सत्यमेव जयते

भारतीय प्रेस परिषद

PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA

45th ANNUAL REPORT

April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024

PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA, NEW DELHI

PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA

Annual Report
(April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024)

New Delhi

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Press Council of India
Soochna Bhawan, 8 C.G.O. Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003
Chairperson: Smt. Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai

XIV Term

MEMBER	ORGANISATION NOMINATED BY	NEWSPAPERS
Editors of Indian Languages Newspapers (Clause (a) of Sub-Section (3) of Section 5)		
Shri Ankur Dua	Hindi Samachar Patra Sammelan and Editors Guild of India	Editor, Muzaffarnagar Bulletin, Hindi Daily, Uttar Pradesh
Dr. Baldev Raj Gupta	Hindi Samachar Patra Sammelan and Editors Guild of India	Group Editor, Express News, Hindi Daily, Madhya Pradesh
Dr. Khaidem Athouba Meitei	Editors Guild of India and Hindi Samachar Patra Sammelan	Resident Editor, Hueiyen Lanpao, Manipuri Daily, Manipur
Shri Prakash Dubey	Editors Guild of India and Hindi Samachar Patra Sammelan	Group Editor, Dainik Bhaskar, Hindi Daily, Maharashtra
Dr. Suman Gupta	Hindi Samachar Patra Sammelan and Editors Guild of India	Editor, Janmorcha, Hindi Daily, Uttar Pradesh
Shri Parag Karandikar*	Hindi Samachar Patra Sammelan and Editors Guild of India	Editor, Maharashtra Times, Marathi Daily, Maharashtra
Working Journalists other than Editors (Clause (a) of Sub-Section (3) of Section 5)		
Shri Ansu Chakraborty	Press Club, Kolkata	Working Journalist, Aajkaal, Bengali Daily, West Bengal
Shri Jaishankar Gupta	Press Association	Correspondent, Deshbandhu, Hindi Daily, New Delhi
Shri Kingshuk Pramanik	Press Club, Kolkata,Odisha Union of Journalists, West Bengal Union of Journalist, Mumbai Press Club, Indian Association of Press-N-Mediamen, Chandigarh Punjab Union of Journalist	Working Journalist, Sangbad Pratidin, Bengali Daily, West Bengal

**Notified vide Gazette Notification dated 03.07.2023*

MEMBER	ORGANISATION NOMINATED BY	NEWSPAPERS
Shri Prajnananda Chaudhuri	West Bengal Union of Journalist, Odisha Union of Journalists, Press Club, Kolkata, Mumbai Press Club, Indian Association of Press-N-Mediamen, Chandigarh Punjab Union of Journalist	Working Journalist, Anandabazar Patrika, Bengali Daily, Kolkata
Shri Vinod Kohli	Chandigarh Punjab Union of Journalist, Odisha Union of Journalists, Press Club, Kolkata, West Bengal Union of Journalist, Mumbai Press Club, Indian Association of Press-N-Mediamen	Working Journalist, Utkal Mail, Hindi Daily, New Delhi
Shri Gurbir Singh	Mumbai Press Club, Odisha Union of Journalists, Press Club, Kolkata, West Bengal Union of Journalist, Indian Association of Press-N-Mediamen, Chandigarh Punjab Union of Journalist	Working Journalist, The New Indian Express, English Daily, Tamil Nadu
Shri Prasanna Kumar Mohanty	Odisha Union of Journalists, Press Club, Kolkata, West Bengal Union of Journalist, Mumbai Press Club, Indian Association of Press-N-Mediamen, Chandigarh Punjab Union of Journalist	Working Journalist, Indus Valley Times, English Fortnightly, Odisha
Owners and Managers of Big, Medium and Small Newspapers (Clause (b) of Sub-Section (3) of Section 5)		
Vacant*		
Vacant*		
Shri Gurinder Singh	All India Small & Medium Newspapers Federation and Small-Medium-Big Newspapers Society	Indian Observer, English Fortnightly, New Delhi
Shri L.C Bhartiya	All India Small & Medium Newspapers Federation	Akash Deep, Hindi Weekly, Jaipur Rajasthan
Ms. Aarti Tripathi	All India Small Newspapers Associations (AISNA) and Association of Small and Medium Newspapers of India	Jai Pradesh, Hindi Weekly, Uttar Pradesh
Shri Shayam Singh Panwar	Association of Small and Medium Newspapers of India and All India Small Newspapers Associations (AISNA)	Jan Saamna, Hindi Weekly, Uttar Pradesh

** The only notified Association in the said category i.e. The Indian Newspapers Society, did not choose to file the panel of names, under section 5 (4) of the Press Council Act, 1978, thereby, resulting in two vacancies under the said category.*

MEMBER	ORGANISATION NOMINATED BY	NEWS AGENCY
Managers of News Agencies (Clause (c) of Sub-Section (3) of Section 5)		
Shri G. Sudhakar Nair	Press Trust of India (PTI)	Executive Editor, Press Trust of India (PTI), New Delhi
Nominees of University Grants Commission, Bar Council of India and Sahitya Akademi (Clause (d) of Sub-Section (3) of Section 5)		
Prof. J.S. Rajput	University Grants Commission	
Vacant*	Bar Council of India	
Shri Madhav Kaushik	Sahitya Akademi	
Members of Parliament Nominated by Speaker, Lok Sabha and Chairman, Rajya Sabha (Clause (e) of Sub-Section (3) of Section 5)		
Vacant**	Lok Sabha	
Vacant**	Lok Sabha	
Vacant**	Lok Sabha	
Shri Rakesh Sinha	Rajya Sabha	
Shri Sujeet Kumar***	Rajya Sabha	

Secretary: Shri Nungsanglemba Ao

** Mr. Shailendra Dubey, ceased to be member of the Council u/s 6 (4) of the Press Council Act, 1978 on May 29, 2023.*
*** Notification in this category is awaited.*
****Notified vide Gazette Notification dated 03.07.2023*

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Foreword

The press plays an indispensable role in our democracy by disseminating information, educating and empowering the public, and acting as a vigilant watchdog that holds those in power accountable. The Press Council of India thus bears the crucial responsibility of safeguarding press freedom and upholding the standards of newspapers and news agencies across the country.

During the year under review, the Press Council of India has achieved significant milestones and made valuable contributions to the media landscape. We have addressed pressing issues such as violence against media personnel, steadfastly defended press freedom, and established comprehensive ethical guidelines. These guidelines address sensitive topics, including media reporting on sex workers and the LGBTQ^{+} community, and ensure the safety of journalists covering natural disasters.

Our subcommittees have taken up critical issues, including the impact of the COVID-19 lockdown on journalists' financial independence, and are working on recommendations to prevent similar issues in the future. They have also examined the effects of advertisement and accreditation policies on print media and are developing guidelines for reporting in conflict areas.

In its advisory role, the PCI has been proactive in issuing advisories to the print media to ensure adherence to the highest standards of journalistic conduct. This includes advisories to prevent media coverage from undermining free and fair elections, guidelines for publishing employment-related advertisements to protect vulnerable unemployed youth from fraud, and safety precautions for journalists reporting on Cyclone "Biparjoy."

The National Press Day, 2023 event was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, as Chief Guest. The Hon'ble Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Youth Affairs & Sports, Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, and the Hon'ble Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Dr. L. Murugan, graced the event as Guests of Honour. The Press Council of India, with the aim of addressing the transformative effects of artificial intelligence on the media landscape, chose the theme "Media in the Era of Artificial Intelligence" for the National Press Day event. Shri Amitabh Kant, G20 Sherpa, delivered a thought-provoking

keynote address on this theme, offering valuable insights into how AI is reshaping journalism and its implications for the future of media.

A significant exchange of views event on this theme was held with the Sri Lanka Press Council on the occasion. Moreover, the Memorandum of Understanding between the Press Council of India and the Sri Lanka Press Council was renewed for another five years, strengthening our collaborative efforts in addressing emerging media challenges.

I take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Council for their invaluable cooperation and support,which have been instrumental in enabling the Council to fulfill its responsibilities effectively and with due diligence and integrity.

It is with great pleasure that I now present the 45th Annual Report of the Press Council of India, a comprehensive account of our activities over the past year to the readers. This report reflects our unwavering commitment to ethical journalism and the protection of press freedom.

New Delhi

Dated : 31.03.2024

Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai
Chairperson
Press Council of India

Highlights of the year

The Press Council of India celebrated National Press Day 2023 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on November 16, 2023 on the theme ***"Media in the Era of Artificial Intelligence".***

Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Hon'ble Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Youth Affairs & Sports, Shri Anurag Singh Thakur and Hon'ble Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Dr L. Murugan, were the Guests of Honour on the occasion. G20 Sherpa, Shri Amitabh Kant delivered the Keynote address and Hon'ble Chairperson, Press Council of India, Smt. Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai presided over the function.



A Glimpse of the Lamp Lighting Ceremony



Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, Releasing Souvenir, 2023 on the Occasion of National Press Day, 2023



An "Exchange of Views" event and "Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding" between Press Council of India and Sri Lanka Press Council held on November 17, 2023



Council Meeting dated 28.03.2024, held in New Delhi



Inquiry Committee Meeting dated 17-18.04.2023 held in Mumbai



Journalism students participated in the Summer Internship Programme, 2023 held from July 3, 2023 to August 1, 2023



A Glimpse of the Valedictory Function of Winter Internship Programme, 2024



Interactive Session held for the Indian Information Service Officer Trainees of Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), New Delhi with the Hon'ble Chairperson, Press Council of India



Yoga Day, 2023 Celebrations in Press Council of India



Hindi Diwas celebration in the Secretariat of the Council



Banners were affixed on the occasion of International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in premises of Press Council of India



Banners were affixed on the occasion of Organ Donation Day in the Premises of Press Council of India



On the Occasion of International Women's Day, 2024, a half day excursion trip for Women employees was organised by the office on 15.3.2024.

Chapter - I
Role and Functions of the Council

The Press Council of India is a statutory quasi-judicial autonomous authority re-established in the year 1979 under an Act of Parliament, namely the Press Council Act, 1978 with the two-fold objectives of preserving the freedom of the press and maintaining and improving the standards of newspapers and the news agencies in India.

The Council is a body corporate having perpetual succession comprising of Chairperson and 28 other members. While the Chairperson has, by convention, been a retired judge of the Supreme Court of India who is nominated by a Committee consisting of Chairman of the Council of States (Rajya Sabha), Speaker of the House of People (Lok Sabha) and a person elected by the members of the Council amongst themselves under sub-section 6 of section 5 of PC Act, 1978. Of the twenty eight (28) members, thirteen (13) represent the working journalists, of whom, six (6) are to be editors of newspapers and remaining seven (7) are to be working journalists other than editors. Six (6) members are from among persons who own or carry on the business of the management of the newspapers, two (2) each representing the big, medium and small newspapers. One (1) is from among persons who manage news agencies. It has five (5) members as representatives of the two Houses of Parliament, three (3) nominated by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and two (2) nominated by the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha to represent readers' interest. It has three (3) members nominated from the University Grants Commission, Bar Council of India and Sahitya Akademi representing the fields of education and science, law and literature and culture, respectively.

The objects of the Press Council of India as embodied in Section 13 of the Act are to preserve the freedom of the Press and to maintain and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India. The Act also confers an advisory role on the Council in that it can, either *suo-motu* or on a reference made to it by the Government under Section 13 (2) of the Act, undertake studies and express its opinion in regard to any Bill, legislation, law or other matters concerning the Press and convey its opinion to the Government or the persons concerned. Also, in the matters of public importance concerning

its statutory responsibilities, the Council may *suo-motu* take cognizance and constitute a Special Committee to make an on–the–spot inquiry.

In furtherance of its objects defined under Section 13 of the Act, 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; keep under review any development likely to restrict the supply and dissemination of news of public interest and importance; to promote a proper functional relationship among all classes of persons engaged in the production or publication of newspapers or in news agencies; and to concern itself with development such as concentration of or other aspects of ownership of newspapers and news agencies which may affect the freedom of the press.

The *raison d'etre* of this body is rooted in the concept that in a democratic society, the Press needs to be simultaneously free and responsible. Thus, it acts in a higher domain of ethical values and standards. In furtherance to this aspect, it has been framing up code of conduct for newspapers, news agencies and the journalists in conforming with high moral and professional standards which is published as Norms of Journalistic Conduct. Its purpose is not only to act as a watchdog of the press but also to enthuse a new perspective in to journalistic fraternity. The Council constantly assays to keep the press devoid of unethical writings and also the Council expends its moral authority to instil ethics into the journalistic sodality which is always higher plane than law.

The Council discharges its functions primarily through adjudications on complaint cases received by it, either against the Press for violation of journalistic ethics or by the Press for interference with its freedom. Where the Council is satisfied, after inquiry, that a newspaper or a news agency has offended the standards of journalistic ethics or public taste or that an editor or working journalist has committed any professional misconduct, the Council may warn, admonish or censure them or disapprove of their conduct. The Council is also empowered to make such observations as it may think

fit in respect of the conduct of any authority, including Government, for interfering with the freedom of the press so prescribed under Section 14 of the Press Council Act, 1978. The decisions of the Council under sub-section (1), or sub-section (2), as the case may be, shall be final and shall not be questioned in any court of law.

The Council being a body set up under an Act of Parliament gets a substantial part of its fund by way of grants-in-aid from the Central Government, after due appropriation by the Parliament, as also it has its own funds by way of the fee collected from newspapers on a graded structure and other receipts.

Chapter-II
An Overview
(April 1, 2023 –March 31, 2024)

Working of the Council

As per Regulation 3 of the Press Council (Procedure for Conduct of Meetings and Business) Regulations, 1979 there shall not be less than four ordinary meetings of the Council in any one year and the interval between any two ordinary meetings shall not be normally longer than four months. Accordingly, the full Council held Four (4) sittings, during the year to discharge its functions and discussed matters having a vital bearing on press freedom and its standards. According to Section 8(1) of the Press Council Act, 1978, the Council to perform its function under the Act, constitutes Committees from amongst its members for general and specific purposes from time to time keeping in view the requirement of the tasks assigned. To perform its function, the Council constitutes the Inquiry Committees for conducting the inquiries into the complaints filed with the Press Council and gives its recommendations accordingly. The Inquiry Committees are presided over by the Chairperson of the Council.

The Inquiry Committees I and II are functioning which comprise of the following members :-

Inquiry Committee-I	**Inquiry Committee-II**
1. Mr. Kingshuk Pramanik	1. Mr. Rakesh Sinha (M.P.)
2. Mr. Madhav Kaushik	2. Prof. J.S. Rajput
3. Mr. Ankur Dua	3. Shri Shailendra Dubey*
4. Dr. Khaidem Athouba Meitei	4. Dr. Baldev Raj Gupta
5. Ms. Aarti Tripathi	5. Mr. Prakash Dubey
6. Mr. Jai Shankar Gupta	6. Dr. Suman Gupta
7. Mr. Gurbir Singh	7. Mr. Ansu Chakraborty
8. Mr. Prasanna Kumar Mohanty	8. Mr. Gurinder Singh
9. Mr. L.C. Bhartiya	9. Mr. Shayam Singh Panwar
10. Mr. Sujeet Kumar**	10. Mr. G. Sudhakar Nair
11. Mr. Parag Karandikar**	11. Mr. Prajnananda Chaudhuri
	12. Mr. Vinod Kohli

** Mr. Shailendra Dubey, ceased to be member of the Council under Section 6 (4) of the Press Council Act, 1978 on May 29, 2023.*

*** Notified vide Gazette Notification dated 03.07.2023.*

The Inquiry Committees assume the major quantum of the work of the Council by initiating inquiries in respect of the complaints received by the Council and also *suo-motu* cognizance is taken by the Hon'ble Chairperson, PCI, in the matter of grave significance about either the free functioning of the press or maintaining of ethical standards by the press. The proceedings of the Inquiry Committees are open to the general public. The parties to the cases are required to present/furnish relevant evidence, oral or documentary and are allowed to be represented by lawyers/authorized representatives. The Inquiry Committee at the close of their respective inquiries consider the records and oral submissions advanced by the parties and places its recommendations, concerning the cases inquired into, to the Council for final ratification.

The Inquiry Committees held seven (7) sittings in this financial year and have given their recommendations in one hundred and sixty six (166) matters and reported it to the Council for adjudication.

Sub–Committees of the Council

The following sub-committees of the Council functioned during the year under review :-

1) Sub-Committee on Accreditation;

2) Sub-Committee to examine the retrenchment of journalists by the Media Groups during COVID-19 period;

3) Sub-Committee to study the Report submitted by the Sub-Committee of the erstwhile Council to evolve guidelines for the Media and Security Forces on reporting in conflict situations, and broaden the scope of Committee to evolve comprehensive guidelines for the media and security forces on reporting from conflict situations;

4) Sub-Committee constituted to consider the issue of prescribing for essential qualification of the correspondents/journalists in the print media;

5) Sub-Committee on Advertisement Policy of State/Central Government;

6) Sub-Committee on suggestions invited by the five-member Judicial Inquiry Commission constituted by the Uttar Pradesh Government;

7) Fact Finding Committee on brutal attack on Shri Sandeep Mahajan, Freelance Journalist.

Report adopted by the Council

1) Guidelines Formulated by P.C.I for Media Persons/Reporters Covering News Amidst Natural Disaster: The Report is covered in **Chapter-IV.**

2) Media Guidelines by P.C.I. for covering news on the LGBTQ+ community: The Report is covered in **Chapter-V.**

Suo-Motu Cognizance

The Chairperson, Press Council of India, took Suo-Motu cognizance of the alleged incidents of violence against media persons and alleged threats to press freedom in the following cases during the period under review:

1) On the incident of assault on Journalist by Delhi Police for covering protest held by wrestlers at Jantar Mantar in Delhi;

2) In connection with the attack on Mr. Arvind Singh Jaduan, Editor, "Ghatak Reporter" and his family members in Raisen district of Madhya Pradesh;

3) On the arrest of the Times Now journalist in Ludhiana;

4) Regarding alleged attack on Shri Sandeep Mahajan, Freelance Journalist at Jalgaon, Maharashtra;

5) With regard to alleged murder of Shri Vimal Kumar Yadav, journalist at Araria, Bihar;

6) With regard to alleged attack on Senior Journalist, Mr. Nikhil Wagle, Pune, Maharashtra;

7) With regard to alleged attack on office of Eenadu, Telugu daily in Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh.

The Chairperson, Press Council of India also took Suo-Motu Cognizance against the Newspapers/News Agencies and Journalists for offending the standards of journalistic ethics and public taste in the following cases during the year:

1) Against Dainik Jagran, Delhi Edition for purported publication of obscene and vulgar advertisements in its various issues;

2) Against Dainik Jagran, Dainik Bhaskar, Punjab Kesari, Hindustan Times and The Telegraph for purported breach of Norms of Journalistic Conduct, 2022 by publishing advertisements of online betting and gambling platforms;

3) Against Dainik Bhaskar, Delhi Edition for purported publication of misleading and obscene & vulgar advertisements;

4) Against Navbharat, Raipur and Amar Ujala, New Delhi for publishing identical contents;

5) For allegedly publishing wrong news by Dainik Jagran, in its various editions on 22.08.2023;

6) For referring J&K as "Indian controlled Kashmir" by the Times of India, Chennai edition in its issue dated 29.08.2023;

7) Against Jaipur edition of Dainik Bhaskar, Rajasthan Patrika, Indian Express, The Times of India, First India, India News, Sach Bedharak, Dainik Navjyoti and Samachar Jagat and Jodhpur edition of Hukamnama Samachar, Dainik Jalte Deep and Dainik Navjyoti for purportedly publishing advertisement(s) camouflaged as News Headline with regard to Rajasthan Legislative Assembly elections, 2023.

Reference Matters considered by the Council during the year 2023-2024

1. Report cum guidelines formulated by the Press Council of India for media persons/reporters covering news amidst natural disaster- (F.No. 17/1/2022–PCI)

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (M/o I&B) received a representation through the National Human Rights Commission of Shri Radhakanta Tripathy regarding the need of framing guidelines/SOPs for media personnel who lose their lives during coverage of rescue operations from Ground Zero during natural disaster, referring to an incident occurred on 24.09.2021.

The Council after in-depth deliberation in the matter resolved to constitute a three member sub–committee to draft guidelines for the safety of media persons reporting during natural disasters. The sub-committee submitted its draft guidelines on 29.05.2023. The report thereof was submitted by the sub-committee on 31.07.2023 and was adopted by the Council on 21.08.2023. The guidelines titled "Guidelines by PCI for Media Persons/Reporters Covering News Amidst Natural Disaster" was forwarded to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on 20.09.2023.

These guidelines aim to provide safety protocols and recommendations for media personnel reporting in hazardous environments during natural disasters.

2. Representation received from Shri P. Senthil Kumar, Chennai regarding request to Government of India to frame appropriate binding rules, regulations to prevent print, electronic media, social media and other platforms that portray the GAY community in an undignified manner. (F. No. 17/24/2021–PCI)

The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting referred a representation of Shri P. Senthil Kumar regarding the portrayal of the LGBTQ community in an undignified manner in media, to the PCI on 13.10.2021. The Council initially discussed the issue on 16.11.2021, emphasizing the community's right to dignity and proposing guidelines for respectful portrayal in media. Following further consultations and inputs, including the SANCHAAR Media Guide by The Humsafar Trust, the Council formulated comprehensive media guidelines. The Council after in-depth deliberation adopted the report titled '***Media Guidelines by PCI for covering news on the LGBTQ^{+} community***' on 21.08.2023; these guidelines were forwarded to the Government, national dailies, and prominent media houses, alongside a press release and publication on the PCI website.

3. Suggestion sought from PCI by Five member Judicial Inquiry Commission constituted on incident of death of accused Atiq Ahmed and Khalid Azam alias Ashraf due to bullet injuries on 15.04.2023 at Motilal Nehru Divisional Hospital Complex, Prayagraj. (F. No. 17/8/2023–PCI)

Shri Gaurav Shukla, Secretary of the Five-Member Judicial Inquiry Commission, Uttar Pradesh, notified the Press Council of India (PCI) on 27.07.2023 regarding an incident at Motilal Nehru Divisional Hospital Complex, Prayagraj, where two accused individuals, Atiq Ahmed and Khalid Azim alias Ashraf, were fatally shot on 15.04.2023. The incident involved assailants disguised as media personnel armed with cameras and microphones. This Judicial Inquiry Commission in order to prevent similar incidents in the future had sought suggestions from the Press Council of India on this matter.

The Council on 21.08.2023, constituted a three-member sub-committee. The sub-committee submitted its report on 16.09.2023. The report was sent to the Judicial Inquiry Commission with the Chairperson's caveat on 26.09.2023.

4. PCI's input on the agenda items of Sub Commission on Communication under UNESCO General Conference.(F.No.17/14/2023-PCI)

The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting had sought inputs from the Press Council of India (PCI) on three agenda points for the UNESCO General Conference Sub Commission on Communication:

The points on which the inputs have been sought are as follows:

a) Development of free, independent, diverse, and pluralistic media.

b) Promotion of safety of women journalists, empowerment of women in media, addressing gender stereotypes in media and digital platforms.

c) Building media capacity in emergencies like natural hazards and disasters for effective response.

Responding on the same on 02.11.2023, the PCI highlighted its core objectives, safeguarding press freedom and enhancing media standards through a robust complaint mechanism and advisory role. It emphasized the Council's role in addressing press freedom violations and ensuring journalist safety through reports and recommendations to relevant authorities. The PCI also stressed its responsibility in guiding the press with the Norms of Journalistic Conduct, aimed at upholding professional standards.

Specifically, the PCI cited its proactive response to a serious incident involving the alleged gang-rape of a female journalist in Mumbai, forming a dedicated committee that submitted its findings on November 15, 2023. Additionally, the PCI noted its past initiatives in disaster management, including workshops in collaboration with the National Institute of Disaster Management and the formulation of safety guidelines for journalists covering natural disasters.

The inputs of the PCI in the said matter was sent to the Ministry.

5. Suggestion from Ms. Kalpana Nanda to segregate news items published in newspapers especially criminal news to avoid exposing children to negative criminal content while reading newspaper (F.No.17/16/2023-PCI)

Ms. Kalpana Nanda from Mumbai filed a grievance on 13.09.2023 stating concern over newspapers filled with crime news, hindering children's exposure to positive reading habits. She proposed segregating crime news into a separate section similar to that of separate sports sections in newspapers. This is to shield children from negative content while encouraging newspaper reading.

The Council in its meeting dated 28.03.2024 considered the representation and resolved that segregating crime news into a separate section is impractical. Members argued that children encounter crime news through other media like TV and YouTube, making segregation in newspapers is ineffective. Therefore, the Council deemed Ms. Nanda's suggestion unfeasible and declined to implement it.

6. Communication received from the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting regarding Private Member's Bill on "The Indian Media Services (Regulation and Licensing) Bill, 2024" for introduction in Rajya Sabha (F.No.17/2/2024-PCI)

The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting (I&B) requested comments from the Press Council of India (PCI) on the Private Member's Bill- "The Indian Media Services (Regulation and Licensing) Bill, 2024". This Bill proposed the establishment of an autonomous body, the Indian Board of Media Services, tasked with licensing and regulating a wide range of media platforms including print, electronic, digital media, and OTT platforms.

Enactment of this Bill aims to foster an environment where journalists and media services can operate independently and critically, safeguarding them from legal repercussions. This is seen as crucial for promoting free and fair media functioning in the country.

This Bill was considered by the Council in its meeting dated 28.03.2024 and the Council decided to recommend rejecting the proposal. The Council

further decided to revisit the matter regarding constitution of Media Council, afresh.

7. Communication received from the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting regarding "The Journalist (Prevention of Violence and Damage or Loss to the Property) Bill, 2022 by Shri N.K. Premachandran, M.P". (F. No. 17/25/2022-PCI)

&

8. The Goa Media Persons and Media Institutions (Prevention of Violence and Damage or Loss to Property) Bill, 2022 (F. No. 17/2/2023-PCI)

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Press Section, forwarded the "*The Journalist (Prevention of Violence and Damage or Loss to the Property) Bill, 2022" by Shri N.K. Premchandran, MP* and "*The Goa Media Persons and Media Institutions (Prevention of Violence and Damage or Loss to Property) Bill, 2022*" to the Press Council for comments. The Bill pertaining to Goa was passed by the Goa Legislative Assembly on 22.07.2022 and was under consideration by the Hon'ble President of India after being reserved by the Governor of Goa.

Both the Bills aim to protect journalists and their property. The aforementioned Bill *by Shri N.K. Premchandran, MP aimed to protect journalist* from increasing violence and from officials that hinder freedom of speech guaranteed under Article 19(1) of the Indian Constitution. In similar lines, Goa's Bill aims to protect media persons and media institutions from violence and property damage in Goa.

The Council after deliberation in both the Bills while approving them, recommended the Central Government to enact a corresponding Central Act. The Council's resolution was subsequently conveyed to the Ministry.

9. Private Member's Bill on "The National Committee for Protection of Media Persons Bill, 2023" by Shri Mohammed Nadimul Haque, M.P. (F. No. 17/1/2024-PCI)

The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting forwarded the Private Member's Bill titled "The National Committee for Protection of Media Persons

Bill, 2023"to be introduced in the Rajya Sabha. The Ministry solicited comments of the Press Council on the matter.

Inputs given by a Member of the Council were conveyed to the Ministry suggesting that efforts should focus on empowering and enhancing the role of the Press Council of India to safeguard journalists, rather than introducing a new bill .

Advisories Issued by the Council

The Council during the period under review issued various advisories on the matters being forwarded to it by the Government or other authorities or on other matters concerning journalistic ethics. The following Advisories were issued to the Print media. These advisories are available on Council's website-

1. Advisory for Print Media to follow the Norms of Journalistic Conduct-2022 on Paid News for observance during the Legislative Assembly Elections in Karnataka;

2. Advisory for media to not to violate Section 126A of Representation of the People Act, 1951;

3. Advisory for Print Media to refrain from violation of Section 4 of the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes (Production, Manufacture, Import, Export, Transport, Sale, Distribution, Storage and Advertisement) Act, 2019;

4. Advisory for media personnel and media houses to take precautions for safety in ground reporting on Cyclone "Biparjoy";

5. Advisory for Print Media to follow the advisory dated August 25, 2023 issued by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting regarding the Promotion/Advertisements of Online Betting Platforms;

6. Advisory for Print Media to follow the direction passed by the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in W.P.(CRL) 2456/2023 dated 28.08.2023;

7. Advisory for Print Media to follow the Norms of Journalistic Conduct-2022 on Paid News for observance during the upcoming Legislative Assembly Elections in Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telangana and Mizoram;

8. Advisory for Media to adhere to the Election Commission of India's Notification dated 31.10.2023 regarding media coverage during the period referred to in Section 126A of Representation of People Act, 1951;

9. Advisory to Print Media to refrain from publishing any content that may be false or manipulated or has the potential to disturb communal harmony or public order;

10. Advisory to print media to adhere to the Norms of Journalistic Conduct while publishing employment related advertisements;

11. Direction to Print Media to take note of guidelines issued by the Hon'ble High Court of Kolkata in W.P.A 22990 of 2023 vide its interim order dated 17.10.2023;

12. Advisory to the Print Media to abide by the relevant provisions of the Model Code of Conduct during the General Elections to House of the People (Lok Sabha) 2024 and State Legislative Assemblies in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha and Sikkim and certain bye-elections as issued by the Election Commission of India (ECI).

Complaints before the Council

During the year under review, in total **987** complaints were filed. Out of these **212** complaints were filed regarding threats to Press freedom against authorities of the Government/Police/Individuals for curtailment of press freedom or attack on the press/journalists/media persons and **775** complaints were directed against the press for breach of journalistic ethics. With **1340** matters pending from the last year, there were a total of **1132** matters disposed of during the reported year, either by way of adjudication or through summary disposal by the Chairperson on account of settlement by the mediation of the Chairperson or due to lack of sufficient grounds for holding inquiries or non-pursuance; withdrawn or on account of matters having become sub-judice.

Internship

In discharge of Council's function rendered u/s 13 (2) (b), (c), and (d) of Press Council Act, 1978 for facilitating knowledge, promoting the sense of

responsibility in the journalism professionals and creating awareness about the Council and its mandate, the Council has merit-based Internship Programme for journalism students.

During the period under review, the Council conducted two internship programmes, i.e. Summer Internship Programme, 2023 (SIP,2023) and Winter Internship Programme, 2024 (WIP, 2024). The one month long internship programmes were held from July 3, 2023 to August 1, 2023 and February 12, 2024 to March 12, 2024.

Students of journalism were encouraged to submit applications. They were selected from various parts of the country based on their qualifications and eligibility criteria while also keeping in mind the opportunity to all and promoting the PAN India programme.

National Press Day, 2023

The Council celebrated National Press Day, 2023 at New Delhi. The Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar inaugurated the event as the Chief Guest. The Hon' ble Minister of Information & Broadcasting, Youth Affairs and Sports, Shri Anurag Singh Thakur and the Hon'ble Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Dr. L. Murugan graced the occasion as Guests of Honour. Shri Amitabh Kant, G20 Sherpa delivered the Keynote address and Hon'ble Chairperson, Press Council of India, Smt. Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai, presided over the function. The theme for National Press Day was "Media in the Era of Artificial Intelligence".

