whom say it’s too hard to tell how far the slump will go. Last week alone, deep staff cuts were announced at *The Hartford Courant* and the *(Baltimore) Sun* – two Tribune papers – as well as at *The Palm Beach Post* and the *Daytona Beach-Journal in Florida*, while *The Detroit News* and *Detroit Free Press* said they hoped to reduce the head count in their joint operations by 7 per cent through buyouts. The *Boston Herald* said up to 160 employees would be laid off as it outsourced its printing operations, and in a memo explaining the terms of its job security pledge, the *Star-Ledger* in Newark, New Jersey, said it is operating in the red. **(The Statesman, New Delhi dated July 1, 2008)**

When *The Miami Herald* hired Brayden Simms as a fulltime copy editor back in March, the former freelancer assumed his new position meant new job security. He had it wrong: In mid-June, the Florida native learned his job had been outsourced to Mindworks Global Media, a Noida based firm that is among the companies fueling a steady migration of American journalism jobs to India. No longer restricted to advertising only, Indian companies partnering with American newspapers may see an increase in requests for editorial work. “With revenues having fallen as much as they have, newspapers are reluctant to make any bigger cuts than are absolutely necessary in their news staff,” particularly when it comes to reporters, Edmonds said. “Outsourcing is certainly a trend.” This bodes well for companies such as Mindworks, which over the past year has upped its staff strength from 35 to 100. Similarly, Gurgaon-based Express KCS has grown from 20 to 400 employees in the past year and a half.

The firm counts American newspaper chains including Mc Clatchy and Media News Group among its clients. It has yet to handle editorial tasks for an American paper, but Chief Operating Officer, Tariq Husain said the company is in talks with “seven or eight” interested papers.

Editors at Express KCS are often journalists hired from Indian publications. The company familiarises them with American editing standards. **(The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated July 6, 2008)**

Fewer Americans are reading newspapers and are instead getting their news online, but television remains the leading source of news in the country, according to a survey. Not surprisingly, younger people tend to get more of their news on the Internet, while older folks use traditional media such as television and newspapers, the Pew Research Center’s biannual survey on news consumption habits released on August 18, 2008 said.

Pew said the results show an increasing shift toward online news consumption, but that there is now a sizable group of a more engaged, sophisticated and well-off people that use both traditional and online sources to get their news.

Pew found that the largest group of news consumers – 46 per cent of those polled – have a “heavy reliance” on television for their news at all times of the day. This group is the oldest, with a median age of 52, and least affluent, with 43 per cent unemployed.

Overall, among those who get some of their news from TV, fewer are watching evening network news broadcasts and instead, opting for cable news sources such as CNN or Fox News Channel. **(The Statesman, New Delhi dated August 19, 2008)**

While the dream electronic newspaper remains on the drawing board, Plastic Logic will introduce publicly on 8.9.2008 its version of an electronic newspaper reader: a lightweight plastic screen that mimics the look - but not the feel – of a printed newspaper. The device, which is unnamed, uses the same technology as the Sony Reader and Amazon. com’s Kindle, a highly legible black-and-white display developed by the E Ink Corp. While both of those devices are intended primarily as book readers, Plastic Logic’s device, which will be shown at an emerging technology trade show in San Diego, has a screen more than twice as large. The size of a piece of copier paper, it can be updated *via* a wireless link, and can store and display hundreds of pages of newspapers, books and documents. **(The Indian Express, New Delhi dated September 9, 2008)**

Google Inc has stepped up efforts to digitize dozens of historical newspapers and make scanned images of the original papers available online, the internet search leader said on 8.9.2008. In a blog post on the Silicon Valley-based company's website, Google said it is looking to make old newspapers searchable online by partnering with newspaper publishers to digitize millions of pages of news archives.

The effort involves the archives of dozens of newspaper titles and expands on a two-year old effort by Google to work with two major US newspapers—*The New York Times* and *Washington Post* - to index old papers in Google News Archive. **(The Times of India, New Delhi dated September 10, 2008)**

US Magazine *Esquire* has sought to brush aside the gloom pervading the print industry in many countries by unveiling a genuine first; a cover partly of electronic ink.

The innovation has excited a magazine world fighting declining circulation and falling advertising revenues as readers migrate to the Internet. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated September 11, 2008)**

Not just the economy even the US newspaper industry is going through tough times these days. Shrinking circulation, dwindling advertising revenues, growth of the Internet edition and rising newsprint prices have together put pressure on their margins. Even the best and most established US newspapers are feeling the heat.

To cope with the pressure, most newspapers have adopted various cost cutting measures. From reducing global coverage, cutting down the number of pages, streamlining resources and cutting excess jobs, they are trying out all kind of combinations to stay ahead. Now, the industry is also contemplating outsourcing some work outside the country to reduce costs. The trend started a few years also, as some US based newspapers offshored their editorial work to India. In the next five years, offshoring is expected to gain traction. According to a study done by Pune based research firm Value Notes, the offshore opportunity from newspaper publishers (including both the US and UK) is estimated to be around \$3.5 billion. **(The Times of India, New Delhi dated September 23, 2008)**

US newspaper *The Christian Science Monitor* is to cease production as a daily title after 100 years, becoming the highest profile national title in the US to scale back on its print operation to combat rising costs and falling print sales. The CSM announced on October 28, 2008 that it will move all breaking news to a 24/7 web operation from April next year, though it will continue in print in the form of a new Sunday magazine.

John Yemma, The CSM editor, said the new model would allow the publication to retain its eight international bureaux and still save money. **(Deccan Herald, Bangalore dated October 30, 2008)**

Faced with declining advertising revenue and mounting debt, the US media has plunged into a deep financial crisis. The publisher of the two most popular dailies, *The Los Angeles Times* and *The Chicago Tribune*, has filed for bankruptcy. *The New York Times* is seeking a \$225 million loan against its headquarter in mid-town Manhattan. The popular *Miami Herald* has been put on sale by its owner and stocks of CBS, one of the popular news channels, have fallen below \$5 in recent weeks. Most American media outlets are now struggling to survive. They have gone into massive cost cutting, resulting in hundreds of journalists and non-journalists in the mainstream media losing their jobs in recent months. In the latest sign of crisis that has hit the once flourishing US media, The Tribune Company – which owns as many as 23 television stations and 12 newspapers including its flagship *Los Angeles Times* and *The Chicago Tribune* – on December 8, 2008 announced that it has filed for bankruptcy. The company is said to have nearly \$13 billion in debt compared to \$7.6 billion in assets. “Unfortunately, factors beyond our control have created a perfect storm – a precipitous decline in revenue and a tough economy coupled with a credit crisis that makes it extremely difficult to support our debt,” Tribune CEO, Sam Zell said in a statement on December 8, 2008.

Latest statistics released by Newspaper Association of America has disclosed that newspaper advertisement revenue in the third quarter of this year dropped by \$2 billion, a record 18.1 percent decline. The online ad revenue too declined for the second quarter in a row, it said. The 17 member Cox Newspapers chain has announced it is closing down its Washington bureau and would depend on news agencies now. Independently run Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel has lost 20 percent of its staff in the past 18 months. A majority of the US media has already shut down its foreign bureaus or cut costs drastically. **(The Pioneer, New Delhi dated December 10, 2008)**

The Washington Post on January 13, 2009 named Elizabeth Spayd and Raju Narisetti as Managing Editors of *The Washington Post*. Both will report to Executive Editor, Marcus W. Brauchli. *The Post* said Spayd and Narisetti will share responsibility for its award-winning journalism, whether in print, online and on mobile devices, and they will lead the integration of *The Post's* print and online newsrooms. **(The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated January 15, 2009)**

US Newspapers, reeling from sagging print advertising revenue, dropping circulation and the migration of readers online, are fighting back.

In a full-page advertisement in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and other newspapers on February 2, 2009, a group called the “Newspaper Project” made the case that news on the printed page is not on the verge of extinction.

The crisis in the US newspaper industry has been exacerbated by the recession and a steep drop in advertising. More than 15,600 newspaper employees were laid off or took buyouts last year. **(The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated February 4, 2009)**

After two days of protests, *The New York Post* apologised on February 19, 2009 for a cartoon that some have interpreted as comparing President, Barack Obama to a violent chimpanzee gunned down by police. But the newspaper also said its antagonists exploited the image for revenge. The newspaper posted an editorial on its website on February 19, 2009 evening saying the cartoon was meant to mock the federal economic stimulus bill, but “to those who were offended by the image, we apologise.”

The piece was posted hours after 200 picketers chanting “Boycott *the Post!* Shut it down!” marched in front of the paper’s office, saying the cartoon echoed racist stereotypes of blacks as monkeys. **(The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated February 21, 2009)**

Caught in a racial row over a monkey cartoon interpreted by many as a caricature of US President Barack Obama, *New York Post* Chairman, Rupert Murdoch on February 24, 2009 apologised terming it a “mistake”. In a statement published in the newspaper Murdoch took responsibility “for what is printed in its (the paper’s) pages” while defending the intent of the publication. **(The Statesman, New Delhi dated February 25, 2009)**

One more American newspaper has bitten the dust as the print media faces the woes of a bad economy and the relentless onslaught of the Internet. “Goodbye, Colorado” said the simple final front-page headline as, after nearly 150 years in business, the *Rocky Mountain News* folded up Friday – the latest victim in an era of shutdowns, layoffs and cutbacks plaguing the newspaper industry. **(The Asian Age, New Delhi dated March 3, 2009)**

United Kingdom

Television channels that make money from premium rate telephone quizzes, adult chat and psychic readings could be shut down unless they radically change their output, the media watchdog said.

Ofcom said stricter rules designed to protect viewers mean channels can only use expensive phone lines if there is “editorial justification.”

Under the proposed changes, channels that exist simply as vehicles for premium rate lines would be closed down. They would have to relaunch as “teleshopping” channels; but would then be governed by advertising rules that most existing adult or psychic channels would breach.

Ofcom’s review of premium rate calls to TV channels comes after a string of cases where viewers were misled during phone-ins. *The BBC, Channel 4 and GMTV* were among the broadcasters fined for breaches.

“The new rules mean these channels face a much tougher regulatory regime which they must comply with,” said Ofcom Chief Executive, Ed Richards. “Ofcom will ensure that programmes only use premium rate telephone lines where there is sufficient editorial justification,” he said. **(The Times of India, New Delhi dated April 10, 2008)**

A senior Air India executive has won a libel case against a British evening paper over false accusations that he sexually harassed a female colleague and was a “serial sex pest”.

Captain Ashwini Kumar Sharma, an Army Captain and former *Aide-De-Camp* to the Indian President who is now an Executive Director of the airline at its Mumbai headquarters, has been awarded £85,000 in damages and £500,000 in cost.

However, the High Court judge granted a “stay” on payment, pending a possible application by the newspaper for permission to appeal. During the eight-day trial, Capt. Sharma, who was the Regional Director of Air India in charge of UK and Ireland, said: “The grossly defamatory and fundamentally false” front page article in *The Evening Standard* headlined “Sex Shame of Airline Chief”, damaged both his reputation and health. **(Deccan Chronicle, Hyderabad dated May 2, 2008)**

Last week, a court ordered 11 heavy-weight British tabloids, including *The Sun, The Daily Mail* and *The News of the World*, to apologise and, together, cough up £60,000 in damages to a man they had falsely accused of being involved in the disappearance of a three-year-old girl, Madeleine McCann, while on a holiday with her parents in Portugal last year.

The newspapers also offered a public apology to two others and agreed to pay them substantial compensation for publishing defamatory reports about their role in the case. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated July 22, 2008)**

Media watchdog Ofcom fined the BBC £400,000 on July 30, 2008 the largest financial penalty it has ever issued against the public broadcaster, for misleading the public through fake quizzes and competitions.

Ofcom said eight BBC shows, four on TV and four on the radio, were guilty of very serious failings. The investigations found that in some cases the production team had taken pre-mediated decisions to broadcast competitions and encourage listeners to enter in the full knowledge that the audience stood no chance of winning, Ofcom said. **(The Indian Express, New Delhi dated July 31, 2008)**

News Corporation has reported a 30% drop in profits for the three months to the end of the September, with a testing ad market leading Rupert Murdoch to look at more job cuts across his UK and Australian newspaper operations.

Murdoch, the News Corp, Chairman and Chief Executive, predicted a difficult year ahead for all media companies and said the company would have “even leaner operations” in its UK and Australian newspaper business.

Murdoch, the News Corp Chairman and Chief Executive, said the cut in the operating profit forecast was “a clear reflection of the current economic downturn, which we believe will persist throughout fiscal 2009 and be extremely challenging for the media sector”.

The company said it would impose cost-cutting measures across the business, such as outsourcing the work of 10 out of 17 WSJ printing plants and merging back-office functions, with job cuts also likely. **(Web edition of Guardian, United Kingdom dated November 6, 2008)**

Britain’s advertising watchdog on November 26, 2008 ruled against Apple over a “misleading” ad that exaggerated the speed of its new iPhone.

The Advertising Standards Authority on November 26, 2008 upheld complaints by British viewers about a television ad for the iPhone 3G which boasted of the phone’s “really fast” Internet performance.

The watchdog ruled that the ad must not appear again in its current form. **(The Asian Age, New Delhi dated November 27, 2008)**

Looking at Britain’s leading newspapers you’d think they’re having a ball while everyone is moaning about recession and job losses. But, in effect, it is more like the apocryphal story of a broke nawab who famously wore specially-polished shoes to conceal their real condition: under those shining uppers there were no soles! The grim reality behind all that jazz – glossy supplements, star columnists and lavish revamps – is that British newspapers are in deep crisis with threat of closures and redundancies looming across the industry. The crisis claimed its first casualty as one of Britain’s oldest newspapers i.e. the 181 year old *London Evening Standard*, which was reported to be losing at least £10 million a year, is now the property of Alexander Lebedev, a former KGB agent.

Trouble is also brewing in television with the public owned Channel 4 which is on the verge of collapse with its annual deficit predicted to rise to £150 million over the next three years. The government is considering a range of options to save it including a money sharing arrangement which the BBC and privatisation: rather an ironical end to a project which was launched as an alternative to the BBC's establishment voice on the one hand, and commercial broadcasting on the other. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated January 29, 2009)**

Canada

Canadian newspapers have not suffered as badly as those in the US – until now. There are growing signs of a significant downturn as advertisers begin to desert. Large publishers, such as Torstar Corp and Canwest Global Communications, are among those that stand to be hurt the most.

Torstar, which publishes Canada's largest-selling paper, the *Toronto Star*, has cut 270 jobs at its stable of urban and regional newspapers around Toronto. But its Chief Executive, Robert Prichard, says the economic outlook remains gloomy. *The Star's* ad revenue fell 80% in the last quarter and newsprint prices jumped 18%.

Meanwhile, Canwest – Canada's biggest publisher of daily newspapers – has cut the print presence of its flagship *National Post* daily in two provinces to save on distribution costs.

A third major publisher, Quebecor Inc, is expected to report poor numbers on November 6, 2008 at its Sun Media chain of tabloid dailies. **(Web edition of Guardian, United Kingdom dated November 6, 2008)**

France

Jean-Pierre Jouyet, French Secretary of State for European Affairs, will quit at the end of the year to head France's markets watchdog, the newspaper *Le Monde* reported on November 14, 2008. One of several Socialist Ministers recruited last year by Nicolas Sarkozy, Jouyet had indicated that it would be awkward to remain in office during campaigning for next year's European elections. **(The Indian Express, New Delhi dated November 15, 2008)**

The French state is to help provide free newspaper subscriptions to teenagers for their 18th birthdays, President Nicolas Sarkozy announced on January 23, 2009. But the bigger gift is for France's ailing print media.

He also announced a nine-fold rise in the state's support for newspaper deliveries and a doubling of its annual print advertising outlay amid a swelling industry crisis.

In measures to take effect next month, the state will increase its annual support for newspaper and magazine deliveries to •70 million from •8 million last year, and spend •20 million more a year for its advertisements in print publications. The state will also defer some fees the publications face. (**The Hindu, New Delhi dated January 25, 2009**)

Asia

South Asia continues to remain a dangerous area for journalists to work in, especially in countries with serious internal conflict like Afghanistan and Sri Lanka while in India though the press freedom is good, there are challenges of media concentration in the hands of a few. These were among the various details given in the sixth annual South Asia Press Freedom Report, produced by the International Federation of Journalists for the South Asia Media Solidarity Network (SAMSAN) and released on April 30, 2008 ahead of World Press Freedom Day on May 3. (**The Asian Age, New Delhi dated May 2, 2008**)

Pakistan was the second deadliest place for journalists in 2008 with India following closely behind, according to a new report by a global press freedom watchdog that showed Asia has replaced West Asia as the most dangerous region in the world for mediapersons. Though more journalists were killed in Iraq (14) than any other country last year—for the sixth year in a row—Pakistan came second with six deaths as “chaos gripped the country’s politics and conflict spread along the border with Afghanistan” the International Press Institute (IPI) said.

India followed with deaths of five journalists, remaining at the third spot with Mexico and the Philippines, the Vienna – based group said in its annual “World Press Freedom Review.”

Impunity remains a contagion in the region, particularly in the Philippines and Sri Lanka, but the murderers of journalists are also escaping prosecution in leading democracies such as India, IPI Director, David Dudge said. (**The Asian Age, New Delhi dated February 4, 2009**)

Journalists are no more safe in Pakistan as they are killed regularly, having no freedom to work and the 2009 Global Impunity Index of the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) recent survey ranks Pakistan 10th among 14 countries. Iraq, Sierra Leone and Somalia top the Impunity Index. Other countries in the South Asian region- India, Srilanka, Afganistan, Nepal and Bangladesh also figure on the index, a list of countries where journalists are killed regularly and governments fail to solve crimes. (**The Asian Age, New Delhi dated March 25, 2009**)

Malaysia

The Malaysian government has imposed a ban on a Tamil newspaper *Makkal Osai*, rejecting its renewal application.