Marking the occasion, the Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar released the Souvenir-2023. The event was attended by various dignitaries such as representatives from Sri Lanka Press Council and representatives of Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and British High Commissioners, eminent journalists, senior Government officials, students of journalism, media persons and prominent personalities.

Exchange of Views, 2023 and Signing of MoU

On the sidelines of the National Press Day, 2023 an Exchange of View event between Sri Lanka Press Council and Press Council of India was held in the Conference Hall of Press Council of India in New Delhi on 17.11.2023. This

was followed by the renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding between the two Councils for next five years. Delegates from Sri Lanka Press Council led by the Chairman, Mr. Mahinda Pathirana were also present in the event for deliberation on the theme.

National Awards for Excellence in Journalism, 2023

To encourage the media to pursue its duties effectively without fear or favour following the dictum of 'freedom with responsibility', the Press Council of India, as the only statutory authority enjoying such mandate, has instituted National Awards for Excellence in Journalism to honour journalists excelling in print journalism in various fields from 2012 onwards.

The Council vide its advertisement dated 02.07.2023 invited entries for National Awards for Excellence in Journalism, 2023 for journalists of Indian nationality in print journalism in different categories.

Council in its meeting dated 29.05.2023 constituted a five member committee for scrutinizing the entries for National Awards for Excellence in Journalism, 2023.

Norms of Journalistic Conduct Updated Edition

As per section 13 (b) of the Press Council Act, 1978 the Council has been mandated to build code of conduct for newspapers, news agencies and journalists for achieving the high standards. In pursuance of the same, based on the adjudications and other pronouncements rendered by it the Council has evolved over the years, principles that are expected to be applied with due discernment and adaptation by the journalists to regulate his/her own conduct in discharge of professional duties.

The Council in its meeting dated 17.11.2023 and 28.03.2024 approved norms pertaining to Caste, Religion or Community References, Advertisements, Editor's Discretion, Reporting on LGBTQ^{+} Community, and others for inclusion in the next updated edition of Norms of Journalistic Conduct. These Norms have been culled out from the adjudications of the Council and references received from the Government.

Programmes held to promote usage of Hindi Language in office work

During the period under review, the Council paid particular attention to the promotion of Hindi in its official use. Regular (quarterly) meetings of the "Council's Official Language Implementation Committee" were conducted in the office.

This year, Hindi Diwas Samaaroh-2023 **(हिंदी दिवस समारोह–2023)** and Third Akhil Bhartiya Rajbhasha Sammelan **(तृतीय अखिल भारतीय राजभाषा सम्मेलन)** were organised on 14-15 September, 2023 in Pune (Maharashtra) by the Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. Assistant Director (Official Language) and Junior Translation Officer, working in the Press Council of India participated in the event on behalf of the Press Council of India.

During the year under review, four (4) Workshops relating to the official language were organized for the benefit of employees of the Council. September 14th is celebrated as 'Hindi Divas' all over India. Like every year, Hindi Pakhwada was celebrated in the Secretariat of the Council from 14.09.2023 to 28.09.2023. In order to motivate employees of the Council to do maximum work in Hindi, posters of some important hymns in Hindi language were prepared and displayed at prominent places during Hindi fortnight.

Cash prizes and certificates in various categories like noting/drafting and Hindi typing under Hindi Protsahan Yojana were awarded by the Hon'ble Chairperson, Smt. Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai to employees of the Council for their valuable contribution in promoting use of Hindi in the office.

Besides the publication of Varshik Report (Hindi) on the pattern of Annual Report (English), publication of Quarterly in-house Hindi Journal 'Press Parishad Samiksha', Nyaynirnaya and pronouncement were recorded in Hindi and brought into the public domain.

Transparency Mechanism

The Secretary of the Press Council of India is the Chief Vigilance Officer of the office. The Vigilance set up of the Council, consisting of Deputy Secretary, Under Secretary (Admn.) and Section Officer (Admn.) functioned under the

direct supervision of the Secretary (CVO) and Chairperson of the Council. It conducted regular and surprise checks to prevent/ combat any corruption in the Secretariat. Vigilance Awareness Campaign was conducted during three months period from August 16, 2023 to November 15, 2023. Various activities were performed which included banner display in the Secretariat's premises, Slogan writing competition and other awareness action plan.

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, PCI. Such general aggrieved public, who desires 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.**

Right to Information Act, 2005

The Council received 145 applications under RTI Act, 2005 and all were disposed of timely.

Notification of Members

During the period under review, Shri Sujeet Kumar, M.P. (Rajya Sabha) and Shri Parag Karandikar, Editor, Maharashtra Times were notified as the members of the Press Council of India vide Gazette Notifications dated 03.07.2023 under section 5(3)(e) and 5(3)(a) for the Press Council Act, 1978, respectively. ***(Annexure C to E)***

Ceasing of Membership

Mr. Shailendra Dubey, ceased to be member of the Council u/s 6 (4) of the Press Council Act, 1978 on May 29, 2023.

Tributes

The Council deeply condoled the demise of its former members, Shri Uttam Chand Sharma, Shri Abhay Chhajlani, Shri K S Sachidananda Murthy and Under Secretary, Press Council of India, Shri T Gou Khangin.

Press and Registration Appellate Board

The Council as per Chapter VI Section 15(1) read with its proviso of the Press and Registration of Periodicals (PRP) Act, 2023 constituted the Press and Registration Appellate Board comprising the following members –

1. Smt. Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai, Hon'ble Chairperson, Press Council of India;
2. Prof. J.S. Rajput, Member, Press Council of India;
3. Shri Gurinder Singh, Member, Press Council of India.

Website of the Council

During the period under review, Annual Reports, PCI Reviews, Picture Gallery, Press Releases, Adjudications, Reports of the Councils, NOC levy data, Outstanding Levy data has been uploaded on the website of the Council. As per MeitY guidelines for organizations to establish mechanisms ensuring the regular and timely updating of their websites, Web Information Manager (WIM) has been nominated. Chief Information Security officer and Deputy Chief Information Security Officer have also been nominated. Official You-Tube Channel of Press Council of India has also been created.

Other Significant Activities undertaken by the Council in the period under review:

Interactive session with IIS Officer Trainees

At the behest of Indian Institute of Mass Communication, an interactive session was held for the Indian Information Service Officer Trainees with the Hon'ble Chairperson of the PCI. The IIS Officer Trainees got an opportunity to learn about various issues concerning the free and responsible press in India including the functioning of the Council.

Swachhta Campaign

A cleaning drive was conducted inside the premises of the Press Council of India office during of Swachhta Pakhwada from April 10-24, 2023. The PCI cleaning drive was conducted in the Conference Hall, Record Room, Store Room of Administration and various Sections of the Press Council of India on different days.

Observance of World Blood Donor Day, 2023

World Blood Donor Day, 2023 was observed in the Council on 14th June, 2023. Banners of "World Blood Donor Day" were affixed in the premises of Council.The employees took a pledge to donate their blood regularly and to create awareness amongst their families, friends, relatives, colleagues and public about the need for regular and voluntary blood donation. On this occasion, the pamphlets showing the importance of donating blood were also distributed to all the employees of the Council for wider dissemination.

Observance of Yoga Day, 2023

The Council observed International Yoga Day on June 21, 2023. The day started with a training session of yoga followed by an essay writing competition on the topic "Benefits of Yoga for Stress Relief".

International Day against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking

International Day against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking was observed on June 26, 2023 in the Secretariat of the Council. Officers/officials of the Press Council of India have taken e-pledge on the occasion of International Day against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking.

A slogan writing competition on the topic "Drugs Free India" was organized. Fourteen (14) employees of the Council participated in the competition. The best three winners won the cash prize. Banners were fixed on the prominent locations of Press Council of India.

Indian Organ Donation Day, 2023

Indian Organ Donation Day, 2023 was observed by the Council on August 3, 2023. Banners were affixed at various locations in the premise of PCI and a slogan writing competition was held on the occasion. The employees of the Council took pledge to donate their organs after death, to give new lease of life to those in need.

National Ayurveda Day

National Ayurveda Day was observed by the Council on November 10,

2023. Essay writing competition was organised followed by the pledge and e-kit circulated amongst the employees of the Council.

Observance of Constitution Day, 2023

The Constitution Day was observed in the Council on November 26, 2023. The activities performed by the staff of the Council included online reading of Preamble to the Constitution and staff also took an online quiz on "Bharat: Loktantra ki Janani"

Sexual Harassment at Workplace Week

As a part of the action plan for the Sexual Harassment at Workplace Week, SHE Box has been installed and posters for raising awareness were affixed at various locations of the premises of the Press Council of India.

International Women's Day, 2024

International Women's Day, 2024 was observed in the Secretariat of the Council on March 8, 2024 on the theme – "Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress" On the occasion, banners were affixed at prominent places in the premises of the Council and an essay writing competition was also organized for the staff of the Secretariat on the topic "Women Empowerment in Society". A half day excursion trip for Women employee was also organized by the office as a part of International Women's Day Celebration.

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Chapter – III

State of the Press

Government and the Press

I&B warns media against publishing online betting ads

After some English and Hindi newspapers published advertisements of betting websites against advisories, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on April 6, 2023 issued a fresh warning to media entities and online advertisement intermediaries to refrain from publishing such content.

The ministry has also objected to the promotion by a specific betting platform encouraging the audience to watch a sports league on its website, which prima facie appears to be in violation of the Copyright Act, 1957.

(Deccan Herald, April 7, 2023, Bengaluru)

Govt's fact-check unit is not for censoring journalism: Minister

The Centre's upcoming unit to fact-check content related to the government on social media is not about "censoring journalism" and will have no impact on reportage, Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar said on April 14, 2023.

During an online discussion, he said that it was "not true" that the government-appointed unit, which press freedom advocates strongly oppose, was aimed at "censoring journalism".

(The Indian Express, April 15, 2023, New Delhi)

India has a free press: US

"India has a free Press and it really work", said the US and appreciated the role of Indian journalists in supporting democracy. Making this assertion, US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia, Donald Lu, also said he has respect for freedom of Press in India.

He appreciated the role of journalists in supporting democracy in the world's most populous country.

"I know the media market is changing. But I have such respect for the freedom of the Press in India. There is nothing that's kept secret there. You have India as a democracy in part because you have a free Press that really works," Lu told PTI in Washington.

(Sunday Pioneer, April 23, 2023, New Delhi)

Don't promote e-cigarettes, I&B Ministry tells media

The Information and Broadcasting Ministry on May 9, 2023 warned the print media, TV channels, OTT (over-the-top) platforms and digital media against directly or indirectly promoting electronic cigarettes. "It has been brought to the notice by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare that in a recently organised Business Summit in New Delhi by a prominent media house, the forum was apparently used to promote electronic cigarettes," said the order. It was in violation of Section 4 of the Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes (Production, Manufacture, Import, Export, Transport, Sale, Distribution, Storage and Advertisement) Act, 2019, it said.

(The Hindu, May 10, 2023, Delhi)

Facilitate presence of journos in China: MEA

India on June 02, 2023 urged China to facilitate the continued presence of Indian journalists working in the country against the backdrop of a sharp downturn in bilateral ties that has had implications for the posting of foreign correspondents.

The Chinese foreign ministry said on May 31, 2023 that the number of Chinese journalists in India was "about to drop to zero" and that certain measures were taken against Indian journalists because their Chinese counterparts "suffered unfair and discriminatory treatment in India".

Asked about the matter at a weekly news briefing, external affairs ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said both sides were in touch to try and resolve the matter. " We hope that Chinese authorities facilitate the continued presence of India journalists working and reporting from China. The two sides continue to remain in touch," he said.

Bagchi said all foreign reporters, including those from China, have been

pursuing journalistic activities in India "without any limitations or difficulties in reporting or doing media coverage".

On the other hand, he said Indian journalists in China "have been operating with the certain difficulties, such as not being permitted to hire locals as correspondents or journalists". They also face several restrictions while getting access and travelling within China, he said.

"As you know, foreign media can and do freely hire local journalists to work for their bureaus in India".

In April, China barred the return of two Indian journalists posted in Beijing while they were in India for private visits.

(Hindustan Times, June 3, 2023, New Delhi)

Govt ad spends, corporate branding to boost print media revenue

The print media's revenue growth will be maintained at up to 15 per cent in FY24 on the back of higher ad spends by governments and corporates, a report said on June 6, 2023.

Print media revenues had plummented by 40 per cent in FY21 because of the pandemic, but bounced back later, growing at 25 per cent (FY22) and 15 per cent (FY23).

Crisil said its estimates are based on an analysis of companies it rates, which account for 40 per cent of the sector's toplines.

The rating agency said 70 per cent of the revenues for companies come from advertising while the remaining 30 per cent comes from subscriptions.

"Higher spending on advertisement (ad spend) by corporate in key sectors and an upstick in government ad spend in view of the upcoming State and General Elections are expected to lift the revenue of the Indian print media sector 13-15 per cent to Rs 30,000 crore this fiscal," the agency said.

"Higher ad spends by the government, which contributes a fifth of the sector's ad pie, in the wake of the upcoming elections will.. push growth," its director Naveen Vaidyanathan said.

He said the growth will get the overall revenue for the print media almost at the pre-pandemic level at the end of this fiscal.

(The Assam Tribune, July 12, 2023, Guwahati)

PIB's fact-check unit got over 28k 'actionable queries' since Nov 2020

The Press Information Bureau's Fact Check Unit received over 28,000 "actionable queries" since November 2020, with the year 2021 accounting for the highest number of such queries, the government has informed Rajya Sabha.

According to the written reply by Information & Technology Minister Anurag Thakur on July 22, 2023, the year 2021 saw the unit getting 15,412 actionable queries while it saw a decrease to 8,107 in the next year.

In 2023, till June 30, it received 3,389 queries. In November and December 2020, the unit got 1,472 actionable queries.

The highest for a month was April 2021 when the unit received 5,387 queries followed by May (1,754) and June (1,540).

(Deccan Herald, July 24, 2023, Bengaluru)

Tilak understood importance of journalism for freedom struggle: PM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 1, 2023 said Bal Gangadhar Tilak understood the importance of journalism and newspapers for amplifying the demand for freedom.

He was speaking after receiving the Lokmanya Tilak National Awards.

"Tilak understood the importance of journalism and newspaper for making the demand for freedom louder. He started the weekly *Mahratta* in English, and with the help of another freedom fighter, Gopal Ganesh Agarkar, and Vishnu Shastri Chiplunkar he started the Marathi daily *Kesari*," Modi said.

(The Assam Tribune, August 2, 2023, Guwahati)

Absence of proper healthcare for journalists worries PM Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a an informal interaction with the journalists during Deepawali Milan expressed concern over the lack of

healthcare system for the journalists in the national capital on November 17, 2023.

Speaking at the gathering the Prime Minister said, "The journalists have similar schedules like politicians. They have an erratic schedule with a lot of travelling. Social media has further added to it. I strongly feel that journalists should have regular health checkups once they reach 40. I have seen people not doing health wise after 40.

I would like to propose that a plan needs to be in place that will ensure health check up of journalists. We along with the business houses can work and devise a plan that will be available for the journalists. It is necessary".

Pointing out at the long hours and demanding jobs of the journalists he said that there should be medical policy that will ensure a regular health check up for them.

(The Statesman, November 18, 2023, New Delhi)

LS clears bill to ease newspaper registration

The Lok Sabha on December 21, 2023 passed the Press and Registration of Periodicals (PRP) Bill, 2023, through a voice vote after a two-and-a-half-hour debate in the absence of most, if not all, Opposition members. The Bill simplifies and digitises the process of registering newspapers and other periodicals with the Press Registrar, sets up an appellate board to deal with issues related to registration, and decriminalises all but one offence.

The PRP Bill will replace the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867, which required newspapers, magazines, and books to be registered with the government.

The Rajya Saba had passed the bill on August 3.

Under the PRP Bill, anybody who is convicted of a terrorist or unlawful activity [as defined under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967] or of acting against national security, is not allowed to release a periodical. The Press Registrar General of India, appointed by the central government, will be responsible for registering periodicals (which include newspapers and

magazines, but not academic journals) after receiving an online application from interested entities.

(Hindustan Times, December 22, 2023, New Delhi)

Our govt takes cognisance of all genuine news reports: UP CM Yogi Adityanth

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said on February 26, 2024 that his government takes cognisance of all authentic news reports brought out by the media, as they convey the sentiments of society to the government.

Addressing the 'Samvad' programme of a media house, the Chief Minister said the government considers every piece of news as a suggestion and takes cognisance of news reports based on facts.

He emphasised that the media, encompassing print, electronic and increasingly and social and digital platforms, stands as a cornerstone of a flourishing democracy, exerting significant influence on society.

(The Statesman, February 27, 2024, New Delhi)

New law for registration of newspapers comes in force

The government has notified the Press and Registration of Periodicals Act (PRP Act), 2023, and its Rules in its Gazette and consequently the Act has come into force from March 1, an official statement said.

From now on, the registration of periodicals shall be governed by the provisions of the PRP Act and the Press and Registration of Periodicals Rules.

According to the notification, the office of the Press Registrar General of India (PRGI) shall carry out the functions of the erstwhile Registrar of Newspapers for India.

The new Act provides for an online system for facilitating the registration of newspapers and other periodicals in the country.

The new system replaces the existing manual, cumbersome processes involving multiple steps and approvals at various stages which were causing unnecessary hardships to the publishers, an official statement said.

All applications, including the intimation by the printer of a periodical, application for registration of facsimile edition of a foreign periodical, application by a publisher for obtaining a certificate of registration of a periodical, application for revision of certificate of registration, application for transfer of ownership of periodicals, furnishing annual statement by the publisher of a periodical and procedure for desk audit for verification of circulation of a periodical will be online through the Press Sewa Portal.

(Millennium Post, March 3, 2024, Delhi)

INS urges Centre to remove 5% customs duty on newsprint

The Indian Newspaper Society (INS) has asked the Union government to remove the 5% customs duty on newsprint due to the burden it imposes on publishers amids a maelstrom of factors that include global geopolitical uncertainties, logistical intricacies, and the depreciaton of the Indian rupee.

INS also said that several newsprint mills in India and across the world have either suspended or ceased their operations, causing concerns over the supply of newsprint in India.

(Hindustan Times, March 6, 2024, Delhi)

Safety guide for journalists covering LS polls launched

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), along with *The Hindu*, launched a "Safety Guide for Journalists covering Indian elections 2024" at an online event on March 8, 2024.

The guide has specific advice, including editor's safety checklist while deploying staff on a hostile story, and detailed information on digital safety. It features ways to tackle online campaigns, which particularly target women journalists in an orchestrated way, manage stress in the newsroom, and address security challenges faced by Indian journalists.

Kunal Majumder, the CPJ's Indian representative, said the guide, which contains details on how to prepare for elections and ensure physical, digital, and psychological safety, is available in four regional languages and in English on *https://cpj.org.*

(The Hindu, March 9, 2024, Chennai)

Thakur launches SHABD; revamped websites of Akashvani, DD News

Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur on March 13, 2024 launched PB-SHABD, a news sharing service from Prasar Bharati to share text news, clean video feed and photographs with news organisations.

The PB-shared audio visuals for broadcast and dissemination (PB-SHABD) is a service free of cost for the first year as an introductory offer and will provide news stories in all the major Indian languages across fifty categories.

The minister also launched revamped websites of DD News and Akashvani News, and a new-look News on AIR mobile app.

(The Asian Age, March 14, 2024, Delhi)

Postal Ballot Facility for Media Personnel in LS Polls

District Electoral Officer Vijaya Jadhav has announced that during the Lok Sabha Elections 2024, media personnel have been categorized as 'essential category' by the Election Commission of India. Under this provision, media personnel holding 'Authority Letters' issued for election coverage will be able to cast their votes via postal ballot.

This initiative aims to facilitate media personnel in exercising their voting rights and ensuring their vital contribution to the electoral process is upheld through decentralized voting methods.

(The Pioneer, March 29, 2024, Ranchi)

Portals for modernised media landscape launched

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Anurag Singh Thakur, launched four transformatory portals that promise to revolutionize the media landscape in India. The portals include Press Sewa Portal, NaViGate Bharat Portal, and National Register for LCOs. These Initiatives are aimed at ensuring ease of doing business by fostering a more conducive business environment for newspaper publishers and TV channels, enhance transparency and efficiency in government communication, provide easy access to authentic government

videos and create a comprehensive database of LCOs enabling the government to streamline regulatory processes in the cable television sector.

(The Times of India, February 27, 2024, New Delhi)

Press and the People

Print media advt revenue up 4% in 2023

The digital media will potentially overtake television as the leading segment in the media & entertainment (M&E) sector in 2024 with an estimated size of Rs. 75,100 crore, said a joint report from Industry body FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry) and EY on March 5, 2024. While the Indian Media & Entertainment sector Grew by 8.1 per cent in 2023, reaching Rs 2.32 lakh crore and is expected to touch Rs. 2.55 lakh crore and cross Rs 3 lakh core mark by 2026, it added.

(Hans India, March 6, 2024, Hyderabad)

Media Welfare

MHA to prepare SOPs for journalists

On the direction of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Ministry of Home Affairs has decided to prepare Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the safety of journalists in the wake of three assailants, who came posing as mediapersons, killing gangster Atiq Ahmad and his brother Ashraf, sources said.

The MHA, under the leadership of the Prime Minister and guidance of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, will prepare the SOPs for the safety and security of journalists, they said.

(The Assam Tribune, April 17, 2023, Guwahati)

Portal for welfare of journalists launched

Haryana Assembly Speaker Gian Chand Gupta on April 26, 2023 launched the Media Well Being (MWB) portal at a programme organized under the Media Wellbeing Association.

Gupta also distributed term insurance policy to 75 journalists of the state

and also announced an amount of Rs 11 lakh from his voluntary fund to the Media Wellbeing Association.

(The Tribune, April 26, 2023, Gurugram)

MP CM says panel to frame law for journos' safety

A committee will be set up as part of efforts to frame a law to protect journalists in Madhya Pradesh, chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said on September 7, 2023.

Addressing a 'patrakar samagam' (journalists' gathering) in Bhopal, the chief minister also, said a new 'Patrakar Bhawan' will be built in place of the old demolished building. It will be called the 'state media centre' and will have a modern convention centre, library and canteen, he added.

"A committee of senior journalists will be constituted to give recommendations to frame the state's Journalist Protection Act," Chouhan said.

He also said the honorarium being paid to senior journalists above 60 years of age will be enhanced from the current Rs 10,000 per month to Rs. 20,000, while in the event of a journalist's death, the spouse will get Rs 8 lakh as assistance.

"Accredited journalists can avail loan of Rs 30 lakh instead of Rs 25 lakh at present for construction of their house," he said.

(Hindustan Times, September 8, 2023, New Delhi)

Govt urged to revive scribes' pension, media fellowship schemes

The District Information and Public Relation Office (DIPRO), Tinsukia, organised a special programme at the conference hall of the Tinsukia Zila Parishad office on January 19, 2024 to distribute the goodwill gifts sent by Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma among the recognised journalists of the district.

Addressing the gathering, president of Tinuskia District Journalists Association (TDJA) Dr Rishi Das urged the government to start journalists pension and media fellowship schemes again. These schemes have remained suspended for the last two years.

(The Assam Tribune, January 20, 2024, Guwahati)

Attack on Media

Notice sent to Bengal police chief over illegal detention of journalist

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sent a notice to the West Bengal's police chief over a complaint alleging that a journalist covering the Sandeshkhali issue was "unlawfully detained," officials said on February 20, 2024.

The NHRC in a statement said the allegations raise a serious issue of violation of human rights and also restriction on the freedom of the press.

(The Pioneer, February 21, 2024, Bhopal)

Court and the Press

Judges can't talk to media on sub-judice issues: SC

Observing that judges have no business granting interviews on pending matters, the Supreme Court on April 24, 2023 sought a report within four days from the Registrar General of the Calcutta High Court on whether Justice Abhijit Gangopadhyay gave an interview to a news channel about the case related to the school job-for-bribe case in West Bengal. The apex court's order came when TMC leader Abhishek Banerjee complained against Justice Gangopadhyay's interview in TV channel ABP Ananada, while handling the case.

"I just want to say it that judges have no business granting interviews on matters which are pending," Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, sharing a bench with Justice PS Narasimha, said while taking strong note of the purported interview given by Justice Gangopadhyay to a news channel about the case.

"The question is whether a judge who has made statements like these about a political personality should he be allowed to participate in the hearings.

There has to be some process," the CJI observed. The CJI said the judge should have recused himself and paved way for setting up another bench by the Chief Justice of the High Court.

(The Pioneer, April 25, 2023, New Delhi)

Journalists' special status excludes them from Unfair Labour Act, says Bombay HC

The Bombay High Court clarified that working journalists are not classified as employees under the Maharashtra Recognition of Trade Unions and Prevention of Unfair Labour Practices Act. In its ruling on February 29, the court stated that due to their unique status, journalists cannot file complaints under this Act before an industrial court.

Upholding the unique privileges afforded to journalists under the Working Journalists Act, the High Court maintained that disputes should be resolved within the framework provided by the Industrial Disputes Act, as the Working Journalists Act already outlines mechanisms for dispute resolution.

(Millennium Post, March 7, 2024, Delhi)

Awards and Appointment

Four senior journalists felicitated

Four senior journalists were felicitated and 100 noted persons, including national and ethnic leaders of the district, were greeted on the occasion of the 'Basanta Utsab' by Morigaon Sambadik Samaj at the historic Bihutoli ground.

Four senior journalists-Dr Nabakanta Bordoloi, Upen Deka, Mahendra Nath Hazarika and Bubu Moni Goswami were felicitated by Morigan Sambadik Samaj for their contribution to the field of journalism. The felicitation programme was conducted by the president of 'Basanta Utsab' committee, Ajit Sarma.

(The Sentinel, May 4, 2023, Guwahati)

Senior journalist felicitated

Veteran scribe, editor and former president of the Press Club of Karimganj, Satu Roy, was felicitated by the press club at the Bipin Chandra Paul Smriti Bhawan on May 16, 2023. The members of the club felicitated Roy with *gamosa, seleng sador, sarai* and a felicitation letter. In this connection, a meeting was held under the chairmanship of Mihir Debnath, president of the Press Club. Journalist Bivash Bardhan, Arup Roy, July Das, Hirak Das, Arup

Ratan Chakrabarty, Prabir Bhattacharjee and Mahtabur Rahman were present on the occasion.

(The Assam Tribune, May 21, 2023, Guwahati)

TOI reporter among 3 picked for int'l climate journalist award

Manka Behl, who reports on climate change, pollution, coal and energy related issues, has been selected by Covering Climate Now as one of the three international climate journalists of 2023. The other two are Damian Carrington of the Guardian and Amy Westervelt, the founder of the Critical Frequency podcast network.

(The Times of India, September 19, 2023, New Delhi)

Dr Abu Hanifa Memorial Journalist Award presented

With a day long programme, the Nagaon based haibargaon Press Club observed National Press Day at Nagaon ADP College auditorium on November 16, 2023.

The Haibargaon Press Club presented noted scribe Lt Dr Abu Hanifa Memorial Journalist Award to senior scribes and professor Sabharam Mazumdar and Kanak Hazarika.

(The Assam Tribune, November 19, 2023, Guwahati)

RedInk Awards For Excellence in Journalism: Express journalists win in 2 categories

The Indian Express on December 2, 2023 won awards in two categories at the RedInk Awards for Excellence in Journalism held in Mumbai.

Neerja Chowdhury, Contributing Editor at The Indian Express was given the 'Lifetime Achievement' Award, while Mihir Vasavda, Senior Assistant Editor, received the award in the Sports (Print) category for his story on the plight of migrant workers from India who went to the Gulf for projects related to the Qatar World Cup, but passed away without their families getting compensation.

The Journalist of the year award went jointly to Dhanya Rajendran, Editor-in-chief and founder of The News Minute, and independent journalist Sharad Vyas. Across categories and formats, 25 awards were given.

Chief Guest and Freedom Fighter G G Parikh gave away the awards and was felicitated for his work in social reform in his 100th year.

(The Sunday Express, December 3, 2023, New Delhi)

Kalyan Barooah Award presented in Delhi

Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal on December 11, 2023 hailed former New Delhi correspondent of *The Assam Tribune* late Kalyan Barooah for his exceptional work in the field of journalism.

Organised by My Home India and North East Media Forum (NEMF), the programme saw five journalists being awarded for their exceptional work in promoting and highlighting the Northeast.

Those who were presented the Kalyan Barooah Award are Ranju Dodum (Arunachal Pradesh) in 'Print Media' category, Partha Jyoti Borah (Assam) in 'Electronic Media' category, Gitika Talukdar (Assam) for 'Photography', Binod Tamang (Sikkim) for 'Freelance Videography' and Deepak Dewan for 'Lifetime Achievement'.

(The Assam Tribune, December 12, 2023, Guwahati)

Senior IAS officer Sanjay Jaju takes over as I&B Secretary

Sanjay Jaju, a 1992–batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer from Telangana cadre, on February 5, 2024 assumed charge as Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Mr. Jaju has previously served as Additional Secretary to the Government of India from 2018 to 2023 and Director, National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited, from October 2014 to March 2018. He has also served as Secretary to the Andhra Pradesh government.

(The Hindu, February 6, 2024, New Delhi)

Dr Panjabrao Deshmukh Award announced for Latur writer

Renowned senior journalist, writer, and environmental expert from Latur, Atul Deulgaonkar, will receive the prestigious 'Dr. Panjabrao Desmukh Award'

from the state government. The accolade was announced on February 10, 2024 in recognition of his work, particularly his book "Pruthvicha Akkhyan".

(The Free Press Journal, February 11, 2024, Mumbai)

Tribute

- Senior journalist Pushp Paul Singh passed away due to cardiac arrest on April 16, 2023. He started his career in journalism with *The Times of India* in Tripura and was associated with the field of journalism for over 30 years. The senior journalist also worked for *Economic Times* and BBC. The media fraternity of the Northeast mourned the death of the veteran journalist whose contribution to the field of journalism was immense, especially when it comes to covering issues of the Northeast.

  (The Asian Age, April 18, 2023, New Delhi)

- Veteran journalist Manmohan passed away at a city hospital on June 7, 2024 evening. He was 72. Manmohan had worked for various English newspapers including *The Statesman, The Tribune, Hindustan Times and The Times of India*. He had an expertise in investigative journalism and had also worked as roving editor of *Nav Bharat Times.*

  (The Statesman, June 8, 2023, New Delhi)

- Subhash Chakravarty, who was with *The Times of India* for three decades, including as Chief of Bureau in Delhi and Diplomatic Editor, died in the early hours of June 23, 2024. He was over 90. The legions of journalists worked with and mentored over the years described 'Dada' – as he was universally known – as a quintessential reporter who was deeply networked among the political and corporate class alike.

  (The Times of India, June 24, 2023, New Delhi)

- Paban Dutta, a senior journalist of Tinsukia district and a retired teacher of Hoonlal Higher Secondary School, Doomdooma, breathed his last at his own residence at Rupai Siding Topubon on June 24, 2023. Dutta began his career as a journalist as the local correspondent of an Assamese weekly, *Purbanchal Batori,* published from Tinsukia, in 1979. Later, he served in

Assamese dailies *Natun Dainik, Ajir Batori and Amar Asom* as Doomdooma Correspondent.

(The Assam Tribune, June 25, 2023, Guwahati)

- Noted Journalist, political analyst, writer and activist Achyut Yagnik died in Ahmedabad on August 4, 2023, after a cardiac arrest. He was 77. Yagnik was a multifaceted personality who worked for the noted Gujarati daily *Gujarat Samachar* for 10 years. He also contributed to the Economic and Political Weekly. He was the first editor of *Arthat,* a magazine of the Surat based Centre for Social Studies.

(The Indian Express, August 5, 2023, New Delhi)

- Narendra Kumar (85), a noted publisher, educationist and Printer and Publisher of 'The Pioneer', passed away on August 10, 2023. He was the President of the Indian Publishers Association and Chairman of Har Anand Publications, which has been publishing hundreds of famous books for the past 60 years.

(The Pioneer, August 11, 2023, New Delhi)

- Cartoonist-satirist Ajit Ninan passed away at 68. While working as a political cartoonist for *India Today and The Times of India* since the early 80s, Ninan spared no political figure. Ninan, who also worked with The Indian Express in the 1990s, passed away in Mysuru on September 8, 2023 at age of 68. He is survived by his wife Elizabeth and two daughters, Samyukta and Aparajita.

(The Indian Express, September 9, 2023, New Delhi)

- Veteran Assam journalist Anil Barua passed away on November 28, 2023 at a city-based hospital where he was admitted with heart problems. He was the former editor of 'Dainik Asom'. Born in 1939 at Dergaon in eastern Assam, Barua used to work for another Assamese daily 'Dainik Janambhumi'. He joined 'Dainik Asom' as a sub-editor in 1966 and retired as its editor in 2001. He is the recipient of several awards including the State government's Republic Day Journalism Award 2022.

(The Statesman, November 30, 2023, New Delhi)

- Veteran journalist Jadu Kakati passed away at the Gauhati Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) due to old-age ailments in the wee hours on January 5, 2024. He was 92. Kakati's journalism career spanned over several decades, during which he contributed many insightful writings, especially on socio-political developments of the State.

(The Assam Tribune, January 6, 2024, Guwahati)

- Paritosh Biswas, veteran journalist and the editor of Tripura's first daily 'Jagaran', passed away at his residence on February 23, 2024 after a prolonged illness. He became the editor of 'Jagaran' in 1981, and continued in the position till his last breath. 'Jagaran' was started as a Bengali daily published from Tripura in October 1954.

(The Sentinel, February 25, 2024, Guwahati)

- Senior journalist and former Chief of Bureau of *The Hindu* in Mumbai, Satish Nandgaonkar, passed away on February 28, 2024. Nandgaonkar had an extensive career. Beyond journalism, he was associated with Mumbai's oldest surviving film society and film festival, Third Eye Asian Film Festival. Nandgaonkar was also co-founder of the Media Foundation of India.

(The Hindu, February 29, 2024, Delhi)

- Veteran journalist NVR Swami, who was with the Press Trust of India for four decades, passed away on February 28, 2024. Swami (85) was hospitalised in Hyderabad. After his long innings in PTI, Swami worked in Africa with Thomson Publications. He had been living in Auckland since 2002.

(Telangana Today, February 29, 2024, Hyderabad)

Social Media

Manipur cops crack down on fake news

Grappling to restore normalcy and put an end to incidents of violence in the ethnic strife-torn state, the Manipur police have started filing cases against those

circulating rumours and fake news on social media platforms, officers familiar with the development said.

In their first information report (FIR) on July 29, 2023, the Manipur police booked the spokesperson and leaders of the Indigenous Tribal Leaders Forum (ITLF), an umbrella group of Kuki organisations in Churachandpur, for allegedly circulating a fake news about arms and ammunition being brought into the state by the recently started goods train service.

The development comes in the backdrop of state chief secretary Vineet Joshi's letter to the Chief Minister N Biren Singh's office last week alleging that some civil society organisations (CSOs) and non-government organisations (NGOs) were releasing false and unverified information related to the ethnic clashes in Manipur. The letter, seen by HT, said such rumours and fake reports were "impeding the peace restoration process."

Police officers, requesting anonymity, said the top brass of the force held meeting in which it was decided to tackle the rumours in two days. "The first is by actively countering the rumours on social media and the second by registering FIRs if people are deliberately circulating rumours to disrupt peace," a mid-level police officer said.

(Hindustan Times, July 31, 2023, New Delhi)

World Media in Indian Press

Court denies bail to US journo

A Russian court on April 18, 2023, denied bail to US reporter Evan Gershkovich who was arrested on charges of espionage for which he faces up to 20 years in prison.

Charged with spying, which carries a 20-year maximum penalty, Gershkovich is being held in Moscow's Lefortovo prison. The Kremin says he was caught "red handed", but has provided no evidence.

Gershkovich, his employer the Wall Street Journal and the US government deny he was involved in spying and have demanded his release.

(Hindustan Times, April 19, 2023, New Delhi)

Russia irked after U.S denies visas to journalists

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on April 23, 2023 said Moscow "will not forgive" Washington for denying U.S. visas to Russian journalists meant to accompany him on a visit to UN headquarters.

(The Hindu, April 24, 2023, Delhi)

Hong Kong paper to not publish Wong Kei-Kwan after govt complaints

A Hong Kong newspaper announced on May 11, 2023, it will stop publishing drawings by the city's most prominent political cartoonist after they drew government complaints, in another example of restrictions on speech and media after a Beijing-led crackdown.

Chinese-language newspaper Ming Pao did not explain why it is ending its 40-year partnership with Wong Kei-Kwan on May 7, 2023. Wong, better known by the pen name Zunzi, told The Associated Press the decision was made through mutual consultation.

Since Beijing imposed a sweeping National Security Law following massive pro-democracy protests in 2019, the city's art and media communities have learned to be wary of crossing vaguely defined red lines in producing art and other content that might be perceived as challenging Communist Party control. Authorities have also increasingly used a colonial-era sedition law to target critical voices.

(The Indian Express, May 12, 2023, New Delhi)

Two Pak journalists booked for inciting May 9 attacks

Pakistan Police have booked two journalists on charges of sedition and terrorism for their alleged involvement in the violence that engulfed the country on May 9 following the arrest of former prime minister of Pakistan Imran Khan, a media report said on June 15, 2023. The Aabpara police station registered the case against anchormen Sabir Shakir and Moeed Pirzada – and another individual – more than a month after the violence occurred, the Dawn newspaper reported.

The FIR claimed that on May 9, the complainant was present at Melody Chowk, where an angry mob vandalised property, taking instructions from Shakir, Pirzada and Syed Akbar Hussain via video messages the report said. The complainant claimed that the persons named in the FIR incited people to commit violence and encouraged them to attack the installations of the armed forces, spread terrorism, provoke mutiny and create chaos in the country.

Separately, global media watchdog Reporters Without Borders (RSF) urged Pakistan to immediately dismiss the "ludicrous mutiny accusations in a complaint with no credibility", that an individual has brought against two journalists in the federal capital.

(The Pioneer, June 16, 2023, New Delhi)

Canada OKs media bill, FB says news access to end

Meta Platforms Inc plans to end access to news on Facebook and Instagram for all users in Canada once a parliament approved legislation requiring internet giants to pay news publishers comes into effect, the company said on June 22, 2023. The legislation, the Online News Act, was approved by the Senete upper chamber earlier on June 22, 2023 and will become law after receiving royal assent from the governor general, a formality.

The legislation was proposed after complaints from Canada's media industry, which wants tighter regulation of tech companies to prevent them from elbowing news businesses out of the online advertising market.

(The Times of India, June 24, 2023, New Delhi)

French journalists call off strike, failing to block 'far-right' Editor

Journalists at France's leading Sunday newspaper announced on August 1, 2023 that they were ending one of the longest media strikes in recent French history, but they predicted that dozens might resign to protest the appointment of an editor with a far-right track record as the new editor in chief.

The staff of *Le Journal due Dimanche*, known for its interviews with government leaders and largely centrist policy analysis, said it had decide to call

off a 40-day walkout after it became clear that the paper's soon-to-be new owner, the Fench billionaire, Vincent Bollore, would not rescind the appointment. Staff members said they had little choice but to work with the new leadership or leave their jobs.

The new editor, Geoffroy Lejeune, who formerly led a far-right French magazine that was fined for publishing racist insults, was scheduled to take up his new post on August 1, 2023. Word of his appointment at The JDD, as the paper is known, had ignited a fire storm in French media and political circles, raising concerns that a major mainstream news outlet could be transformed into a right wing platform. Before the Uproar, about 100 journalists worked at the Paris paper.

(Business Standard, August 3, 2023, Delhi)

Iran Sentences Two Women Journalists to Jail Time

Two female Iranian journalists will spend around a month behind bars as part of a three year partly suspended prison sentence for "conspiracy" and "collusion", local media reported on September 3, 2023.

Under the sentence, Negin Bagheri and Elnaz Mohammadi will serve one-fortieth of the term, or less than a month, in prison.

(The Economic Times, September 4, 2023, New Delhi)

Nobel prize-winning Russian journalist to fight 'foreign agent' label in court

One of Russia's most respected independent journalists, Nobel Peace Prize laureate Dmitry Muratov, will file a lawsuit challenging the Kremlin's recent decision to brand him a "foreign agent", Muratov's Newspaper Novaya Gazeta, said on September 4, 2023. At Muratov's own request, he will temporarily step down as Novaya Gazeta's editor-in-chief while he challenges the designation, the newspaper said. His deputy, Sergey Sokolov, will become acting editor-in-chief.

The Justice ministry deemed Muratov a " foreign agent" – a label it has used widely against its critics in an effort to silence dissent – on September 1,

2023 accusing him of using "foreign platforms to disseminate opinions aimed at forming a negative attitude toward the foreign and domestic policy of the Russian Federation."

(The Times of India, September 6, 2023, New Delhi)

Myanmar scribe gets a 20-year sentence

A court in Myanmar Sentenced a photojournalist for an underground, news agency to 20 years in prison with hard labor for his coverage of a deadly May cyclone's aftermath, the media organisation said on September 6, 2023.

The sentence given Sai Zaw Thaike, a photographer for the independent online news service Myanmar Now, appeared to be the most severe for any journalist detained since the military overthrew the elected government of Aung San Suukyi in February 2021.

(The Pioneer, September 8, 2023, New Delhi)

China journalist who gave Me Too victims a voice is now on trial

After Two years in detention, a Chinese Journalsit who spoke up against sexual harassment stood trial on subversion charges on September 22, 2023 along with a labour rights activist, the latest example of intensified crackdown on civil society.

Huang Xueqin an independent journalist who was once a prominent voice in China's #MeToo movement, and her friend Wang Jianbing the activist, were taken away by police in September 2021 and later charged with inciting subversion of state power. Their trial was held at the Guangzhou Intermediate People's Court in southern China.

Little is known about the government's case, but the vaguely worded offense with which the two were charged has long been seen as a tool for muzzling dissent.

Since, Xi Jinping came to power in 2012, the ruling Communist Party has sought to essentially silence people who have fought for free speech and political rights.

(The Indian Express, September 23, 2023, New Delhi)

Journalist detained for 3 years in China returns home to Aus

Australian journalist Cheng Lei, who had been detained in China on national security charges for more than three years, returned home on October 11, 2023 after being released, Australia's PM Anthony Albanese said. Cheng, was a business anchor for Chinese state television when she was detained in August 2020 for allegedly sharing state secrets with another country. China's state security ministry, for the first time giving details of the charges against Cheng, said she had pleaded guilty to charges of illegally sending state secrets abroad related to her work for a state media outlet. She had been deported after serving her sentence of two years and 11 months.

(The Times of India, October 12, 2023, New Delhi)

CHAPTER-IV

Guidelines Dated 21.08.2023 Formulated by P.C.I. for Media Persons/ Reporters Covering News Amidst Natural Disaster

The Union ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) had referred a complaint-cum-proposal dated 25-09-2021 to the Press Council (PCI) seeking a set of guidelines for news media when covering natural disasters. The complaint by one Radhakant Tripathy was originally addressed to the National Human Rights Commission, which in turn referred it to the MIB.

The reference was triggered by an incident of 23 September, 2021, when chief reporter Arindam Das of OTV, a leading Odia news channel, tragically drowned in the swollen Mahanadi river while reporting on the rescue operations being undertaken to free an elephant stuck in the swirling waters. Das and his cameraperson Pravat Sinha were in a boat, along with personnel of the Odisha Disaster Rapid Action Force (ODRAF), when the boat was swept away by a swirl, and it upturned and capsized. While the others were rescued, Arindam Das, who did not know how to swim, could not be saved.

The unfortunate death of the media person raised many questions. How did the authorities on site allow the reporter and cameraman into a boat assigned for rescue operations? Did they provide the news team with necessary safety gear before they came on board the boat? When assigning Arindam Das to cover the elephant rescue, did the news editor of the channel, Radhamadhav Mishra, ascertain whether the conditions at the rescue site were reasonably safe for reporters? And, further, did the news editor consider whether the reporter and cameraman had the basic qualifications for self-preservation like the ability to swim, before assigning them for coverage?

The reference came up for discussion on 22-09-2022 before the Press Council (PCI) meeting. Since the matter required detailed discussion and investigation, the PCI set up a three-member sub-committee consisting of Prasanna Mohanty (Convenor), Gurbir Singh and Suman Gupta to go into the matter and come up with a report and a set of guidelines.

The botched 'rescue operation'

A simple examination of the facts surrounding the incident reveal that Arindam Das' death was the result of callous disregard of safety procedures by both the state government authorities entrusted with the elephant's rescue operations as well as by the management of the OTV news channel. The 'rescue operations' conducted with an inflatable dingy amidst dangerous swirling waters armed with personnel armed with only a megaphone was a recipe for disaster.

Elephants are smart swimmers and do not need human intervention to cross a river. Site reports by other journalists revealed that members of the same herd that were spotted in the river quite easily swam their way from Athagarh forests towards Chandaka. The one elephant which got 'trapped" would eventually have moved out too and not perished had it not been for all the confusion and cacophony created by cellphone wielding crowds that had assembled at the site.

The knee-jerk 'rescue operations' only added to the spectacle that had brought gawking crowds to the scene to film the unfortunate tragedy on their cellphones. In fact, reporters at the site have said the best course for the authorities – the ODRAF and the Forest Department – should have been to clear the crowds and traffic off the the Mundali Bridge connecting Bhubaneswar to Cuttack. This would have calmed the animal and allowed the jumbo a clear passage to escape.

Finally, how were the reporter and his cameraman allowed on to a boat conducting rescue operation? It was a serious lapse on the part of the ODRAF and the Forest authorities to have compromised the safety of the rescue team by allowing two journalists on board. It also appears they did not check the credentials of the OTV team – whether they were trained for the job – and neither were they provided safety gear that might have saved them. Furthermore, did the OTV management have an SOP in place on how natural disasters are to be covered? And did the editorial head check whether Arindam Das and cameraman Pravat Sinha have the necessary training and skills, including the ability to swim?

The conduct of the OTV team unfortunately also contributed to the tragedy. The act of getting on board a boat that was part of the rescue operations was patently wrong. In their eagerness to bag a sensational story and exclusive images of the rescue effort, they landed up compromising not only their own safety but the safety of other members of the ORDF rescue

team. A more sober approach of taking a distant and secure position to covert the rescue operation live would have been the right course.

With the learnings from the Mahanadi tragedy, we can go on to the broader issues and deal with the two aspects of covering natural disasters: 1. The SOP and guidelines for the safety of media persons covering natural disasters; and 2. The approach to be adopted for media coverage of natural disasters.

Background

Natural disasters are increasing by the day, especially with the impact of climate change, which is resulting in extreme weather conditions like cyclonic storms and flooding, which in turn cause avalanches and destruction of human life, property and crops. According to the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), "India has seen close to a disaster every day in the nine months of this year (2022) – from heat and cold waves, cyclones and lightning to heavy rains, floods and landslides." These disasters have claimed 2,755 lives, affected 1.8 million hectare of crop area, destroyed over 416,667 houses and killed close to 70,000 livestock.

Some of the significant nature-related disasters last year included the Amarnath floods when 16 people lost their lives and several injured in a cloudburst near the Amarnath caves in Jammu and Kashmir on July 8, 2022. In monsoon-related havoc, 6 people last year died in Uttar Pradesh where over 1,300 villages in 18 districts were inundated by flood waters. Another big disaster was the landslide in the Noney district of Manipur near the Tupul railway construction site on the night of June 30, 2022. At least 58 people were killed in the incident, including 29 army personnel.

Cyclones generated in the Bay of Bengal have over the years have also taken a huge toll. This it it was Cyclone Biparjoy that struck Gujarat. Last year it was Cyclone Asani, and in 2021 it was Cyclone Tauktae that struck the western coastline. Among the worst has been Cyclone Bhola that struck West Bengal and erstwhile East Pakistan in November 1970, that claimed as many as three lakh lives.

It is but natural that news networks are called upon to cover these natural disasters – from the time they build up to the humanitarian follow-up in the form of rescue operations, medical relief and the demographic and economic impact thereafter.

Natural disasters by their very nature cannot be predicted. Locationally they are sometimes in remote places and journalists have to be assigned to reach the disaster points, often covering long, unfamiliar and even hostile terrain. Secondly, natural disasters do not start or end in a split second, but are lingering tragedies that take a toll over several weeks and even months. From a safety point of you, therefore news networks and their reporters have to be fully conscious of the risk of a LIVE disaster site, where they can very easily become victims of what they are reporting, as the Orissa Mahnadi tragedy showed.

The experience of journalists covering natural disasters in India has thrown up a treasure trove of material from which significant lessons can be drawn. At the international level too, the experience of Australian journalists covering bush fires to those who covered Fukushima Nuclear disaster have contributed to the repository of safety measures and guidelines on how these disasters should be covered.

Significantly, the Fukushima incident started as a natural disaster where following a major earthquake, a 15-metre tsunami disabled the power supply and cooling of three Fukushima Daiichi reactors. This triggered a nuclear accident, the largest since Chernobyl, beginning on 11 March 2011, after all three cores of the nuclear plants melted in the first three days.

While putting the last touches to this report, our attention was draw to an interesting study authored by Snehasis Sur and Rajib Saw on behalf of the Press Club of Kolkata and the India Japan Laboratory, Keio University, Japan. Published in July 2023 it is called: *Role of Media in Disaster Risk Reduction – A few essential tips.* The study is quite exhaustive and offers journalists covering disasters a variety of safety tips and the ABC of appropriate social behaviour on the ground.

The study rightly broadens the definition of 'disasters' to include those that cannot be strictly said to be 'natural disasters'. These are human induced disasters, not including armed conflicts, that come about as a result of social conditions like huge concentration of people in slums or

settlements on the banks of swollen rivers who may become victims of 'social-natural' events. Similarly, mass epidemics or medical emergencies have huge ramifications today.

There is great learning from the unprecedented Covid19 pandemic as a 'medico-natural' disaster which in a wave of destruction covering over 3 years from March 2020 wiped out, according to the WHO, as many as 7 million people across the Globe.

International news networks like Bloomberg and Reuters have well-defined SOPs for covering natural disasters, and these are followed strictly. There are also media organizations like SAFE - Securing Access to Free Expression, Media, who have collated the experience of journalists and have developed handbooks for the safety of media persons covering these events. These can be summarized as under:

A. GUIDELINES FOR JOURNALISTS AND NEWS ORGANISATIONS:

Before deployment

1. **Risk Assessment.** Before embarking on an assignment to cover a natural disaster, news teams must perform an in-depth risk assessment to understand the situation they are likely to encounter on the ground. This includes educating the team about the type of disaster being covered and the risks involved—especially earthquake aftershocks, landslides, and tsunamis that might occur after the initial disaster.

2. **Proper planning.** The media team assigned must dedicate time to identifying safe entry and exit points . Before entry to the disaster area, a briefing from the emergency first responders like home guards, police, or fire brigade personnel already at the site is essential.

3. **Communication.** Establish at least two channels of communication. Ideally, one of the channels should not require internet access as that may fail. Getting information on mobile coverage in the area is vital prior to departure.

4. **Back-up kit.** The team must go prepared and planned for the worst risk situations where road and communication access may breakdown and where "nothing ever goes as planned". The team must be equipped with extra provisions, a first-aid kit, and protective clothing and gear. Electronic devices must be protected with waterproof, antishock cases, and backup batteries must be available as well as possible safe locations at the time of an emergency.

5. **Mental preparation.** Reporters and teams must be prepared mentally and emotionally to encounter severe destruction and human suffering. Stress and anxiety cannot be avoided but good preparation with a toolkit to psychologically live through the crisis is essential in avoiding mental health issues.

6. **Accident Insurance cover is essential.** News organizations should ensure that news persons being deployed at a disaster site are properly insured as a protection against accidents and possible loss of life. Accident insurance should be made mandatory for news networks to protect both the news persons who venture into risky sites, as well as the families who rely on them as bread earners.
   (Inquiries with the family of Arindam Das of OTV revealed that there was no accident insurance cover provided by his organization before he was sent on the 'elephant rescue' assignment.)

During deployment

1. Upon arriving, it is essential the media team establishes contact with the authority in charge and gets their permission to enter the disaster site after a security briefing. Clearance by the first responders at a disaster site is essential not only for the safety of journalists but for the rescue teams as well. If there are local experts, their assistance should be sought to understand the local geography and the nature and impact of the disaster.

2. At the site, the media team must be alert to a changing situation that can prove fatal. An ongoing disaster has to be understood quickly so that an informed call can be taken whether to stay or evacuate. If in doubt, always follow warnings by authorities and disaster experts on the ground.

3. When conducting interviews, the media team must be conscious of the interviewees' emotional limits. Do not inspire false hope or make promises that you can't keep. Instead, focus on listening to survivors' stories. The team, if possible, should share knowledge with victims about trauma and its effects, and guide them where they can seek professional help in dealing with their tragedy and loss.

4. The team must continuously assess its own mental and emotional well-being by staying connected with family and friends and other journalists who can relate to the disaster situation.

After deployment

1. After the assignment is over and the media team is ready to leave, it must work out its exit strategy. The exit may not be the same as the entry point, and groundwork is essential to ensure the way out is the safest and quickest. When leaving the disaster area, it is essential the team informs those in charge that they are leaving.

2. After returning to home base, the media team should conduct a thorough debrief with editors and solidarity groups. A retrospective of what safety plans worked or did not work will prepare the ground for future deployments to disaster scenes.

3. Reporters and teams returning from disaster areas must keep a watch on their emotional and mental state , and consult a counselor or other professional help in case there is underlying trauma or post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). In addition, to refresh mental and emotional health positive activity such as meditation or exercise is recommended.

B. GUIDELINES FOR THOSE SUPERVISING RESCUE OPERATIONS AT DISASTER SITES

From the point of view of the rescue teams, and the government and local authorities trying to keep things under control, news reporting on a disaster zone is a crucial function. A disaster which involves a large loss of life, injuries and destruction of property impacts a large number of people and is a subject of interest to wide section of people. The flip side is: if genuine news and updates are lacking, the void will be filled by rumours and speculation. This may lead to panic and possible breakdown of law and order. It is therefore essential that news networks are permitted to report and provide updates to keep readers and viewers abreast of the situation in disaster zones. However, the following guidelines should be adhered to:

1. The rescue and local government teams working in disaster zones must at all times keep tabs on the conditions prevalent to ensure that the safety and security of reporters and media teams is not compromised. Permission therefore cannot be given routinely or casually. If the rescue teams and local government see an enhanced risk, and safety cannot be reasonably guaranteed, media groups may have to be kept out of the area till the situation impoves. There is never a case of 'zero' risk; but the local authority must be reasonably sure the reporting operations do not pose a risk to the journalists or compromise the safety of the people and the rescue teams in the disaster zone. In case the situation at the disaster zone takes a turn for the worse, as in the case of a fresh eruption by a volcano or increased flooding, the authorities can exercise the option of asking media teams to leave the area.

2. Media teams entering disaster zones must be briefed properly both on the logistical aspects of the disaster so that reporters understand how to conduct themselves safely. Many Australian emergency services have, for instance, have training programmes for journalists on working in crisis zones. The rescue teams must also provide context and background of the disaster so that the news content emanating from the area is truthful and informative. The briefing must be regular with

proper updates whenever there is a change in the situation. The best way to do this is to appoint a spokesperson of the local administration who is well briefed and is mandated to constantly interact and communicate with the media teams on the ground.

3. While ensuring the freedom to report and interview people in the disaster area, first responders must safeguard their own safety as well as the safety of the media teams by keeping updates and lines of communications alive with the media teams at all times. On no account should local authorities have a situation where contact is broken with local media teams. This will ensure the media teams don't get too close to specific danger points, nor wander off in areas there they could become victims of the disaster they are reporting on.

C. GUIDELINES FOR REPORTING RESPONSIBLY FROM DISASTER ZONES

Natural disasters have a wide-ranging impact and therefore news media has a big role to play in informing its readers and viewers of the situation and casualties at the disaster site. It is therefore essential that it discharges this role responsibly and helps restore normalcy in the quickest of time. The guidelines news teams need to follow in this respect are:

1. News organizations must on priority provide the local region and people the information they need to respond to an event. This information must be clear, timely and unambiguous. For this, the first source has to be the rescue agencies, the army, fire service, police or other government officials on site who have been working on the ground and who have direct knowledge of the events. A report by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC), for instance advices its reporters covering cyclones and other disasters to only publish and broadcast 'officially sourced' news in the initial period when there is confusion and the news teams are still finding their way about.

(This is not to say that all official releases are truthful. Often over zealous rescue agencies may seek to paint a rosy picture. In such cases, news teams should do their homework and reject material that borders of dressed up public relations or propaganda.)

2. Another crucial task of news organizations is to share detailed and critical information fairly and without favor or prejudice. It must be remembered that disaster areas are likely to be physically cut off and without normal lines of communication like the Internet. Local populations therefore are reliant on the news media to guide them to seek relief, find exit points and to understand how the disaster is unfolding. By providing these inputs news media becomes part of the rescue operation.

3. The new, increasing role for news media reporting from disaster zones is to stop the spread of panic and to counter false information. The increasing spread of social media has today ensured that anyone with a cellphone and an internet connection becomes a reporter. People first learn about an emergency and the casualty figures through twitter and WhatsApp. These can create panic and stampedes, which may then become man-made disasters. Responsible news reporting has to be plugged into the social media and quickly verify what is true and false. People too realize that official news channels are better equipped for truthful reporting. It is therefore crucial news networks set themselves as a critical second source of verification, a filter that separates news from noise and rumor. News media often falls prey and recycle incorrect stories. Preparedness and a constant ear to the ground is therefore essential so that news networks don't accidentally spread false information.

4. News teams at disaster sites must also perform the reverse function of being the sounding board of the local populace. Amplifying the voices of those who have suffered a disaster through interviews; and using the voices and views of local citizens on what has gone wrong through direct radio and television broadcasting has an

emotionally soothing effect on the local communities struggling to come to terms with a disaster.

5. Finally, once the disaster zone is under control and it is off the front pages, news teams pack up and head home. Except there is a new responsibility for the news networks, that of following the tail end of the disaster. The world wants to know whether the disaster and rescue operations have continued to do their work? And what has been the aftermath and how have the local communities shaped up after the crisis they have gone through? The continuing media glare will help not only as moral balm for those who suffered, but will push the authorities to perform.

Prasanna Mohanty (Convenor)

Gurbir Singh

Suman Gupta

CHAPTER-V

P.C.I. Guidelines Dated 21.08.2023 for Covering News on the LGBTQ^{+} community

INTRODUCTION

Upon receipt of communication from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on the issue of media reportage of the LGBTQ^{+} issues alongwith representation of Shri P. Senthil, the Press Council of India after diligent & in-depth deliberation on the issue, has formulated the guidelines on the issue of portrayal of the LGBTQ^{+} community by media.

A: BRIEF OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

Language and the usage of words is a critical part of how we engage with each other. Cultures are built with language, the way sentences are stitched together, using words and punctuations. The culture of using Main and Hum is indicative of a place, its history, culture and people. Similarly, the word Aap is a means to show respect for a person who they are to you or their age.

The usage of such words that dignify an equation between two people or more, written or spoken, is as significant as the pronouns of she, he and they are to a person or people, a language and an evolving culture which is moving towards being more inclusive and dignified. The inability or failure to use such pronouns, for instance, is as inappropriate as calling a person 'she' when their assigned gender is male, and therefore should be referred to as he and him. It is as unbecoming of a person referring to a senior in a certain Hindi-speaking culture as Tu rather than Aap.

It is an established fact that words can communicate love, appreciation and respect but can also be misleading, demeaning and hateful.

As stated in *Consciously Speaking*[*] by AvianWe (2021), 'language is not neutral. Inclusive language acknowledges the unique values, skills, viewpoints, experiences, culture, abilities, and experiences of individuals or groups. Derogatory or discriminatory language undervalues individuals or groups, denigrates, humiliates, and perpetuates stereotypes and inequality in society.' In a worst-case scenario, the book says, 'discriminatory language incites hatred or vilification. Discriminatory language and visual representations ignore, exclude, marginalise or under-represent people, rendering them invisible.'

The purpose of this docket is to enhance the understanding of gender, sexuality, its terms and usage. The objective is to take on board a complaint made by Mr P Senthil Kumar and propose a solution through improved language usage so that the press is more conscious of how they refer to the LGBTQIA+ community and what the do's and don'ts are when it comes to representation of this group of people, be it pictorial or through text.

This document isn't perfect in that language, wordage and usage are evolving. It is to recognise that at one time there were no words such as homosexuality and heterosexuality and that now there is a huge rainbow of gender identities (GI) and sexual orientations (SO) with a plus at the end. There is also an importance given to look at sex characteristics (SC) as different from GI and SO. Therefore, the international forums have started using the words SOCIESC where instead of looking at labels, we look broadly at Gender, Sex and Sexuality.

B. Terminology:

Sex: refers to the biological make-up of a person. The biological make-up is assessed from external body parts and also internal organs, sex chromosomes and/or tissues and organs. Sex is important to understand in the context of sex characteristics. One is either born female, male or persons with intersex variations or Intersex people.

Intersex people/ Persons with Intersex variations (SC): Intersex people are born with physical or biological sex characteristics, such as sexual anatomy, reproductive organs, hormonal patterns and/or chromosomal patterns, which do not fit the typical definitions of male or female. These characteristics may be apparent at birth or emerge later in life, often at puberty. Intersex people can have any sexual orientation and gender identity.

Gender: Gender refers to the attitudes, roles, behaviours, experiences, and feelings that a given culture associates with a person's biological sex. It influences how we perceive ourselves and each other, how we act and interact, and the distribution of power and resources in society. Gender intersects with other factors that drive inequalities, discrimination and marginalisation, such as caste, religion, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, ability, age, geographic location, and sexual orientation, among others.