The Home Ministry has turned down *Makkal Osai's* application for publication permit renewal, the Tamil daily's General Manager, S.M. Periasamy said. The management received the rejection letter from the Ministry on April 17, 2008.

"We applied for the permit on July 18 last year as our permit was expiring in October 2007. Although our permit has expired, we continued our publication while waiting for an answer from the Ministry," he said. However, the management will appeal against the decision on April 17, 2008.

"We hope the ministry will help us," Bernama news agency quoted him as saying. "We have been operating since 1992. Just imagine what the workers are going to do now. How are they going to survive?" he said, adding that the newspaper's daily publication was about 52,000 copies nationwide.

Last August, the then Internal Security Ministry suspended *Makkal Osai's* printing permit for publishing a caricature depicting Jesus Christ holding a cigarette and what appeared to be can of beer in its quote of the day column in its August 21 edition. **(The Tribune, Chandigarh dated April 18, 2008)**

Malaysian government on April 24, 2008 lifted the ban on publication of a prominent Tamil daily in the face of fierce criticism by opposition leaders and pressure from media activists.

The country's Home Ministry had suspended the publication permit of *Makkal Osai* or People's Voice on the grounds that the paper had flouted publication guidelines. The newspaper's General Manager, S.M. Periasamy on April 24, 2008 said he received a letter from the Ministry informing him that the ban has been dropped.

Home Minister, Syed Hamid Albar confirmed that he approved a fresh annual permit for *Makkal Osai* or "People's Voice", saying its editors had assured the government that "they will abide by the guidelines and contribute to our nation building efforts." **(The Asian Age, New Delhi dated April 25, 2008)**

A Catholic newspaper in Malaysia has defied a ban on using the word "Allah" as a translation for "God", in a row with the government which has threatened to close the weekly publication. The Editor of the *Herald* newspaper, Father Lawrence Andrew, said this week's edition uses the banned word and that he intends to continue doing so until the courts rule on the issue next month.

The government last month ordered a ban on the *Herald's* Malay edition until the court makes its decision, as part of conditions for it to be allowed to continue printing its editions in English, Chinese and Tamil. The Herald is circulated among the country's 850, 000 Catholics. **(The Asian Age, New Delhi dated January 21, 2009)**

China

Two and a half hours after a huge earthquake struck Sichuan Province on May 18, 2008 an order went out from the powerful Central Propaganda Department to newspapers throughout China. "No media is allowed to send reporters to the disaster zone," it read, according to Chinese journalists who are familiar with it.

When the order arrived, many reporters were already waiting at a Shanghai airport for a flight to Sichuan's provincial capital, Chengdu. A few were immediately recalled by their editors, but two reporters from the Shanghai newspaper, *The Oriental Morning Post*, Yu Song and Wang Juliang, boarded a plane anyway.

One of the biggest challenges, though, is to the country's sometimes sophisticated, sometimes heavy-handed propaganda system. China's censors found themselves uncharacteristically hamstrung when they tried to micromanage news coverage of the earthquake, as they do most major news stories in China.

China's censors operate in secret. Their orders are issued verbally to senior editors at thousands of newspapers, Websites and television outlets so that there is no written record of their mandates, editors say. The Propaganda Department does not have a public address or phone number and does not answer queries about its operations. Coverage of major accidents, epidemic diseases and natural disasters has long been a source of contention.

For all of this aggressive reporting, nearly all of China's news coverage has shied from exploring politically delicate questions related to the earthquake, such as the widespread collapse of school buildings, preferring to stick instead to the safer story lines of heroic rescues and human tragedy. **(The Indian Express, New Delhi dated May 19, 2008)**

The biggest media village in Olympic Games history officially opened in northern Beijing on 25th July.

"Despite the differences of colours, languages and nationalities between us, we share the fascination and joy of the Olympic Games with each other," said Zhao Jinfang, who is supervising the *North Star* which together with

Huiyuan comprises the two residential compounds of the village. The village opened for 21,600 domestic and foreign registered reporters, amid some foreign media's concerns about free reporting in China.

About 30,000 reporters are expected to cover the games, the largest in Olympic history, which means the number in the audience could be the highest ever too.

A regulation on reporting activities by foreign media during the games has, since January last year, lifted several rules. They no longer need approval from the local government but only agreement from the people or organisations to be interviewed.

Local authorities are urged to cooperate with media even when the interview involves sensitive topics such as environmental protection, AIDS and housing displacement.

The country faced criticism for not allowing any foreign media to enter Tibet immediately after the Lhasa violence on March 14, though reporters already there were allowed to continue to report until their permits ran out. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated July 26, 2008)**

China plans to create a blacklist of journalists who break its reporting rules, state media reported on February 13, 2009, adding to an array of controls used to restrict its domestic media.

According to a report in the China Press and Publishing Journal, the agency that exercises control over the state-owned Chinese media plans to "establish a database of media professionals with a bad record."

It said reporters who violate the rules or laws will have their press cards taken away. "Their names will be entered into the list and they will be restricted from news reporting or editing work," Mr. Li Dongdong, Deputy Director of the General Administration of Press and Publication, was quoted as saying.

Sensitive or negative issues are often ignored while Chinese journalists have been imprisoned for aggressive reporting on corruption in the private sector or the government.

The measures don't apply to foreign journalists in China, who are regulated by the ministry of foreign affairs.

Chinese citizens are prohibited from working as journalists for foreign media organisations. **(The Asian Age, New Delhi dated February 14, 2009)**

Nepal

Maoist Chairman, Prachanda, who is set to lead the next Nepal Government, has warned the media of “serious consequences” if it continues to criticise the party, a move flayed by the country’s apex journalists’ body.

“We will no longer tolerate criticism as we have already been elected by the people,” he said addressing a rally to celebrate the country’s transition to a republic.

The Federation of Nepalese Journalists (FNJ) has flayed Prachanda’s statement describing it as remarks directed against the freedom of the press.

FNJ also asked the Maoists to demonstrate their commitment to a free press in the country by making their party’s policy towards press freedom public. **(The Times of India, New Delhi dated June 1, 2008)**

Journalists in Nepal put down their pens, cameras and recorders for an hour on December 27, 2008 as a symbolic protest against widespread attack on media houses.

Despite the detention of two Maoist trade union leaders, who allegedly led an attack on the premises of Himal Media, the Federation of Nepalese Journalists (FNJ) have continued their agitation saying there is widespread attack against the Press and more culprits need to be brought to justice. **(The Statesman, New Delhi dated December 28, 2008)**

Freedom of expression is feared for in the young republic of Nepal. With continued attack on journalists and media houses, reporters think twice before covering any issue. Many are on the verge of quitting the profession.

A total of 29 journalists have been killed since the Maoist – led People’s War began in 1996, some killed by the Maoists, some died in detention.

The growing culture of impunity is one of the major reasons for the attacks on press and journalists. After the attacks on Himal Media, the government made a 10 point agreement with FNJ to ensure press freedom. These commitments have not been met. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated February 7, 2009)**

Pakistan

The new Pakistan Government has pledged to repeal laws which curb media freedom and deny free expression of views.

Federal Minister for Information, Sherry Rehman said that “black laws” of the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) will be repealed

soon because the government believed in free media and wanted to facilitate the journalist community.

She said a tripartite committee of stakeholder will be formed comprising representatives from journalist bodies, members of Parliament and representatives of human rights which will review the PEMRA ordinances and will give the future strategy.

“It will forward recommendations and we will implement these,” she added.

She said the media would be completely free and black laws of PEMRA imposed in 2007 will be revoked and a complete draft would be prepared by April 8, 2008 in this regard. **(The Asian Age, New Delhi dated April 2, 2008)**

Pakistan Minister for Information, Sherry Rehman has said that the government has prepared a summary to repeal “all media gagging laws.”

“We have prepared summary for repealing all media gagging laws. The government believes in the freedom of expression and liberty of media in the country,” she said during a meeting with a six-member media delegation of France. **(The Asian Age, New Delhi dated April 10, 2008)**

Maulvi Faquir Muhammad, the Deputy Head of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan has warned national newspapers not to publish women’s pictures, which offend them.

National papers like *AajKal* and *Express* were particularly targeted. Muhammad did not disclose the kind of action the Taliban would take after the deadline expires. **(The Times of India, New Delhi dated May 3, 2008)**

It was round one to the journalists on May 12, 2008 in Supreme Court *vs.* Geo Television, with a full Bench beating a retreat on an order restraining the media from writing or broadcasting anything about the judiciary without prior permission from the court.

Going even by the Pakistan Supreme Court’s chequered history, the first hearing of *suo motu* contempt of court proceedings against *Geo Television* and *Jang and The News dailies*, all from the same media stable was most extraordinary.

Geo had been summoned to court in the morning for a report on the channel that the Interior Secretary had held a meeting last week with the Supreme Court Chief Justice and two other Judges of the court to convey a message from “a very important personage.”

Issuing the summons on May 9, 2008 the court also restrained all journalists from publishing or broadcasting anything about the judiciary without prior permission from the court's registrar or public relations officer.

The Bench also ordered the Information Ministry and the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority to provide to the court every programme the channel had produced on the judiciary since November 3, 2007, the day President Musharraf imposed the Emergency. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated May 13, 2008)**

Geo TV has said Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf is behind a move by the UAE Government to stop its transmission.

Geo TV said it had received a "communications" from the Dubai administration asking it to stop two current affairs talk shows or else close down. The channel is headquartered in Dubai and has had a troubled relationship with the government there since the 2007 Emergency in Pakistan.

The two talk shows that the Dubai authorities went off air, *Capital Talk* and *Merey Mutabiq* (According to Me) came back on *Geo* only in March, after the elections.

The channel said it had been told the programmes, which have come out openly in support of the restoration of the judges sacked by the retired General, Pervez Musharraf, were damaging relations between Dubai and Pakistan. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated June 14, 2008)**

Two of Pakistan's most viewed television channels on November 17, 2008 accused the government of blocking their transmissions in the Sindh province.

"Geo Network's transmission has been stopped on cable in a number of cities across Sindh including Karachi," a spokesman of the leading news channel said. "Cable operators blocked the transmission of Geo Network in a number of areas across the city on November 17, 2008 morning, without assigning any reason for the stoppage.

The government and the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) have expressed unawareness about the stoppage of channels.

Another major channel, *ARY OneWorld* also came out with the same allegation against the government saying the transmission was not being watched in the Sindh province.

Sindh Minister for Information, Shazia Mari said that the government has nothing to do with the closure of *Geo* or *ARY OneWorld* and will ensure that

the telecast of the channels is restored. (**The Asian Age, New Delhi dated November 18, 2008**)

Najam Sethi, Editor-in-Chief of *Daily Times*, *Friday Times* and Urdu daily *Aaj Kal*, has been awarded the 2009 Golden Pen of Freedom, the annual prize of the World Association of Newspapers.

Mr. Sethi was chosen for his “outstanding defence and promotion of press freedom under difficult circumstances and constant personal danger,” a statement on the WAN website said, noting that his newspapers have promoted liberal and secular ideas in a country “too often torn by religious extremism.” (**The Hindu, New Delhi dated December 18, 2008**)

CHAPTER – II

Adjudications in Complaints Regarding Threats to Press Freedom

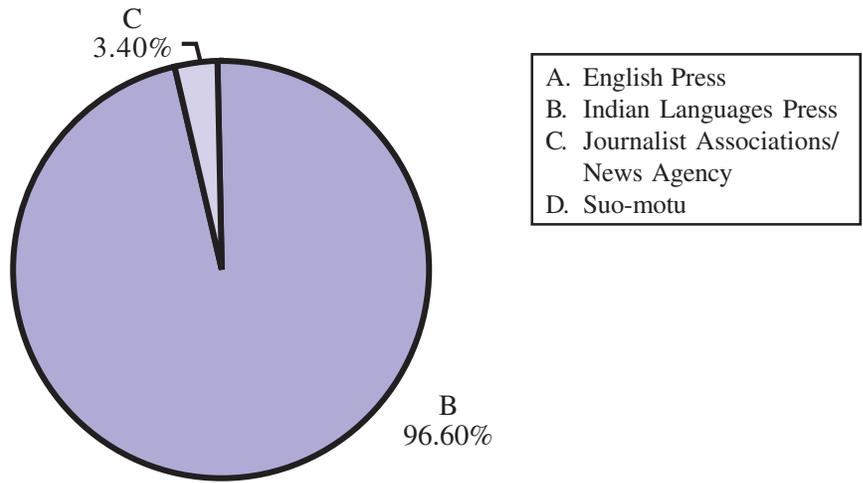
The Press Council of India is unique in nature and is different from other similar regulatory bodies as this is the only such body set up by the Parliament empowered *inter alia* to keep a watch on the actions or conduct of the authorities which may tend to undermine the freedom of the Press and to make observations, as it may think fit in way of its decisions or reports, covering the conduct of any authority including Government. It is in exercise of this power that the Council entertains and pronounces on the complaints filed against authorities.

Allegations of the attempts at curtailment of the freedom of the press, whether by way of threats, physical or verbal, or denial of concessions and privileges as a pressure tactic, by the authorities are dealt within the adjudications rendered by the Council. These actions, impinging upon the free functioning of the print media, are covered under Sections 13(1) and 13(2)(a)(e)(h)(i) and (k) of the Press Council Act, 1978.

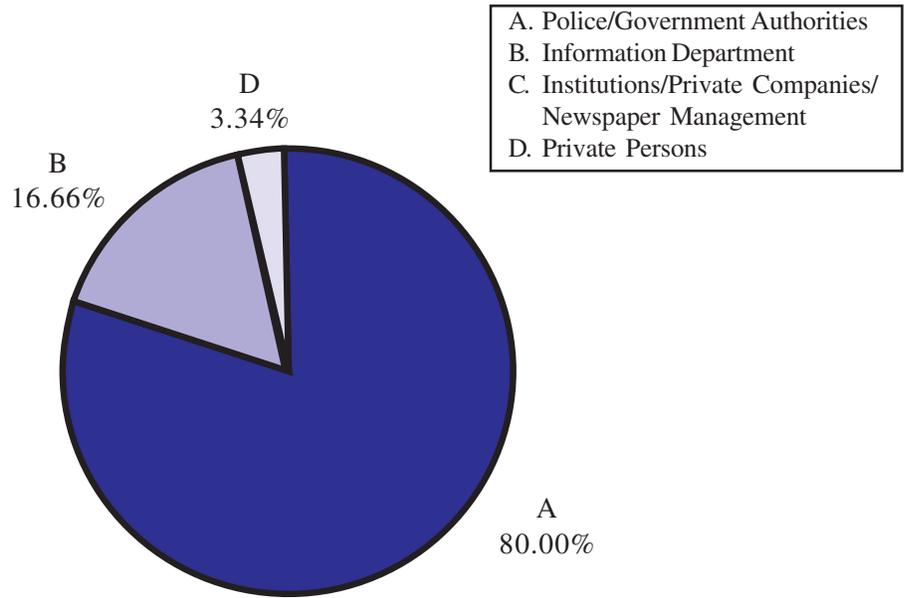
During the period under review the Council received 185 complaints charging the governmental or other authorities with attempts at abridging the free functioning of the print media. Besides, 126 matters were pending consideration from the previous year. Of the 311 odd matters requiring the Council's attention, 30 matters were disposed of by way of adjudication, while 71 were dismissed at the preliminary stage for lack of substantive grounds for inquiry, the matters being outside the Council's charter or having gone to a court of law. 210 matters were under process at the end of the period under review.

Adjudications on complaints under this chapter have been analysed graphically while detailed adjudications have been carried in the Council's quarterly journals, *viz.* 'PCI Review' in English, 'Press Parishad Samiksha' in Hindi and Compendium of Adjudications 2008-09.

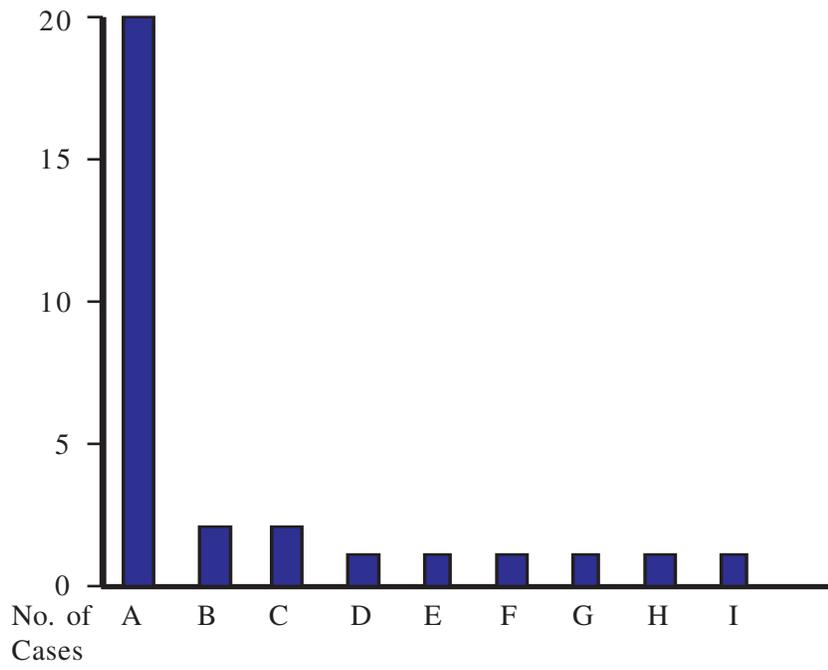
Categories of Complainants



Categories of Respondents



Statewise Distribution of the Complainant Publications



Key to Abbreviation

Total No. of Cases : 30

A. Uttar Pradesh	20
B. Delhi	2
C. Madhya Pradesh	2
D. Punjab	1
E. West Bengal	1
F. Assam	1
G. Uttarkhand	1
H. Maharashtra	1
I. Daman & Diu	1

Harassment of Newsmen

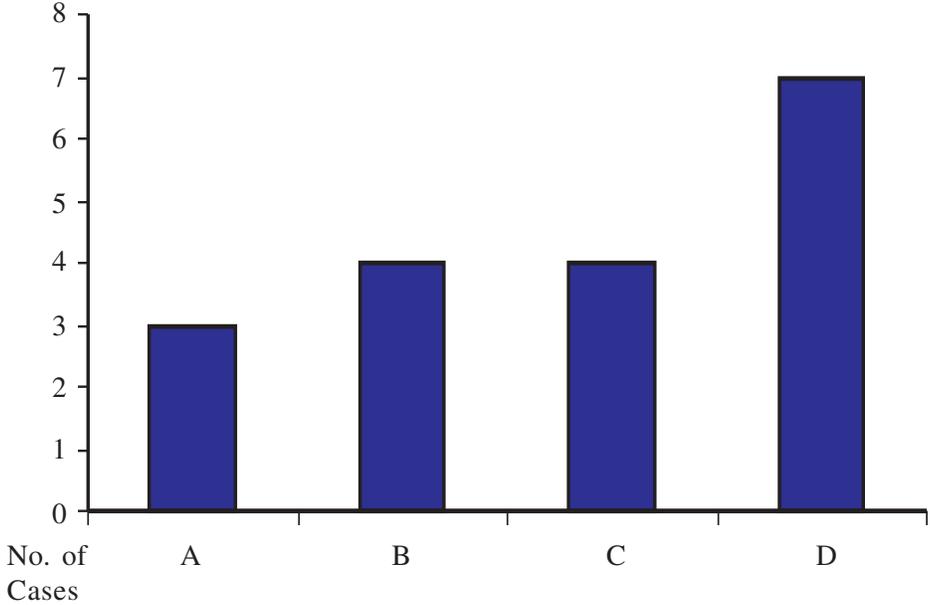
Members of the fourth estate of the democracy often in performance of their professional duties have to face, dire consequences from the authorities as well as militant organizations and anti-social elements for their fearless reporting and carrying the legitimate criticism of their functioning, highlighting the misdemeanors of the terrorist out-fits and anti-social elements. For honestly, discharging their professional duties, the journalists are manhandled, entangled in false cases, abducted and in extreme they are also brutally murdered. Raids are often carried at their press/home. Increasing number of cases of harassment of journalists manifest the failure of endeavours to check their unabated misdemeanors.

The Council adjudicated upon a total of 18 such matters in this financial year. Of these, the charges were found to be substantiated in three matters, while four stood dismissed on merit. The Council dropped inquiry in four matters when the respondents concerned made or assured adequate amends. Seven complaints were disposed of for not being pursued 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.

Harassment of Newsmen

Total No. of Cases : 18

A. Upheld	3
B. Rejected	4
C. Assurance/Settled/Amends	4
D. Dismissed for not being pursued/Withdrawal/Sub-judice/Lack of substance	7



Facilities to the Press

One of the propitious conditions for smooth functioning of the fourth estate is the provision of certain facilities to the press by the authorities. Prime facility of these is accreditation. Another mutually beneficial service is release of advertisement to the press. While accreditation directly or indirectly helps the press in getting and disseminating the information, grant of advertisements on one hand become sound source of finances for newspapers and on the other hand it helps the authority in conveying its policies and programmes to the public.

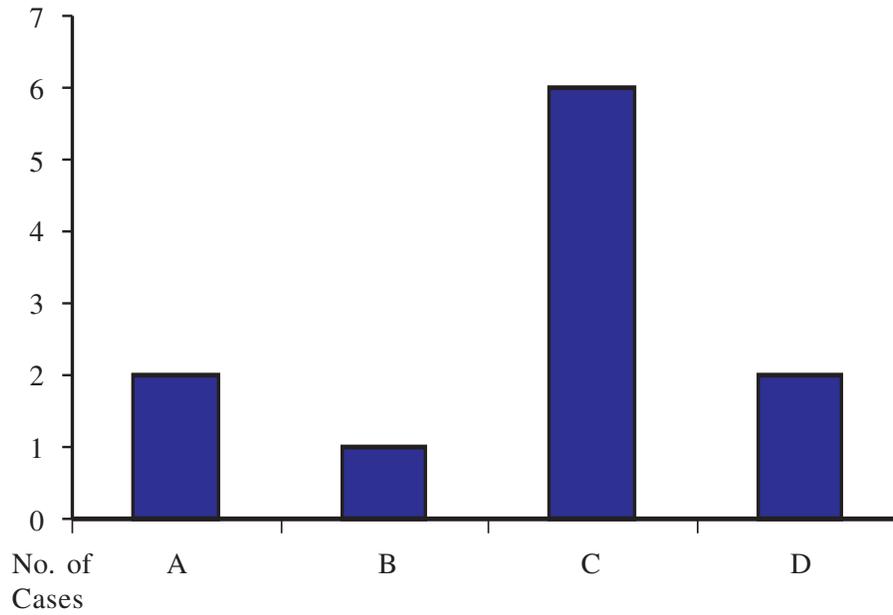
The authorities are expected to extend these facilities to the press under well defined policies and rules. Misuse of power in granting these facilities or a *malafide* denial with a view to pressurize the journalists to compromise their independence is to be viewed with concern.

Complaints regarding such biased withdrawal or denial of the above facilities have been many. However, of 11 adjudications of the year under report that fall under this category two were upheld, while one was rejected on merit. Two were dismissed for not being pursued or when action by the Council was not found warranted or the matter having become *sub-judice*. In six matters, the authorities concerned redressed the grievances of the complaining parties. The chart that follows makes the position more clear.

Facilities to the Press

Total No. of Cases : 11

A. Upheld	2
B. Rejected	1
C. Assurance/Settled/Amends	6
D. Dismissed for not being pursued/Withdrawal/Sub-judice/Lack of substance	2



Curtailement of Press Freedom

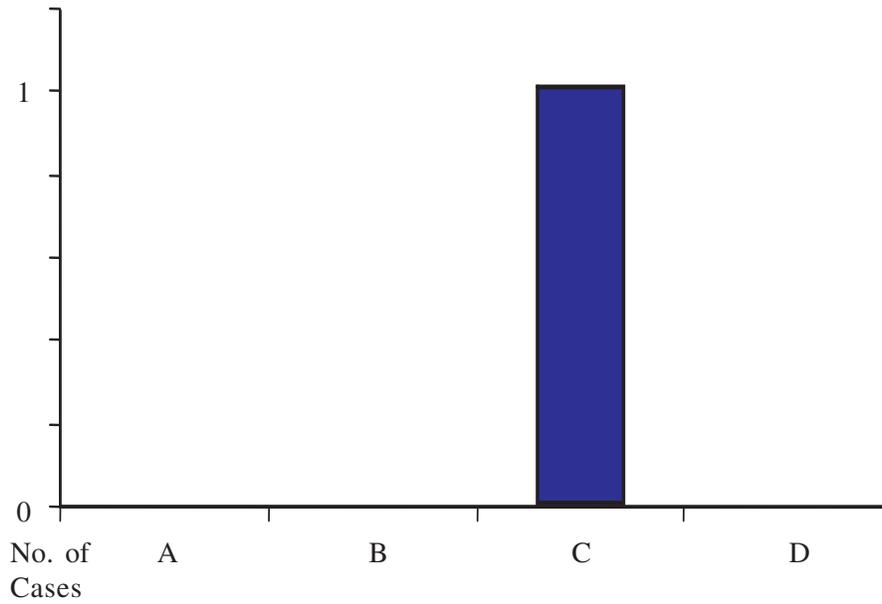
Apart from the factor of physical threats or denial of facilities, many other pressure tactics are employed to curb the freedom of the press. These may at times take the form of raids and attacks on press premises. The trade unions, political, social and religious organizations and other pressure groups also attempt to bring pressures on the press to compel it to abandon its independent view on matters affecting them and to silence it. This they do, either by organizing demonstrations, assaulting and man-handling the press staff, destroying the property of the press, preventing the distribution of the newspaper and destroying its issues and by otherwise making it impossible for the press to function in a free atmosphere.

The lone complaint adjudicated under this head this year was closed when the respondent police authorities gave assurance that it would take immediate steps in matter of harassment of press and dissemination of news.

Curtailment of Press Freedom

Total No. of Cases : 1

A. Upheld	-
B. Rejected	-
C. Assurance/Settled/Amends	1
D. Dismissed for not being pursued/Withdrawal/Sub-judice/ Lack of substance	-



CHAPTER – III

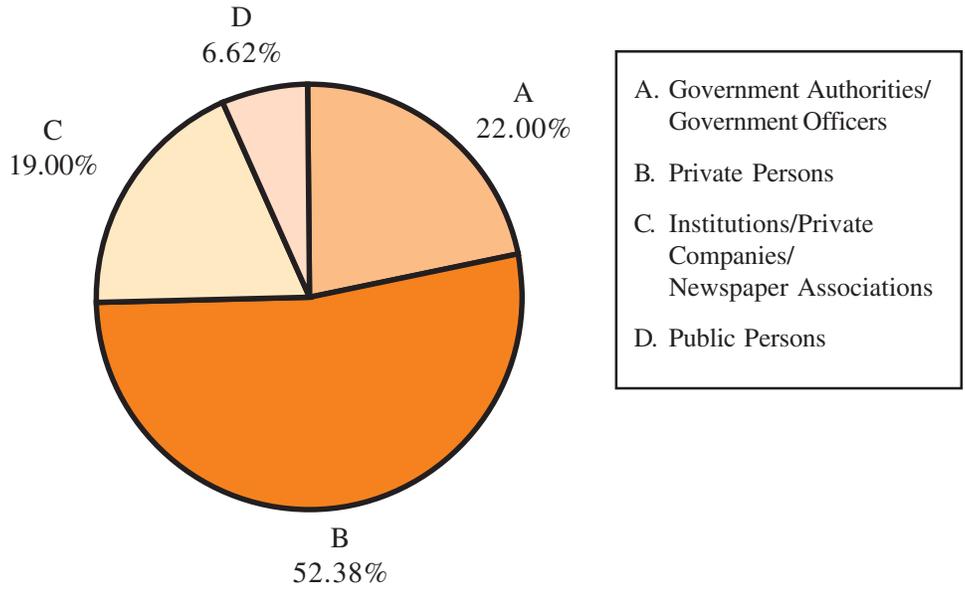
Adjudications Rendered by the Council in Complaints Filed Against the Press

We have in the preceding chapter observed the various pressure tactics adopted by the authorities to make newsmen toe their line. That is, however one side of the coin. The other side namely the print media is itself quite often guilty of using its privileged pen towards achieving its own ends. The twin objects for which the Press Council of India has been established are of preserving the freedom of the press and of maintaining and improving the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India.

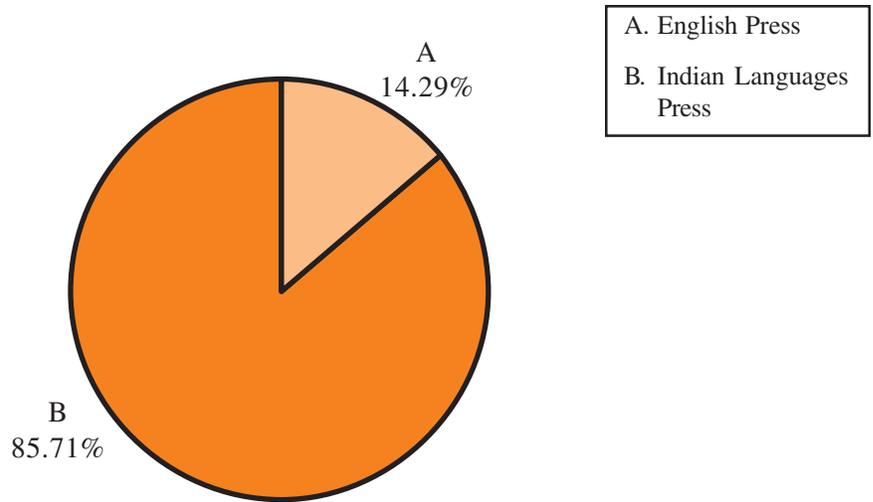
For the latter the Council has been enjoined to build up a code of conduct for newspapers, news agencies and journalists in accordance with high professional standards; ensuring on the part of the newspapers, the news agencies and the journalists, the maintenance of high standards of public taste and fostering a due sense of both the rights and responsibilities of citizenship; encouraging the growth of a sense of responsibility and public service among all those engaged in the profession of journalism; promoting a proper functional relationship among all classes of persons engaged in the production or publication of newspapers or in news agencies etc.

During the course of the year under review, the Council received 541 fresh complaints against the Press. Besides, there were 633 matters pending from the previous year. Thus, the Council was to consider in all 1174 complaints against the press during the year under review. Of these, 105 matters were disposed of through adjudications and 372 matters were disposed of at the preliminary stage, either by settling these to the satisfaction of the parties or dismissing the complaints due to lack of substance or on account of matters not being pursued etc. Three matters were directly placed before the Council for adjudication. Thus, 694 matters were pending in this category at the close of the financial year under review. Detailed text of the adjudications can be seen in the Council's quarterly house journals published in English as well as Hindi and Compendium of Adjudications 2008-09.

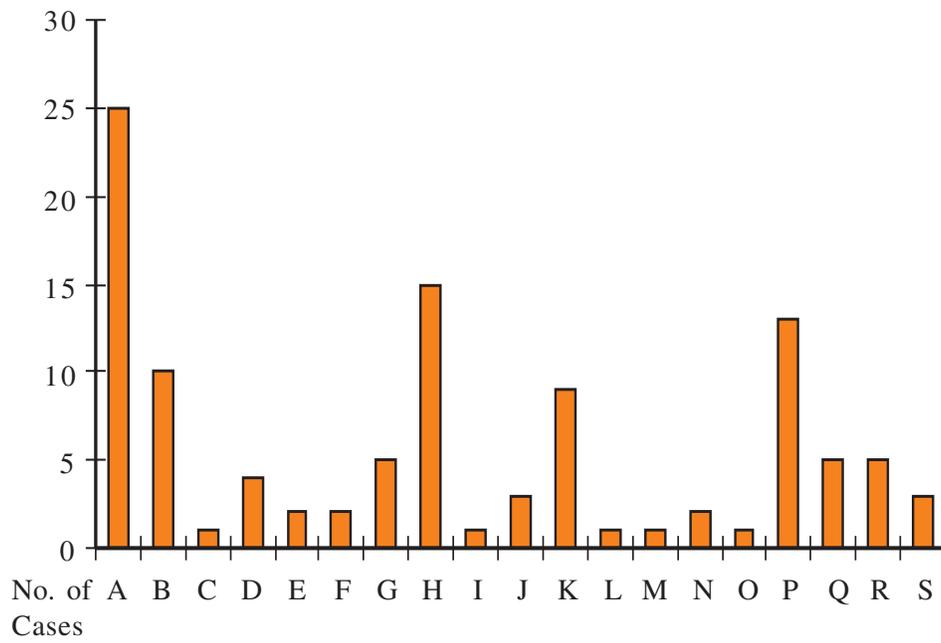
Categories of Complainants



Categories of Respondents



Statewise Distribution of the Respondent Publications



Key to Abbreviation

Total No. of Cases : 108

(Including three matters adjudicated directly by the Council)

A.	Uttar Pradesh	25
B.	Delhi	10
C.	Himachal Pradesh	1
D.	Haryana	4
E.	Uttrakhand	2
F.	Punjab	2
G.	Madhya Pradesh	5
H.	Assam	15
I.	Nagaland	1
J.	West Bengal	3
K.	Maharashtra	9
L.	Chhattisgarh	1
M.	Jharkhand	1
N.	Bihar	2
O.	Chandigarh	1
P.	Karnataka	13
Q.	Gujarat	5
R.	Andhra Pradesh	5
S.	Tamil Nadu	3

Principles and Publication

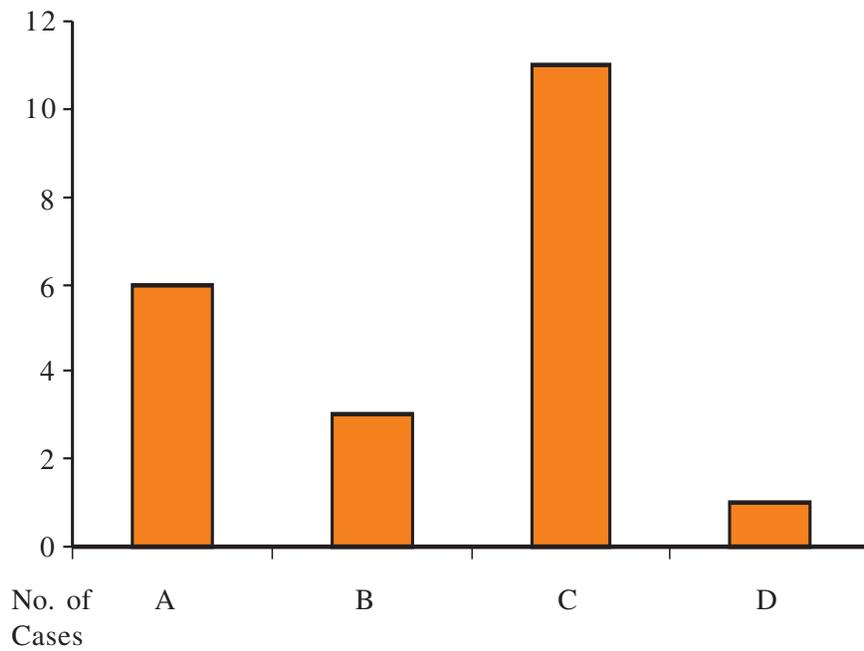
In the competitive race for circulation, the Press is often accused of forgetting the principles traditionally held dear by those in the profession of journalism. The nature of these deviations varies with the circumstances of the cases but the Council has tried, through these adjudications, to develop guidelines which, if properly adhered to, would help the press to a large extent to maintain authority, 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. 21 adjudications delivered this year fell under this category. Of these, six were upheld with appropriate directions while three matters were rejected on the merit. 11 complaints were disposed of by the Council when the respondents offered to make amends. The remaining matter was dismissed being without substance. The chart that follows makes the position more clear.