Gender has two components which are very important to understand:

- Gender Identity

Gender identity reflects a deeply felt and experienced sense of one's own gender. Everyone has a gender identity, which is part of their overall identity.

- Gender Expression

Gender expression is the way in which we express our gender through actions and appearance. Gender expression can be any combination of masculine, feminine and androgynous. For a lot of people, their gender expression goes along with the ideas that our societies deem to be appropriate for their gender. For other people it does not.

- Transgender man (Transman): A transgender man is a man who was assigned gender female at birth. They may/may not transition for them to align their body with their gender identity.

- Transwomen: A transwoman is a woman who was assigned gender male at birth. They may/may not transition for them to align their body with their gender identity.

- Transgender/Trans*: An umbrella term for people whose gender identity is different from the sex assigned to us at birth. The star/asterisk in 'trans*' refers to all non-cisgender gender identities. These will include transwomen, transmen, gender non-conforming, genderqueer, gender non-binary, etc.

- Gender Non-Conforming: People whose gender expression does not conform to the societal expectations with regards to the gender assigned to them at birth.

- Gender Affirming Surgery (GAS): A multi-step process that a trans* person may choose to go/or not go through to align their anatomy with their gender identity and gender expression. For a lot of trans* persons, these surgeries are needed for their well-being relieving them from dysphoria. However, gender affirmation is a deeply personal experience. Not every transgender person will desire or have resources for surgery.

- Transition: A term sometimes used to refer to the process—social, legal, and/or medical—one goes through to discover and/or affirm one's gender identity. This may, but does not always, include taking hormones; having surgeries; and changing names, pronouns, identification documents, and more. Many individuals choose not to or are unable to transition for a wide range of reasons both within and beyond their control. The validity of an individual's gender identity does not depend on any social, legal, and/or medical transition; the self-identification itself is what validates the gender identity.

Sexuality: Sexuality can be understood as the experience of knowing and expressing oneself. Sexuality is experienced and expressed in thoughts, fantasies, desires, beliefs, attitudes, values, behaviours, practices, roles, and relationships. While sexuality can include all of these dimensions, not all of them are always experienced or expressed. Sexuality is influenced by the interaction of biological, psychological, social, economic, political, cultural, ethical, legal, historical, religious, and spiritual factors.

The two components of Sexuality are:

1. Sexual Orientation/attraction: Sexual orientation refers to a person's physical, romantic and/or emotional attraction towards other people. Everyone has a sexual orientation, which is part of their identity. Sexual orientation is not related to gender identity and sex characteristics.

2. Sexual Behaviour: This refers to an individual's sexual behaviour with men, women, and/or non-binary people. The concept is most often used in the public health / epidemiological context, where behaviour, rather than orientation or identity, is the focus of attention.

To expand further:

- Heterosexuality: Heterosexuality refers to attraction to members of the other genders.

- Homosexuality: Homosexuality refers to attraction to members of the same gender.

- Gay : A person who identifies as a man and is emotionally and/or sexually and/or romantically attracted to other people who identify as a man. People who are gay need not have had any sexual experience; it is the attraction and self-identification that determine orientation.

- Lesbian: The definition of lesbian has undergone major change in recent years. Recently, a lesbian is a person who identifies as a woman and is emotionally and/or sexually and/or romantically attracted to other people who identify as women. People who are lesbian need not have had any sexual experience. John Hopkins University currently changed the

definition of lesbian to include non-binary lesbian persons and it defined lesbians as “non-man attracted to non-men’.

- Bisexual: People who are emotionally and/or romantically and/or sexually attracted towards people of their own gender and a gender different from theirs. People who identify as bisexual need not have had equal experience- or equal levels of attraction- with people across genders, nor any experience at all: it is merely attraction and self-identification that determine orientation.

C. Media Sensitivity in Reporting

There are several aspects to how one uses language as well as a lens or gaze. A simplified example is how the male gaze has always played a role in reporting, film scripts and cinema at large. The same lens and gaze created heroes of men, relegating women to a limited role such as being a housewife (only), or how men wished to see women or assumed women to be as humans. The male gaze and dominance is also a reason why most history erased or excluded women (intentionally or unintentionally).

The result, as research has often pointed to, is the well-established problems of gender roles and stereotypes. Being queer and queerness emerges comfortably when these roles aren’t assumed to be the only ones.

As is the case with women reclaiming and claiming their space, so as queer folks. The need for sensitivity towards queer folks, however, requires a different mind and approach as social stigma continues to haunt their existence. Laws, after all, can’t change the dignity or status of any marginalised and hated community, overnight.

Language:

Currently, with the law in the favour of LGBTQIA+, it’s even more important to be cautious with the language chosen to voice the visibility of the community and also use the words and terms that the community accepts for itself.

- Use a language which does not reduce the Queer community to nothing but ‘SEX’

- If someone’s gender identity is not clarified, it’s best to stick to neutral terms like “them/they” instead of “he”, “she”, or “it”

- Before any reporting of LGBTQIA+ people and issues, consider whether labels such as “gay”, “lesbian”, “bisexual”, or “transgender” are appropriate. If they are not necessary and relevant to the story, they must not be included. A person's sexual orientation or gender identity status should only be mentioned if it is relevant to the story. The community has other identities of caste, class, religion, skills, qualifications and professions which are also important, other than just LGBTQIA. As a norm, and to ‘normalise’, a heterosexual person is never addressed or labelled by their sexuality

- The term “alleged” should not be used when describing LGBTQIA+ identities and relationships (such as “alleged transgender person”, or “alleged relationship”), which are all as real and valid as any other

- Use umbrella terms like “LGBT”, “LGBTQ”, “LGBTQIA+” rather than “the gay community,” which is not an inclusive term. Gay is one particular identity in the LGBTQIA+ community, and doesn’t explain all the other identities. Such usage manifests in limiting the spectrum of sexualities to men who are sexually attracted to men, leaving out so many others. That amounts to erasure and invisiblisation of sexual identities

- Similarly, avoid headlines like, “Let the Gays Marry”. This is a sweeping statement that limits diverse gender identities and sexual orientations into one identity (i.e. gay), whereas gender identity and sexual orientation are really a spectrum that enjoys many expressions. For instance, LGBTQIA+. Try to be as inclusive as possible while giving headlines and captions. It is possible to come up with a catchy headline that is politically correct and inclusive

- Do not use transgenders in your article; 'transgenders' is an adjective. Use transgender person, transwomen, transmen, and/or trans* persons

- Use the more appropriate “Gender Affirmative Surgery (GAS)” instead of “sex-change surgery” or “sex reassignment surgery”

- Do not use “Eunuch”. The right usage is “transgender woman” or “trans woman” and/or Hijra women. However, it is best to check with the persons you are interviewing or referring to

- You do not need to focus on a transgender person’s previous gender identity by using phrases like “He was a She”, or “She was he” or their

transitioning process and surgeries. Too often, it reduces and ridicules the trans experience and their struggle to live a life free of prejudices. It denies them their identity, who they know they are, and who they are. Such references are to a past that they consider as "dead", and an error assigned at birth

- Avoid headlines like "She Was Not Ashamed of Her Lesbianism" since calling something an 'ism' reduces it to a fad or trend rather than an identity

- Take care when using the word "homosexual". Outside of scientific and clinical discourse, the word has outdated and discredited connotations of psychological disorder

- Do not use words like "sexual preference", "special rights" and "gay life-styles". They are pejorative terms. Being Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay, asexual, or Queer is Sexual Orientation. Secondly, it is not special rights that the community is asking for but "equal rights"

Photos & Confidentiality

- The stock photos used for articles and news pieces on LGBTQIA+ issues should be diverse and representative of the lived realities of our lives. Some of the photos only depict "rainbows", "pride-parades", "silhouettes of violence" etc. Make some effort to create a library of photos for LGBTQIA+ persons, taking their consent while making this happen

- It is inappropriate to pick up photographs from people's social media accounts if you know they identify as LGBTQIA+. They might not feel safe about their gender expression, gender identity or sexual identity being published and available to a larger audience. Even if they are 'friends' of yours, always seek their permission since not many LGBTQIA+ people are "out" about their sexual orientation and/or gender identity. Even when those who are "out" only feel safe about it in certain contexts and settings

- Always ask for permission before disclosing the names, photographs, home or work addresses of those who identify as LGBTQIA+ in any form of publication. Do mention the pros and cons of publishing the photographs or other information to the persons you are interviewing

- It is not ethical to take people into confidence in order to use their private details (i.e. to ’pull a Capote’).

- Do not ask for 'old' photos of transgender persons who have undergone Gender Affirmative Surgeries. It is insensitive and unnecessary.

Perspectives:

- LGBT*QIA+ is not a monolith. It is an umbrella term. It consists of persons of diverse sexual orientation, gender identities and sex characteristics. Do not conflate all these in your news items. If you are writing about a transgender person, it is about gender identity; if you are writing about sexuality and attraction, it is about sexual orientation. It is also important to focus on persons with intersex variations

- Make sure you consider a person’s class, caste, religion, ethnicity, and other social markers while reporting on their lives. These also affect gender and sexuality

- Persons from marginalized communities must not be treated as ‘victims’, as it further disempowers them. Avoid ‘the saviour syndrome’ and ‘top-down’ statements with a “we must save them” tone. Look for stories on the LGBTQIA+ community that do not focus on their identities as ‘victims’

- To increase the visibility of LGBTQIA+ people, look at queer and trans* persons in business, in art, music, literature, human rights activism, scientists and sportspersons

- It’s important to build a network of members of the LGBTQIA+ community across the country. Many journalists tend to return to the same people time and again for quotes. This limits journalists’ access to the diversity of the LGBTQIA+ community, and also limits the voice of the community in representing themselves, recognising lived experiences and contexts that are diverse

- If you are a beat reporter, insist on seeing a playback of your story to ensure that the desk the editor has not slipped in some politically incorrect statements

- It is definitely not the task of the journalist to be an activist, however, knowing how precarious the lives of LGBT*QIA+ persons are, if you

come across stories of persons who need help, you might connect them with NGOs working with the community

D. References & Acknowledgements:

This document has been put together by Nazariya: A Queer Feminist Resource Group (Nazariya: QFRG) with support from the Rainbow Lit Fest – Queer & Inclusive (RLF).

The document refers to various organisations as resources including *NUJ Pride, Celebrating and Supporting Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Members of the National Union of Journalists*; *Guidelines on LGBTQIA+ reporting by Nazariya: QFRG; Consciously Speaking by AvianWE,* and the formal complaint by P Senthil Kumar.

To reach this final yet evolving document on guidelines for the media, has involved an intense process seeking inputs from journalists who 'belong' to the LGBTQIA+ community and NGOs working with and for the community. A Winter Internship Programme was also conducted by the Press Council of India and a report submitted by Pradeep Kashyap and Anjali Kumari.

This document by Nazariya: QFRG and RLF, however, has sifted through years of material and references before coming to what it is - present, politically correct and LGBTQIA+ voiced. Both organisations suggest and believe that since language is evolving, these guidelines need to be revisited periodically.

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Chapter - VI

Report of the Council on Suggestion Invited by the Five-member Judicial Inquiry Commission Constituted by the Uttar Pradesh Govt alongwith Caveat of Hon'ble Chairperson, dated 26.09.2023.

Background and events:

On the late evening of April 15, 2023, accused former MP Atiq Ahmed and his brother Khalid Azim alias Ashraf Ahmed were killed in police custody at Motilal Nehru Divisional Hospital Complex in Allahabad (Prayagraj). A five-member judicial inquiry commission has been constituted to probe the incident. The commission is headed by Dilip Babasaheb Bhosale, former Chief Justice of High Court of Allahabad. Justice Bhosle had taken charge in place of Hon'ble Justice Dhananjay Chandrachud as he moved to the Supreme Court. The five-member judicial inquiry commission has sought suggestions from the Press Council of India (PCI) to prevent recurrence of incidents like the shoot-out incident of the accused. Judicial Inquiry Commission (hereinafter referred to as the Commission) has sought the comments of the Council vide letter No.118-2023 dated 26th July, 2023, letter No.128 dated 11th August, 2023 and letter No.135 dated 28th August, 2023. The letter dated August 28 recalled the suggestion being made available by 16th September, 2023. The Press Council of India constituted a three-member committee which was communicated vide letter No.17-8-2023 PCI dated September 5, 2023. The committee comprises of Shri Prakash Dubey, Convenor, Shri Gurbir Singh, Member and Shri Jaishankar Gupta, Member. The committee was asked to submit its report within 15 days. On behalf of the members of the Committee, Shri Prakash Dubey repeatedly contacted the Hon'ble Chairman of the Commission. He assured to meet him on September 13, 2023 as soon as he returned home. Journalists opined about the incident was discussed in detail and views exchanged on their concerns. Shri Dubey apprised that Press Council of India issues instructions and suggestions from time to time on the conduct of journalists. A copy of the publication of Norms of Journalistic Conduct formulated by the Council was also handed over to the Hon'ble Chairman of the Commission. He suggested copies of the same be sent to other members of the five-member judicial inquiry commission so that they could also be well-informed.

A sequential brief mention of certain points of the event will make the position clear:

a. Both the brothers were murdered late on April 15 at doorstep of Colvin Hospital, Prayagraj when they were being brought to Colvin Hospital from Dhumanganj police lockup for medical examination. Senior doctors of the hospital and some top police officials also believe that in view of the sensitivity of the case, it was not necessary to bring both of them to the hospital for routine medical examination. In such sensitive cases, the medical team itself goes to the police lock-up along with necessary medical equipments & conducts the necessary medical checkup. This has happened earlier as well. Doubts have been raised on the process of taking the accused Atiq and Ashraf to the hospital.

b. The distance from Dhumanganj Police Lockup to Colvin Hospital is seven km, which took 20 minutes to complete. How did the media personnel and the three murderers, who were present with fake identities of journalists, get a tip-off about the movement of Atiq and Ashraf and the exact time of their arrival at the hospital? Who would have given it? This is astonishing.

c. Whether anyone give the media persons and their disguised killers the liberty and permission to go so close to the two brothers and talk to them, interview them? The inquiry commission must have considered this issue. Or not? The matter will be taken up by the Commission of Inquiry. Was the identity of journalists walking very close to Atiq and Ashraf already ascertained? If so, how did the three murderers under the garb of journalism reach so close to them that they could shoot them on the temple? Did they have the identity card of a known newspaper TV channel or a government accreditation card? Prima facie evidence indicates a heinous conspiracy behind the murder? Questions have been raised about the role of the police in the incident.

For the journalist fraternity, these questions are very important. According to media analysts, prima facie evidence indicates heinous conspiracy behind the murder. Questions have been raised about the role of the police in the incident.

Conclusion

This episode must have been a major setback for the state government. Consequently, reputation of journalists had also been tarnished. A large section

believes that journalists were used as a cover/tool for murder under a deliberate conspiracy. Reason is very clear. Generally, there is a feeling of respect for the work of journalists, lawyers etc. among the general public and the administration. This credibility makes it easier for them to enter crowded areas. A person posing as naval officer had murdered in a court in Mumbai. No one stopped him while entering the court because of his uniform.

There have been instances in which the anti-journalist face of the police has been clearly noticed. As a proof, some examples are being given.

Facts

- Malayalam journalist Siddique Kappan was detained on October 9, 2021 on his way to Hathras in Uttar Pradesh. Journalist Kappan along with the photographer was going to probe the rape and murder of a Dalit girl. The police has registered a case against him under relevant sections of the UAPA. It was recorded in the FIR that he was going to incite the riots. His petition for bail was dismissed from the lower court till the high court. When the matter was placed before the Supreme Court, Hon'ble Chief Justice of India, Uday Umesh Lalit sought to know whether the police had any evidence. Has explosive substance or anything else been recovered? UP Police lawyer Mahesh Jethmalani replied-yes, there is evidence. On being asked – what is that? We have recovered objectionable literature, the lawyer replied. The accused was going to get justice for the rape victim.

Due to reprimand and order of the Supreme Court, after remaining in jail for 704 days, the sessions judge signed the bail order on February 2, 2023. He was released the next day. His mother died while he was in jail. The case is pending for consideration in the court.

- Investigation into the brutal and shameful incidents of Manipur is underway, which is being monitored by the Supreme Court. The Editors Guild of India, a representative body of editors, sent the fact-finding committee to Manipur. The Press Council of India (PCI), in the Norms of Journalistic Conduct, emphasised that journalists' organizations and media persons to continue introspection again & again. A copy of such Standard Instructions was presented to the Hon'ble Chairman of the Commission on 13th September 2023. The Editors Guild, the organisation of editors sent a fact-finding committee in this context. Their intention was not to find out the culprits of murder cases. They only intended to know

what was the role of the media in the publication of the incidents. On being released the report, the Manipur Police registered an FIR against the Chairman of the editors body of the fact-finding committee. There are many such incidents which create an impression that the police can go to any extent to cover their mistakes. The Police can stop Journalists from discharging their duties even if it is the police of any state. It is pertinent to mention here that a journalist, who left for collection of news despite having an identity card, has been placed behind the bars for more than a year seeking bail, criminal action was taken against the previously declared fact-finding committee while the Editors Guild has placed the report on the website along with the statement of the journalists' associations of the concerned state having difference of opinion so that the other side comes forward. In both these cases, we are only giving information from our side about the treatment meted out to journalists. In these circumstances, it is surprising to see the killers get full liberty under the guise of journalists. We apprehend that such a conspiracy has been hatched so that journalists can be blamed for the murder on the one hand and on the other hand, journalists who perform their duties diligently be stopped on this pretext.

Recommendations:

1. In this case, the role of the police and the administration should be thoroughly examined. The Journalists fraternity feel that there was a well-planned strategy to carry out such incident. The perpetrators could be said to have come in the guise of the journalists. It has been mentioned earlier that no one had identified the journalists waiting for hours and the murderers present under the veil of Journalists, whereas policemen in plain clothes are deployed along with the policeman in uniform. Strict investigation into the incident will be fruitful in many ways. The maximum benefit would be that the:-

a. Conspiracy under the guise of journalists for committing a crime would not recur.

b. Taking advantage of this incident, Journalists can be prevented from collecting news. Such arguments can be given to obstruct their work. Unlike the United States of America, Journalists in India, have no special rights or protection. Article- 19 - 1 of the Constitution grants freedom of expression to every Indian.

2. This will also give the police an opportunity to improve its image. Till now it has been believed and many instances can be quoted when faithful police and administrative personnel used to protect those journalists who exposed criminals, corruption, etc. They were threatened, assaulted. Certain diligent journalists had to sacrifice their lives. Vigilant social organizations, citizens and police protection have been provided. The situation is now different.

3. Why raised doubts of conspiracy? The question can be replied by getting so much information whether the police had given prior intimation to a journalist or organisations? The investigation will reveal the source of information on the basis of which the killers came in the guise of journalists. One of the accused of murder is allegedly involved in the murder earlier also. This needs to be investigated.

4. Any person can be prevented on the pretext of security threat under the new circumstances. Two examples will clear the position. There was a programme of the then Prime Minister at the Parliament House in Delhi. The journalist, who came to report the event, was asked to show an ID card as well as an invitation card. Surprised, he said, Okay, you all know me. Reply - Rajiv Gandhi was also assassinated by a person claiming to be a journalist. Another example - after the attack on Parliament House, even those journalists who have been reporting for decades also started showing identity cards to security personnel quietly. In such a situation, it is imperative to investigate why the police kept mum in this incident when the killers were shooting. How much promptness did it show. Today, even during the VIP movement journalists are pushed despite showing identity cards.

5. Information should be sought from the state government about the procedure for giving accreditation to journalists. In many states, the committees that give accreditation to journalists either do not exist or consisting of only bureaucrat members. In many states, the accreditation committees have not been renewed for years. Delay in giving accreditation, negligence, partiality, disrespect of rules and ignorance are common. The commission should direct that there should be representatives of journalist organizations in the committees. Complete transparency should be maintained in the names of member journalists and those getting representation and the process should be made transparent. This is the only identity card that journalists have in

the states, which facilitates them in discharging their duties

At present, if the accreditation committee is in existence in the state, then the names and number of its members should be disclosed. It should be reported how many government, ex officio and representatives of how many journalist organizations are included.

There is another suggestion related to accreditation. Before giving accreditation, police investigation in connection with the background of journalists is mandatory. In such a situation, there should not be any attempt to cancel accreditation to intimate, threaten or pressurize any journalist. These days new amendments are being made which state that accreditation may be denied or may be taken away for treason or any such reason. Without any proof, such methods should be curbed to prevent writing the truth. Such instructions should be given to the administration so that the border line between fake journalist and authorized journalist is clear.

6. New technological tools have brought new challenges.

- The administration should differentiate between so called citizen journalist and professional journalist. One-sided information promoting violence and discrimination has started appearing on social media and WhatsApp. Behind this, there are many big faces and huge capital investments. The Indian Penal Code and IT related laws should be implemented in such a way that hatred cannot be spread under the guise of news and journalism.
- It has often been observed that the police avoids and ignores taking action against the persons giving hate-provocative statements filled with hatred but harasses the journalists and newspapers who criticize it. In the present case under investigation, it is fit to be given thought as to how many such incidents have taken place in the concerned state? The police will have the record.

7. The following record should be sought from the government-of UP

- How many journalists have been indicted in the state?
- What is the definition of a journalist accepted in the state?
- How many journalists have been found guilty, how many are in jail and how many have been acquitted?

8. In such well-planned murders, the perpetrators, sometimes disguised as journalists and sometimes as lawyers in the court premises and commit serious crimes like murder. Hence stopping journalists or lawyers from performing their professional duty will be termed an attack on freedom of expression.

9. For this purpose, it is necessary that the police-administration and its intelligence system should be strong and active in an impartial manner. Instead of restricting the media's access to VIPs and sensitive people unless it is absolutely necessary, the police-intelligence system will have to be prepared with precautionary measures. Besides, ensuring the identity of media personnel and lawyers, their search and frisking may also be done. Now there have been such devices which can detect explosives or weapons by examining a person. On one hand, this will protect journalists from facing embarrassment especially when women are entering journalism in large numbers and are earning a name in enterprising journalism. On the other hand, criminals will not even get a clue that they are under close watch.

Conclusion:

The Committee would like to recall once again that the main function of journalism or journalists is to protect the freedom of expression guaranteed by the Constitution. Even today, all the citizens of the country either do not know the whole meaning of freedom of expression or they are not able to use it correctly. Journalism is a reliable tool in this direction. Preventing them from performing their duties by attacking their credibility would mean depriving them of the rights granted by the Constitution. A well-known journalist and author of Israeli origin, in an interview, had cautioned journalists about the challenges and said – 'In the news market, you are not the customer but the product.

You are being sold.

This unanimous report is being presented to protect journalists against every attempt to defame or eliminate them.

Sd/-	Sd/-	Sd/-
Prakash Dubey	Gurbir Singh	Jaishankar Gupta
Convenor	Member	Member

PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA
Chairperson Office

Dated: 19.09.2023

Observation on the Report of the Sub-Committee of the Council on suggestion invited by the five-member Judicial Inquiry Commission constituted by the Govt. of U.P. on the incident of death of accused Atiq Ahmed and Khalid Azim Alias Ashraf

A five member Judicial Inquiry Commission constituted by Uttar Pradesh Government in connection with killing/death of Atiq Ahmed and Khalid Azim alias Ashraf vide letter dated 26th July, 2023 sought from the PCI suggestions to stop recurrence of such incidents. The subject of the said letter is quoted below:-

> "Seeking suggestions to stop recurrence of incidents such as the incident of the death/killing of the accused Atiq Ahmed and Khalid Azim alias Ashraf, shot dead on 15.04.2023 in the premises of Motilal Nehru Division Hospital"

On 21st August, 2023, a Committee comprising Shri Jai Shanker Gupta, Shri Prakash Dubey, Shri Gurbir Singh was appointed to deliberate and submit report containing suggestions. The Committee has submitted its report dated 16th September, 2023.

I have perused the report. Some of the suggestions are acceptable. However in narration of background in my opinion, the Committee has travelled much beyond its ambit. It has touched upon certain issues which strictly fall within the domain of the Judicial Commission. The Committee has not even termed its observations as prima facie observations but given them the shape of final conclusions which in my opinion is not correct. If the majority accepts the report, it would be undoubtedly forwarded to the Judicial Commission. However, I deem it appropriate to forward it with this caveat.

RP Desai 19.9.23

(Ranjana Prakash Desai)
Chairperson

Chapter - VII

Statistical Analysis of Adjudications Rendered in Complaints Regarding Threats to Press Freedom

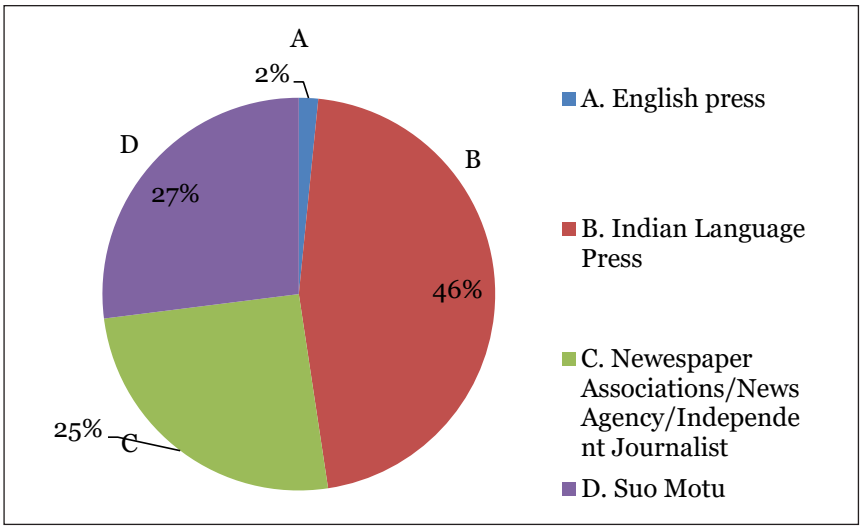
The Press Council of India is entrusted with the responsibility of safeguarding the freedom of the press by monitoring any potential threats that may arise from various sources, including the political parties, government authorities, anti-social elements, or even within the press itself. As per Section 13 of the Press Council Act, 1978, the Council's objectives and functions include not only preserving press freedom but also maintaining the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India. The Council reviews any development that may hamper the availability and dissemination of news that is of public interest and importance. It considers complaints lodged by newspapers, journalists, institutions, or individuals against any authority, organization, government (state or central), or individual that threatens the freedom of press.

During the period under review the Council received 212 complaints, alleging the government or other authorities with attempts at obstructing the free functioning of the press. Besides, 396 matters were pending consideration from the previous year. Of the 608 matters requiring the Council's attention, 63 were disposed of by way of adjudication, 1 was reported directly to the Council while 200 were rejected at the preliminary stage for lack of substantive grounds for inquiry, as matters being outside the Council's charters or sub-judice. The remaining 344 matters were under process at the end of the period under review.

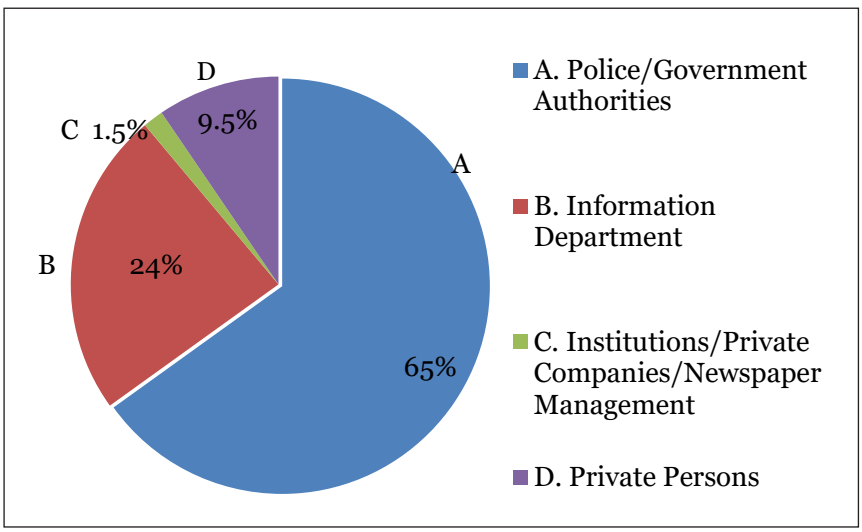
The following chart clarifies the position for the categories of respondent, complainants and states for the adjudicated cases.

Graphical Representation of Adjudications Rendered in Complaints Regarding Threats to Press Freedom

Categories of Complainants

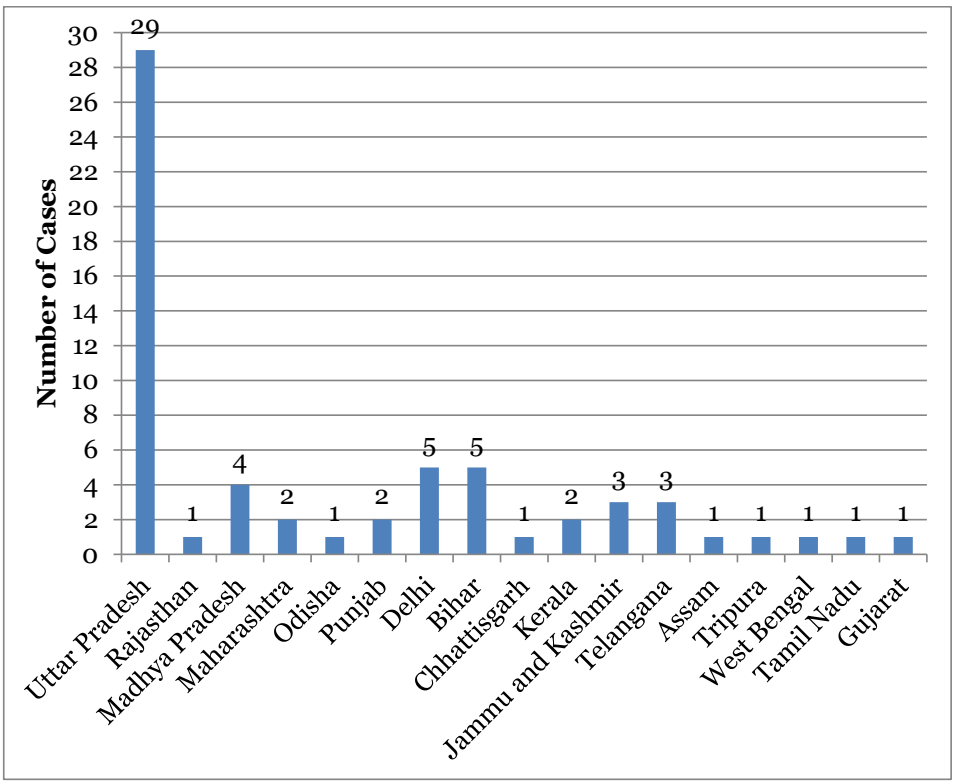


Categories of Respondents



Statewise Distribution of the Complainant Publications

No. of Cases Adjudicated: 63



No. of Cases Adjudicated: 63

State	No. of Cases
Uttar Pradesh	29
Rajasthan	1
Madhya Pradesh	4
Maharashtra	2
Odisha	1
Punjab	2
Delhi	5
Bihar	5
Chhattisgarh	1
Kerela	2
Jammu and Kashmir	3
Telangana	3
Assam	1
Tripura	1
West Bengal	1
Tamil Nadu	1
Gujarat	1
Total	63

Harassment of Newsmen

Media is most profoundly regarded as the fourth pillar of a democracy. It holds immense power to mould public opinion, and is expected to act as the guardian of public interest and the protector of the right to information. However, free and critical writings inevitably tend to heckle those against whom such writings have been directed.