Principles and Publication

Total No. of Cases : 21

A. Upheld	6
B. Rejected	3
C. Assurance/Settled/Amends	11
D. Dismissed for not being pursued/ Withdrawal/Sub-judice/Lack of Substance	1



Press and Defamation

It has been observed that certain sections of the print media in the country tend to bring infamy the individuals, public persons, institutions through their writings/columns to settle personal score or following their failure to extort money from the individual/public persons/institution/organization. The resultant defamatory, slanderous, self-cooked up stories give a big jolt to hard earned reputation of the person/organization and render them immensely embarrassed. It is most unfortunate that this malpractice is escalating by leaps and bounds and is most prevalent among small time papers with no regularity. Every year the Council receives a large number of complaints carrying charges of defamatory publications.

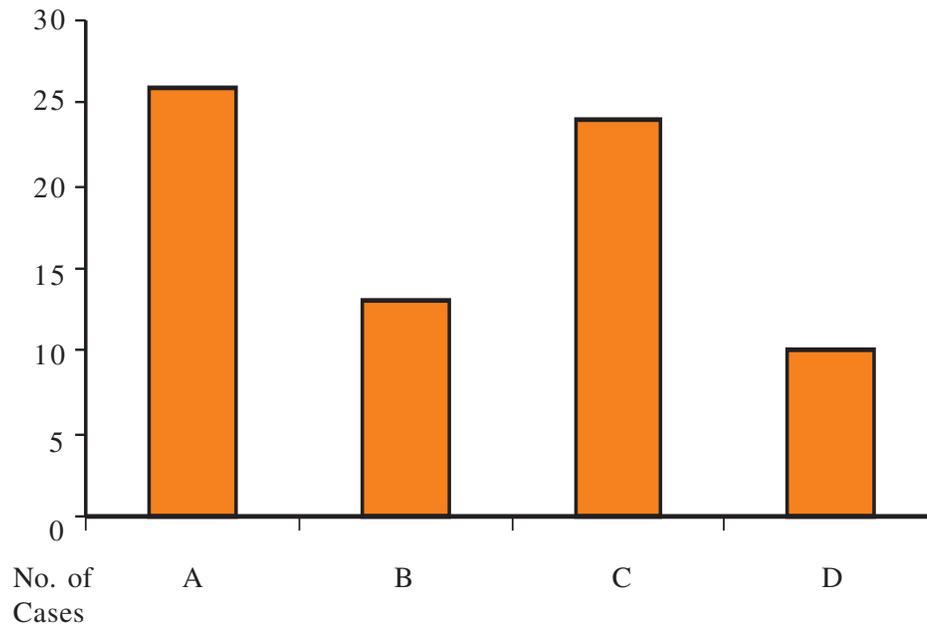
An analysis of the complaints received in the Council shows that the complaints filed under this head account for almost 70% of the total complaints. This is also borne out by the fact that of the 105 adjudications in matters against the press a bulk of complaints arise due to alleged defamatory publications.

The Council adjudicated 73 complaints this year pertaining to alleged defamatory publications. Of these, the press was found guilty of violation of journalistic ethics in 26 cases, while charges were rejected in 13 matters. In 24 matters, the Council was able to bring about reconciliation between parties while 10 complaints were disposed of 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 : 73

A. Upheld	26
B. Rejected	13
C. Assurance/Settled/Amends	24
D. Dismissed for not being pursued/ Withdrawal/Sub-judice/Lack of Substance	10



Press and Morality

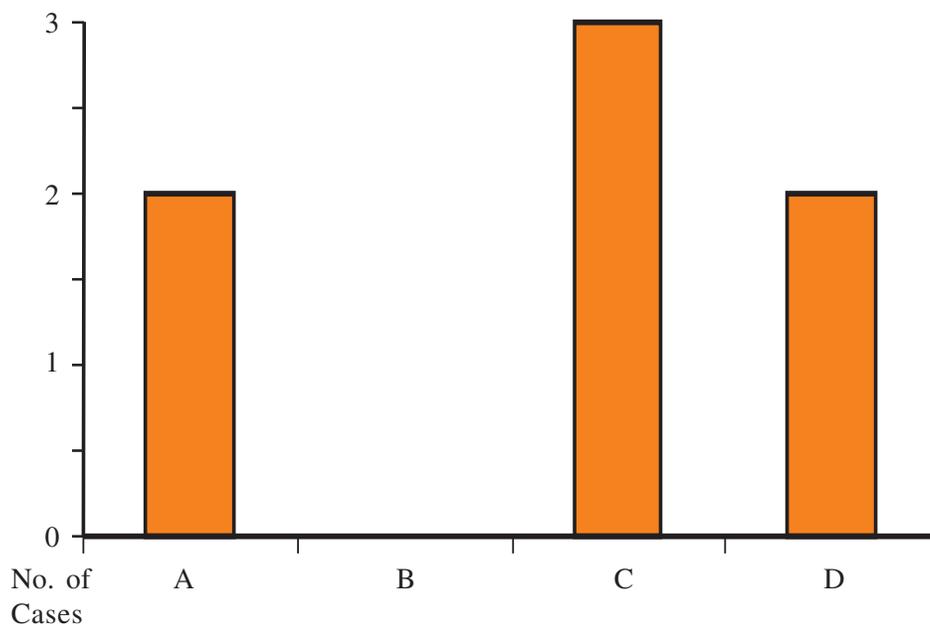
The role of the press in a democracy is that of a watchdog of the interest of the people. But, if this powerful watchdog is not reasonably restrained it might harm the very people whom it is supposed to serve. Barring occasional lapses, well established newspapers/magazines in India have maintained reasonable standards of professional rectitude even in the face of corruptive western ideas and influences. However, unfortunately there is a section of 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 matters.

In seven 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 two matters. Action was dropped in two matters while three matters were settled upon assurance. The chart that follows makes the position more clear.

Press and Morality

Total No. of Cases : 7

A. Upheld	2
B. Rejected	-
C. Assurance/Settled/Amends	3
D. Dismissed for not being pursued/ Withdrawal/Sub-judice/Lack of Substance	2



Communal, Casteist and Anti-Religious Writings

Communal passions and acts of casteist violence have been threatening to endanger the unity and security of our country. National integration is an imperative necessity for peace, prosperity and for the healthy development of our country. In this respect the press has a very important role to play. In India the press has a rich heritage and a glorious tradition. National integration and unity of our country are fundamental not just to our Constitution but to the whole society and indeed pre-condition to the proper growth and development of the country – political, social and economic. The press which has the capacity to influence the public mind and to mould public opinion must concentrate on curbing and controlling all divisive forces and on promoting national integration through its reporting of views, events and comments.

The Council has many a time appealed to the press to exercise due caution and care while reporting on matters where sentiments of communities/ castes are involved and also advised it to scrutinize the advertisements meticulously to ensure that they do not carry communal or anti-national flavour and to report the incidents keeping in mind the over-all interest of the nation. The Council has brought out very comprehensive set of norms for the guidance of the press in this regard.

During the period under review, the Council adjudicated four complaints under this category. All the four matters were settled upon assurance. Graphic presentation follows.

Communal, Casteist and Anti-Religious Writings

Total No. of Cases : 4

A. Upheld	-
B. Rejected	-
C. Assurance/Settled/Amends	4
D. Dismissed for not being pursued/ Withdrawal/Sub-judice/Lack of Substance	-



CHAPTER – IV

Report of the Council on the Complaint of the Managing Director and Editor-in-Chief, Karavali Ale, Mangalore Against Anti-Social Elements and Police Authorities

Adopted on 2.3.2009

Complaint

On receiving fax complaint dated 23.12.2008 from Shri B.V.Seetharam, Managing Director and Editor-in-Chief, Karavali Ale, Mangalore alleging attack by anti-social elements on the complainant, his newspaper establishment including its printing press, its distributors and hawkers and also burning of bundle of the newspaper for publishing editorial on sensitive issues and unsatisfactory role of the police authorities in the subsequent days, the Press Council, initially sought a report from the Government of Karnataka, on the matter and addressed the Chief Minister of Karnataka on 30.12.2008 for urgent action. Subsequently, taking cognizance of the news report dated 6.1.2009 in the Hindu captioned '*Karnataka Journalist held in defamation case, handcuffed*', the Council set up a *Committee for the purpose of on the spot inquiry, which toured Bangaluru and Mangalore, and conducted on the spot assessment of the situation.

Committee's Report

The Committee interacted with a cross section of people including government officials and submitted its findings as follows:

1. The problems faced by Karavali Ale and the hawkers were real and serious. The newspapers stalls were attacked and vendors were threatened of dire consequences if they did not heed the warnings. The Committee witnessed one such newspaper stall at the Bunder Road near State Bank of India bus stop. However, the police and the Superintendent of Police, Mr. N. Satish Kumar claimed that there was no such incident in last two-three weeks. Perhaps, this incident was intended to be a challenge to the PCI Committee on the eve of its visit. The Committee felt that it could be a challenge to the police as well. When this incident was brought to the notice of the Superintendent of Police during meeting with him, he pleaded ignorance. He might not have been informed of the

* The members were S/Shri Kundan Raman Lal Vyas and K. Sreenivas Reddy

incident as it occurred just two hours before the meeting with him. However, he promised to inquire and inform the Committee. Later he telephonically informed that two persons were apprehended in the case. The Superintendent of Police also informed that the various organizations of Human Rights and Civil Liberties etc. started questioning and criticizing the police for detaining the suspects. He told that suspects were also released on bail easily by the judiciary and police were helpless.

2. After assessing the evidence, both oral and written, given to the Committee by various person/organizations, including the Police officials, the Committee was of the opinion that the hand-cuffing and chaining of the Editor-in-Chief of Karavali Ale, Mr. B.V. Seetharam at the time of arrest and presentation before the Magistrate was true and proved beyond any doubt.

The issue of hand-cuffing and chaining Mr. Seetharam was discussed with the Superintendent of Police, Mangalore. He was specifically asked as to why he was hand-cuffed and who gave the order? It was told this was done by the lower level police. Though Mr. Seetharam himself insisted to be hand-cuffed as he feared he could be kidnapped. The Committee felt this claim of the police might not be true as it would be easier to kidnap a hand-cuffed and chained man than one who has hands free to resist such an attempt.

On 5th January, 2009 Mr. Seetharam was produced with hand-cuffs and chain before the Civil Judge (Jr. Division) and Judicial Magistrate (First class) and remanded in judicial custody until 17th January. Court allowed bail but Mr. Seetharam refused to file self bond saying that he intended to remain in judicial custody for his personal safety.

This matter was discussed with Justice Saldanha (Rtd) also. He wondered how come Judicial Magistrate did not fire the police then and there itself for violation of the Supreme Court guidelines. Mr. Seetharam was not a dreaded criminal and anti-social element nor had he evaded or resisted the arrest. It was only after the hue and cry raised in the media and the Press Council took serious note of it, the Police machinery moved in the matter and two constables were suspended after four days of the incident.

3. The Police had to present Mr. Seetharam before the Udupi jurisdiction Magistrate and obtain his orders after showing sufficient reasons to move him from one place to another. But it seemed the Police did not follow the law to move him from Udupi jurisdiction to Mysore. The Police did not explain this discrepancy. They also failed to explain why Mr. Seetharam was shifted from the Udupi hospital where he was admitted first to Mysore even though the Doctors opposed the move.

4. Government of Karnataka did not seem to have taken any strong steps to ensure the freedom of press with reference to the compliance of publication, though the police officials explained that protection was being provided but it was practically not possible to provide constable at every news stall. By then, the Additional Chief Secretary (Home) has assured that the written report will be sent to the Hon'ble Chairman of the Press Council of India by the end of January, 2009. The Committee awaited the report before arriving at a final conclusion in the matter.

5. There seemed to be unhealthy competition and business rivalry between Karavali Ale and another evening paper namely Vijaykaran. There were neither permanent enemies nor friends. Of late, Karavali Ale has been criticizing Special Economic Zone policy and criminalization of politics. However, this Committee felt that several legal cases were filed against the newspaper Editor-in-Chief at various places to harass him. Law will take its own course. But handcuffing of any citizen was just not acceptable as per the guidelines of the Supreme Court of India.

6. The Committee also observed that by and large, there was no sympathy for the Editor-in-Chief, Shri B.V. Seetharam for his writings and the reputation. However, there was unanimity in condemning the police for its inaction in the matter and also the handcuffing and chaining of Shri Seetharam.

Council's Report

The Council in its meeting held on 2.3.2009 noted that the written report of the Government was received after the report of the Committee, contending that "on 3.2.2007 Shri Rajavarma Ballal, son of Shri K.B.Ballal, resident of Barebail, Mangalore, lodged a written complaint with Panambur Police alleging that Shri B.V.Seetharam and his wife Smt. Rohini, Owner and Managing Director respectively and Shri B.S.Shivaprasad, the editor of Karavali Ale, daily newspaper had published defamatory articles in Karavali Ale, daily newspaper against Jain Digambar Munis, wounding the religious feelings of Jain and Hindu communities, whereafter cases under Sections 153(A), (B), 295(A) Criminal PC read with IPC were registered against Shri B.V.Seetharam and others in Criminal Case No.30/2007. The accused were arrested and sent to court which released them on bail.

In response to these provocative news published in his Karavali Ale, daily newspaper, the Hindu youths started protesting by attacking and pelting stones on his press and office. Later, some miscreants set fire to the newspaper bundles in some areas. Hence proper protection was given to Shri B.V.Seetharam by posting an armed gunman round the clock, and the same has been extended to Karavali Ale printing press from 13.10.2008 also.

Later various measures have been taken by the District Police to provide adequate security to his printing press and to Shri B.V. Seetharam. A personal gunman was also offered to Shri Seetharam, but he has refused it. He has given in writing that he would place requisition for gunman one hour in advance as and when required.

However, police patrol has been intensified both near his house and his printing press. Beat points books have been kept near his house. Beat Constables visit and sign the point books four times a day. After incidents that disturbed the distribution of newspaper, measures have been taken by local police to ensure paper distribution without fear of intimidation. The persons involved in the intimidation and attacks have been identified and arrested. Rowdy sheets have been initiated against them. Escort has also been provided to the vehicle that carries newspaper bundles for distribution. Intensive patrolling is done in the city at the time of distribution of the newspapers to ensure the sale of the newspaper smoothly.

The Inspector General of Police, Western Range, Mangalore has reviewed the situation and has issued several instructions to Superintendent of Police, D.K. in providing adequate security to Chitra Publication Print Ltd and Printing Press of Shri B.V. Seetharam at Baikampady.

With regard to handcuffing of the editor of Karavali Ale, the matter has been viewed seriously and the two police personnel namely Shri Nagesh, AHC.1446 and Shri K.S.Aravinda, AHC.243 have been placed under suspension pending disciplinary proceedings, as the act is against the guidelines issued by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in this regard.

Council's Ratification

The Council after assessing the evidence both oral and written adduced to the Committee by various persons/organizations, including the police officials and the report of the Government was of the opinion that the charge of handcuffing of Mr. B.V.Seetharam at the time of arrest and presentation before the Magistrate was true and proved beyond doubt and the act of the police authorities was against the guidelines of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in this regard. Further, the Government of Karnataka did not take strong steps to ensure that the paper was allowed to be published without any threats or constraints.

The Council decided that the issue needs to be taken to its logical conclusion and thus the report be forwarded to the complainant and the State Government for follow up action.



CHAPTER – V

Finances of the Council 2008-2009

The Budget Estimates of the Council for the financial year 2008-09, as accepted by the Central Government in 2007-08, was Rs. 262.04 lakhs. Revising the estimates for 2008-09 in January, 2009 the Central Government accepted the budget of Rs. 361.04 lakhs with revenue receipts estimated at Rs. 45.00 lakh and the grant-in-aid element of Rs. 316.04 lakhs. This was against the Council's Revised Estimates demand of Rs. 414.54 lakhs. The funds of the Council were primarily made up of (i) levy of fee collected by the Council from newspapers/periodicals registered with the Registrar of Newspapers for India and from the news-agencies and other miscellaneous receipts, like interest on bank account etc., and (ii) Grant-in-aid from the Central Government in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

To meet the additional demand the Council added to its revenue to take the final receipts to Rs. 97.14 lakhs. Accordingly, while Council received grant-in-aid amounting to Rs.315.73 lakhs during the financial year 2008-09 from the Central Government, it collected Rs.42.17 lakhs as fees levied upon newspapers/periodicals and news agencies. Apart from this, Rs.54.97 lakhs accounted for other miscellaneous receipts, like interest on bank accounts, interest on F.D.Rs. with the Bank, etc. during the year under report.

As a result of vigorous effort under way to realise as much revenue as possible from newspapers/periodicals defaulting in payment of the fee levied on them under the mandate of the Act, during the year the Council recovered Rs. 14.76 lakhs as outstanding levy of fee from the defaulters. This figure is included in the total figures of Rs. 42.17 lakhs mentioned above. Apart from this arrears of Rs. 3.19 lakhs were written off after establishing the closure of the concerned publications.

Section 22 of the Press Council Act, 1978 provides that 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 2008-09 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.

BALANCE SHEET

As on 31st March 2009

**PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA
BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31.03.2009**

Amount Rs.

<u>LIABILITIES</u>	Schedule	Current Year	Previous Year
CAPITAL FUND	1	50,322,940	50,915,844
C.P.F. FUND	2	57,813,649	46,414,706
CURRENT LIABILITIES AND PROVISIONS	3	2,407,268	588,759
TOTAL		110,543,857	97,919,309
<u>ASSETS</u>			
FIXED ASSETS	4	5,085,728	5,678,148
INVESTMENTS-FROM EARMARKED FUNDS	5	54,380,617	45,975,645
CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS, ADVANCES ETC.	6	51,077,512	46,265,516
TOTAL		110,543,857	97,919,309
SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES	13	-	-
CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND NOTES ON ACCOUNTS	14		

Sd/-
(G.N. RAY)
CHAIRMAN
PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA

Sd/-
(VIBHA BHARGAVA)
SECRETARY
PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA

**PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR
THE YEAR ENDED ON 31.03.2009**

INCOME	Schedule	Current Year	Previous Year
Income from Levy Fees & Others	7	6,372,611	5,274,090
Grants from Gol	8	27,568,756	19,921,535
Interest Earned	9	4,922,025	3,671,760
TOTAL (A)		38,863,392	28,867,385
EXPENDITURE			
Establishment Expenses	10	30,814,859	20,189,587
Other Administrative Expenses	11	8,228,262	7,409,312
Finance Charges	12	7,479	4,760
Depreciation(Corresponding to Schedule 4)		759,647	837,865
TOTAL(B)		39,810,247	28,441,524
Balance being excess of Income over Expenditure (A-B)		(946,855)	425,861
- Prior Period adjustment Cr.(Dr.)		186,724	(950)
- Transfer to Special reserve (Specify each)			
- Transfer to /from General Reserve			
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) CARRIED TO INCOME & EXPENDITURE A/C		(760,131)	424,911

SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES 13

CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND NOTES ON ACCOUNTS 14

Sd/-
(G.N. RAY)
CHAIRMAN
PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA

Sd/-
(VIBHA BHARGAVA)
SECRETARY
PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA

PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA
SCHEDULES FORMING PART OF BALANCE SHEET
AS ON 31.03.2009

SCHEDULE 1 - CAPITAL FUND

Amount Rs.

	<i>Current Year</i>		<i>Previous Year</i>	
A. Capital Fund:				
Balance as at the beginning of the year	7,618,384		10,244,740	
Add: Funds Capitalised During the Year	173,585		564,612	
Add: Excess Amount written off in Previous Years now written Back	—		—	
	7,791,969		10,809,352	
Less: Amount of Depreciation on Fixed Assets related to Previous Year			3,188,701	
Less: Amount Written Off on condemned Assets	6,358	7,785,611	2,267	7,618,384
A. Income & Expenditure Account:				
Balance as at the beginning of the year	43,297,460		42,872,549	
Add/(Deduct): Balance of net income/ (expenditure) transferred from Income and Expenditure Account	(760,131)		424,911	
Add/(Deduct): Other adjustment (Please Specify)				
Excess Interest booked in Previous Year written back		42,537,329		43,297,460
TOTAL		50,322,940		50,915,844

SCHEDULE 2 - C.P.F. FUNDS

Amount Rs.

	Current Year		Previous Year	
a) <u>Opening balance of the funds</u>	46,414,706		39,316,331	
b) <u>Addition to the Funds:</u>				
i. Councils' Contr. To C.P.F.	2,842,003		953,672	
ii. Employees' Contr. To C.P.F.	5,851,245		4,270,179	
iii. Interest on C.P.F. Funds from Govt.	3,818,357	12,511,605	3,183,224	8,407,075
TOTAL (a+b)	58,926,311		47,723,406	
c) <u>Utilisation/Expenditure towards objectives of funds</u>				
C.P.F. Withdrawals	1,929,348		715,000	
Final Payments to Outgoing Employees				
Reversal of excess credit of CPF in pr. Year			-	
PF Advances	(816,686)		539,700	
Other	-	1,112,662	-	1,308,700
Net Balance of Fund as at the year end (a+b-c)	57,813,649		46,414,706	

SCHEDULE 3 - CURRENT LIABILITIES AND PROVISIONS

Amount Rs.

	Current Year		Previous Year	
A. CURRENT LIABILITIES				
1 <u>Advances Received</u>				
- Advance Levy of Fee	84,338		109,918	
- Levy Fee Suspense	57,351	141,689	73,401	183,319
2 Security Deposits		31,000		31,000
3 Payable to heirs of ex-employees		862,222		287,850
4 Other current Liabilities		1,333,064		55,961
5 Unspent Grant		39,293		30,629
TOTAL (A)	2,407,268		588,759	
B. PROVISIONS				
TOTAL (A+B)	2,407,268		588,759	

SCHEDULE 4 - FIXED ASSETS

DESCRIPTION	GROSS BLOCK			
	Cost As on 01.04.08	Additions during year	Deductions/ Adjustment during year	Cost As on 31.03.09
A. Fixed Assets:				
Furniture & Fixtures	4,043,574	128,315	—	4,171,889
Air Conditioners & Coolers	911,209	—	—	911,209
Computer / Peripherals	3,549,145	—	—	3,549,145
EPABX System	258,800	—	—	258,800
Conference System	27,820	—	—	27,820
Library Books	676,088	21,286	—	697,374
Heat Convector & Heaters	35,764	—	—	35,764
Tape Recorders	6,618	—	—	6,618
Mobile Phones	20,100	—	8,800	11,300
Stabilizers	67,750	3,684	—	71,434
Cars & Bicycle	743,237	2,500	—	745,737
Television	78,190	—	—	78,190
Typewriter & Duplicator	133,029	—	—	133,029
Attendance Recording System	82,000	—	—	82,000
Refrigerator	34,735	17,800	—	52,535
Solar Water Heating System	110,227	—	—	110,227
Water Dispenser	28,800	—	—	28,800
TOTAL OF CURRENT YEAR	10,807,086	173,585	8,800	10,971,871
B. CAPITAL, WORK-IN-PROGRESS	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	10,807,086	173,585	8,800	10,971,871

SCHEDULE 4 - FIXED ASSETS

Depreciation As on 01.04.08	DEPRECIATION			NET BLOCK	
	Depreciation during year	On Deductions during year	Depreciation As on 31.03.09	As on 31.03.09	As on 31.03.08
1,848,889	231,289	—	2,080,178	2,091,711	2,194,685
456,672	68,181	—	524,853	386,356	454,537
1,793,164	263,397	—	2,056,561	1,492,584	1,755,981
118,075	21,109	—	139,184	119,616	140,725
26,065	263	—	26,328	1,492	1,755
172,253	78,767	—	251,020	446,354	503,835
12,425	3,501	—	15,926	19,838	23,339
2,703	587	—	3,290	3,328	3,915
4,137	1,441	2,442	3,136	8,164	15,963
30,273	6,175	—	36,448	34,986	37,477
443,006	45,410	—	488,416	257,321	300,231
40,106	5,713	—	45,819	32,371	38,084
116,348	2,502	—	118,850	14,179	16,681
17,527	9,671	—	27,198	54,802	64,473
17,578	5,244	—	22,822	29,713	17,157
23,561	13,000	—	36,561	73,666	86,666
6,156	3,397	—	9,553	19,247	22,644
5,128,938	759,647	2,442	5,886,143	5,085,728	5,678,148
—	—	—	—	—	—
5,128,938	759,647	2,442	5,886,143	5,085,728	5,678,148

SCHEDULE - 5 INVESTMENTS FROM EARMARKED FUND

Amount Rs.

	Current Year		Previous Year	
1. Fixed Deposits with Scheduled Banks				
- Against C.P.F. Fund	52,251,522		43,229,999	
- FDR Interest Accrued thereon	2,129,095	54,380,617	2,745,646	45,975,645
TOTAL		54,380,617		45,975,645

SCHEDULE 6 - CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS, ADVANCES ETC.

Amount Rs.

	Current Year		Previous Year	
A. CURRENT ASSETS:				
1. Sundry Debtors:				
- On Account of Levy Fees				
Debts Outstanding for a period exceeding six months	35,166,176		34,151,001	
Others	3,393,125	38,559,301	2,792,612	36,943,613
2. Cash balances in hand (including Postage in Hands and imprest)				
Cash in Hand	—			
Imprest Account Balance	6,958		10,000	
Postage Stamps in Hands	16	6,974	11,238	21,238
3. Bank Balances:				
- With Scheduled Banks:				
Saving Accounts				
- State Bank of Hyderabad - General Account	1,253		2,708	
- State Bank of Hyderabad - Levy Fee Account	31,066		6,683	
- State Bank of Hyderabad - Revolving Account	291,087		125,426	
- State Bank of Hyderabad - C.P.F. Account	5,744,425	6,067,831	2,994,551	3,129,368
Deposit Accounts				
- State Bank of Hyderabad - Revolving Account	2,187,479		2,454,519	
- State Bank of Hyderabad - Account Gopa Mitra	643,899		287,850	2,742,369
- State Bank of Hyderabad - Account Sushila Devi	165,881	2,997,259		
TOTAL (A)		47,631,365		42,836,588

SCHEDULE 6 - (continued)

Amount Rs.

	Current Year		Previous Year	
B. LOANS,ADVANCES AND OTHER ASSETS				
1 <u>Loans to Staff:</u>				
- Cycle Advance			1,050	
- Fan Advance	300		—	
- Festival Advance	47,400		24,900	
- Housing Building Advance	69,685		85,813	
- Motor Car Advance	320,418		222,254	
- Scooter Advance	40,400	478,203	400	334,417
2 <u>Advances and other amounts recoverable in cash or in kind/or for value to be received:</u>				
- Advance for Books/Periodicals	8,737		9,987	
- Advance to Parties	2,215,859		2,309,994	
- TA Advance	15,710		270,573	
- Tax Deducted at Source	293,614		293,614	
- Others				
- TA/DA Recoverable	2,333		—	
- C.P.F. Suspense	6,673	2,542,926	6,673	2,890,841
3 <u>Income Accrued</u>				
a) On Deposits of Revolving Account (includes income due unrealised-Rs.)		405,544		173,162
4 <u>Deposits with Different Departments</u>		19,474		30,508
TOTAL (B)		3,446,147		3,428,928
TOTAL (A +B)		51,077,512		46,265,516

SCHEDULE 7 - INCOME FROM LEVY FEES & OTHERS

Amount Rs.

	Current Year		Previous Year	
1 Levy fees received from Newspapers/ Periodicals/News Agencies	4,217,532		3,157,741	
Add: Demand raised for previous year	153,150		600	
Add: Advance of Previous Years adjusted	26,130		36,023	
Add: Fees outstanding for current Year	3,393,125		2,792,612	
Less: Fees received for previous Years	1,475,752		739,960	
Less: Fees received in advance / suspense	120,260	6,193,925	42,891	5,204,125
2 Others (Specify)				
- Income Tax Refund	—			
- Sale of Waste Papers	3,857		1,993	
- Fees for Information under Right to Information Act	430		6,472	
- Seminar Income	—		61,500	
- Other	174,399	178,686	—	69,965
TOTAL		6,372,611		5,274,090

SCHEDULE 8 - GRANTS

Amount Rs.

	Current Year		Previous Year	
(Irrevocable Grants & Subsidies Received)				
- Central Government (Ministry of I & B)				
- Grant Received During the Year	31,573,371		23,682,307	
- Add: Unspent Grant for the Previous Year	30,629		17,693	
	31,604,000		23,700,000	
- Less: Grant Utilised for Interest on C.P.F. Funds	3,822,366		3,183,224	
- Less: Grant Utilised for Fixed Assets	173,585		564,612	
- Less: Unspent Grant for the Current Year	39,293	27,568,756	30,629	19,921,535
TOTAL		27,568,756		19,921,535

SCHEDULE 9 - INTEREST EARNED

Amount Rs.

	Current Year		Previous Year	
1 On Term Deposits:				
a) With Scheduled Banks				
- CPF Account (Trf. to General Fund)				
Interest Received During the Year	5,151,207		3,553,775	
Add: Tax Deducted at Source			222,705	
Less: Related to Previous Years	2,207,820		3,228,702	
Add: Interest Accrued for the Year	1,591,269	4,534,656	2,745,646	3,293,424
- Revolving Fund Account				
Interest Received During the Year	30,965		127,233	
Add: Tax Deducted at Source			25,578	
Less: Related to Previous Years	19,182		135,856	
Add: Interest Accrued for the Year	251,564	263,347	173,162	190,117
- General Fund Account				
Interest Received During the Year	47,014		83,220	
Add: Interest Accrued for the Year		47,014		83,220
2 On Savings Accounts:				
a) With Scheduled Banks				
- General Fund Account	29,002		13,662	
- CPF Account (Trf. To General Fund)	31,322		37,196	
- Levy Fees Account	5,242		4,229	
- Revolving Fund (Loans & Advances)	5,536	71,102	5,032	60,119
3 On Loans:				
a) Employees/Staff				
- Housing Building Advance	—		36,056	
- Scooter Advance	5,868		8,824	
- Cycle Advance	38			
- Fan Advance				
- Motor Car Advance		5,906		44,880
TOTAL		4,922,025		3,671,760

SCHEDULE 10 - ESTABLISHMENT EXPENSES

Amount Rs.

	Current Year	Previous Year
a) Salaries and Wages	21,822,582	17,843,486
b) Sumptuary Allowances (including arrears)	4,329,310	—
c) OTA	20,064	21,771
d) Tution Fees Reimbursement	178,182	11,520
e) Medical Reimbursement	377,174	444,026
f) Bonus	275,094	17,949
g) L.T.C.	584,093	373,992
h) Encashment of E.L.	92,973	3,829
i) Contribution to Provident Fund	2,842,003	953,672
j) Leave Salary & Pension Contribution To/(from) deputationists	—	(64,738)
k) Expenses on Employees' Retirement and Terminal Benefits	293,384	584,080
l) Others (Honorarium Awards)		
Total	30,814,859	20,189,587

SCHEDULE 11 - OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Amount Rs.

	Current Year	Previous Year
1 Electricity and Water	407,247	945,528
2 Office Expense	172,811	164,016
3 Insurance	9,401	—
4 Repairs and Maintenance	699,202	802,670
5 Vehicles Repairs and Maintenance	248,479	208,669
6 Travelling and Conveyance Expenses	2,480,430	1,875,832
7 Rent, Rates and Taxes	348,397	224,242
8 Postage, Telephone and Communication Charges	811,923	761,025
9 Printing and Stationery	850,899	1,122,717
10 Newspapers & Periodicals	86,786	88,010
11 Liveries to Class IV Staff	27,002	26,230
12 Hospitality Expenses	—	53,656
13 Subscription Expenses	19,489	18,879
14 Legal & Professional Charges	178,585	132,775
15 Exhibition & Seminar	319,636	403,997
16 Advertisement and Publicity	18,962	—
17 Others(specify)- Sundries	620	6,285
18 Provision for Bad and Doubtful/Debts/Advances	319,075	571,561
19 Hindi Protsahan Award	7,820	3,220
20 Frieght & Cartage	300	—
21 Workshop Expenses	33,632	—
22 Entertainment	62,405	—
23 Other Administrative Expenses Payable	1,125,161	—
TOTAL	8,228,262	7,409,312

Note:

- 1 Electricity & Water Expenses are incurred towards chairman's residence.

SCHEDULE 12 - FINANCE CHARGES

Amount Rs.

	Current Year	Previous Year
a) On Fixed Loans		
b) On Other Loans (including Bank Charges)	7,479	4,760
c) Other (specify)		
TOTAL	7,479	4,760

PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA
SCHEDULE FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2009

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 capitalised.
- b. Capital Fund is maintained to denote the cost of Fixed Assets.

5. Depreciation

The Council was not providing any depreciation on its assets right from its inception till 31.03.2006. Policy in this regard is being changed from the financial year ending 31.03.2007 to charge the depreciation as per the Income Tax Rules at the following rates i.e. Furniture & Fixtures @ 10% and Other Assets at the general rate @ 15%.

6. Government Grant

- a. Government Grants are accounted on cash basis.
- b. Grants utilised towards the addition of fixed assets are transferred to the Capital Fund.
- c. Grants utilised towards the interest on C.P.F. Fund are transferred to C.P.F. Account.

- d. Unspent Grant for the year are transferred to Reserve & Surplus for further use in the next year.

7. Retirement Benefits

- a. Retirement benefits are accounted on cash basis. No provision for Gratuity payable, leave encashment etc. is made.
- b. The Council is maintaining its own C.P.F. Fund.