The press has time and again, faced the dire consequences in discharging their professional duties truthfully and in an unbiased manner. Journalists are often subjected to various forms of harassment, such as physical assault, false charges, raids on their homes or press offices, abduction, and in severe cases, even murder - all supposedly associated with their journalistic duties. Such mistreatment of journalists can come not only from the authorities but also from terrorists, militants, or other anti-social elements.

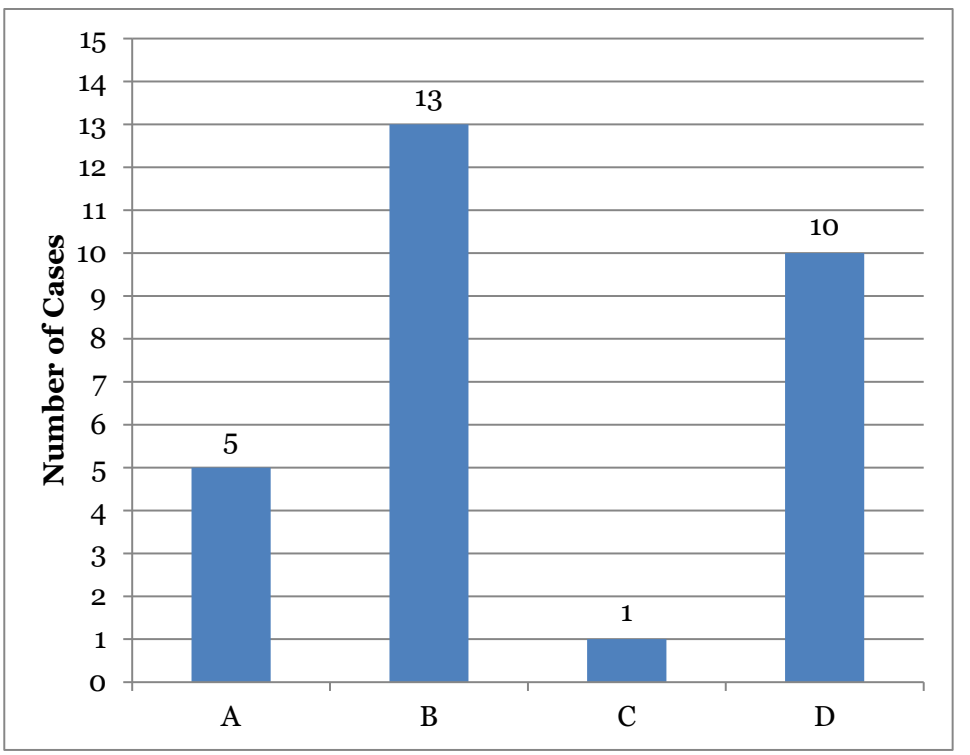
The Council adjudicated a total of **twenty nine (29)** such matters in the year under review. **Five (5)** of these matters were upheld while **thirteen (13)** were dropped. **One (1)** matter was disposed of being settled and the remaining **ten (10)** matters were dropped for Non-pursuance/ being sub-judice/withdrawal/lack of substance.

The graphical chart that follows makes the position clearer.

Harassment of Newsmen

No. of Cases Adjudicated: 29

A	Upheld	5
B	Dropped	13
C	Assurance/Settled/Amends	1
D	Dropped for Non-pursuance/ Sub-judice/Withdrawal / Lack of Substance	10



Facilities to the Press

The Press Council of India is mandated by the Act of 1978 passed by Parliament to safeguard press freedom and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India. This is reinforced by section 13(2)(e) of the Press Council Act, which requires the Council to monitor any developments that may restrict the supply and dissemination of news that is in the public interest. The Council has been called upon on several occasions to investigate complaints of improper or arbitrary denial of advertisements by various authorities, or denial of accreditation to journalists, thereby depriving them of their fundamental right to gather news or information related to the government. Such actions can significantly impact the financial viability of newspapers, especially regional newspapers in the medium and small categories. The Council has observed that, at times, authorities responsible for providing such facilities to newspapers use them as a means to control the editorial stance of the newspaper.

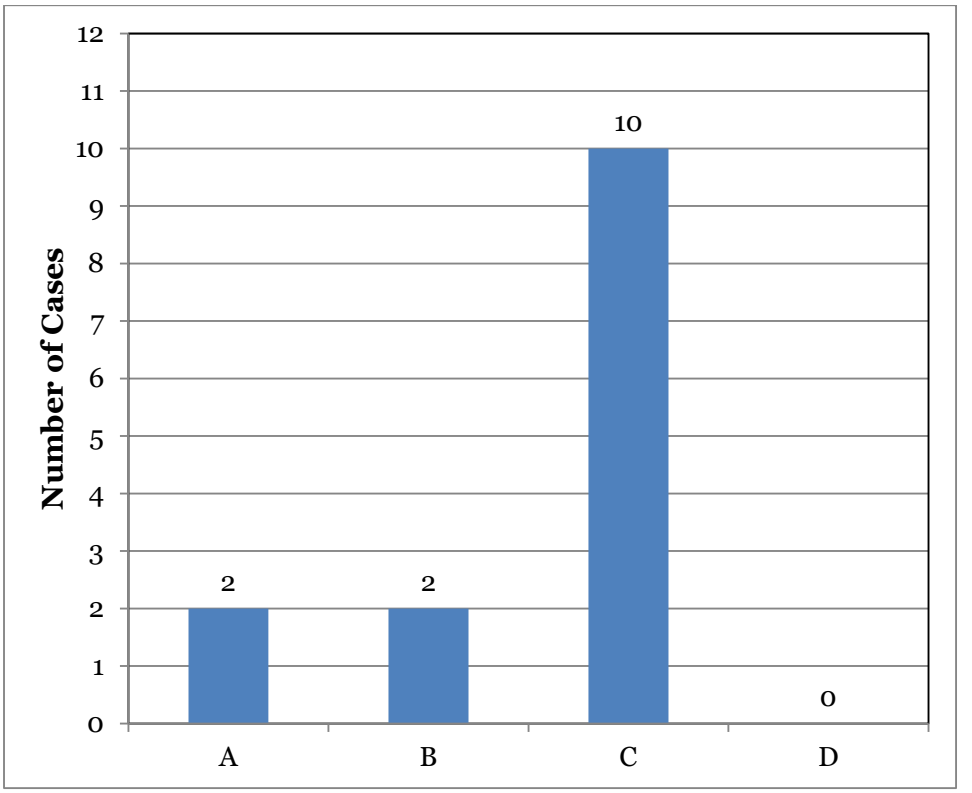
The Council adjudicated **fourteen (14)** such matters in the year under review. **Two (2)** of these matters were upheld while **two (2)** were dropped. Remaining **ten (10)** matters were disposed of being settled.

The graphical chart that follows makes the position clearer.

Facilities to the Press

No. of Cases Adjudicated: 14

A	Upheld	2
B	Dropped	2
C	Assurance/Settled/Amends	10
D	Dropped for Non-pursuance/ Sub-judice/Withdrawal/Lack of Substance	0



Suo-Motu Regarding Violation of Press Freedom

The Chairperson of the Council has the power to take Suo-Motu action in matters of grave significance under Regulation 13 of the Press Council (Procedure for Inquiry) Regulations, 1979, *inter alia* concerning attack or curtailment of Press Freedom. Thereupon, the procedure prescribed in these regulations from Regulation 5 onwards shall be followed as if it were a complaint under Regulation 14 of the Press Council (Procedure for Inquiry) Regulations, 1979.

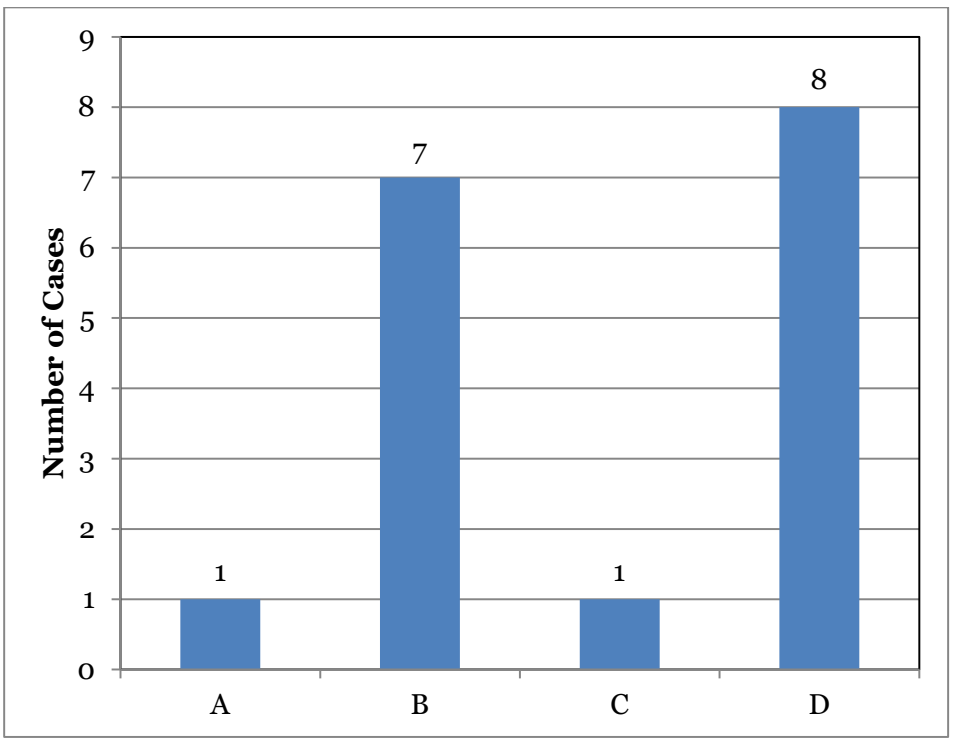
During the financial year, **seventeen (17)** adjudications, falling in this category represent distinct means which can be used to curb the freedom of the press. **One (1)** of these was upheld while **seven (7)** were dropped. **One (1)** matter was settled and remaining **eight (8)** were dropped for non-pursuance/ matter being sub-judice/withdrawal/lack of substance.

The following graph depicts the position.

Suo-Motu Regarding Violation of Press Freedom

No. of Cases Adjudicated: 17

A	Upheld	1
B	Dropped	7
C	Assurance/Settled/Amends	1
D	Dropped for Non-pursuance/ Sub-judice/Withdrawal/Lack of Substance	8



Curtailment of Press Freedom

The freedom of the press is a fundamental aspect of every democratic society and a crucial human right that guarantees other freedoms. However, various entities such as authorities, political, social, or religious organizations, and other pressure groups often attempt to exert pressure on the press to silence its independent views on issues that affect them. They may achieve this by preventing journalists from covering news, threatening or physically attacking press personnel, or damaging the property of the press. Additionally, conducting raids on the press or obstructing the circulation of newspaper issues are other tactics that can hinder the smooth functioning of the press. To safeguard press freedom from such influences, the Council receives and adjudicates complaints filed by the press.

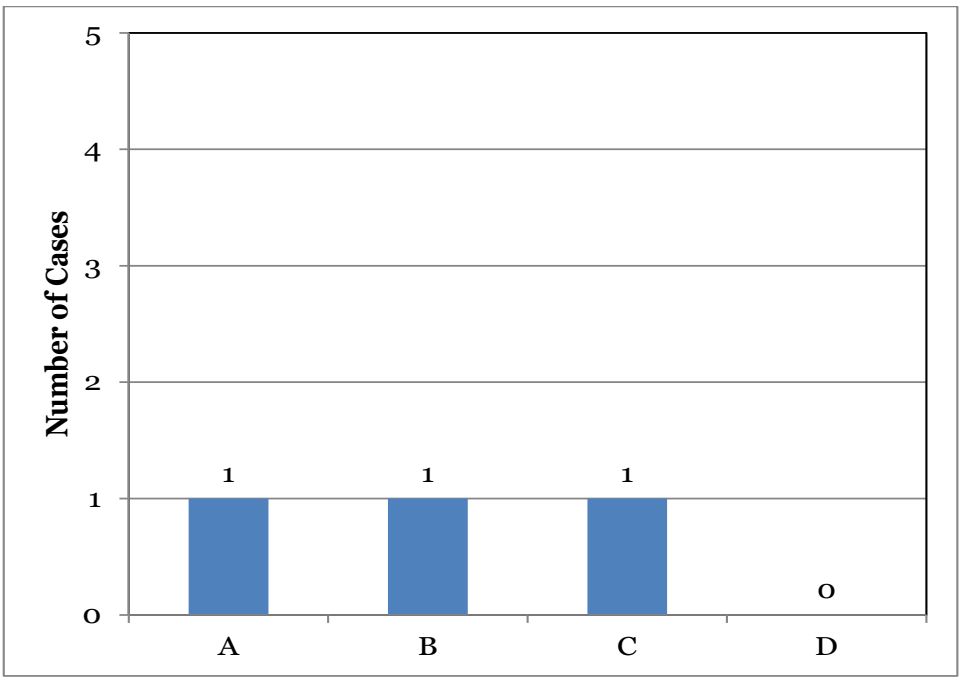
The Council adjudicated **three (3)** such matters in the year under review. **One (1)** of these matters was upheld while **one (1)** was dropped. Remaining **one (1)** matter was disposed of for the grievance being redressed.

The chart that follows presents the position graphically.

Curtailment of Press Freedom

No. of Cases Adjudicated: 3

A	Upheld	1
B	Dropped	1
C	Assurance/Settled/Amends	1
D	Dropped for Non-pursuance/ Sub-judice/Withdrawal/Lack of Substance	0



Chapter-VIII

Statistical Analysis of the Adjudications Rendered in Complaints Against the Press

In the preceding chapter, we have observed the various pressure tactics at times adopted by the authorities and others to make the newsmen toe their line. But this is only one aspect of the overall picture. There have been several incidents where the press engages in unethical behaviors that run counter to good journalism.

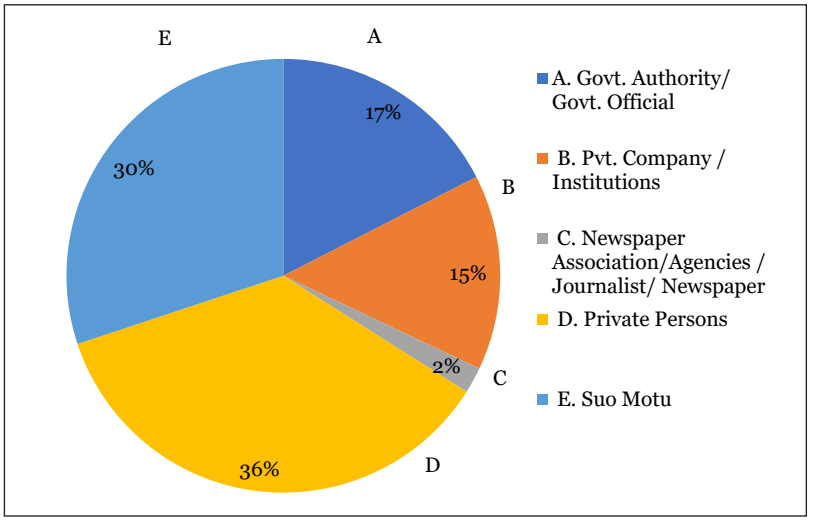
The primary responsibility of the Press Council of India is to prevent any decline in press standards and promote the development and upkeep of journalistic ethics. To achieve this goal, the Council receives complaints against the press for breaching recognized ethical canons of journalistic propriety and taste. These breaches may be in the publication or non-publication of news items, statements, cartoons, pictures, photographs, strips, or advertisements in a newspaper. The Council also entertains cases filed by members of the public against professional misconduct by editors, working journalists or staff of newspapers. Through adjudications and judicial pronouncements, the Council builds a code of conduct for the press to adhere to while performing its duties within the ethical boundaries. The data on complaints filed before the Council reveals that a major portion of the total complaints are against the press.

During the course of the year under review the Council received 775 complaints against the press. Besides, there were 944 matters pending from the previous year. Thus, the Council was to consider in all 1719 complaints against press during the year under review. Of these, 103 matters were disposed of through adjudications, while 765 matters were disposed off 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 non-prosecution, etc. or matter having become sub-judice. Thus, 851 matters were pending in this category at the close of the financial year under review.

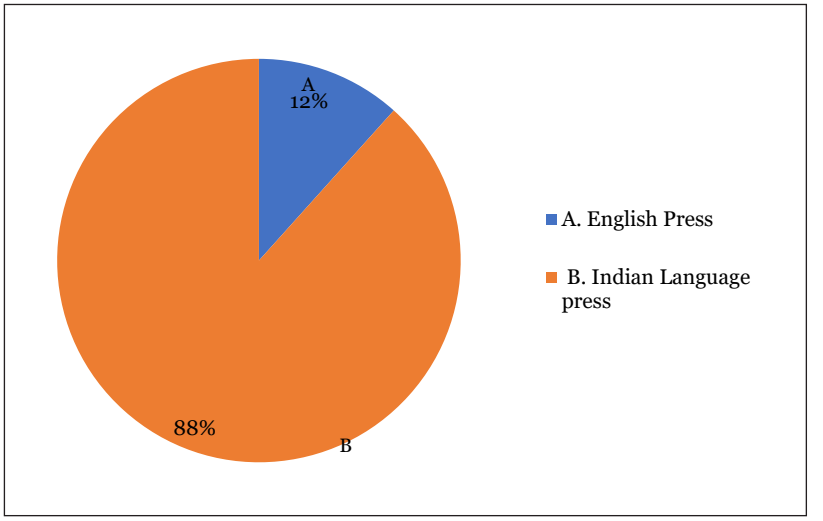
The following chart indicates the categories of respondent, complainants and states for the adjudicated cases.

Graphical Representation of Adjudications Rendered in Complaints Against the Press

Categories of Complainants

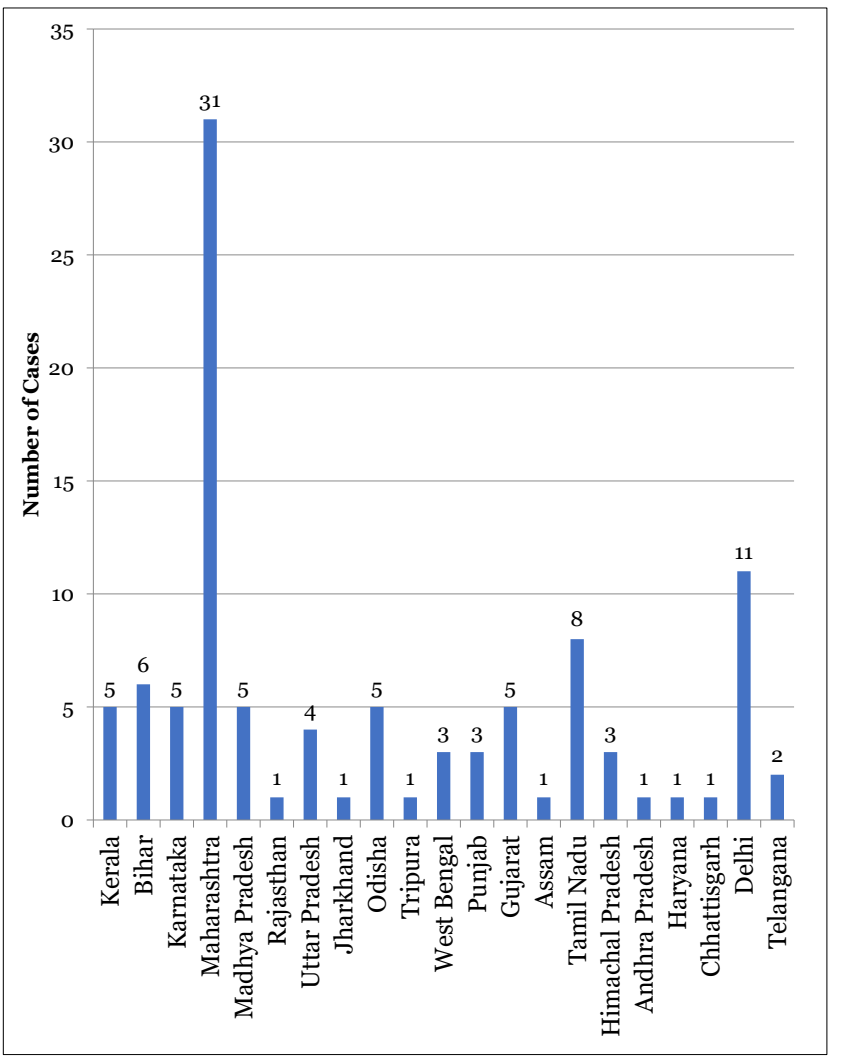


Categories of Respondents



Statewise Distribution of the Respondent Publications

No. of Cases Adjudicated: 103



No. of Cases Adjudicated: 103

State	No. of Cases
Kerela	5
Bihar	6
Karnataka	5
Maharashtra	31
Madhya Pradesh	5
Rajasthan	1
Uttar Pradesh	4
Jharkhand	1
Odisha	5
Tripura	1
West Bengal	3
Punjab	3
Gujarat	5
Assam	1
Tamil Nadu	8
Himachal Pradesh	3
Andhra Pradesh	1
Haryana	1
Chhattisgarh	1
Delhi	11
Telangana	2
Total	103

Principles and Publication

To err is human and as others, the press too may falter and publish inaccurate reports, news, at times harming the reputation of individuals or public officials and institutions. A quick correction is the best remedy. However, often when the person aggrieved sends a contradiction or rejoinder giving his/her side of the case, there is reluctance on the part of the editor to publish the same with due promptitude and prominence ignoring the salutary principles of right of reply.

There are several other general ethics which guide press in its action and attitude toward the readers. The alleged violations of these, prompt the readers to seek redress from the Council. In furtherance of its statutory responsibility, the Press Council has over the years evolved principles of journalistic conduct on case-to-case basis through its adjudications and guidelines derived out of pronouncements of courts or institution or Government authority on various issues. The endeavor of the Council has been through these adjudications, to help the press uphold the faith, respect and dignity which the fourth estate deserves.

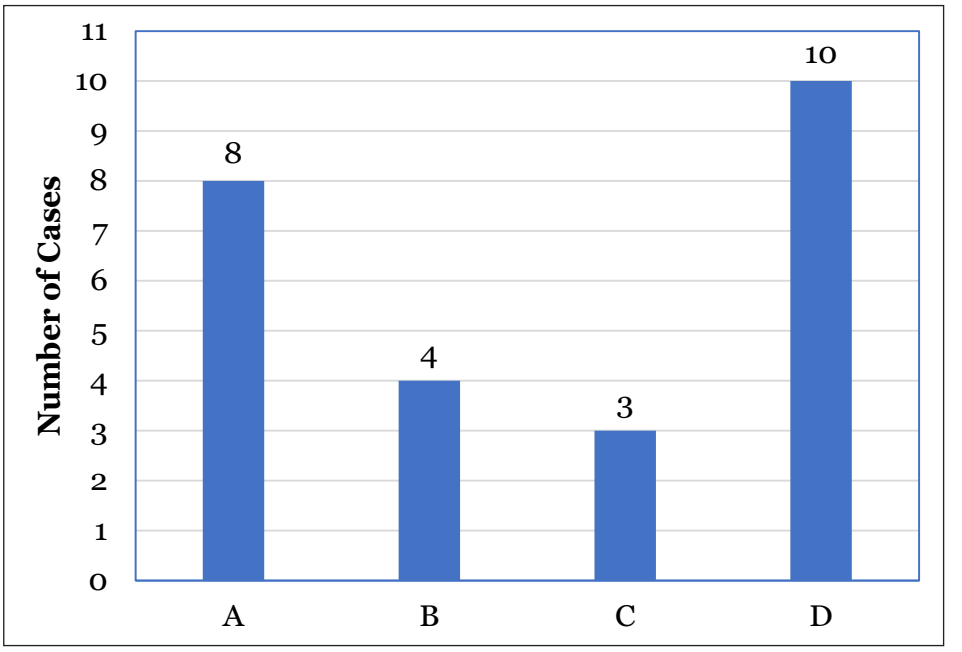
The Council during the year received several complaints regarding violation of the journalistic ethics/guidelines. **Twenty five (25)** adjudications delivered this year fell under this category. Of these, **eight (8)** were upheld while in **four (4)** matters, charges could not be substantiated. **Three (3)** matters were disposed of being settled or on being given assurance by the respondent. **Ten (10)** matters were dropped for non-pursuance/ being sub-judice/withdrawal/lack of substance.

The chart that follows makes the position clearer.

Principles and Publication

No. of Adjudications: 25

A	Upheld	8
B	Dropped	4
C	Assurance/Settled/Amends	3
D	Dropped for Non-pursuance/ Sub-judice/Withdrawal/Lack of Substance	10



Press and Defamation

Throughout history, a person's reputation, the regard in which they are held by society, and the trust placed in their moral and intellectual integrity have been considered their most valuable assets. For the sake of preserving human values and promoting healthy thinking, it is crucial to uphold the norms of journalistic ethics concerning defamation.

When it comes to defamation, there is a delicate balance between an individual's right to freedom of speech and the right to protect one's reputation. The press is often tasked with navigating this fine line, as they must balance their right to freedom of speech with an individual's right to avoid defamation. Therefore, it is crucial for the press to exercise caution and adhere to ethical standards to avoid defaming individuals and to preserve their dignity.

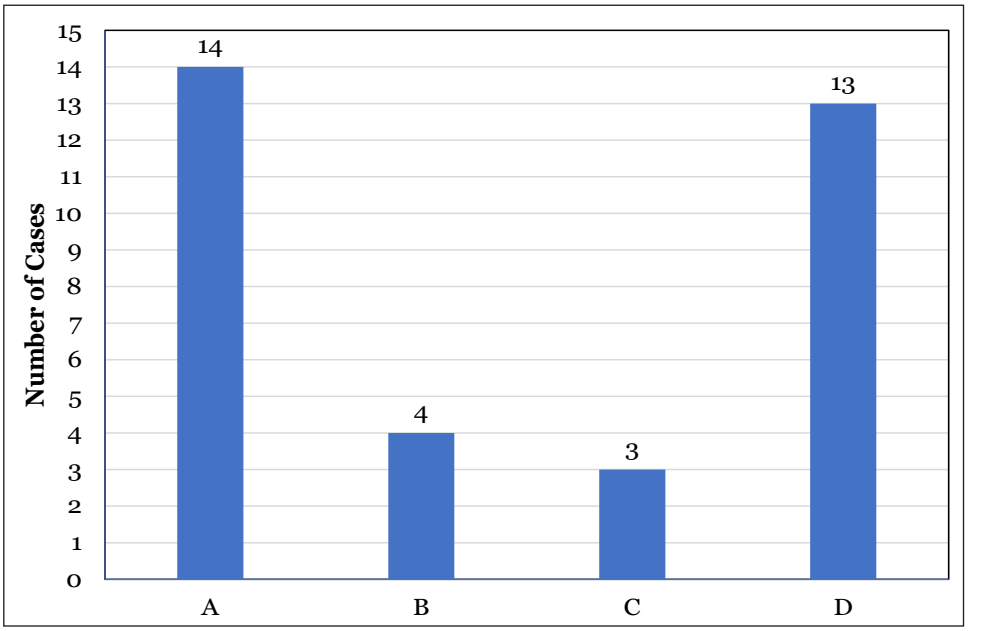
The council adjudicated **thirty four (34)** complaints this year pertaining to alleged defamatory publications. Of these, **fourteen (14)** complaints were upheld, while charges were rejected in **four (4)** cases. In **three (3)** matters, the respondent either made amends or the parties settled the matter. **Thirteen (13)** complaints were dropped for the matter having become sub-judice/ non-pursuance/withdrawal/lack of substance.

The graphical presentation elucidates the position.

Press and Defamation

No. of Adjudications: 34

A	Upheld	14
B	Dropped	4
C	Assurance/Settled/Amends	3
D	Dropped for Non-pursuance/ Sub-judice/Withdrawal/Lack of Substance	13



Press and Morality

The media plays a vital role in safeguarding and promoting social values. Unfortunately, some press outlets publish obscene and vulgar content, including images and articles that may not be relevant to the general public. Such content can have a detrimental effect on the minds of young people. Acts such as sensationalizing news, employing illegal means to gather information, and accepting gifts or favors in exchange for favorable coverage erode the credibility of the press and breach ethical boundaries. Furthermore, the act of blackmailing or extorting money from individuals by threatening to defame them through newspaper columns is a blatant violation of journalistic standards.

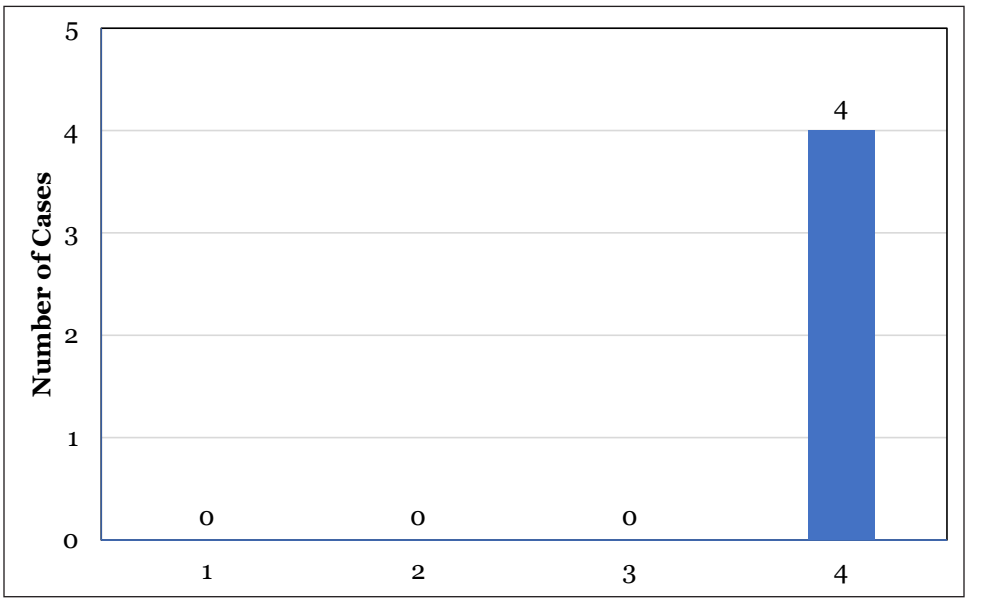
In addition, the disregard for privacy rights is another concerning issue within the media landscape. Journalists hold a significant amount of power as they act as gatekeepers of information, and it is crucial that this power is not abused as it can severely damage the credibility of the press.