Sd/-
(G.N. Ray)
Chairman
PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA

Sd/-
(Vibha Bhargava)
Secretary
PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA

PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA
SCHEDULE FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2009

SCHEDULE 14 - CONTINGENT LIABILITIES & NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

A. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

Claims against the Council not acknowledged as debts Rs. NIL (Previous Year NIL)

B. NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. Current Assets, Loans & Advances

- a. Balances in the Sundry Debtors, Advances for Books & Periodicals 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 realisable 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/-
(G.N. Ray)
Chairman
PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA

Sd/-
(Vibha Bhargava)
Secretary
PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA

PRESS COUNCIL RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR

Receipt	Current Year	Previous Year
I. Opening Balance		
(a) Cash in hand (Imprest Account)	10,000	91,639
(b) Bank Balances		
– General Fund	2,708	(85,397)
– Levy of Fees Account	6,683	3,071
– Revolving Fund (Loan & Advance)	125,426	209,256
– C.P.F. Account	<u>2,994,551</u>	<u>3,476,740</u>
(c) Postage Stamps in Hand	11,238	8,380
II. Grants Received		
(a) From Government of India (Ministry of I & B)	31,573,371	23,682,307
III. Interest Received		
(a) On Bank deposits		
– Term Deposits	5,229,186	3,764,228
– Saving Accounts	<u>71,102</u>	<u>60,119</u>
	5,300,288	3,824,347
(b) Loans, Advances etc.	5,906	44,880
IV. Other Income (specify)		
Levy fees received from Newspapers/ Periodicals/News Agencies	4,217,532	3,157,741
Others	178,686	69,965
V. Receipts from Matured Investments		
Encashment of FDRs		
– Revolving Fund Account	267,040	2,327,286
– C.P.F. Account	15,991,612	35,876,269
– Others	<u>4,000,000</u>	<u>5,000,000</u>
	20,258,652	43,203,555
VI. Any Other Receipts		
(a) <u>Refund of Securities</u>		
– Deposits with Departments	11,034	27,073
– Waste Paper	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
	11,034	27,073

OF INDIA
THE YEAR ENDED ON 31.03.2009

Payments	Current Year		Previous Year	
I. Expenses				
(a) Establishment Expenses (Corresponding to Schedule 10)	30,740,916		19,901,737	
(b) Administrative Expenses (Correspondent to Schedule 11) (net of previous year advances adjusted)	6,268,863		6,622,607	
II. Payments made against funds				
Against Revolving Fund (Loans & Advances)				
– Disbursements of Loans				
– Festival Advance	81,000		48,000	
– Scooter Advance	48,000		—	
– Fan Advance	1,000		1,500	
– Motor Car Advance	155,000	285,000	237,800	287,300
Against C.P.F. Fund				
– Advance / Withdrawal to Staff	1,763,055		2,349,051	
– Final Payments to Outgoing Employees	—	1,763,055	—	2,349,051
III. Investments and deposits made				
(a) Out Earmarked/Endowment funds				
– Against Revolving Fund (Loans & Advances)	—		2,454,519	
– Against C.P.F. Fund	25,013,135	25,013,135	43,229,999	45,684,518
(b) Out of own funds				
– Towards Gratuity of Ms. Gopa Mitra, Sushila	521,930		287,850	
– Others	4,000,000	4,521,930	5,000,000	5,287,850
IV. Expenditure on Fixed Assets & Capital work-in-progress				
a) Purchase of Fixed Assets				
– Library Books	21,186		77,924	
– Furniture & Others	152,299		486,688	
– Telephone Instruments	—	173,485	—	564,612

Receipt	Current Year		Previous Year	
(b) Recovery of Advances				
– Housing Building Advance	16,128		63,488	
– Festival Advances	58,500		45,900	
– Scooter Advances	8,000		27,174	
– Motor Car Advance	56,836		15,546	
– Cycle Advance	1,050		450	
– Table Fan Advance	700	141,214	—	152,558
(c) Recovery from Employee	—		—	
C.P.F. Contribution and refund loan	7,168,931	7,168,931	5,310,530	5,310,530
(d) Amount trf from General Fund to C.P.F. Fund on account of:				
– Council's Contribution to PF	2,842,003		953,672	
– Interest on Employees' Contribution	2,628,606		2,109,253	
– Interest on Council's Contribution	1,189,751		1,073,971	
– Others	—	6,660,360	—	4,136,896
Total		78,666,580		87,313,541

Payments	Current Year		Previous Year	
(b) Expenditure on Capital Work-in-progress				
V. Refund of surplus money/Loans				
(a) To the Government of India (TDS)	—		—	
(b) Excess of Levy fee Refunded	—	—	—	—
VI. Finance Charges (Interest)		7,479		4,760
VII. Other Payments (Specify)				
(a) Amount trf from General Fund to C.P.F. Fund on account of:				
– Interest on Employees' Contribution	2,628,606		2,109,253	
– Interest on Council's Contribution	1,189,751		1,073,971	
– Others	—	3,818,357	—	3,183,224
(b) Advance				
– for Books & Periodicals	7,355		6,677	
– for Capital Assets	—		—	
– for Others	(7,800)	(445)	269,349	276,026
(d) Salary Excess paid to Staff		—		—
(e) Security Deposit				1,250
VIII. Closing Balances				
(a) Cash in hand (Imprest Account)		6,958		10,000
(b) Bank Balances				
– General Fund	1,253		2,708	
– Levy of Fees Account	31,066		6,683	
– Revolving Fund (Loan & Advance)	291,087		125,426	
– C.P.F. Account	5,744,425	6,067,831	2,994,551	3,129,368
(c) Postage Stamps in Hand		16		11,238
Total		78,666,580		87,313,541

Sd/-
(G.N. RAY)
CHAIRMAN
PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA

Sd/-
(VIBHA BHARGAVA)
SECRETARY
PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA

Statement of Cases
(April 1, 2008 — March 31, 2009)

S.No.	Particulars	Section-13	Section-14	Total
1.	Cases pending as on 31.3.2008	126	633	759
2.	Cases filed between 1.4.2008 to 31.3.2009	185	541	726
3.	Cases adjudicated between 1.4.2008 to 31.3.2009	30	105	135
4.	Cases directly reported to the Council	—	3	3
5.	Cases decided under the proviso to Regulation 5(1) of Inquiry Regulation 1979 between 1.4.2008 to 31.3.2009	71	372	443
5.	Cases under process as on 31.3.2009	210	694	904*

* In 31 cases hearing has been concluded and adjudication is pending and 38 cases are on advanced stage of hearing.

The Gazette of India

EXTRAORDINARY

PART II – Section 3 – Sub-section (ii)

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

No.676] NEW DELHI, MONDAY, MAY 19, 2008/VAISAKHA 29, 1930

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 19th May, 2008

S.O. 1171 (E). – In pursuance of sub-section (2) of Section 5 of the Press Council Act, 1978 (37 of 1978), the Central Government hereby *notifies the nomination of Justice Ganendra Narayan Ray, the retired Judge of the Supreme Court of India, as the Chairman of the Press Council of India.

[F.No. 4/18/2007-PRESS]
STUTI KACKER, Jt. Secy.

* As amended *vide* corrigendum dated June 18, 2008

The Gazette of India

EXTRAORDINARY

PART II – Section 3 – Sub-Section (ii)

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

No.1329] NEW DELHI, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2008/BHADRA 28, 1930

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 19th September, 2008

S.O. 2242(E). – In pursuance of sub-section (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 notifies the name of Dr. K. Keshava Rao, nominated as member to the Press Council of India, and for the said purpose makes the following amendment in the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, number S.O.39 (E), dated the 7th January, 2008, namely:-

In the said notification, under the heading “Members of Parliament [nominated under clause (e) of sub-section (3) of Section 5]”, for serial number 28 and the entries relating thereto, the following serial number and entries shall be substituted, namely:-

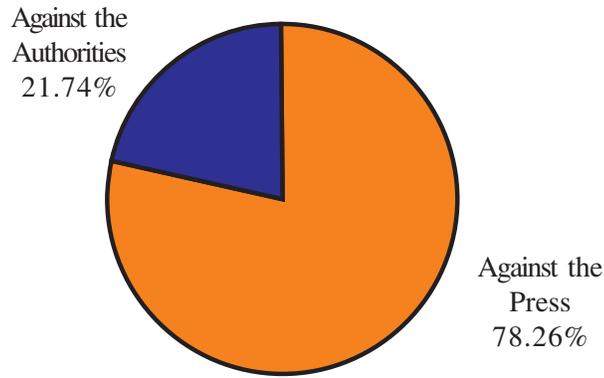
“28. Dr. K. Keshava Rao,
Present Address:
7, Canning Lane,
New Delhi- 110001.

Nominated by the Chairman
of the Council of States.”

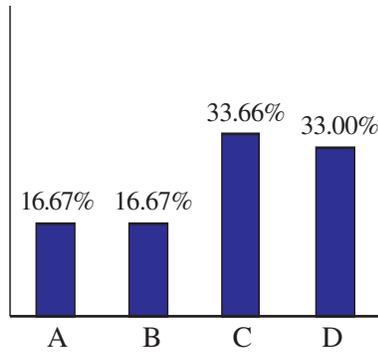
Permanent Address:
8-2-696/21/A, NBT
Colony, Road No.12,
Banjara Hills, Hyderabad-34

[F.No. 4/8/2007-PRESS]
STUTI KACKER, Jt. Secy.

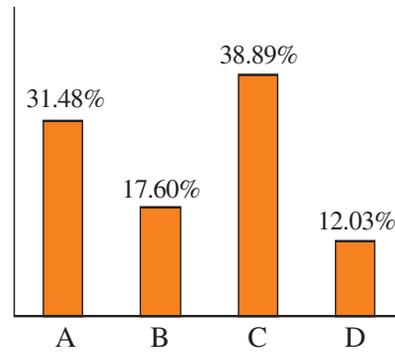
Graph of Adjudications 2008-2009



Against the Authorities



Against the Press



Foot Note :-

- A: Upheld
- B: Rejected
- C: Assurance/Settled/Amends
- D: Dropped for not being pursued/Withdrawal/Sub-judice/Lack of Substance

**Subject Index of Adjudications in Complaints Regarding
Threats to Press Freedom (2008-2009)**

S. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
Harassment of Newsmen			
1.	Complaint of Shri Rajesh Kumar, Editor, Reporter's Eyes and Shri Sardar Bhupinder Singh, Editor, India One Day, New Delhi against the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Faridabad and the S.D.M. Ballabgarh, Haryana	June 12, 2008	Dismissed- devoid of merit
2.	Complaint of Shri Vijay Kumar Srivastava, Publisher/Editor, Bagpat News, New Delhi against Shri O.P. Singh, Sub-Inspector, Pakwara, Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh	''	Sub-judice
3.	Complaint of Smt. Krishna Shukla, Chief Editor, Taphtish, Hindi weekly, Sultanpur, Uttar Pradesh against local police authorities, Sultanpur	''	Sub-judice
4.	Complaint of Shri Rajkishore Gupta, Journalist, Dainik Navkarmyug, Gandhi Nagar, Chitrakoot, Uttar Pradesh against local police authorities and Railway Police Force, Chitrakoot, Uttar Pradesh	''	Closed
5.	Complaint of Shri Gurinder Singh Mehendiratta, Press Correspondent, Daily Spokesman, Faridkot, Punjab against local police authorities	''	Assurance

M: Adjudications merged

S. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
6.	Complaint of the President and other members of Press Club of Mengalganj, Lakhimpur Khiri, U.P. against local police authorities	October 14, 2008	Dismissed- devoid of merit
7.	Complaint of Shri H.R. Khan, Editor, Operation, Hindi weekly, Uttar Pradesh against the District Magistrate, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh	”	Disposed of with directions
8.	Complaint of Shri Salman Rizvi, Journalist, Dainik Jagran, Khiri, Uttar Pradesh against local police authorities, Khiri, Uttar Pradesh	”	Withdrawn
9.	Complaint of Shri Prashant Gaur, District Bureau Chief, Dainik CNN, Bulandshahar, Uttar Pradesh against local police authorities	”	Upheld
10.	Complaint of Shri Pramendra Sirohi, Sub-Editor, Khuli Kahaniya, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh against the local police authorities, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh	”	Advised
11.	Complaint of Shri Imamuddin Khan, Correspondent, Dainik Jagran, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh against local police authorities	”	Matter allowed to rest
12.	Complaint of Shri Ved Gupta, Editor, Doon Ujala, Dehradun, Uttrakhand against local police authorities	”	Closed
13.	Complaint of Shri Ved Prakash Pandey, Freelancer, Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh against local police authorities	”	Dismissed on merit
14.	Complaint of Shri M. M. Khan, Editor, Indica Times, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh against local police authorities	”	Lack of substance

S. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
15.	Complaint of Pt. Umesh Kumar Chaturvedi, Journalist, Satyamaail, Jhansi, U.P. against Shri Dilip Sarawagi and local police authorities, U.P.	March 2, 2009	Rejected
16.	Complaint of Shri Shivakant Pathak, Correspondent, Dainik Dewan and Dainik Karamyug Prakash, Jalaun, U.P. against police authorities of Jalaun, U.P.	”	Closed
17.	Complaint of Shri Jitender Mohan Saxena, Editor, Kalyug Ki Duniya, Pilibhit, U.P. against the Chief Medical Officer, Pilibhit, U.P.	”	Dismissed
18.	Complaint of Shri Iliyaskhan, Editor/ Publisher, weekly Barasta Toofan, Badanpur, Maharashtra against local police authorities	”	Upheld
Facilities to the Press			
19.	Complaint of the Editor, Apradh Bodh, Hathras, Uttar Pradesh against the Additional District Information Officer, Hathras, Uttar Pradesh	June 12, 2008	Closed - devoid of merit
20.	Complaint of the Publisher, Gramanchal Shilpanchaler Khabar, Burdwan, West Bengal against the DAVP, New Delhi	”	Withdrawn
21.	Complaint of Pandit Sanjib Narayan Dass, Chief Editor, Jugur Sadhan and Jyotishphalak against the I&PRD, Government of Assam, Guwahati	October 14, 2008	Lack of substance
22.	Complaint of Shri Uttam Chandra Sharma, Editor-in-Chief, Muzaffarnagar Bulletin, Uttar Pradesh against U.P. Power Corporation	”	Disposed of with directions

S. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
23.	Complaint of Shri Umashankar Mishra, the Editor, USM Patrika, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh against the DAVP, New Delhi	October 14, 2008	Directions
24.	Complaint of Shri Prashant Kumar Singh, Publisher/Owner, Farmer Sandesh, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh against the DAVP, New Delhi	”	Closed
25.	Complaint of Shri Uttam Chandra Sharma, Editor, Muzaffarnagar Bulletin, Muzaffarnagar against postal authorities, Muzaffarnagar, U.P.	March 2, 2009	Disposed of
26.	Complaint of Shri Sarvesh Kumar ‘Suyash’, Research Journalist, Kanpur against the Director, I&PRD, Lucknow	”	Disposed of with directions
27.	Complaint of Shri L.C. Gupta, Editor, Pilibhit Times, Pilibhit, U.P. against the District Magistrate, Pilibhit and the DIO, Pilibhit, U.P.	”	Matter allowed to rest with directions
28.	Complaint of Shri Satish Sharma, Managing Editor, Savera India Times, Nani-Daman against the Information and Publicity Department, Government of Daman and Diu	”	Directions
29.	Complaint of Dr. H.H. Majid Hussain, Chief Editor, Daily Urdu Action, Bhopal, M.P. against the Commissioner, Public Relations Department, Bhopal, M.P.	”	Disposed of with directions and observations
Curtailment of Press Freedom			
30.	Complaint of Shri Sharad Audhichya, Editor, Semaria Express, Satna, M.P. against anti social elements, Satna, M.P.	March 2, 2009	Assurance

**Subject Index of Adjudications in
Complaints Against the Press (2008-2009)**

S. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
Principles and Publication			
1.	Complaint of the Assistant Inspector General of Police, CBI, New Delhi against Media Force, New Delhi	June 12, 2008	Censured
2.	Complaint of Shri Jayanta Deka, Advocate and others, Mangaldai, Assam against Asomiya Pratidin, Guwahati, Assam	October 14, 2008	Censured
3.	Complaint of Smt. Karabi Dutta, Guwahati against the Dainik Janasadhran, Guwahati, Assam	”	Assurance
4.	Complaint of Smt. Karabi Dutta, Guwahati against the Asomiya Khabar, Guwahati, Assam	”	Assurance
5.	Complaint of Smt. Karabi Dutta, Guwahati against the Amar Asom, Guwahati, Assam	M ”	Assurance
6.	Complaint of Smt. Karabi Dutta, Guwahati against the Dainik Janambhumi, Guwahati, Assam	”	Assurance
7.	Complaint of Smt. Karabi Dutta, Guwahati against the Dainik Agradoot, Guwahati, Assam	”	Assurance
8.	Complaint of Smt. Karabi Dutta, Guwahati against the Aji, Guwahati, Assam	”	Assurance

M: Adjudications merged

S. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
9.	Complaint of Smt. Karabi Dutta, Guwahati against the Asomiya Pratidin, Guwahati, Assam	October 14, 2008	Assurance
10.	Complaint of Shri Kailash Chand Jain, Nagaland against the Editor, Jain Gazette, Guwahati	”	No further action-matter closed
11.	Complaint of Shri Alok Kumar Dutta, Advocate, Howrah, West Bengal against Anand Bazar Patrika, Kolkata	”	Closed
12.	Complaint of Shri Konsam Lanngamba, Advocate/Hon. President, United Committee Manipur (UCM) against The Telegraph, Guwahati	”	Closed
13.	Complaint of Shri S.C. Sharma, Advocate, New Delhi against Dalal Street Journal, Mumbai	”	Warned
14.	Complaint of Shri Binod Kumar Sinha, Ramgarh Cantt., Jharkhand against Saras Salil, New Delhi	”	Dismissed
15.	Complaint of Smt. Rachana Viswanathan, New Delhi against The Hindustan Times, New Delhi	”	Warned
16.	Complaint of Shri Nadir Khan, Meerut Cantt, Uttar Pradesh against the Editor, Amar Ujala, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh	”	Dismissed
17.	Complaint of Ms. Anjali Gopalan, Executive Director, NAZ Foundation (India) Trust, New Delhi against the Editor, The Hindustan Times, New Delhi	March 2, 2009	Disposed of
18.	Complaint of Dr. D. Chinniah, Bangaluru against the Editor, Lankesh Patrike, Bangaluru	”	Directions

S. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
19.	Complaint of Shri Shivalingaiah, Bangaluru against the Editor, Lankesh Patrike, Bangaluru	March 2, 2009	Directions
20.	Complaint of Shri M. Prabhakara, Director of Treasuries and others, Bangaluru, Karnataka against the Editor, Gauri Lankesh, Bangaluru	”	Cautioned
21.	Complaint of the Director, Programmes Committee, Catholic Sabha Mangalore Pradesh ® Kandapura, Karnataka against the Editor Udayavani, Manipal, Karnataka	”	Closed
Press and Defamation			
22.	Complaint of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, New Delhi against the Editor, Punjab Kesari, New Delhi	June 12, 2008	Warned
23.	Complaint of Shri Virender Singh Sachan, Kanpur Dehat, Uttar Pradesh against the Editor, The Aj, Kanpur	”	Advise
24.	Complaint of the Chairman, Geetanjali Public School, Delhi against the Editor, Nazar-ki-Nazar	”	Upheld
25.	Complaint of Shri Ashutosh Varshney, Aligarh against the Editor, Shikhar Ki Gunj, Aligarh	”	Sub-judice
26.	Complaint of Shri S.K. Shukla, Lecturer, Vivekanand National Inter College, Pukhrayan, Kanpur against the Editor, Aj, Kanpur	”	Closed

S. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
27.	Complaint of Shri Manoj Kumar Trivedi, Assistant Regional Manager, Uttar Pradesh Transport Corporation, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh against the Editor, Dainik Jagran, Meerut, U.P	June 12, 2008	Settled
28.	Complaint of Mohd. Fasih Uddin, Advocate, Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh against the Editor, Dainik Jagran, Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh	”	Disposed of with directions
29.	Complaint of Shri Ved Prakash Saini, Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh against the Editor, Pradesh Ke Apradh, Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh	”	Sub-judice
30.	Complaint of Smt. Usha Nagar, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh against the Editor, Prayan, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh	”	Reprimanded
31.	Complaint of Mahatma Jagdishwaranandji, Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh against the Editor, Sarita, New Delhi	”	Closed
32.	Complaint of Shri Bhagwati Prasad, Chief Executive, National Cooperative Union of India, New Delhi against the Editor, Mission India	”	Disposed of with directions
33.	Complaint of Shri Dependra Pathak, IPS, A.C.P., Delhi against the Editor, Metro Now, New Delhi	”	Censured
34.	Complaint of Dr. Mangal Das, Senior Medical Officer, Fatehpur, Himanchal Pradesh against the Editor, Punjab Kesari, Jalandhar	”	Dismissed-not pursued
35.	Complaint of Shri M.L. Syal, President, Haryana Civil Pensioners Welfare Association, Sirsa against the Editor, Punjab Kesari, New Delhi	”	Rejected

M

S. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
36.	Complaint of Shri M.L. Syal, President, Haryana Civil Pensioners Welfare Association, Sirsa against the Editor, Haryana Deep, Haryana	June 12, 2008	Rejected
37.	Complaint of Shri S.L. Koli, General Secretary, Christian Solidarity Society, Dehradun against the Editor, Parwat Jan, Dehradun	”	Settled
38.	Complaint of Shri Chandrabhan Garg, Chairman, Municipal Corporation Council, Udham Singh Nagar against the Editor, Satya Ka Pujari, Udham Singh Nagar, Uttrakhand	”	Settled
39.	Complaint of Shri Satish Kumar Jain, HCS, Panchkula, Haryana against the Editor, Nabh-Chhor, Hissar, Haryana	”	Censured
40.	Complaint of Shri Tejinder Singh, Editor, India's Justice, Ludhiana, Punjab against the Editor, Daily Punjab Kesari, Jalandhar, Punjab	”	Disposed of with directions
41.	Complaint of Shri Tejinder Singh, Editor, India's Justice, Ludhiana, Punjab against the Editor, Daily Jag Bani, Jalandhar, Punjab	”	Disposed of with directions
42.	Complaint of Shri Khyali Ram Morya, President, Municipal Committee, Haryana against the Editor, Punjab Kesari, Punjab	”	Disposed of
43.	Complaint of Shri Mehar Prasad Yadav, Co-Editor, Dainik Bhaskar and Editor, Janhit Darshan, Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh against the Editor, Dainik Jagran, Jhansi, U. P.	”	Rejected

S. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
44.	Complaint of Ms. Anita Rahman, M/s Anita Rahman S.K. Oil, Barpeta, Assam against Aji, Assamese daily, Guwahati	October 14, 2008	Directions
45.	Complaint of Shri Ranjit Gogoi, Liaison Officer, Chief Minister's Public Relations Cell, Government of Assam, Dispur against Asomiya Pratidin, Guwahati, Assam	"	Upheld
46.	Complaint of Shri Amanullah, Sales Tax Officer, Kolkata against the Editor, Hamara Kaam, Kolkata	"	Censured
47.	Complaint of Dr. Hemendra Kumar Borah, Hony. Secretary, Indian Medical Association, Tezpur against Dainik Agradoot, Guwahati	"	Disposed of
48.	Complaint of Dr. Hemendra Kumar Borah, Hony. Secretary, Indian Medical Association, Tezpur against Asomiya Pratidin, Guwahati	"	Disposed of
49.	Complaint of Dr. Hemendra Kumar Borah, Hony. Secretary, Indian Medical Association, Tezpur against Asomiya Khabar, Guwahati	"	Disposed of with directions
50.	Complaint of Ms. Nivedita Menon and other members, Department of Political Science, University of Delhi, Delhi against the Editor, The Pioneer, New Delhi	"	Assurance
51.	Complaint of Shri Shyam Kumar Mandal, Ward Commissioner, Kahalgaon Nagar Panchayat, Bhagalpur, Bihar against Dainik Jagran, Bhagalpur, Bihar	"	Withdrawn

S. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
52.	Complaint of Shri Pateshwari Singh, Lecturer, Maharana Pratap Poly-technic, Gorakhpur against Chetna Vichardhara, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh	October 14, 2008	Directions
53.	Complaint of Shri D.K. Mittal, IAS, Managing Director, IL&FS Ltd, New Delhi against the Editor, The Times of India, New Delhi	”	Dismissed
54.	Complaint of Mrs. Kuldevi Yadav, Principal, Government Model Sr. Sec. School, Chandigarh against the Editor, The Indian Express Supplement, Chandigarh Newline, Chandigarh	”	Dismissed
55.	Complaint of Sufi Miyan ji, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh against the Editor, Shah Times, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh	”	Censured
56.	Complaint of Shri G.P. Aahirwar, Assistant Commissioner of Entertainment Tax, Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh against Thanvi Muzaffarnagar Times, Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh	”	Censured
57.	Complaint of Prof. Himadri Datta, Regional Institute of Ophthalmology Medical College, Kolkata against Sangbad Pratidin, Kolkata	”	Settlement
58.	Complaint of Dr. B.K. Prasad, Nepal against Dainik Jagran, Muzaffarpur, Bihar	”	Dismissed
59.	Complaint of Father Thomas, Principal, St. Mary’s School, Bhadohi, Uttar Pradesh against the Editor, Jan Aukat, Bhadohi, Uttar Pradesh	”	Warned

S. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
60.	Complaint of Mohd. Razi Ahmed Rizvi, Steno, District Development Office, Badayun, Uttar Pradesh against the Editor, Amar Ujala, Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh	October 14, 2008	Disposed of with observations
61.	Complaint of Shri Dilip Kumar Sarawagi, Secretary, Society for Human Rights and Justice, Jhansi, U.P. against the Editor, Saptahik Jhansi Parakh, Jhansi, U.P.	March 2, 2009	Closed
62.	Complaint of Shri Babu Lal, Lucknow against the Editor, Aj, Lucknow	”	Closed with directions
63.	Complaint of Ms. Madhurima Barua, Guwahati against Ajir Asom, Guwahati	”	Reprimanded
64.	Complaint of Shri Shah Mahmood, Behat, Saharanpur, U.P. against the Editor, Amar Ujala, Meerut, U.P.	”	Censured
65.	Complaint of Shri Shyam Sunder Gautam, Manager, Shri Sarveshwar Shiksha Deep Vidyalaya, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh against the Editor, Dainik Jagran, Agra, U.P.	”	Censured
66.	Complaint of The Secretary, Bhartiya Red Cross Society, Madhya Pradesh against the Editor, Dainik Neemuch Prahari, Neemuch, M.P.	”	Warned
67.	Complaint of Shri P. S. Pahilwan, Principal, Swamy Muktanand Vidyalay, Yeola and the Chief Executive Officer, Shri Gurudev Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, Yeola, Maharashtra, against the Editor, Dainik Samrat, Maharashtra	”	Dismissed

S. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
68.	Complaint of Shri G.C. Rout, Joint General Manager/Admn. Ordnance Factory, Nagpur, against the Editor, Deshonnati, Nagpur	March 2, 2009	Disposed of with directions
69.	Complaint of Shri P. Satyanarayana Raju, Executive Director, District Backward Classes Service, Hyderabad, A.P. against the Editor Vaartha Daily, Edulapuram, A.P.	”	Reprimanded
70.	Complaint of Shri V. Mohan Babu, Lab Technician Gr.II, Kurnool, A.P. against the Editor, Vaartha, Hyderabad, A.P.	”	Closed
71.	Complaint of Ch. Dhananjaya Naidu, Sub-Inspector of Police, Visakhapatnam, A.P. against the Editor, Vaartha, Hyderabad, A.P.	”	Closed
72.	Complaint of the Public Relations Officer, Traffic Department, Tuticorin Port Trust, Tuticorin against the Editor, The Hindu, Anna Salai, Chennai	”	Closed
73.	Complaint of Shri V. Chandrashekhar, Bangaluru against the Editor, Ahinda Vani, Bangaluru	”	Dismissed
74.	Complaint of Shri V. Chandrashekhar, Bangaluru against the Editor, Gauri Lankeshara Lankesh Patrike, Bangaluru	”	Rejected
75.	Complaint of Shri Siddu Savadi, MLA, Bangaluru against the Editor, Gauri Lankesh, Bangaluru	”	Sub-judice
76.	Complaint of Kumari Shobha Kerandlaje, Bangaluru against the Editor, Gauri Lankeshara Lankesh Patrike, Bangaluru	”	Cautioned

S. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
77.	Complaint of Kumari Shobha Kerandlaje, Bangaluru against the Editor, Hai Bangalore, Bangaluru	March 2, 2009	Closed being devoid of merit
78.	Complaint of Kumari Shobha Kerandlaje, Bangaluru against the Editor, Jaya Kirana, Mangalore	”	Cautioned
79.	Complaint of Kumari Shobha Kerandlaje, Bangaluru against the Editor, Karavali Ale, Mangalore	”	Cautioned
80.	Complaint of Shri T.V. Shivananda, Koppa, Karnataka against the Editor, Varada Malnad, Koppa, Karnataka	”	Closed
81.	Complaint of Shri K.B. Lokeshappa, Vice-Principal, Government P.U. College, Chickmanglore, Karnataka against the Editor, Vidhatha weekly, Shimoga, Karnataka	”	Case not made out
82.	Complaint of Smt. Lakshmi Krishnamurti, Chennai against the Editor, Tamil Murasu, Chennai	”	Disposed of with directions
83.	Complaint of Shri Bhagwandas Dahyabhai Surti, Surat, Gujarat against the Editor, Gujaratmitra, Surat, Gujarat	”	Sub-judice
84.	Complaint of Shri Iqbal Esmail Virani, Thane, Maharashtra against the Editor, Hamara Thane Samachar, Thane, Maharashtra	”	Upheld
85.	Complaint of Shri Iqbal Esmail Virani, Thane, Maharashtra against the Editor, National Reporter, Thane, Maharashtra	”	Upheld
86.	Complaint of Shri Iqbal Esmail Virani, Thane, Maharashtra against the Editor, Aj Kal Ka Tahalka, Mumbai	”	Upheld

S. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
87.	Complaint of Shri Permanand T. Gedam, Controller, Unauthorized Constructions, Thane, Maharashtra against the Editor, Maharashtra Buland Times, Thane, Maharashtra	March 2, 2009	Upheld
88.	Complaint of Shri Ashok Basappa Udyavar, Vice President, Nationalist Congress Party against the Editor, Maharashtra Bulund Times, Thane, Maharashtra	”	Dismissed
89.	Complaint of Shri Ravinder Dwivedi, National President, Anti-Corruption Committee, Thane, Maharashtra against the Editor, Mumbai Mitra, Goregaon, Mumbai	”	Disposed with directions
90.	Complaint of Shri Brajesh Kumar Sharma, Employee, State Bank of Indore, Mandsaur, M.P. against the Chief Editor, Saptahik Mandsaur Parikarma, Mandsaur, M.P.	”	Censured
91.	Complaint of Shri Anand Mendhekar, Chartered Engineer, Bilaspur against Shri Gurdeep Singh Sehmi, Correspondent, Jansatta, Raipur, Chhattisgarh	”	Warned
92.	Complaint of Shri Khilawan Chandrakar, Bureau Chief, Deshbandhu, Itarasi, M.P. against the Editor, Dainik Samaygati, Indore, M.P.	”	Matter allowed to rest
93.	Complaint of Smt. Seema Mishra, Lecturer, Government Boys Senior Secondary School, Dhar, M.P. against the Editor, Samaygati, Dhar, M.P.	”	Directions

S. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
94.	Complaint of Shri Rajender Kumar Bariya, Assistant, Grade II, District Trade and Industry Centre, Gwalior, M.P. against the Editor, Saptahik Chambal Chetna, Gwalior, M.P.	March 2, 2009	Censured
Press and Morality			
95.	Complaint of Shri Chandrahas Shukla, Leader, Shiv Sena, Delhi against the Editor, Punjab Kesari, New Delhi	June 12, 2008	Assurance
96.	Complaint of Shri Sanjay Kumar Bansal, Advocate, Moradabad against the Editor, Amar Ujala, Meerut.	”	Closed
97.	Complaint of Shri Sanjay Kumar Bansal, Advocate, Moradabad against the Editor, Punjab Kesari, New Delhi	M ”	Closed
98.	Complaint of Shri V.P. Goel, Lucknow against The Times of India	October 14, 2008	Upheld
99.	Complaint of Shri Mayurkumar Shah, Ex-Chief of Shiv Sena, Bhavnagar, Gujarat against the Editor, Sanjh Samachar, Rajkot, Gujarat	March 2, 2009	Action condemned
100.	Complaint of Shri Nisaruddin Ahmed Jeddy, Advocate, Hyderabad, A.P. against the Editor, Deccan Chronicle, Vijayawada, A.P.	”	Disposed of
101.	Complaint of Shri N. Raveendran, Chennai against the Editor, Deccan Chronicle, Chennai edition	”	Matter allowed to rest with observations
Communal, Casteist and Anti-Religious Writings			
102.	Complaint of Shri Shree Gopal Pandit, Noida, Uttar Pradesh against Editor, Nav Bharat Times, New Delhi	M June 12, 2008	Advise

S. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
103.	Complaint of Shri Shree Gopal Pandit, Noida, Uttar Pradesh against Editor, Nav Bharat Times, New Delhi	June 12, 2008	Advise
104.	Complaint of Shri Bal Patil, General Secretary, All India Jain Minority Forum (New Delhi), Mumbai against The Hindu, Chennai	October 14, 2008	Disposed of
105.	Complaint of Shri Vijay Veerla, Nottingham, United Kingdom against the Editor, Deccan Chronicle, Hyderabad, A.P.	March 2, 2009	Closed

Index of Principles Recorded in Adjudications in Complaints Regarding Threats to Press Freedom

Harassment of Newsmen

Authorities should desist from any payment to journalists for their so-called funds as it only encourages misuse of the position and responsibility attached with the discharge of the journalistic functions and brings discredit to the whole profession. **(Shri Rajesh Kumar, Editor, Reporter's Eyes and Shri Sardar Bhupinder Singh, Editor, India One Day, New Delhi Versus the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Faridabad and the S.D.M Ballabhgarh, Haryana, Complaint No. 1, P.C.I. Review, July, 2008)**

While a journalist should not be deterred from writing fearlessly on illegal activities, at the same his role as a journalist should not be used for settling other scores. **(Shri H.R. Khan, Editor, Operation, Hindi weekly, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh Versus the District Magistrate, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, Complaint No. 2, P.C.I. Review, October, 2008)**

Facilities to the Press

The public authorities as custodian of public money have to ensure that even the exercise of the discretionary powers vested in them is backed by *bonafide* reasonableness and their actions are not subjective but objective based on record/data. Mere inferences and presumption of low circulation cannot be the ground for denial of advertisement to an empanelled newspaper. **(Shri Uttam Chandra Sharma, Editor-in-Chief, Muzaffarnagar Bulletin, Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh Versus U.P Power Corporation, Complaint No. 11, P.C.I. Review, October, 2008)**

As trustee of public money, it is essential to bring transparency in action of the Government so that the decisions are fair and just *viz-a-viz* similarly placed newspapers and the power may not be used as retaliation or placatory measure. **(Shri Satish Sharma, Managing Editor, Savera India Times, Nani-Daman Versus the Information and Publicity Department, Government of Daman and Diu, Complaint No. 8, P.C.I. Review, April, 2009)**

Index of Principles Recorded in Adjudications in Complaints Against the Press

Principles and Publication

Publication of results of an opinion poll as to what kind of punishment out of death or life sentence etc. required in a case of murder of child just a day before the date of awarding of the sentence by the court in newspapers is an act of recklessness parallel to the media trial which could prejudice the court or affect public reaction to the judgment. **(Shri Jayanta Deka, Advocate & others, Mangaldai, Assam Versus Asomiya Pratidin, Guwahati, Assam, Complaint No. 14, P.C.I. Review, October, 2008)**

There is no doubt that the press shoulders the highest responsibility in maintaining societal norms and making a special effort to protect the privacy of the victims of such heinous crime against humanity. **(Smt. Karabi Dutta, Guwahati against (i) Dainik Janasadharan, (ii) Asomiya Khabar, (iii) Amar Asom, (iv) Dainik Janambhoomi, (v) Dainik Agradoot, (vi) Aji and (vii) Asomiya Pratidin, Guwahati, Complaint No. 15, P.C.I. Review, October, 2008)**