In **four (4)** matters, the Council adjudicated upon the question of Press and Morality. All **four (4)** complaints were dropped for the matter having become sub-judice/non-pursuance/withdrawal/lack of substance.

Press and Morality

No. of Adjudications: 04

A	Upheld	0
B	Dropped	0
C	Assurance/Settled/Amends	0
D	Dropped for Non-pursuance/ Sub-judice/Withdrawal/Lack of Substance	4



Suo-Motu Cognizance Against the Press

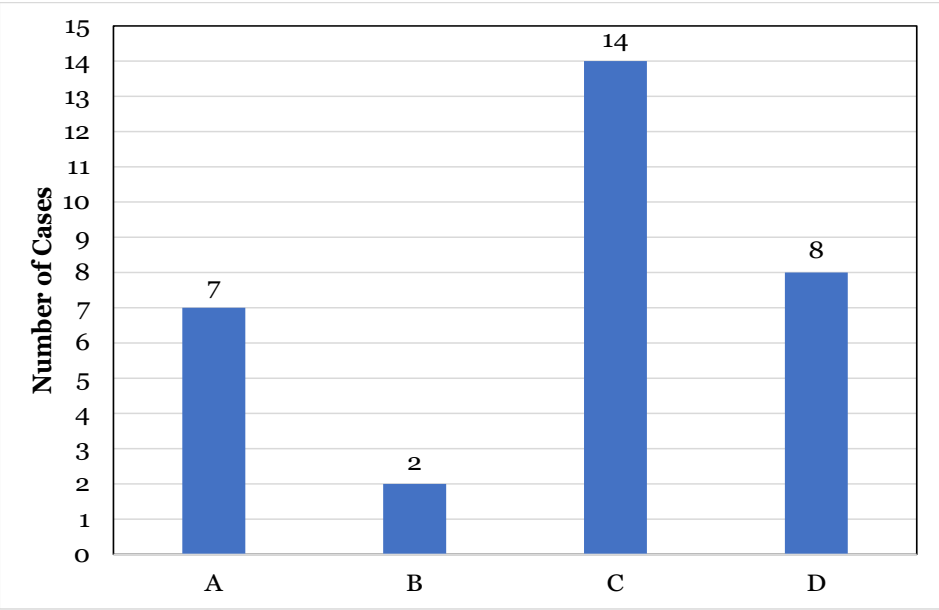
Under Regulation 13 of the Press Council Act, 1978, if the Chairperson deems a matter to be of grave significance regarding a breach of journalistic ethics or conduct, the Chairperson can take Suo Motu cognizance. This applies to any matter falling under Section 14(1) of the Act. The regulations prescribed in Regulation 5 and onwards will be followed as if it were a complaint made under Regulation 3.

To this effect, during this financial year, **thirty one (31)** adjudications falling in this category were taken up for inquiry. **Seven (7)** matters were upheld while **two (2)** matters were dropped. **Fourteen (14)** matters were disposed of on being given assurance by the respondents. **Eight (8)** complaints were dropped for the matter having become sub-judice/non-pursuance/ withdrawal/lack of substance.

Suo-Motu Cognizance Against the Press

No. of Cases Adjudicated: 31

A	Upheld	7
B	Dropped	2
C	Assurance/Settled/Amends	14
D	Dropped for Non-pursuance/ Sub-judice/Withdrawal/Lack of Substance	8



Communal, Casteist, Anti-National and Anti-Religious Writings

The media, including newspapers and journals, have a significant role to play in fostering national unity and integration. India, being a vast country, is home to people from diverse religious and cultural backgrounds, speaking different languages and belonging to different castes and creeds. Despite these differences, there exists an underlying unity that is the pride of India. However, certain divisive elements attempt to disrupt this unity by propagating communalism, casteism, and social prejudices, as well as creating a wide gap between the rich and poor in the economic realm. The media can play a crucial role in curbing such divisive forces and promoting national unity and integration.

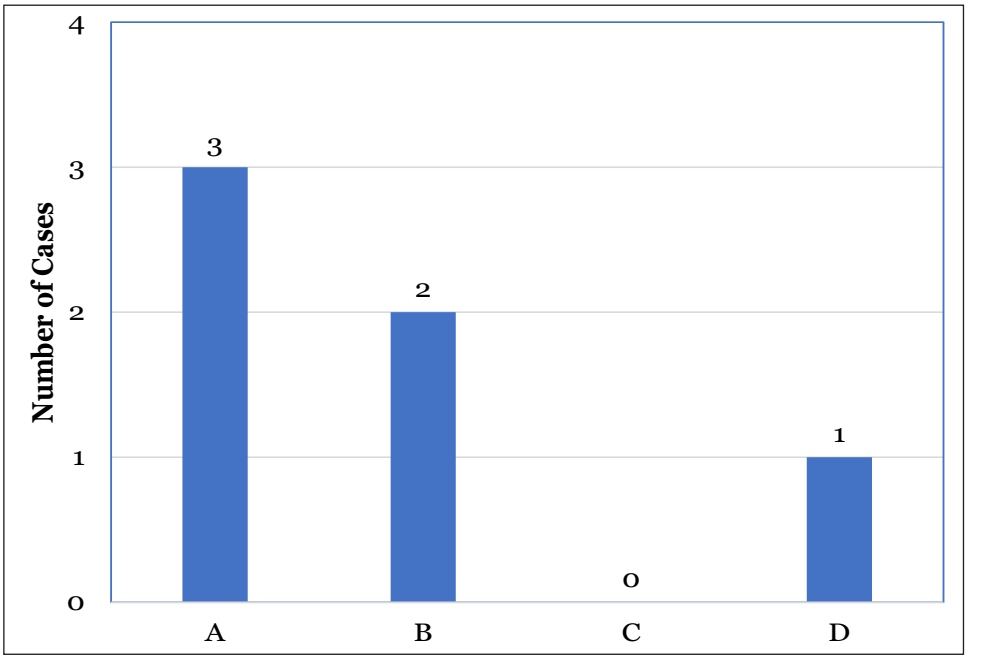
During the period under review, the Council adjudicated **six (6)** complaints under this category. **Three (3)** were upheld, **two (2)** were dropped and **one (1)** was disposed of for lack of substance.

The graphical presentation elucidates the position.

Communal, Casteist, Anti-National and Anti-Religious Writings

No. of Cases Adjudicated: 6

A	Upheld	3
B	Dropped	2
C	Assurance/Settled/Amends	0
D	Dropped for Non-pursuance/ Sub-judice/Withdrawal/Lack of Substance	1



Misleading Advertisements

Newspapers should not publish an advertisement which is contrary to public decency, good taste or to journalistic ethics or propriety. Misleading advertisements pose significant risks to public safety and ethical standards of newspapers. Advertisements for drugs or medicines claiming to enhance height or sexual performance can create false expectations and encourage unhealthy behaviors. Further, misleading job Advertisements that only provide phone numbers, without details about the nature of the work or the identity of the employer, can facilitate human trafficking, leaving unsuspecting individuals vulnerable.

Furthermore, claims of protection against infections like HIV, STIs, skin diseases, and tuberculosis must be scrutinized to prevent misinformation. Newspapers have a responsibility to ensure that advertisements are clear, truthful, and informative to avoid promoting unethical practices and misleading the public. Proper details in advertisements are essential to uphold journalistic integrity and protect individuals from harm.

During the period under review, the Council adjudicated **three (3)** complaints under this category. **One (1**) was upheld and **two (2**) complaints were closed with observation for complainant.

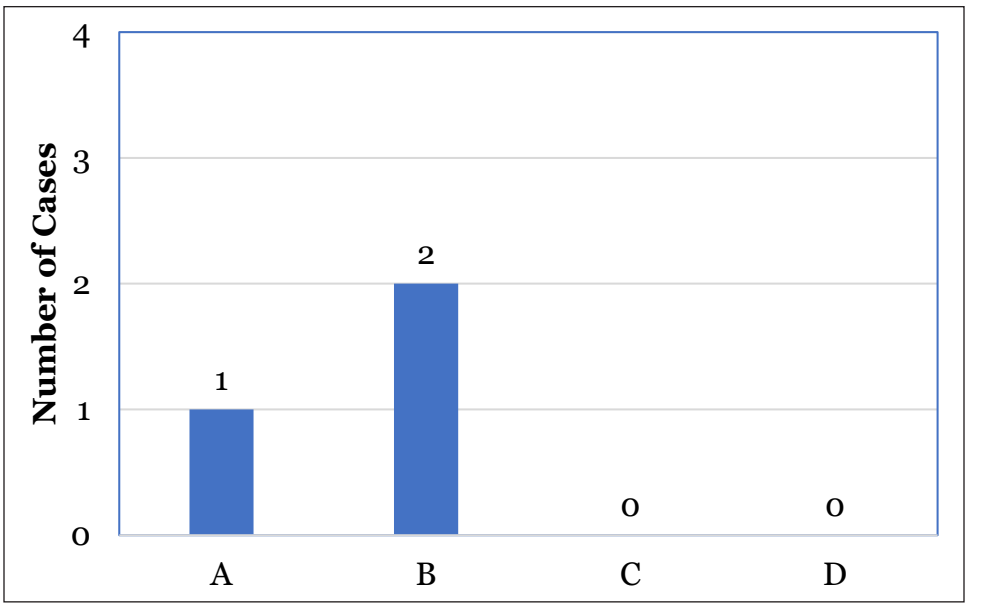
The graphical presentation elucidates the position.

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Misleading Advertisements

No. of Cases Adjudicated: 3

A	Upheld	1
B	Dropped	2
C	Assurance/Settled/Amends	0
D	Dropped for Non-pursuance/ Sub-judice/Withdrawal/Lack of Substance	0



Chapter - IX

Finances of the Council (2023-24)

The funds of the Council are primarily made up of (i) fee levied by the Council on newspapers/periodicals registered with the Registrar of Newspapers for India and on the news-agencies and other miscellaneous receipts, like interest on deposits etc., and (ii) Grant-in-aid from the Central Government in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

The Budget Estimates of the Council for the financial year 2023-2024, accepted by the Central Government in 2023-2024 was Rs.1821.00 lakhs. Revising the estimates for 2023-24, the Central Government accepted the amount to Rs.1064 lakhs (the Grant-in-aid element) with Council's revenue receipts estimated at Rs. 285.77 lakhs.

The Council in the financial year 2023-24 received total grant-in-aid amounting to Rs. 996.73 lakhs from the Central Government and it has Rs. 57,66,490 as unspent balance at the end of previous year (2022-23), whereas it collected Rs. 285.77 lakhs as fees levied upon newspapers/periodicals and news agencies and accounted for other miscellaneous receipts, like interest on bank accounts, interest on FDRs with the Bank, etc. during the year under report. Out of this Rs.285.77 lakhs pertain to levy of fee and an amount of Rs. 52.69 lakhs accounted for other miscellaneous receipts, like interest on bank account, interest on FDRs with the Bank, etc. during the year under report.

Under Section 22 of the Press Council Act, 1978, "the accounts of the 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 2023-2024 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.

Separate Audit Report of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India on the Accounts of Press Council of India for the year ended 31 March 2024

We have audited the Balance Sheet of Press Council of India (Council) as at 31 March 2024, Income & Expenditure Account and Receipts & Payments Account for the year ended on that date under Section 19(2) of the Comptroller & Auditor General's (Duties, Powers & Conditions of Service) Act, 1971 read with section 22 of the Press Council Act, 1978. These financial statements are the responsibility of the management of the Council. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

2 This Separate Audit Report contains the comments of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India (CAG) on the accounting treatment only with regard to classification, conformity with the best accounting practices, accounting standards and disclosure norms etc. Audit observations on financial transactions with regard to compliance with the Law, Rules & Regulations (Propriety and Regularity) and efficiency-cum-performance aspects, etc., if any, are reported through Inspection Reports/CAG's Audit Reports separately.

3 We have conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in India. These standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatements. An audit includes examining on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosure in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management as well as evaluating the overall presentation of financial statements. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

4 Based on our audit, we report that:

i. We have obtained all the information and explanations, which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of our audit;

ii. The Balance Sheet, Income & Expenditure Account and Receipts & Payments Account dealt with by this report have been drawn up in the format approved by the Ministry of Finance.

iii. In our opinion, proper books of accounts and other relevant records have been maintained by the Press Council of India as per section 19 and 20 of the Press Council Act, 1978 in so far as it appears from our examination of such books.

iv. We further report that:

A. General

A.1 An amount of Rs. 85.21 lakh has been shown as "Levy Fee Suspense" under Current liabilities. PCI needs to reconcile this amount from original records and dispose the suspense account at the earliest. This was also pointed out during the previous years through report, however, no corrective action has been taken by the council.

A.2 An amount of Rs.1454.52 lakh was lying outstanding against 'On Account of Levy Fees' (More than 6 months) under Schedule-6 (Current Assets, Loans, Advances etc, as Sundry Debtors) from 1990-91 to 2022-23. Out of which, an amount of Rs. 95.32 lakh was pending for the period 1990-91 to 2017-18. These long pending advances needs to be reviewed and suitable provision needs to be made or the amounts should be written off with the approval of the competent authority. This was also pointed out during the previous year reports, however, no corrective action has been taken by the council.

A.3 PCI gave advances of Rs. 42.27 lakh to parties (CCW/Civil, CCW/Electrical, etc) as depicted in the Schedule-6, under the head 'Advances and other amount recoverable in cash or in kind for value to be received. These outstanding advances needs to be settled and adjusted at the earliest.

A.4 PCI has not made provisions for retirement benefits on actuarial basis during 2023-24 which is in contravention of Accounting Standard 15 issued by ICAI and the Uniform Format of Account. This was also pointed out during the previous years through report, however, no corrective action has been taken by the council.

A.5 An amount of Rs. 1.36 lakh has been shown, in the previous year figures (2022-23), as 'Other payments for Capital Assets' in Receipts and payments Account for the year 2023-24. However, in the Receipts and Payments Accounts for the year 2022-23 this amount was shown as Rs. 18.33 lakh. This may be rectified.

B. Grants-in-Aid

During the year 2023-24, Press Council of India received Grants in Aid from Ministry of Information & Broadcasting Rs. 9.27 crore with an internal receipt of Rs. 2.86 crore. An amount of Rs. 0.58 lakh was unspent balance of previous year which was returned back to Ministry of I & B during the year. Out of total fund of Rs. 12.13 crore, PCI utilised Rs. 10.75 crore and an amount of Rs. 1.38 crore remained unspent at the end of year.

C. Management Letter

Deficiencies, which have not been included in the Audit Report, have been brought to the notice of the PCI through a management letter issued separately for remedial/corrective action.

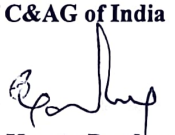
v. Subject to our observations in the preceding paragraphs, we report that the Balance Sheet, Income & Expenditure Account and Receipts & Payments Account dealt with by this report are in agreement with the books of accounts.

vi. In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the said financial statements read together with the Accounting Policies and Notes on Accounts, and subject to the significant matters stated above and other matters mentioned in Annexure to this Audit Report, give a true and fair view in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in India:

a. In so far as it relates to the Balance Sheet, of the state of affairs of the Press Council of India as at 31 March 2024; and

b. In so far as it relates to the Income & Expenditure Account of the deficit for the year ended on that date.

For and on behalf of C&AG of India



Rajiv Kumar Pandey
Director General of Audit (Central Expenditure)

Place: New Delhi
Date:11/11/2024

Annexure

1. **Adequacy of internal audit system**

The Press Council of India does not have its own internal audit wing. The internal audit of the Council was conducted by the Office of the Chief Controller of Accounts, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for the period 2017-18 to 2020-21. Internal Audit for the period 2021-22 to 2023-24 is pending.

2. **Adequacy of Internal Control System:**

The internal control system needs to be strengthened due to:

- The response of the management to statutory audit objections is not effective as 6 audit paras of External Audit (C&AG) for the period 2008 to 2021 and 2 audit paras for the period 2017-21 of Internal Audit are still outstanding.
- Risk Assessment and Management Information System which are necessary for smooth functioning of the Council were not in place in the Council.
- Non conducting of physical verification of fixed assets and inventories for the year 2023-24.

3. **System of physical verification of assets**

The physical verification of fixed assets was conducted up to the year 2022-23 and pending for the year 2023-24.

4. **System of physical verification of inventory**

The physical verification of books and publication, stationery and other consumable items was conducted up to the year 2022-23 and pending for the year 2023-24.

5. **Regularity in payment of dues**

As per accounts, no payment over six months in respect of statutory dues was outstanding as on 31.03.2024.

BALANCE SHEET

As on 31st March 2024

PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA
Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2024

	Schedule	Current Year	Previous Year
LIABILITIES			
CAPITAL FUND	1	21,06,00,296	21,67,42,408
C.P.F. FUND	2	8,45,33,783	7,69,22,381
CURRENT LIABILITIES AND PROVISIONS	3	3,18,05,832	2,31,69,082
TOTAL		**32,69,39,912**	**31,68,33,871**
ASSETS			
FIXED ASSETS	4	5,92,77,430	5,99,09,577
INVESTMENTS	5	9,07,33,031	8,64,78,217
CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS, ADVANCES ETC.	6	17,69,29,451	17,04,46,077
TOTAL		**32,69,39,912**	**31,68,33,871**

SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES	13	
CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND NOTES ON ACCOUNTS	14	

DR DHIRAJLAL M. KAKADIA
(SECRETARY)

RANJANA PRAKASH DESAI
(CHAIRPERSON)

Dr. Dhiraj Kakadia
Secretary
Press Council of India

"In agreement with the Books Of Accounts produced before us"

Ranjana Prakash Desai
Chairperson
Press Council of India

For G S R A & Associates
(Chartered Accountants)

(Ashish Garg)
Partner
M.No. - 541263

G.S.R.A. & ASSOCIATES * FRN 028347N * Chartered Accountants

PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA
Income and Expenditure Account for the Year Ended on March 31, 2024

INCOME	Schedule	Current Year	Previous Year
Income from Levy Fees & Others	7	1,82,76,775	1,93,72,887
Grants from Govt	8	7,25,30,223	6,65,23,064
Interest Earned	9	52,69,048	48,47,026
TOTAL(A)		**9,60,76,045**	**9,07,42,977**
EXPENDITURE			
Establishment Expenses	10	7,55,59,852	6,45,05,085
Other Administrative Expenses	11	2,60,25,531	1,95,48,286
Finance Charges	12	627	678
Depreciation charges	4	14,75,027	16,70,576
TOTAL(B)		**10,30,61,037**	**8,57,24,625**
- Prior Period Adjustment Cr.(Dr.) - Balance being excess of Income over Expenditure (A-B) - Transfer to /from General Reserve		(69,84,991)	50,18,353
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) CARRIED TO BALANCE SHEET		(69,84,991)	50,18,353
Significant Accounting Policies	13		
Contingent Liabilities and Notes on Accounts	14		

DR. DHIRAJ M. KAKADIA
(SECRETARY)

Dr. Dhiraj Kakadia
Secretary
Press Council of India

RANJANA PRAKASH DESAI
(CHAIRPERSON)

Ranjana Prakash Desai
Chairperson
Press Council of India

"In agreement with the Books Of Accounts produced before us"

For G S R A & Associates
(Chartered Accountant)

(Ashish Garg)
Partner
M.No. - 541263

GSRA & ASSOCIATES * FRN 028347N * Chartered Accountants

PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA
Schedules Forming Part Of Balance Sheet
as at March 31, 2024

SCHEDULE 1 - CAPITAL FUND

Particulars	*Current Year*		*Previous Year*	
A. Capital Fund:				
Balance as at the beginning of the year	7,79,35,945		7,67,40,751	
Add: Funds Capitalised During the Year	8,42,880		11,95,194	
	7,87,78,825		7,79,35,945	
Less: Amount written off on condemned assets	-	7,87,78,825		7,79,35,945
B. Income & Expenditure Account:				
Balance as at the beginning of the year	13,88,06,462		13,37,88,110	
Add/(Less): Net income/ (expenditure) transferred from Income and Expenditure Account	(69,84,991)		50,18,353	
Add/(Less): Other adjustments		13,18,21,471		13,88,06,462
TOTAL		**21,06,00,296**		**21,67,42,408**

Dr. Dhiraj Kakadia
Secretary
Press Council of India

Ranjana Prakash Desai
Chairperson
Press Council of India

SCHEDULE-2 - C.P.F. FUNDS

Particulars		*Current Year*		*Previous Year*	
a)	Opening balance of the funds		7,69,22,381		7,72,91,273
b)	Addition to the Funds:				
i.	Councils' Contribution To C.P.F.	22,31,561		17,74,320	
ii.	CPF Advances Recovered	-		-	
iii	Employees' Contr. To C.P.F.	73,70,250		60,58,080	
iv	Interest on C.P.F. Funds - Employees contribution	35,21,728		30,16,028	
v	Interest on C.P.F. Funds - Council's contribution	20,37,159		18,58,995	
			1,51,60,698		1,27,07,423
	TOTAL (a+b)		**9,20,83,079**		**8,99,98,696**
c)	Utilisation/Expenditure towards objectives of funds				
	C.P.F. Withdrawls	(17,00,000)		(9,04,122)	
	Final Payments to Outgoing Employees	(65,54,152)		(95,07,639)	
	CPF Advances Recovered/ (Paid)	7,27,856		(26,64,554)	
	Prior Period Adjustment Cr/(Dr)	(23,000)		-	
	Transfer to NPS		(75,49,296)		(1,30,76,315)
Net Balance of Fund as at the year end (a+b-c)			**8,45,33,783**		**7,69,22,381**

SCHEDULE-3 - CURRENT LIABILITIES AND PROVISIONS

Particulars		*Current Year*	*Previous Year*
1	Advance Levy of Fee	34,01,701	33,53,614
2	Levy Fee Suspense	85,20,871	85,20,749
3	Security Deposits	42,450	55,105
4	Unspent Grant	1,37,89,853	57,66,490
5	Other current Liabilities	-	15,918
6	Payable to Heir of Ex employee	-	-
7	Statutory Dues	2,12,842	(2,425)
8	NPS Subscription	73,557	1,05,029
9	Provision for expenses	57,64,558	53,54,602
TOTAL		**3,18,05,832**	**2,31,69,082**

SCHEDULE:4
SCHEDULE FORMING PART OF

PARTICULARS	GROSS BLOCK					
	COST AS ON	OPENING	ADDITION DURING THE YEAR		SALE/TRF.	COST AS
	01.04.2023	ADJUSTMENTS	UPTO 180 DAYS	AFTER 180 DAYS	DURING THE YEAR	ON 31.03.2024
Air Conditioners & Coolers	25,95,647.60	-	59,400.00			26,55,047.60
Biometric Machine	70,341.00	-		35,150.00		1,05,491.00
Cars & Bicycle	25,49,890.70	-				25,49,890.70
Computer/Peripherals	66,01,984.83	-		4,83,000.00		70,84,984.83
Conference Hall						
- Civil Work	21,32,836.00	-				21,32,836.00
- Conference System	1,97,595.00	-				1,97,595.00
- Electrical Fittings & Fixtures	5,09,211.00	-				5,09,211.00
- Furniture & Fixtures	5,00,000.00	-				5,00,000.00
Conference System	27,820.00	-				27,820.00
Epabx System	5,41,485.00	-				5,41,485.00
Franking Machine	67,558.00	-		1,49,850.00		2,17,408.00
Furniture & Fixture	61,78,001.36	-	12,250.00			61,90,251.36
Heat Convertor & Heaters	3,07,751.74	-	26,894.00	48,221.00		3,82,866.74
Lease Hold Land	5,16,76,214.00	-				5,16,76,214.00
Library Books	11,49,216.46	-	8,076.00	1,039.00		11,58,331.46
Mobile Phones	73,021.00	-				73,021.00
Paper Shredding Machine	1,46,936.00	-				1,46,936.00
Refrigerator	99,850.00	-				99,850.00
Solar Water Heating System	-	-				-
Stabilizers	53,261.76	-				53,261.76
Tape Recorders	18,924.00	-				18,924.00
Television	4,78,836.00	-				4,78,836.00
Water Dispencer	1,27,336.00	-	19,000.00			1,46,336.00
Inverter & Batteries	(17,281.00)	-				(17,281.00)
Juicer Mixer Grinder	7,000.00	-				7,000.00
Air Purifier	3,94,604.00	-				3,94,604.00
Cctv Camera (With Accessories)	2,45,135.00	-				2,45,135.00
Vacuum Cleaner	4,499.00	-				4,499.00
Senitizer Dispenser	7,990.00	-				7,990.00
Computer Software	6,96,422.00	-				6,96,422.00
Total	**7,74,42,086.45**	**-**	**1,25,620.00**	**7,17,260.00**	**-**	**7,82,84,966.45**

GSRA & ASSOCIATES
FRN 028347N
Chartered Accountants

Dr. Dhiraj Kakadia
Secretary
Press Council of India

SCHEDULE:4
BALANCE SHEET AS AT MARCH 31, 2024

DEPRECIATION							NET BLOCK	
RATE OF DEPRICIA-TION	UPTO 31.03.2023	OPENING ADJUST-MENTS	FOR THE YEAR	Dep on Sold Assets as on 31.03.2023	WRITTEN BACK	TOTAL DEPRICIA-TION	W.D.V. 31.03.2024	W.D.V. 31.03.2023
15.00%	13,46,604.01		1,96,267.00		-	15,42,871.01	11,12,176.59	12,49,043.59
15.00%	11,012.00	-	11,536.00		-	22,548.00	82,943.00	59,329.00
15.00%	18,40,750.00	-	1,06,371.00		-	19,47,121.00	6,02,769.70	7,09,140.70
40.00%	58,04,254.36	-	4,15,692.00		-	62,19,946.36	8,65,038.47	7,97,730.47
15.00%	15,00,378.00	-	94,869.00		-	15,95,247.00	5,37,589.00	6,32,458.00
15.00%	1,26,306.00	-	10,693.00		-	1,36,999.00	60,596.00	71,289.00
10.00%	3,08,260.00	-	20,095.00		-	3,28,355.00	1,80,856.00	2,00,951.00
10.00%	2,72,809.00	-	22,719.00		-	2,95,528.00	2,04,472.00	2,27,191.00
15.00%	27,640.00	-	27.00		-	27,667.00	153.00	180.00
15.00%	4,49,364.00	-	13,818.00		-	4,63,182.00	78,303.00	92,121.00
15.00%	46,495.00	-	14,398.00		-	60,893.00	1,56,515.00	21,063.00
10.00%	32,95,646.95	-	2,89,460.00		-	35,85,106.95	26,05,144.41	28,82,354.41
15.00%	1,23,280.55	-	35,321.00		-	1,58,601.55	2,24,265.19	1,84,471.19
0.00%	-	-	-		-	-	5,16,76,214.00	5,16,76,214.00
40.00%	10,90,280.46	-	27,013.00		-	11,17,293.46	41,038.00	58,936.00
15.00%	46,493.00	-	3,979.00		-	50,472.00	22,549.00	26,528.00
15.00%	20,030.00	-	19,036.00		-	39,066.00	1,07,870.00	1,26,906.00
15.00%	59,060.93	-	6,118.00		-	65,178.93	34,671.07	40,789.07
40.00%	(1,320.81)	-	528.00		-	(792.81)	792.81	1,320.81
15.00%	43,750.52	-	1,427.00		-	45,177.52	8,084.24	9,511.24
15.00%	12,342.00	-	987.00		-	13,329.00	5,595.00	6,582.00
15.00%	3,35,816.45	-	21,453.00		-	3,57,269.45	1,21,566.55	1,43,019.55
15.00%	63,352.81	-	12,447.00		-	75,799.81	70,536.19	63,983.19
15.00%	(20,932.73)	-	548.00		-	(20,384.73)	3,103.73	3,651.73
15.00%	5,093.00	-	286.00		-	5,379.00	1,621.00	1,907.00
15.00%	1,37,914.00	-	38,504.00		-	1,76,418.00	2,18,186.00	2,56,690.00
15.00%	1,13,031.00	-	19,816.00		-	1,32,847.00	1,12,288.00	1,32,104.00
15.00%	1,737.00	-	414.00		-	2,151.00	2,348.00	2,762.00
15.00%	2,650.00	-	801.00		-	3,451.00	4,539.00	5,340.00
40.00%	**4,70,412.00**	**-**	**90,404.00**		**-**	**5,60,816.00**	**1,35,606.00**	**2,26,010.00**
	1,75,32,509.49		**14,75,027.00**	**-**	**-**	**1,90,07,536.49**	**5,92,77,429.96**	**5,99,09,576.96**

Ranjana Prakash Desai
Chairperson
Press Council of India

PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA
Schedules Forming Part of Balance Sheet as at March 31, 2024

SCHEDULE- 5 INVESTMENTS

Particulars	*Current Year*		*Previous Year*	
Fixed Deposits				
Opening Balance : Principal Amount	8,33,23,245		7,35,74,220	
: Interest Accrued	31,54,972	8,64,78,217	28,60,418	7,64,34,638
Add: Additions of FDR during the year		8,75,75,854		8,33,38,181
: Interest received during the year	18,17,589		13,16,572	
: Interest accrued during the year	31,72,113	49,89,702	31,54,972	44,71,544
Less: FDR encashed or matured during the year	8,75,60,918	(8,83,10,742)	8,33,23,245	(7,77,66,146)
TOTAL		**9,07,33,031**		**8,64,78,217**

Dr. Dhiraj Kakadia
Secretary
Press Council of India

Ranjana Prakash Desai
Chairperson
Press Council of India

GSRA & ASSOCIATES
FRN 128347N
Chartered Accountants

PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA
SCHEDULES FORMING PART OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT AS AT MARCH 31, 2024

SCHEDULE 6 - CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS, ADVANCES ETC.

	Particulars	*Current Year*		*Previous Year*	
A.	***CURRENT ASSETS:***				
1.	***Sundry Debtors:***				
	- On Account of Levy Fees (Within 6 months)				
	- On Account of Levy Fees (More than 6 months)	14,54,52,214	14,54,52,214	14,96,17,480	14,96,17,480
2.	***Cash balances in hand***				
	(including Postage in Hands and imprest)				
	Imprest Account Balance	50,000		50,000	
	Postage Stamps in Hands	74,274	1,24,274	35,490	85,490
3.	***Bank Balances:***				
	- With Scheduled Banks:				
	- Indian Bank	43,24,755		20,95,141	
	- State Bank of India-General Account	94,15,097		36,21,348	
	- State Bank of India - Revolving Account	3,46,865		3,86,680	
	- State Bank of India - C.P.F. Account	34,63,544	1,75,50,261.28	30,49,942	91,53,111.42
	Deposit Accounts				
	- State Bank of India - Revolving Account	83,23,433		80,62,926	
			83,23,433		80,62,926
4.	***Tax Deposited in Advance:***	2,49,901			
	TDS Deducted		2,49,901		
	TOTAL (A)		**17,17,00,083**		**16,69,19,007**

Dr. Dhiraj Kakadia
Secretary
Press Council of India

Ranjana Prakash Desai
Chairperson
Press Council of India

GSRA & ASSOCIATES
FRN 128347N
Chartered Accountants

SCHEDULE 6 - CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS, ADVANCES ETC.

	Particulars	*Current Year*		*Previous Year*	
	B. LOANS, ADVANCES AND OTHER ASSETS				
1	Loans to Staff:				
	- Advance for Entertainment & Hospitality	5,000		-	
	- Advance for Misc, Expense To Staff	78,683		12,100	
	- Festival Advance	281		281	
	- Computer/Laptop Advance	48,468			
	- LTC Advance	46,577		1,32,984	
	- Advance for Purchasing Stationery, Postage, etc.	-	1,79,009	-	1,45,365
2	Advances and other amounts recoverable in cash or in kind or for value to be received:				
	- Advance for Books Periodicals				
	- Advance to Parties	44,84,187		30,40,013	
	- TA Advance	6,787		6,787	
	- Tax Deducted at Source	-		-	
			44,90,974		30,46,800
3	Income Accrued				
	a) On Deposits of Revolving Account		5,56,311		3,31,831
	b) on Deposits of Shashi Tandon (EX - EMP.)				
	c) on Deposits of Ajay Madan				
	d) on Deposits of Sangeeta Malik				
	e) on Deposits of Ramesh Goel (EX - EMP.)				
	TOTAL (A +B)		**17,69,29,451**		**17,04,46,077**

Dr. Dhiraj Kakadia
Secretary
Press Council of India

Ranjana Prakash Desai
Chairperson
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PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA

SCHEDULES FORMING PART OF INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

AS AT MARCH 31, 2024

SCHEDULE 7 - INCOME FROM LEVY FEES & OTHERS

	Particulars	*Current Year*		*Previous Year*	
1	Gross Levy fees received from Newspapers/ Periodicals/News Agencies	2,21,32,975		1,60,95,200	
	Add: Demand raised for Current Year	1,79,16,501		1,88,44,000	
	Less: Fees received for previous Years	(79,88,264)		(63,83,672)	
	Less: Fees received for Current year	(1,23,97,147)		(78,16,196)	
	Less: Fees received in advance /suspense / Misc	(17,47,564)	1,79,16,501	(18,95,332)	1,88,44,000
2	Others (Specify)				
	- Profit on sale of waste papers & fixed assets	6,922		9,174	
	- Fee for Information under Right to Information Act	716		700	
	- Income from Advertisement in Souvenier	1,35,600		-	
	- Income from balance written off	-		-	
	- Others	2,17,036		5,19,013	
			3,60,274		5,28,887
	TOTAL		**1,82,76,775**		**1,93,72,887**

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PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA
SCHEDULES FORMING PART OF BALANCE SHEET
AS AT MARCH 31, 2024

SCHEDULE 8 - GRANTS

Particulars	*Current Year*		*Previous Year*	
(Irrevocable Grants & Subsidies Received)				
- Central Government (Ministry of I & B)				
- Grant Received During the Year	9,27,21,843		6,23,14,141	
- Add: Unspent Grant for the Previous Year	57,66,490		1,98,65,443	
	9,84,88,333		8,21,79,584	
- Less: Grant Utilised for Interest on C.P.F. Funds	55,58,887		48,75,023	
- Less: Grant Utilised for Fixed Assets	8,42,880		11,95,194	
- Less: Unspent Grant related to previous year returned	57,66,490		38,19,813	
- Less: Unspent Grant for the Current Year	1,37,89,853	7,25,30,223	57,66,490	6,65,23,064
TOTAL		**7,25,30,223**		**6,65,23,064**

SCHEDULE 9 - INTEREST EARNED

	Particulars	*Current Year*		*Previous Year*	
1	On Term Deposits:				
	a) With Scheduled Banks				
	- CPF Account (TRF to General Fund)	44,87,349		40,43,579	
	- Revolving Fund Account	5,02,353		4,27,965	
	- General Fund Account		49,89,702		44,71,544
2	On Savings Accounts:				
	a) With Scheduled Banks				
	- General Fund Account	1,03,724		1,53,745	
	- CPF Account (TRF. To General Fund)	1,65,641		2,11,488	
	- Levy Fees Account			-	
	- Revolving Fund (Loans & Advances)	9,981	2,79,346	10,249	3,75,482
3	On Loans:				
	a) Employees/Staff				
	- Housing Building Advance		-		-
	TOTAL		**52,69,048**		**48,47,026**

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SCHEDULE 10 - ESTABLISHMENT EXPENSES

Particulars		*Current Year*		*Previous Year*	
1	Salaries and Wages		6,12,01,565		5,66,68,736
2	Arrear of Salaries		5,14,298		7,17,612
3	OTA				-
4	Tuition Fees Reimbursement		8,95,500		6,63,750
5	Medical Reimbursement		26,76,585		21,87,155
6	L.T.C.		5,60,779		3,49,792
7	Encashment of E.L.		8,23,339		2,21,136
8	Contribution to Provident Fund		46,37,486		39,14,123
9	Training to Staff		72,800		2,000
10	Honararium Paid to Employees		1,77,500		-
11	Retirement Benefits		40,00,000		-
			7,55,59,852		6,47,24,304
12	Less: Recovery from Staff				(2,19,219)
Total			**7,55,59,852**		**6,45,05,085**

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PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA
SCHEDULES FORMING PART OF BALANCE SHEET
AS AT MARCH 31, 2024

SCHEDULE 11 - OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

	Particulars	Current Year		Previous Year	
1	Electricity and Water		32,77,852		31,96,459
2	Office Expense		39,48,046		22,99,399
3	Repairs and maintenance		42,44,367		31,98,746
4	Vehicles Repairs and Maintenance		1,93,018		4,19,830
5	Travelling and conveyance Expenses		60,35,048		39,83,825
6	Rent,Rates and Taxes		8,59,109		6,39,053
7	Postage, Telephone and Communication Charges		8,72,687		5,90,372
8	Printing and Stationary		28,61,035		16,20,650
9	Newspapers & Periodicals		2,16,400		1,76,994
10	Hindi Protsahan Award		44,738		58,571
11	Insurance		77,403		79,615
12	Legal & Professional Charges		6,01,330		3,53,520
13	Entertainment & Hospitality		6,88,514		4,17,370
14	Exhibition, Seminar & Exam		9,34,186		3,94,779
15	Others- Sundries & Uniform expenses		-		1,71,267
16	Advertismnet Exp.		8,236		8,648
17	Other Expense				5,51,846
18	AMC of Franking machines		-		22,066
19	Other books for different sections		50,096		46,177
20	Media Monitoring Services		2,64,320		-
21	Liveries for Class IV		15,000		-
22	Cloud Services		5,27,800		-
23	Other Expense		29,668		-
24	Written Off		(23,000)		7,96,148
25	Subscription Expenses		4,248		-
26	Website development charges		2,52,680		4,71,051
27	Swach Bharat project expenses		42,750		51,900
	TOTAL		**2,60,25,531**		**1,95,48,286**

SCHEDULE 12 - FINANCE CHARGES

	Particulars	*Current Year*		*Previous Year*	
a)	On Fixed Loans		-		-
b)	On Other Loans (including Bank Charges)		627		678
	TOTAL		**627**		**678**

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PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA
SCHEDULE FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2024

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 and Advances) accounts are treated as current assets.

c. Investments are shown at the principal value as increased by the interest accrued thereon.

4. Fixed Assets

Fixed assets are stated at cost of acquisition inclusive of duties and taxes thereon. Other direct expenses related to acquisition are not capitalized.

5. Depreciation

Depreciation is being charged as per the rates prescribed in the Income Tax Rules. However, in case of sale of Fixed Asset the profit/ loss are booked in the year of sale itself.

6. Government Grant

a. Government Grants are accounted for the year to the extent of the amount spent. Unspent grant as certified by the management is set apart or return to the government at the end of the year as per the policy adopted year to year.

b. Grants utilized toward the addition of fixed assets are transferred to the Capital Fund.

c. Grants utilized towards the interest on C.P.F. Fund are transferred to C.P.F. Account.

7. Retirement Benefits

a. Retirement benefit is accounted for on cash basis hence no provision for Gratuity payable, leave encashment etc. is made.

b. The Council is maintaining its own C.P.F. Fund other than the employees who were transferred to NPS.

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PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA
SCHEDULE FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2024

SCHEDULE 14 - CONTINGENT LIABILITIES & NOTES OF THE ACCOUNTS

A. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

Claim against the Council not acknowledge as debts Rs. Nil (Previous Year NIL)

B. NOTES OF THE ACCOUNTS

1. Current Assets, Loan & Advances and CPF Funds

a. Balance grouped in the Sundry Debtors, Advances for Books & Periodical, Advance to Parties, TA Advances and Loans to Staffs have not been confirmed from the respective parties/reconciled.

b. In the opinion of the management of the Council, the other current assets, loans & advances have a realizable value equal at least to the amount shown in the Balance Sheet, in the ordinary course of business.

c. Balance in C.P.F Fund and corresponding earmarked investment for C.P.F. is not reconciled.

2. Provision for taxation

In view of the income of the Council being exempt from tax, no provision for taxation has been made.

3. Grouping of figures

Corresponding figures for the previous year have been regrouped/ rearranged, wherever necessary.

4. Levy Fees

a. Levy Fees Suspense (Totalling to Rs. 85,20,870):

Levy Fees Suspense Account amounting to **Rs 85,20,870** pertains to the levy fees received through NEFT/ RTGS/ Direct Deposited to Bank. The Management is not in possession of any details/ documents to identify the same hence kept in suspense account and will be taken into levy fee only after reconciliation with Publishers as per the policy adopted in earlier years.

b. Advance Levy Fee (Totalling to Rs. 34,01,701):

Advance Levy Fee of **Rs. 17,47,442** recorded during the year along with Outstanding Balance of **Rs. 16,54,259** in earlier years subject to reconciliation

(Outstanding balance as on 01 April 2023 of **Rs. 33,53,614** has been reduced with **Rs.16,99,355** i.e., amount received in advance during previous financial years, adjusted during the current financial year 2023-24)

5. **Declaration of Bonus:** The Council has not declared and paid any bonus to the employees of the council in F.Y. 2023-24.

6. **Bank Balances:** Bank Balances has been taken as per the Books of Accounts (Tally) maintained by the Council. However, Reconciliation Statement has been prepared to reconcile the balance as per Bank. Management has taken the note for the entries outstanding in Reconciliation.

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PRESS COUNCIL
RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR

RECEIPTS	CURRENT YEAR		PREVIOUS YEAR	
I. Opening Balance				
a) Cash in hand (Imprest Account)		50,000		50,000
b) Bank Balances				
- TSA Account	-		-	
- Indian Bank	20,95,141		97,61,922	
- General Fund	36,21,348		1,00,53,521	
- Levy of Fees Account	3,86,680		3,72,831	
- Revolving Fund (Loan & Advance)	-		-	
- C.P.F. Account	30,49,942	91,53,111	1,19,28,701	3,21,16,976
c) Postage Stamps in Hand		35,490		23,973
II. Grants Received				
a) From Government of India (Net of unspent grant returned) (Ministry of I & B)		8,69,55,353		6,23,14,141
III. Interest Received				
a) On Bank deposits				
- Interest Accrued on FDR	-		-	
- Term Deposits	-		-	
- Saving Accounts	2,79,346	2,79,346	3,75,482	3,75,482
b) Loans, Advances etc.		-		-
IV. Levy Fee & Other Income (specify)				
Levy fees received	2,21,32,976		1,60,95,199	
Advertisement Receipts	1,35,600			
Sale Proceeds of Fixed Assets			1,93,100	
Right to Information	716		**700**	
Miscellaneous Receipts	1,05,146		5,19,014	
Sale of Waste Papers	6,922		8,920	
Recovery -				
- Salary (Misc)	1,16,721		2,10,077	
- Of books				
- Of EOL				
- Income from Advertisement in Souvenir		2,24,98,081		1,70,27,010
V. Receipts from Matured Investments				
a) Encashment of FDRs				
- Revolving Fund Account				
- C.P.F. Account	-		-	
- General Fund	-		-	
- Towards Employee	-	-	-	-

OF INDIA

THE YEAR ENDED ON 31.03.2024

PAYMENTS	CURRENT YEAR		PREVIOUS YEAR	
I. Expenses				
a) Establishment Expenses	7,32,52,105		6,01,36,881	
(Corresponding to Schedule 10)				
b) Administrative Expenses	2,35,08,132		2,02,44,940	
(Correspondent to Schedule 11)				
c) Miscellaneous expense	12,93,424			
		9,80,53,661		8,03,81,821
II. Payments made against funds				
a) Agt. Revolving Fund (Loans & Advances)				
- Disbursements of Loans	-		-	
- Festival Advance	-		-	
- House Building Advance	-		-	
- Moter Car Advance	-		-	
- CGHS advance to Hon'ble Chairman	-	-	-	-
b) Agt. C.P.F. Fund				
- Advance / Withdrawl to Staff	-		-	
- Final Payments to Outgoing Employees	-	-	-	-
III. Investments and deposits made				
a) Out Earmarked/Endowment funds				
- Agt. Revolving Fund (Loans & Advances)	-		-	
- Agt. C.P.F. Fund	86,04,152		1,34,36,898	
b) Out of own funds				
(Investments-Others)	-		60,00,000	
- Security Deposits	13,832		25,000	
- Towards Employee	1,55,673	87,73,657	1,71,785	1,96,33,683
IV. Expenditure on Fixed Assets				
a) Purchase of Fixed Assets				
- Library Books	9,115		24,294	
- Air Conditioners & Coolers	59,400		2,71,718	
- Computer Software			-	
- Furniture & Fixtures	12,250		1,83,710	
- Heat Convertor	75,115		66,292	
- Water Dispencer	19,000		44,290	
- Computer & Perpherals	4,83,000		4,64,796	
- Air Purifiers			-	
- Stabelizers			7,100	
- Biometric Machine	35,150		28,994	
- Lease Hold Land				
- Paper Shredding Machine			82,000	
- Franking Machine	1,49,850			
- Television, Audio System & Other				
Refrigerator/Washing Machine		8,42,880	22,000	11,95,194
b) Capital Advance/ CWIP		-		-
V. Refund of surplus money/Loans				
a) To the Government of India				
- Grant return to govt.	-	-	38,19,812	38,19,812

RECEIPTS	CURRENT YEAR		PREVIOUS YEAR	
VI. Any Other receipts				
a) Enchasement of Deposits	-	-		
b) Recovery of Advances				
- Housing Building Advance			-	
- From Parties			-	
- Festival Advances			-	
- TA/DA Advance from member/ officers			-	
- Staff Advance	4,15,480		3,30,253	
- Scooter Advances			-	
- Motor Car Advance			-	
- CPF Advance			-	
- Seminar/ National Press Day	2,94,863		-	
- CGHS advance to Hon'ble Chairman			-	
		7,10,343	-	3,30,253
c) Recovery from Employee				
- LIC Contribution	1,39,755		1,39,949	
- Travelling expense				
- Refund of CPF Advance	10,77,856		8,63,197	
- Towards sale /transfer of fixed asset	-			
- C.P.F. Contr.	73,70,250		46,77,880	
- NPS Subscription	23,65,524		22,63,804	
- Recovery From Officers Non-Scale	-	1,09,53,385	28,500	79,73,330
d) Amount trf from General Fund to C.P.F. Fund on account of:				
- Council's Contribution to PF	-		-	
- Interest on Employees' Cont.				
- Interest on Council's Cont.				
- Others				
		-		-
e) Other Receipts				
- Receipts of LIC	-		-	
- Security Deposits	1,177		4,770	
- Penalty Received				
- Others		1,177		4,770
f) Tax deducted at source	36,05,741	36,05,741	29,83,758	29,83,758
TOTAL		**13,42,42,027**		**12,31,99,693**

OF INDIA
THE YEAR ENDED ON 31.03.2024

VI. Finance Charges (Interest)				
Bank Charge	626	626		
VII. Other Payments (Specify)				
a) Amount trf from General Fund	-			-
to C.P.F. Fund on account of:				
- Interest on Employees' Cont.	-			-
- Interest on Council's Cont.	-			-
- Others	-	-		-
b) Advance				
- For Parties	13,23,142			
- for Books & Periodicals				
- for Seminar	4,56,159		1,35,942	
- for Booking of Auditorium				
- for purchase of Stationery				
- for Capital Assets			1,35,680	
- for Staff Advance	10,02,045		7,41,707	
- TA/DA Advance to member/officers			-	
- for Others	24,738	28,06,084		10,13,329
c) Tax deducted at source	36,16,525	36,16,525	-	34,72,185
d) Other Payments				
- NPS Subscription	23,96,996		27,47,518	
- Prior period adjustments			-	
- Provision	74,062		-	
- Levy Fees	3,000	24,74,058		27,47,518
VIII. Closing Balances				
a) Cash in hand (Imprest Account)		50,000		50,000
b) Bank Balances				
- TSA Account	-		-	
- Indian Bank	43,24,755		20,95,141	
- General Fund	94,15,097		36,21,348	
- Levy of Fees Account	3,46,865		3,86,680	
- Revolving Fund (Loan & Advance)			-	
- C.P.F. Account	34,63,544	1,75,50,262	30,49,942	91,53,111
c) Postage Stamps in Hand		74,274		35,490
		13,42,42,027		**12,15,02,143**

ANNEXURE - A

Statement of Cases
April 1, 2023-March 31, 2024

S. No.	Particulars	Section-13	Section-14	Total
1.	Cases Pending on 31.03.2023	**396**	**944**	**1340**
2.	Cases filed between April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024	**212**	**775**	**987**
3.	Cases adjudicated between April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024	**63**	**103**	**166**
4.	Cases directly reported to the Council during the period.	**1**	**–**	**1**
5.	Cases disposed of by way of dismissal at preliminary stage between April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024 and reported to the Council	**200**	**765**	**965**
6.	**Total Cases Pending as on March 31, 2024**	**344**	**851**	**1195**

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
On Cooperation between
Press Council of India and Sri Lanka Press Council

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Press Council of India & Sri Lanka Press Council on Co-operation in Journalism, here in after referred to as "Parties".

Article I: Objectives

To promote journalistic ethics & freedom of Press for the purpose of cooperation in activities promoting peace journalism between both countries.

Article II: Areas and Forms of Cooperation

A: Both the Press Councils confirm their commitment to work unitedly to increase cooperation between the two Councils to promote freedom of press and to ensure free movement of journalists in the region.

B: Both Parties agree to exchange information, experience and knowledge pertaining to objective journalism and encourage journalists to pursue non-violent, peaceful journalism in the region.

C: Both Parties will periodically monitor and publish reports on the performance of the media, violation of media rights and attacks on journalists and media organizations.

D: To organize conference, seminars, workshops and training to improve professional skill of the journalists in both countries.

E: Both Press Councils shall identify the violations of professional code of ethics of the press and encourage the journalists to pursue responsible journalism. Both Parties will arrange exchange programme/s to familiarize the journalists about each other's country and facilitate reporting important matters.

F: Both Parties will promote and undertake research in the field of online/print journalism.

G: Both Parties shall meet once in every year to review the cooperation and activities of the Press Council in each other's country.

H: Both Parties shall work to create an enabling environment for free and fair journalism and to ensure access to news in each other's country. Both Parties will ensure that the people have a right to know and right to privacy is maintained.

I: To undertake such other activities as may be determined from time to time in pursuance of the objectives.

Article III: Central Authority

Government of Republic of India: Ministry of Information & Broadcasting of India
Government of Sri Lanka: Ministry of Mass Media

Article IV: Implementation & Joint Working Group

(a) To cooperate in activities that promotes ethical journalism;
(b) To organize seminar/workshops on reporting;
(c) To undertake journalism exchange programme;

By having Bilateral programs at either of the participating countries with the intellectuals belonging to journalistic fraternity of both the countries.

Article V: Financial Arrangement

The delegation attending the Conference, Seminar/Workshops/Interaction, training programme to improve professional skill in journalism or any other official work, the travel expenses (to and fro) shall be borne by the respective participating countries and all other hospitality expenses shall be arranged by the host Parties.

Article VI: Revision & Amendment

The MoU may be amended at any time with mutual written consent of the parties through and Exchange of Notes between the Parties through the diplomatic channel.

Article VII: Settlement of Disputes

Any difference arising out of interpretation or implementation of this MoU shall be settled amicably by consultation between the Parties.

Article VIII: Entry into Force, Duration, Renewal & Termination

This MoU shall enter into force on the date of its signature thereof by the Parties.

This MoU shall remain in force for a period of **Five (05) years** unless either Party notifies in writing its intentions to terminate this Memorandum of Understanding three months in advance and the MoU shall be renewed for further term(s) as agreed by the Parties in writing.

"IN WITENESS WHEREOF" the undersigned, being duly authorized by their respective Governments, have signed this Memorandum of Understanding.

Signed at New Delhi On 17th day of November 2023 in two originals in the English language.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA

RPDesai

NAME: Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai
Chairperson,
Press Council of India

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF SRI LANKA

NAME: Mahinda Pathirana,
Chairman,
Sri Lanka Press Council

ANNEXURE - C

रजिस्ट्री सं. डी.एल.- 33004/99 REGD. No. D. L.-33004/99

भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India

सी.जी.-डी.एल.-अ.-05072023-247060
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असाधारण
EXTRAORDINARY

भाग II—खण्ड 3—उप-खण्ड (ii)
PART II—Section 3—Sub-section (ii)

प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 2818] नई दिल्ली, बुधवार, जुलाई 5, 2023/आषाढ़ 14, 1945
No. 2818] NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY, JULY 5, 2023/ASHADHA 14, 1945

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 3rd July, 2023

S.O. 2943(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 makes the following further amendment in the notification of the Government of India, in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting published *vide* number S.O. 4107(E), dated the 6th October, 2021, in Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii) of the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, namely:-

2. In the said notification, for serial number 22 and the entries relating thereto, the following serial number and entries shall be substituted, namely:-

"22. Shri Sujeet Kumar Present Address: C-1/12, Humayun Road, New Delhi-110003	Nominated by the Chairman of the Council of States".

[F. No. M-22011/2/2020-Press(Pt.I)]

VIKRAM SAHAY, Jt. Secy.

Note : The principal notification was published *vide* number S.O. 4107(E), dated the 6th October, 2021 in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part-II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii) and was last amended vide number S.O. 4701(E), dated the 11th November 2021.

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and Published by the Controller of Publications, Delhi-110054. SARVESH KUMAR SRIVASTAVA

ANNEXURE - D

रजिस्ट्री सं. डी.एल.- 33004/99

REGD. No. D. L.-33004/99

भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India

सी.जी.-डी.एल.-अ.-05072023-247061
CG-DL-E-05072023-247061

असाधारण
EXTRAORDINARY

भाग II—खण्ड 3—उप-खण्ड (ii)
PART II—Section 3—Sub-section (ii)

प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 2817] नई दिल्ली, बुधवार, जुलाई 5, 2023/आषाढ़ 14, 1945
No. 2817] NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY, JULY 5, 2023/ASHADHA 14, 1945

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 3rd July, 2023

S.O. 2942(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 makes the following further amendment in the notification of the Government of India, in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting published *vide* number S.O. 4107(E), dated the 6th October, 2021, in Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii) of the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, dated the 6th October, 2021, namely:-

2. In the said notification, after serial number 5, the following serial number and the entries shall be inserted, namely:-

"6. Mr. Parag Karandikar Editor, Maharashtra Times Present Address: Maharashtra Times, The Times of India Building, Second Floor, D.N. Road, Fort, Mumbai - 400001	Editors of English Language Newspapers".

[F. No. M-22011/2/2020-Press(Pt.II)]

VIKRAM SAHAY, Jt. Secy.

Note : The principal notification was published *vide* number S.O. 4107(E), dated the 6th October, 2021 in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part-II, Section 3, Sub-section (ii) dated the 6th October, 2021 and was last amended vide number S.O. 4701(E), dated the 11th November 2021.

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ANNEXURE - E

रजिस्ट्री सं. डी.एल.- 33004/99 REGD. No. D. L.-33004/99

भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India

सी.जी.-डी.एल.-अ.-26072023-247614
CG-DL-E-26072023-247614

असाधारण
EXTRAORDINARY

भाग II—खण्ड 3—उप-खण्ड (ii)
PART II—Section 3—Sub-section (ii)

प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 3194] नई दिल्ली, बुधवार, जुलाई 26, 2023/श्रावण 4, 1945
No. 3194] NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 2023/SHRAVANA 4, 1945

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

CORRIGENDUM

New Delhi, the 21st July, 2023

S.O. 3339(E).—In the Notification of the Government of India, Ministry of Information number S.O.2942(E) dated the 3rd July, 2023, published in Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section(ii) dated the 5th July, 2023, Issue No. 2817, in line 11, for "English", read "Indian".

[F. No. M-22011/2/2020-Press(Pt.II)]

VIKRAM SAHAY, Jt. Secy.

4808 GI/2023

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MANOJ KUMAR VERMA Digitally signed by MANOJ KUMAR VERMA Date: 2023.07.26 17:39:49 +05'30'

ANNEXURE-F

रजिस्ट्री सं. डी.एल.- 33004/99 REGD. No. D. L.-33004/99

भारत का राजपत्र
The Gazette of India

सी.जी.-डी.एल.-अ.-07112023-249926
CG-DL-E-07112023-249926

असाधारण
EXTRAORDINARY

भाग II—खण्ड 3—उप-खण्ड (ii)
PART II—Section 3—Sub-section (ii)

प्राधिकार से प्रकाशित
PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

सं. 4629] नई दिल्ली, मंगलवार, नवम्बर 7, 2023/कार्तिक 16, 1945
No. 4629] NEW DELHI, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2023/KARTIKA 16, 1945

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

(Department of Revenue)

(CENTRAL BOARD OF DIRECT TAXES)

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 6th November, 2023

S.O. 4828(E).—In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (46) of section 10 of the Income-tax Act, 1961 (43 of 1961), the Central Government hereby notifies for the purposes of the said clause, 'Press Council of India' (PAN AAABP0351P), a body established under Para 1 of Chapter II of the Press Council of India Act, 1978 (Central Act), in respect of the following specified income arising to that body, namely:-

(a) Levy of fees on publishers and news papers; and

(b) Interest earned on FDRs and Savings bank accounts of Press Council of India.

2. This notification shall be effective subject to the conditions that Press Council of India,-

(a) shall not engage in any commercial activity;

(b) activities and the nature of the specified income shall remain unchanged throughout the financial years; and

(c) shall file return of income in accordance with the provision of clause (g) of sub-section (4C) of section 139 of the Income-tax Act, 1961.

3. This notification shall be deemed to have been applied for the assessment year 2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 relevant to financial years 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 respectively.

[Notification No. 98/2023 F. No. 300196/8/2018-ITA-I]

VIKAS SINGH, Director (ITA)-I

Explanatory Memorandum

It is certified that no person is being adversely affected by giving retrospective effect to this notification.

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ANNEXURE-G

Index of Adjudications in Complaints Regarding Threats to the Press Freedom (Under Section 13 of the Press Council Act, 1978)

S No.	Parties	Date of Order	Decision
Harassment of Newsmen			
1.	Complaint of Shri S.N. Shyam, Pradesh President, Bihar Press Men's Union, Patna, (Bihar) against the Police Authorities. (13/144/2018-19–PCI)	29.05.2023	Disposed of with direction to the Police authorities, Patna, Bihar
2.	Complaint of Shri Sartaj Khan, Journalist, Shan Times Qaumi Patrika and Shri Shaukat Ali, Bureau Chief, Qaumi Patrika, Ghaziabad, U.P. against Shri Sarvesh and Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Loni, Ghaziabad, U.P. (13/135/2019-20–PCI)	29.05.2023	Disposed of being settled
3.	Complaint of Shri Ashish Tiwari, Chief Editor, Mahamritunjya Darshan, Etah, U.P. against Police Authorities and anti-social elements. (73/2021-B–PCI)	29.05.2023	Disposed of with direction to Police authorities, Lucknow, U.P.
4.	Complaint of Shri Dharmendra Kumar Mishra, Bureau Chief, Dainik Jagran, Sultanpur against Shri Himanshu Kumar, Superintendent of Police, Sultanpur. (13/177/19-20-PCI)	21.08.2023	Matter subjudice; both sides cautioned
5.	Complaint of Shri Pawan Agarwal, Editor, Dainik Parivartan ka Daur, Moradabad against Police authorities. (13/183/19-20-PCI)	21.08.2023	Respondent (Police) cautioned

S No.	Parties	Date of Order	Decision
6.	Complaint of Shri Sarwar Alam Warsi, Bureau Chief, Dainik Amar Bharati, Kushinagar against Dr. Anil Kumar Singh, District Magistrate, Kushinagar. (13/157/19-20-PCI)	21.08.2023	Dismissed for default (complainant not present)
7.	Complaint of Shri Saurabh Agarwal, Editor, Dainik Syahi Ki Taqat, Raigarh against Shri Vijay Agarwal, former MLA and others. (13/113/18-19-PCI)	21.08.2023	Dismissed for default (complainant not present)
8.	Complaint of Shri Ekant Shrivas, Correspondent, Manav Adhikar Jagrukta, Jhansi against police authorities and anti-social elements. (370/2020-B–PCI)	21.08.2023	Complainant and respondent cautioned
9.	Complaint by Shri Sushil Kumar, Correspondent, Dainik Bhaskar, Ghoghardiha, Madhubani, Bihar against Shri Raman Kumar, Circle Officer, Ghoghardiha, Madhubani. (13/81/2019-20-PCI)	17.11.2023	Disposed of with Observation and direction to the Circle officer, Madhubani, Bihar
10.	Complaint of Shri Rajwardhan Shandilaya, Editor of Samachar Lookout, Indore against Shri Kishore & police authorities. (408/2020-B-PCI)	17.11.2023	Dropped for lack of substance
11.	Complaint of Shri Sanjay Tiwari, Journalist of Hindustan People against the Commissioner of Police, East Delhi and Station House Officer of Pandav Nagar, Delhi. (13/104/19-20–PCI)	17.11.2023	Complaint dismissed as no restraint on freedom of press involved.