Press and Defamation

While the public servants and persons occupying public position are expected to take criticism of their actions and conduct in their stride, such complacency should not be at the cost of accuracy. **(Shri Ranjit Gogoi, Liaison Officer, Chief Minister's Public Relations Cell, Government of Assam, Dispur Versus Asomiya Pratidin, Guwahati, Assam, Complaint No. 24, P.C.I. Review, October, 2008)**

The Council observed that it was true that at times not everything can be verified but a newspaper should have *bonafide* reasons to believe its report's authenticity to proceed with a publication. Thereafter right of reply was an important constituent contributing to the high standards of the press. **(Dr. Hemendra Kumar Borah, Hony. Secretary, Indian Medical Association, Tezpur Versus Dainik Agradoot, Asomiya Pratidin and Asomiya Khabar, Guwahati, Complaint No. 26, P.C.I. Review, October, 2008)**

While a public person may be criticized and commented upon in performance of his functions, it is improper to use adjectives and terms deemed derogatory. **(Shri V. Chandrashekar, Bangaluru Versus the Editor, Gauri Lankeshara Lankesh Patrike, Bangaluru, Complaint No. 29, P.C.I. Review, April, 2009)**

Press has the right to criticize the actions of anyone holding public office, but it may not indulge in character assassination or take refuge to “rumour” or “reliable information” to malign the public figure. **(Kumari Shobha Kerandlaje, Member of Legislative Council, Bangaluru, Karnataka Versus the Editor, Jaya Kirana, Mangalore, Karnataka Complaint No. 33, P.C.I. Review April, 2009)**

Special correspondent/reporters a newspaper whether full time or part time should not hold different positions in other professional fields so that they do not use the weapon of the newspaper as a tool to settle personal scores. **(Mr. Anand Mendhekar, Chartered Engineer, Bilaspur, Chhatisgarh Versus Shri Gurdeep Singh Sehmi, Correspondent, Jansatta, Korba, Chhatisgarh, Complaint No. 46, P.C.I. Review, April, 2009)**

Press and Morality

The Council felt that the press as a potent means of influencing social behaviour and norms needed to rise above commercial considerations in matters of objectionable advertisements: To quote a Vatican paper, advertising using media as a vehicle is a pervasive powerful force shaping attitudes and behaviour in today’s world. There can be no denial of the positive contribution that advertising can and does make even in the health care sector, the nomenclature generally given to sector where the impugned advertisements are placed. However, if such camouflaged advertisements are accepted they can in the long run only negatively impact the society. Ethical codes of restraint developed not just by the Press Council of India but several other agencies across the world are only as effective as the willingness of the media to abide by them. Therefore, the importance of public involvement which may organize itself to protect its interest *vis-à-vis* commercial interests. To this, can be added the powers of potent laws to protect the interest of the future generations and the society. **(Shri V.P. Goel, Lucknow Versus The Times of India, Complaint No. 38, P.C.I Review, October, 2008)**

Publication of personal intimate photographs by the newspaper is totally against Indian ethos. Their publication in western magazines may not be taken

amiss but such act by the respondent only appeared to an insidious way of attracting reader at best in the garb of criticism of such publicity gimmicks. **(Shri Mayurkumar Shah, Ex-Chief of Shiv Sena, Bhavnagar, Gujrat Versus the Editor Sanjh Samachar, Rajkot, Gujrat, Complaint No. 50, P.C.I. Review, April, 2009)**

It is essential to keep in mind that international outlook and attitudes may differ from country specific outlook and attitudes and an even greater scrutiny is necessary in accepting advertisement of international brands. **(Shri N. Raveendran, Chennai Versus the Editor, Deccan Chronicle, Chennai edition, Complaint No. 52, P.C.I. Review, April, 2009)**

**Subject Index of Orders Passed by the Press and
Registration Appellate Board (2008-09)**

S. No.	Name of Parties	Date of Order	Order Passed
1.	Stay application in the appeal of Ms. Rupali Narasimhan, Owner, Printer and Publisher, Incredible India, an English monthly magazine, Delhi vs. Order dated 29.2.2008 passed by the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Licensing), Delhi.	23.4.2008	Appeal withdrawn and disposed off
2.	Appeal of Acharya Madhuvratananda Avadhuta, Printer and Publisher, Prout, English fortnightly magazine, Delhi vs. Order dated 6.2.2008 passed by the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Licensing), Delhi	23.4.2008	Not admitted
3.	Appeal of Shri Sudesh Kumar, Editor and Printer, Karavali Marutha, Kannada weekly, Mangalore, Karnataka vs. Order dated 27.11.2007 passed by the Deputy Commissioner, Mangalore, Karnataka	26.5.2008	Set aside the impugned order
4.	Appeal of Shri Mohsin Rana, Editor and Printer, Kalyug Darpan, Saharanpur, U.P. vs. Order dated 5.3.08 passed by the District Press Officer/Additional District Magistrate, Saharanpur, U.P.	4.12.2008	Rejected the appeal and directed to appellant to file fresh appeal

S. No.	Name of Parties	Date of Order	Order Passed
5.	Appeal of Shri Shridhar Sakharam Balki, Editor, Lokshahi, Sarai Ward, Chandrapur, District Chandrapur, Maharashtra vs. the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Jalgaon; (ii) Sau Shanta wani, District Jalgaon, Maharashtra and (iii) RNI, New Delhi	4.12.2008	Disposed off with directions to RNI
6.	Appeal of Shri Vilas Chauhan, Editor, Yavatmal Rajsinghasan, Marathi weekly, Yavatmal, Maharashtra vs. Order dated 30.12.2006 passed by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Pusad, District Yavatmal, Maharashtra	4.12.2008	Set aside the impugned order
7.	Appeal of Shri C.A. Iqbal Ahmed, Vellore District, Tamil Nadu regarding title verification and registration of Tamil fortnightly, Agni Tharasu	4.12.2008	Directed the Registrar of Newspapers for India to consider the revalidation of the title
8.	Appeal of Shri Jawaharlal Chavan, Editor, Solapur Putra, Solapur, Maharashtra vs. Order dated 6.9.2007 of the SDM, Solapur, Maharashtra	16.3.2009	Proceedings dropped

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**Review of Press Council Act, 1978 Finalized
by the Council on March 2, 2009**

Sr. No.	Section	Action Proposed	Existing Provisions	Reasons For The Proposal	Modified/ Amended Proposal
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2(e)	Amend	The expression “editor” (and “newspaper” have the meanings respectively assigned to them) in the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867, and the expression “working journalist” has the meaning assigned to it in the Working Journalists and other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955.	The mandate of the Press Council under the Press Council Act, 1978 is to preserve the freedom of the press and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India. Section 2(e) carries the definition of ‘newspaper’ by reference to the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867 and reads as follows: “newspaper” means any printed periodical work containing public news or comments on public news, and further, the expression “printing” is defined in the Press and	“The expression “editor” has the meaning assigned to it in the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867, and “newspaper” means any periodical work containing public news and shall include periodicals published through printing and/or communicated through any electronic device/ media displayed on internet and electronic media”. Explanation: For the purpose of the above clause, the expression “printing” has the meaning assigned to it in the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867 and includes printing through electronic devices.

Sr. No.	Section	Action Proposed	Existing Provisions	Reasons For The Proposal	Modified/ Amended Proposal
1	2	3	4	5	6
	2(f)	Add		<p>Registration of Books Act as “printing” includes cyclostyling and printing by lithography.</p> <p>The latter is not an exhaustive but an inclusive definition, and with the present day technological advances would include newspapers displayed on the websites, which contain public news or comments on public news. Hence, there is need to amend the Press Council Act to give clarity to the definition of the expression “newspaper” to include also the newspapers displayed on the Internet.</p>	(f) The expression “Working Journalist” has the meaning assigned to it in the Working Journalists and other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955.
2.	5(3)	Add three new provisios		<p>The proposal is self-evident. A person who has been censured cannot sit as a judge over the conduct of others.</p>	“Provided further that no person who has been censured by the Council under Section 14(1) of the Act shall be eligible for nomination on the Council under clauses (a), (b) and (c).”

Sr. No.	Section	Action Proposed	Existing Provisions	Reasons For The Proposal	Modified/ Amended Proposal
1	2	3	4	5	6
2(b)				This is self-evident. This will also act as a check on arrears of levy. At present the demand of levy is taken lightly by the newspapers.	“Provided further that no person belonging to a newspaper/news agency which is in default of payment of levy fee of the Council under Section 16 of the Act shall be eligible to be nominated as a member of the Council from the categories in clause (b) and (c) of the Act as a nominee of that newspaper or news agency.”
2(c)				This is necessary to ensure that the Council functioning as a body of peers who are sufficiently experienced and ‘command respect’.	“Provided that no person who has a standing of less than 15 years in the given category shall be eligible for nomination under clause (a), (b) and (c).”
3.	5(4)	Add new proviso 2 to Sub-Section (4) of Section 5		It is noticed that on the eve of reconstitution of the Press Council mushroom organisations spring up and file their claims. The proposed amendment provides for the criteria and qualifications for notification of	Provided that the association of persons or the news agencies concerned as referred to in clauses (a), (b) and (c) from whom the panels of names are invited, should have been in active existence and registered under any of the relevant

Sr. No.	Section	Action Proposed	Existing Provisions	Reasons For The Proposal	Modified/ Amended Proposal
1	2	3	4	5	6
				<p>associations/news agencies under this sub-section.</p>	<p>enactments for atleast a period of last ten years. They must also have an all India character with members of the required category drawn from atleast nine States/Union Territories and with membership not confined to any region or category or group within the specified category mentioned in clause (a), (b) and (c) of Sub-Section 5(3).</p> <p>While filing their claims for being notified, the associations must file an upto date list of membership and copies of their audited accounts and returns for the preceding three years filed with the concerned authority under the statute under which it is registered and which have held regular elections according to their constitution for the preceding three terms.</p>

Sr. No.	Section	Action Proposed	Existing Provisions	Reasons For The Proposal	Modified/ Amended Proposal
1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	5	A new sub-section (5) be added to Section 5 with consequent re-numbering		The proposed amendment is designed to prevent frivolous and expensive litigation on the subject and to fix, primarily on the organisation concerned, the responsibility for ensuring the eligibility of persons recommended for a particular category under clauses (a), (b) and (c) of Section 5(3) of the Press Council Act.	5(5): Where in response to an invitation in sub-section (4), an association of persons/news agency forwards to the Council in the prescribed form a panel of names for the purpose of nominations under clause (a), clause (b) and clause (c) of sub-section (3) as the case may be, it shall be subscribed by a person duly authorised to do so by the association of agency concerned and it shall be presumed that the persons so included in the panel are eligible for nomination under that category.
5.	5	A new sub-section 5 A to be added to re-numbered 5(5) above		The proposed amendment is designed to prevent frivolous and expensive litigation on the subject and to fix, primarily on the organisation concerned, the responsibility for ensuring the eligibility of persons re-	5(5)(A): If the particulars furnished by the association/the person concerned regarding its constitution or category under clauses 5(3) (a)(b) & (c) which it represents or its membership and/or in relation to the name(s) proposed

Sr. No.	Section	Action Proposed	Existing Provisions	Reasons For The Proposal	Modified/ Amended Proposal
1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	5(5)	With the addition of the above sub-section, the existing sub-section 5, be re-numbered as sub-section (6) and amended as proposed.	5(5): The Central Government shall notify the names of persons nominated as members under sub-section (3) in the Official Gazette and every such nomination shall take effect from the date on which it is notified.	commended for a particular category under clauses (a), (b) and (c) of Section 5(3) of the Press Council Act. This proposal is designed to ensure that the notification is issued in time and the continuing work of the Council is not hindered or interrupted. At present it takes some months before the notification is issued and the work of the Council is held up.	for membership of the Council, are found to be false, the election of the person shall stand annulled and the concerned association derecognised for that term and debarred for the next term. In addition the person/ association furnishing such particulars shall be punished with simple imprisonment for term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to Rs.10,000/- or with both. The offence shall be non-cognizable/ triable at Delhi. 5(6): The Central Government shall notify the names of the persons nominated as members under sub-section (3) in the Official Gazette and every such nomination shall take effect from the date on which it is notified. The Central Government shall notify the names within 45

Sr. No.	Section	Action Proposed	Existing Provisions	Reasons For The Proposal	Modified/ Amended Proposal
1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	7(4)	Add		Members perform statutory duty under the Act. As such it is necessary that a working journalist who attends the Council work should be treated as on duty by the employer and entitled to consequential benefits.	days of their receipt by the Government, or by the date on which the Press Council is due to be reconstituted, whichever is later. On expiry of 45 days from the expiry of the term the notification of new names shall be deemed to have come into effect even in the event of it not being gazetted. “A working journalist who is a member of the Press Council shall be treated by his/ her employer as being on duty while he/she is attending to the work of the Press Council”.
8	14(2)	Add	Five Provisos	Amendment to take care of cases of non-compliance of the decisions and directions of the Council.	(i) Provided that compliance with such directions shall be mandatory and binding upon the newspaper/ news agency concerned. (ii) Provided that in the event of non compliance with

Sr. No.	Section	Action Proposed	Existing Provisions	Reasons For The Proposal	Modified/ Amended Proposal
1	2	3	4	5	6
					<p>the directions under this section within the period specified, the Council may censure the newspaper/journalist concerned and/or direct the authorities of the State, to suspend/ stop release of advertisement to it till the adjudication is published or for the period specified by the Council.</p> <p>(iii) Provided that on the award of two censures under this Section within a period of six months, the Council may if it deems fit, ask the concerned authorities to suspend the newspaper for the purpose of release of Government funded advertisement and in the case of news agency, editor or journalist, suspension of accreditation of such editor or journalist, as the case may be cancelled for a period not exceeding three months.</p> <p>(iv) Provided further that more than two such instances of non</p>

Sr. No.	Section	Action Proposed	Existing Provisions	Reasons For The Proposal	Modified/ Amended Proposal
1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	15(4)	Amend	The Council may, if it considers necessary for the purpose of carrying out its objects or for the performance of any of its functions under this Act, make such observations, as it may think fit, in any of its decisions or reports, respecting the conduct of any authority including Government.	The Act requires the Council to maintain the freedom of the Press and to keep under review any development likely to restrict the supply and dissemination of news of public interest and importance. It however, does not provide for any power to the Council to take action against threats emanating from individuals or for non-compliance with	compliance with the directions issued under this Section within a period of one year may invite the penalty of suspension of registration of the newspapers or news agencies, as the case may be, for a period not exceeding a fortnight. (v) Provided that recommendation of the Council under this Section shall be binding on the authorities of the State. The Council may, if it considers necessary for the purpose of carrying out its objects or for the performance of any of its functions under this Act, make such observations and pass such orders and give such directions, as it may think fit, in any of its decisions or reports, respecting the conduct “of any individual or” of any authority, including Government.

Sr. No.	Section	Action Proposed	Existing Provisions	Reasons For The Proposal	Modified/ Amended Proposal
1	2	3	4	5	6
10.		Add new Section 15(5)		its directions on the basis of inquiry into the complaints of this nature. The proposed amendment will take care of this lacuna. To promote the accountability of the authorities to the legislature.	“Whenever any adverse observation is made by the Press Council against any authority of the Central, State or the Union Territory Governments, such observations will be laid before the Parliament/ State/ Union Territory Legislature as the case may be”.
11.	Section 16(1)	Add new proviso		This will help to increase the revenue of the Council periodically	“Provided that the levy of fee upon the registered newspapers be automatically increased @ 10% every three years”.
12.		Add new Section 16(3)		In view of the increasing number of newspapers defaulting in the payment of fee to the Council and the cost involved in the recovery, the arrears of levy are mounting. The cost of recovery is disproportionate	“No department of the Central, State or the Union Territory Governments or any public authority will clear the advertisement bills presented by newspapers with circulation above 5,000 copies unless the newspaper

Sr. No.	Section	Action Proposed	Existing Provisions	Reasons For The Proposal	Modified/ Amended Proposal
1	2	3	4	5	6
13.	23(3)	Add new Section 23(3)		<p>to the amount of levy involved since the recovery is from individual papers and fee varies from Rs.100/- upwards to a maximum number of Rs.7,500/- at present.</p> <p>This protection to working journalist member of the Council is essential to maintain the independence of the Council.</p>	<p>produces “No Dues Certificate” (NDC) from the Press Council of India for every preceding financial year”.</p> <p>“No action shall be taken by an employer against a working journalist for his/her activities as member of the Press Council”.</p>
14.	23(A)	Add new Section between Sections 23 and 24 of the Act.		<p>Several instances of misuse of the name of Press Council all over the country have come to the notice of the Council. Such action leads to misuse of authority of Press Council of India and misguides the gullible public.</p>	<p>“23-A: Prohibition regarding the use of words “Press Council”.</p> <p>(1) No individual body or institution or authority, shall use or associate the words ‘Press Council’ or any construction similar thereto, as a name or part of the name of their institution or body or authority.</p>

Sr. No.	Section	Action Proposed	Existing Provisions	Reasons For The Proposal	Modified/ Amended Proposal
1	2	3	4	5	6
				There is similar provision in the UGC Act against the use of word “University” by other bodies and associations.	(2) Any contravention of the provision of this Section shall lead to de-recognition of such body and shall punishable with fine or imprisonment or both read with the relevant provisions of the Act under which it has been registered. (3)Any commission of offence under this Act shall be acted upon on receipt of the complaint of the Council and triable before a Magistrate in Delhi.

(State for the purpose of this Section shall be defined as per Article 12 of the Constitution)