S No.	Parties	Date of Order	Decision
12.	Complaint of Shri B.K. Gupta, Editor, Agrim Times, Meerut against Shri Pradeep Kaushik, Meerut (U.P.) (147/2021-B–PCI)	17.11.2023	Disposed of; complainant suggested to raise the points in the respective police proceedings
13.	Complaint of Editor, Santulit Samachar, Mr Mohammad Irfan Ahmed, Furniturewala, through Advocate, Tariq Khan, Mumbai against Mrs. and Mr. Ashok Shetty, Baywatch Restaurants & Bar, Mumbai. (39/2021-B-PCI)	17.11.2023	Dismissed for default (complainant not present)
14.	Complaint of Shri Rashid Ali Siddiqui, Editor, Rajdhani Ka Darbar, Barabanki against Shri Dharmendra Singh Raghuvanshi, Station House Officer, Police Station Kotwali City, Barabanki, U.P. (16/2020-B-PCI)	17.11.2023	Disposed of having abated (complainant is dead)
15.	Communication of Shri G Prabhakaran, Secretary General, Indian Journalists Union regarding filing of FIR by police against two senior journalists for asking questions in a press conference at Thiruvananthapuram Press Club. (27/2020-B-PCI)	17.11.2023	Disposed of with directions to Kerala Police
16.	Complaint of Shri Mangal Tiwari, Mirzapur, U.P. against anti-social elements of Mirzapur and U.P. Police. (4/2020-B-PCI)	28.03.2024	Disposed of being personal dispute

S No.	Parties	Date of Order	Decision
17.	Complaint of Shri Pramod Goswami, Editor, Prarthana Express, Gwalior against Shri Ganesh Prasad Verma, Head Constable, Transport Department, Gwalior, (M.P.). (13/186/2019-20-PCI)	28.03.2024	Disposed of being personal dispute
18.	Complaint of Pandit Vipin Sharma, Reporter, Jansandesh Times, Barabanki against anti-social elements and Shri Pandit Tripathi, Chowki Incharge, Saadatganj (13/179/2019-20-PCI)	28.03.2024	Disposed of being personal dispute
19.	Complaint of Shri Arun Kumar Yadav, Editor, Dainik Preet Times, U.P. against Police authorities, U.P. (10/2020/B-PCI)	28.03.2024	Dismissed for default (complainant not present)
20.	Complaint of Shri Arvind Singh Jadaun, Editor of Dainik Ghatak Reporter, Raisen, M.P. against Shri Girish Dubey, Sub-Inspector, Raisen, M.P. (132/2020-B-PCI)	28.03.2024	Dismissed for default (complainant not present)
21	Complaint of Shri Anurag Tiwari, Editor, Talmel Express, U.P. against Shri Nishu Sonkar, Advocate, Prayagraj. (8/2020-B-PCI)	28.03.2024	Dismissed as matter outside the jurisdiction of PCI
22.	Complaint of Mr. Najim Ali Khan, Press Photographer, Kanpur City against President and Secretary of Press Club, Kanpur. (09/2020-B-PCI)	28.03.2024	Dispose of the case for being outside jurisdiction with observation to Subs-Inspector of Police, Bekanganj, Kanpur.

S No.	Parties	Date of Order	Decision
23.	Complaint of Shri Rajbahadur Upadhyay, District Correspondent, Badaun Shikhar, Etah, U.P. against Shri Pushpendra Kumar, Stenographer, Samajik Vaniki Prabhag, Etah.(20/2020-B-PCI)	28.03.2024	Lack of substance and matter sub-judice
24.	Complaint of Shri Rakesh Kumar Gupta, National President, National Journalist Association against Police Authorities, Bihar and anti-social elements. (158/2020-B-PCI)	28.03.2024	Dismissed for default (both complainant and respondent are absent)
25.	Complaint of Shri Om Prakash Baghel, Chief Editor of Duniya Ek Nazar Mein, Aligarh against Shri Pradeep Muni, Gram Pradhan, Singharpur, Aligarh, U.P. & Shri Satendra Gautam, S.I., Police Chowki, Aasna (172/2020-B-PCI)	28.03.2024	Disposed of being sub-judice
26.	Complaint of Shri Om Prakash Baghel, Chief Editor of Duniya Ek Nazar Mein, Aligarh, against Shri Satendra Gautam, S.I., Police Chowki, Aasna (96/2021-B-PCI)	28.03.2024	Dismissed for lack of substance
27.	Complaint of Shri Ranjeet Kumar, Editor of Kranti Jagran, Etah against the S.S.P. Etah and District Magistrate, Etah (201/2020-B-PCI)	28.03.2024	Dismissed for default (both parties absent)
28.	Complaint of Shri Shakir Ansari, Correspondent, Janvarta, Chandauli against Shri Triloki Sonkar, Ration dealer, Chandauli. (212/2020-B-PCI)	28.03.2024	Case dismissed (complaint being false)
29.	Complaint of Shri Ram Manohar, Correspondent, Dainik Aaj, Jalaun, Gram Pradhan, Block Mahewa, Jalaun, Uttar Pradesh against Shri Budh Singh Yadav and Police. (224/2020-B-PCI)	28.03.2024	Case dismissed (as complaint was false)

S No.	Parties	Date of Order	Decision
Facilities to the Press			
30.	Complaint of Shri Sukhraj Singh, Pubisher, Sukhraj Weekly against the Director, Public Relation Department, Government of Punjab, Chandigarh. (213/2021-B–PCI)	29.05.2024	Disposed of with direction to the complainant (to submit fresh application for accreditation)
31.	Complaint of Shri Khaja Moinuddin, Editor-in-Chief, Qasid-E-Hind, Hyderabad, against Information and Public Relations Department, Government of Telangana against Central Bureau of Communication, New Delhi. (13/152/2019-20/PCI)	21.08.2023	Assurance by respondent, Complainant directed to approach IPRD A.C. Guards, Government of Telangana, Hyderabad
32.	Complaint of Shri Gautam Jain, Publisher, Marumach Dainik, Balotra, Rajasthan against the Commissioner, Municipal Balotra and others. (112/2021-B-PCI)	21.08.2023	Complaint closed as parties have compromised
33.	Complaint of the Editor, Early Times against the DIPR and Government of Jammu and Kashmir. (172/2021-B-PCI)	17.11.2023	Disposed of; Jammu and Kashmir govt to consider fresh complaint from the complainant.
34.	Complaint of Shri Narayan Chandra Chatterjee, Editor, Gramanchal Shilpanchaler Khabar against Registrar of Newspapers for India, RNI. (49/2020-B-PCI)	17.11.2023	Settled

S No.	Parties	Date of Order	Decision
35.	Complaint of Shri K.Srinivas, Editor of Andhra Jyothi, Andhra Publication Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad against Information and Public Relation Department, Andhra Pradesh (229/2020-B-PCI)	28.03.2024	Dismissed for default (no appearance on behalf of complainant)
36.	Complaint of Shri K. Srinivas, the Editor, Andhra Jyothi, Andhra Publication Pvt. Ltd. against Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPRP), Telangana.(13/169/2019-20-PCI)	28.03.2024	Dismissed for default (no appearance on behalf of complainant)
37.	The Complaint of Shri Narendra Bhardwaj, President, UP Shramjeevi Journalist Union, Mathura (U.P.) against Shri Vinod Kumar Sharma, Addl. District Information Officer, Mathura and District Magistrate, Mathura (51/2020-B-PCI)	28.03.2024	Settled
38.	The Complaint of Shri Narendra Bhardwaj, President, UP Shramjeevi Journalist Union, Mathura (U.P.) against Shri Vinod Kumar Sharma, Addl. District Information Officer, Mathura and other officials. (264/2020-B-PCI)	28.03.2024	Settled
39.	Complaint of Shri Suresh Verma, Chief Editor, Kranti Kathan, Indore against the Registrar, RNI, New Delhi. (21/2020-B-PCI)	28.03.2024	Settled
40.	Complaint of Shri Kirti A. Vyas, Chief Editor, Jan Samsya (Daily) and Aandhi Aur Toofan (Daily & Weekly) Ahmedabad, Gujarat against Director, I&PRD, Government of Gujarat. (147/2020/B-PCI)	28.03.2024	Settled

S No.	Parties	Date of Order	Decision
41.	Complaint of Shri Ankur Sharma, Editor of Satta ki Parakh, Meerut City against Shri Ashutosh Chandola, District Information Officer, Meerut. (48/2020-B-PCI)	28.03.2024	Disposed of as grievance being redressed by respondent
42.	Complaint of Shri Sanjeev Kumar, Correspondent of Farmer Sandesh, Meerut City against Shri Ashutosh Chandola, District Information officer, Meerut, U.P. (279/2020-B-PCI)	28.03.2024	Disposed of as grievance being redressed by respondent
43.	Complaint of Shri Shrikant Tiwari Shastri, Publisher Sanyam Bharat (Hindi Dainik), Prayagraj against the Registrar of Newspaper for India, New Delhi (259/2020-B-PCI)	28.03.2024	Disposed of with direction to complainant
Suo-Motu Cognizance			
44.	Suo-motu cognizance on alleged murder of Shri Shashikant Warishe Journalist for his coverage of incidents of land grabbing. (SM/Feb./01/23-B–PCI)	29.05.2023	Dropped as crime is registered and charge sheet is to be filed
45.	Suo-motu cognizance w.r.t Media Policy-2020 of Government of Jammu & Kashmir-Provision regarding Fake News. (150/Suo-Motu/2020-B–PCI)	21.08.2023	Matter closed as required steps taken by the Government
46.	Suo-motu cognizance with regard to death of Shri Parag Bhuyan, Senior Journalist, Pratidin Group and Vice-President of the Tinsukia District Journalists' Association. (SM/APRIL/02/2021-B-PCI)	21.08.2023	Disposed of as matter not related to journalistic duty

S No.	Parties	Date of Order	Decision
47.	Suo-motu cognizance taken by the Press Council of India regarding Police assault on Media person in Odisha. (SM/SEPT./01/2022-B-PCI)	21.08.2023	Disposed of as required steps taken by Government of Odisha
48.	Suo-motu cognizance regarding alleged attack and killing of Shri Gnanadraj Moses, working for Tamilian TV News Channel. (SM/Nov/1/2020-PCI)	17.11.2023	Closed as appropriate action taken by police
49.	Suo-motu cognizance regarding killing of Shri Raman Kashyap, ABP TV News reporter and alleged assault on Shri Surjeet Singh Channi, Reporter. (SM/OCTOBER/01/2021-B-PCI)	17.11.2023	Disposed of as action already taken by police, Charge sheet filed.
50.	Suo-motu cognizance with regard to detention of Ms. Swarna Jha and Smt. Samriddhi Sakunia, Journalist by Tripura Police. (SM/Nov/1/2021-B-PCI)	17.11.2023	Dropped for being Sub-judice
51.	Suo-motu cognizance with regard to killing of Shri S.V. Pradeep, Journalist in hit and run case in Karakkamandapam, Kerala. (SM/APRIL/1/2021-B–PCI)	17.11.2023	Dropped for being sub judice
52.	Suo-motu cognizance with regard to killing of Shri S.V. Pradeep, Journalist in hit and run case in Karakkamandapam, Kerala.(241/2021-B–PCI)	17.11.2023	Dropped for being sub judice
53.	Suo-motu cognizance regarding alleged attack and killing of journalist Mr. Rakesh Singh in Nirbhik in Balrampur, Uttar Pradesh (SM/Nov/3/2020-B-PCI)	28.03.2024	Disposed of being sub-judice

S No.	Parties	Date of Order	Decision
54.	Suo-motu cognizance with regard to alleged interference and curtailment of the Press Freedom/Right to report of the Journalists by the Delhi Government (SM/May/01/2021-B-PCI)	28.03.2024	Disposed of as no curtailment of freedom of Press found
55.	Suo-motu cognizance regarding physical assault on Journalist Shri Krishna Tiwari by CDO, District – Unnao, U.P. (SM/AUGUST/01/2021-B-PCI)	28.03.2024	Disposed of being Settled
56.	Suo-motu cognizance regarding suspicious death of journalist Shri Avinash Jha, Madhubani, Bihar. (SM/Nov.2/21-22-B-PCI)	28.03.2024	Disposed of being sub-judice
57.	Sou-motu cogninance taken by PCI for prohibiting the entry of the media persons at the Counting Venue during the counting of votes for Block Graduate and Shikshak MLC election in Kanpur region. (SM/MARCH/01/2023-B-PCI)	28.03.2024	Disposed of with observation to respondents
58.	Suo-motu cognizance on arrest of Mr. Irfan Mehraj, Journalist by NIA under UAPA in Kashmir Valley. (SM/MARCH/3/2022-23-B-PCI)	28.03.2024	Discharged being Sub-Judice
59.	Sou-motu cogninance on the incident of arresting Times Now journalist Ms. Bhawna Kumari in Ludhiana. (SM/May/2/2023-B-PCI)	28.03.2024	Discharged being Sub-Judice
60.	Sou-motu cognizance regarding alleged murder of Shri Vimal Kumar Yadav, journalist, Araria, Bihar. (SM/AUGUST/02/2023-B PCI)	28.03.2024	Discharged being Sub-Judice

S No.	Parties	Date of Order	Decision
Curtailment of the Press Freedom			
61.	Complaint of Shri Chandra Vijay, Journalist, Real News, Hardoi against Shri Rai Singh Yadav, Inspector, Police Station Tadiyawa, Hardoi. (120/2020-B/PCI)	21.08.2023	Disposed of with observation to complainant
62.	Complaint of Shri B.K. Gupta, Editor, Agrim Times, Meerut against Meerut Development Authority. (371/2020-B–PCI)	17.11.2023	Disposed of with direction to police authorities and State Government
63.	Complaint of Shri Mohan Kumar, Vice President, Indian Federation of working, Journalist, Delhi against the Government of Bihar. (146/2020-B-PCI)	28.03.2024	Dismissed for default (as matter is infructuous)

ANNEXURE - H

Index of Adjudications in Complaints Against the Press (Under Section 14 of the Press Council Act, 1978)

S. No.	Parties	Date of Order	Decision
Principles & Publication			
1.	Complaint of M/s Universal Cables Ltd. against the Editor of Pralap. (14/529/2019-20–PCI)	29.05.2023	Disposed of with direction to respondent newspaper.
2.	Complaint of Shri S. Srikumar Sridharan, Chathannaur, Kerala against the Editor Janmabhoomi, Trivandrum, Kerala. (623/2020-A–PCI)	29.05.2023	Disposed of on merit.
3.	Complaint of Shri S. Srikumar Sridharan, Chathannaur, Kerala against the Editor Mathrubhumi Trivandrum, Kerala. (624/2020-A–PCI)	29.05.2023	Disposed of on merit.
4.	Complaint of Shri S. Srikumar Sridharan, Chathannaur, Kerala against the Editor Kerala Kaumudi, Trivandrum, Kerala. (1637/2020-A–PCI)	29.05.2023	Disposed of on merit.
5.	Complaint of M/s Kalika Steel Alloy Pvt. Ltd. against the Editor of Gokulniti, Aurangabad Road, Maharashtra. (1824/2020-A–PCI)	29.05.2023	Censured
6.	Complaint of Dr. Lakhan Singh, Director, ICAR-ATARI against the Editor of Rashtra Sahyadri, Pune. (70/2021-A–PCI)	29.05.2023	Disposed of with assurance
7.	Complaint of Shri Sunil G. Godbole against Shri Girish Kuber, Editor, Loksatta, Marathi Daily Newspaper, Mumbai. (376/2022-A–PCI)	29.05.2023	Dismissed on merits

S. No.	Parties	Date of Order	Decision
8.	Complaint of Shri Sunil G. Godbole against Shri Girish Kuber, Editor, Loksatta, Marathi Daily, Mumbai. (229/2022-A–PCI)	29.05.2023	Dismissed on merits
9.	Complaint of Shri H.R. Nashirkar, CEO of Jijau Commercial Co-operative Bank Limited, Amravati against the Editor Dainik Jan Sanchalan newspaper, Buldhana. (478/2022-A)	29.05.2023	Disposed of being sub judice
10.	Complaint of Shri Vivekananda Dash, Editor, Janatantra, Bhubhaneswar against the Editor, The Samaja, Cuttack. (14/459/18-19-PCI)	21.08.2023	Respondent Cautioned
11.	Complaint of Dr. Raju E. Giwase, Registrar, Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj, Nagpur University, Maharashtra against Times of India, Nagpur. (306/2022-A–PCI)	21.08.2023	Censured
12.	Complaint of Ms Saayli Dhurat, Superintendent of Police, Araria against the Editor of Dainik Bhaskar, Araria. (14/405/19-20-PCI)	17.11.2023	Dropped for non-pursuance
13.	Complaint of Shri Ratan Biswas, the then Additional Secretary and Director, Information and Cultural Affairs, Govt. of Tripura, against the Editor of Syandan Patrika, Agartala, Tripura. (1872/2020-A-PCI)	17.11.2023	Disposed of with direction to respondent
14.	Complaint of Dr. Amit Kumar, Chairman, National Public Service Commission, Bihar against the Editor of Dainik Jagran, Bihar. (14/156/2019-20–PCI)	17.11.2023	Dropped for lack of substance

S. No.	Parties	Date of Order	Decision
15.	Complaint of Dr. Amit Kumar, Director, National Public Service Commission, Bihar against the Editor of Hindustan, Bihar (14/154/2019-20–PCI)	17.11.2023	Dropped for lack of substance
16.	Complaint of Dr. Amit Kumar, Director, National Public Service Commission, Bihar, against the Editor of Dainik Bhaskar (14/162/2019-20–PCI)	17.11.2023	Dropped for lack of substance
17.	Complaint of Dr. Amit Kumar, Director, National Public Service Commission, Bihar, against the Editor of Prabhat Khabar (14/282/2019-20–PCI)	17.11.2023	Dropped for lack of sub-stance
18.	Complaint of Shri Uday Kumar Mondal, Section officer, Establishment Section, Farakka Barrage Project, West Bengal against the Editor, Anandabazar Patrika. (14/140/19-20-PCI)	17.11.2023	Settled
19.	Complaint of Shri Uday Kumar Mondal, Section officer, Establishment Section, Farakka Barrage Project, West Bengal against the Editor, Sangbad, Pratidin. (14/139/19-20-PCI)	17.11.2023	Disposed of with assurance
20	Complaint of Shri Biswaranjan Beura against the Editors of the Times of India and Maharashtra Times. (14/413-414/2019- 20-PCI)	17.11.2023	Censured
21	Complaint of Shri Biswaranjan Beura against the Editors of the Times of India and Maharashtra Times. (14/413-414/2019- 20-PCI)	17.11.2023	Censured
22.	Complaint of Shri Chaturbhurja Shivsagar Pandey, Editor, Hind Sagar against the Editor of Sarvshreshta Rajsatta Newspaper, Shri Vasant Mane. (130/2021-A-PCI)	17.11.2023	Dropped for non pursuance

S. No.	Parties	Date of Order	Decision
23.	Complaint of Brigadier (Retd) Shri Rattan Kaul, Noida against Ms. (Dr.) Deepa Alexander, Assistant Editor, The Hindu, Chennai, Tamil Nadu. (512/2022-A-PCI)	28.03.2024	Respondent Cautioned
24.	Complaint of Shri Ashwani Kumar Pradhan, Bargarh against the editor of Sambad, Odia Daily, Odisha (273/2020-A-PCI)	28.03.2024	Dismissed for default (No one appeared for complainant)
25.	Complaint of Shri Jatha Biswal, Radharanipara, Bolangir, Odisha against the editor of Sambad newspaper, Odiya Daily, Sambalpur (199/2021-A-PCI)	28.03.2024	Dismissed for default (No one appeared for complainant)
Press & Defamation			
26.	Complaint of Shri Arun Siddhu, Ludhiana, Punjab against Dainik Dainik Jagran, Ludhiana, Punjab. (2129/2020-A–PCI)	29.05.2023	Disposed of with direction to respondent
27.	Complaint of Shri Jagdishchandra R. Patel, President, Shreeji Kelvani Mandal, Surat, Gujrat against the Editor, Dakshin Gujarat Vartman Weekly Newspaper (1935/2020-A–PCI)	29.05.2023	Disposed of with direction to respondent
28.	Complaint of Shri Jagdishchandra R. Patel, President, Shreeji Kelvani Mandal, Surat, Gujarat against the Editor, Dakshin Gujarat Vartman Weekly Newspaper, Ahmedabad. (104/2020-A–PCI)	29.05.2023	Disposed of with direction to respondent
29.	Complaint of Shri Chittranjan Bhaskar Pole (IRS Retd.) against the Editor, Marathi Biswas.(14/406/2019-20–PCI)	29.05.2023	Censured

S. No.	Parties	Date of Order	Decision
30.	Complaint of Shri Surjya Kumar Das, Guwahati, Assam against the Editor, Amar Asom, Guwahati, Assam. (1797/2020-A–PCI)	29.05.2023	Disposed of with direction to respondent
31.	Complaint of Shri V. Sreekumar against the Editor, Kerala Kaumudi-Flash. (14/18/2019-20–PCI)	29.05.2023	Disposed of with direction to respondent
32.	Complaint of Dr. Anupama Kaushik against the Editor, the Raj Express. (14/409/2019-20–PCI)	29.05.2023	Disposed of with direction to respondent
33.	Complaint of Shri S.S. Bhagwat against Lokmat Samachar, Chandrapur, Maharashtra. (1889/2020-A–PCI)	29.05.2023	Dropped for non-pursuance
34.	Complaint of Shri R.B. Mane, Superintending Engineer, MSEDCL, Vashi against the Editor of Sprouts. (470/2021-A)	29.05.2023	Disposed of with direction to respondent
35.	Complaint of Shri G. Godbole, Mumbai against the Editor Loksatta. (51/2020-A–PCI)	29.05.2023	Dismissed (no false report was published)
36.	Complaint of Shri Bhagya M.G., Authorized Signatory, Skanray Technologies Pvt. Ltd. Karnataka against the Editor of the New Indian Express, Chennai and Ms. Bala Chauhan, Senior Special Correspondent, Indian Express, Chennai. (14/437/2019-20–PCI)	29.05.2023	Disposed of with assurance
37.	Complaint of M. Arun Kumar, Salem, Tamil Nadu against the Editor, Kalaikadhir Daily, Salem. (14/339/19-20-PCI)	21.08.2023	Respondent Cautioned

S. No.	Parties	Date of Order	Decision
38.	Complaint of Shri M. Mitra, Dy. Regional Manager, Bank of Baroda, Bhopal against the Editor, Pradesh Today. (14/492/19-20-PCI)	21.08.2023	Dismissed for default (nobody represented complainant)
39.	Complaint of Dr. Shaili Bansal, Sub-Divisional Ayurvedic Medical Officer, Shimla, Dr. Tejasvi Vijay Azad, Deputy Director Ayurveda, Mandi Zone, Mandi and Dr. K.D. Sharma, District Ayurvedic Officer, Shimla (H.P.) against the Editor, Dainik Jagran. (1843/2020-A-PCI)	21.08.2023	Dismissed for default (complainants are not present)
40.	Complaint of Shri Mohd. Arif Abdul Qadir Bhaiji, Raigad against the Editor, Nayay Niwada-Asa Gela Athewada, Aurangabad. (22/2020-A/PCI)	21.08.2023	Disposed of with directions to respondents.
41	Complaint of Dr. Shalabh Vaish, Associate Professor, Govt Medical College Badaun, against the Editor of Dainik Jagran and Shri Amit Sharma, Journalist Representative, Dainik Jagran, Badaun office. (14/408/2019-20-PCI)	17.11.2023	Dropped for non-pursuance
42.	Complaint of Smt. Sarli alias Sarla against the Editor Amar Bharati Media Group, New Delhi.(14/531/19-20-PCI)	17.11.2023	Dropped for non-pursuance
43	Complaint of Shri Jayesh Z. Shah against The Editor, Sajaga Parivartan Ka, Bangalore. (14/266/2019-20-PCI)	17.11.2023	Dropped for non-pursuance
44	Complaint of Shri Bhagwati Yadav, Indore against the Editor of Samachar Look-Out, Indore. (2036/2020-A-PCI)	17.11.2023	Dismissed for want of prosecution
45.	Complaint of Commander Paramjeet Singh against Dainik Jagran, Patna. (14/3025/201-20-PCI)	17.11.2023	Disposed of for non prosecution

S. No.	Parties	Date of Order	Decision
46.	Complaint of Shri Patel Jagdish Ratilal, President, Shreeji Kelavani Mandal against the Editor of Satya Day Newspaper. (14/451/2019-20-PCI)	17.11.2023	Dropped for non-pursuance
47.	Complaint of Smt. Ragini Rani, Jharkhand against Shri Rakesh Kumar Singh, Senior Journalist, the Pioneer. (14/147/2019-20-PCI)	17.11.2023	Dropped for being Sub-judice
48.	Complaint of Shri Sharanappa Biradar against the Editor of Samyukta Karnataka, Kannada Daily newspaper.(14/430/2019-20- PCI)	17.11.2023	Dropped for non-pursuance
49.	Complaint of Shri Manas Ranjan Das Pattnaik against the Editor of Odisha Khabar, Odisha. (3/2020-A-PCI)	17.11.2023	Dropped for being withdrawn
50.	Complaint of Smt Nazia Khan and Shri Mahesh Hawewala against the Editor of Mumbai Amardeep. (14/80/2019-20-PCI)	17.11.2023	Dropped for non-pursuance
51.	Complaint of Dr. V. K.Tiwari, Chitrakoot, against Shri Ratan Patel, Journalist, the Pioneer, Chitrakoot, U.P. (14/364/2019-20-PCI)	28.03.2024	Disposed of with warning to respondent journalist
52.	Complaint of Shri A.A. Karunakaran, Kerala against the Editor, Malayala Manorama. (14/271/2019-20-PCI)	28.03.2024	Upheld
53.	Complaint of Shri Vinod Kumar, Chandigarh against the Editor of Dainik Bhaskar, Chandigarh (424-425/2022-A-PCI)	28.03.2024	Disposed of with direction to respondent newspaper
54.	Complaint of Shri Vinod Kumar, Chandigarh against the Editor of Ajeet Newspaper, Mohali (424-425/2022-A-PCI)	28.03.2024	Disposed of with direction to respondent newspaper

S. No.	Parties	Date of Order	Decision
55.	Complaint of Shri Sanjay Singh, Councillor, Nagar Palika Parishad, Kannauj, U.P. against the Editor, Amar Ujala, Kannauj (88/2020-A-PCI)	28.03.2024	Settled
56.	Complaint of Shri A. Somashekaraiah, Karnataka against Shri Shiva Shankar M, owner , editor, publisher and printer of Kannada Chanda Monthly Magazine, Karnataka (129/2020-A-PCI)	28.03.2024	Dismissed for default (neither the complainant nor the respondent is present)
57.	Complaint Shri Aseem Goel, Ambala City, Haryana against Narender Singh Bhatia, Chief editor, City Media newspaper. (7/2020-A-PCI)	28.03.2024	Dismissed for default (neither the complainant nor the respondent is present)
58.	Complaint of Dr. Ravi Nag Bhushan and Dr. Sharma Shajiya Ravi Bhushan against the editor, Dainik Deshhonnati and Press Reporter, Dainik Deshhonnati, Amravati. (404/2022-A-PCI)	28.03.2024	Disposed of with direction-to respondent
59.	Complaint of Kumari Akansha Bhardwaj, Meerut City, U.P. against the Editor of Amar Ujala, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh. (27/2020-A-PCI)	28.03.2024	Dismissed for default (complainant is not present)
Communal, Casteist, Anti-National and Anti-Religious Writings			
60.	Complaint of Shri S. Pushppavanam, Secretary, Consumer Protection Council, Tiruchirapalli, Tamil Nadu against the Editor, The Hindu, Chennai. (14/256/2019-20–PCI)	29.05.2023	Dismissed as no breach of norms of journalistic conduct found.

S. No.	Parties	Date of Order	Decision
61.	Complaint of Shri Anil Kumar Baburao Sonkamle, Aurangabad against the Editor of Divya Marathi. (14/419/2018-19–PCI)	29.05.2023	Respondent newspaper cautioned.
62.	Complaint of Shri Anil Kumar Baburao Sonkamle, Aurangabad against the Editor of Lokmat. (14/613/2018-19–PCI)	29.05.2023	Respondent newspaper cautioned.
63.	Complaint of Shri Manoj S. Agarwal against the Editor of Aaj ka Anand, Pune. (440/2021-A–PCI)	29.05.2023	Dismissed for lack of substance
64.	Complaint of Shri Sunil Gajanan Godbole against the Editor of Loksatta, Mumbai. (1877/2020-A–PCI)	29.05.2023	Dismissed with observation for respondent newspaper
65.	Complaint of Mr Arif A. Mullaji, Ahmedabad against the Editor of Gujarat Samachar, Ahmedabad. (303/2021-A-PCI)	17.11.2023	Closed with Directions to respondent newspaper.
Press and Morality			
66.	Complaint of Shri Farukh Allarakhia, Mumbai against the Editor, India Unbound and Shri Sandeep Shinde, Reporter, India Unbound, Thane. (636/2021-A–PCI)	21.08.2023	Dismissed for default (No appearance on behalf of complainant)
67.	Complaint of Shri Sarat Chandra Sethi, OIS, District Information and Public Relations Officer, Angul against the Editor, IYA News.(14/17/2019-20-PCI)	17.11.2023	Dismissed for want of prosecution
68.	Complaint of Shri T. Malleswara Rao, Advocate against the Editor, Andhra Prabha . (14/26/2019-20-PCI)	17.11.2023	Dismissed for default (No appearance from either side)

S. No.	Parties	Date of Order	Decision
69.	Complaint of Secretary, Royal Hills Co-Op. Housing Society Ltd against Ms. Clara Lewis, Assistant Editor, Time of India, Mumbai.(705/2021-A-PCI)	17.11.2023	Dropped for being Sub-Judice
Suo-Motu Cognizance (Against the Press)			
70.	Suo-motu cognizance regarding publication of objectionable news items on 23.12.2020 by Pudhari. (44,182,202,417,503,504,505,1864/2020/SM/A–PCI)	29.05.2023	Dropped being sub judice
71.	Suo-motu cognizance regarding publication of objectionable news items on 23.12.2020 by Rajasthan Patrika (44,182,202,417,503,504,505,1864/2020/SM/A–PCI)	29.05.2023	Dropped being sub judice
72.	Suo-motu cognizance regarding publication of objectionable news items on 23.12.2020 by Pravasi Sandesh. (44, 182, 202, 417, 503, 504, 505, 1864/2020/SM/A–PCI)	29.05.2023	Dropped being sub judice
73.	Suo-motu cognizance regarding publication of objectionable news items on 23.12.2020 by Dopahar Ka Saamna. (44, 182, 202, 417, 503, 504, 505, 1864/2020/SM/A–PCI)	29.05.2023	Dropped being sub judice
74.	Suo-motu cognizance regarding publication of objectionable news items on 23.12.2020 by Punya Nagari. (44,182,202,417,503,504,505,1864/2020/SM/A–PCI)	29.05.2023	Dropped being sub judice
75.	Suo-motu cognizance regarding publication of objectionable news items on 23.12.2020 by Yashobhumi. (44, 182, 202, 417, 503, 504, 505, 1864/ 2020/SM/A–PCI)	29.05.2023	Dropped being sub judice

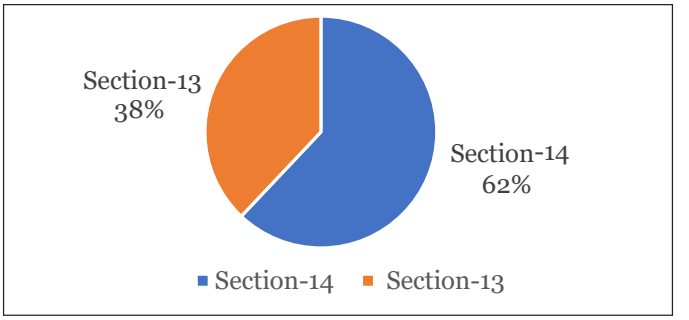
S. No.	Parties	Date of Order	Decision
76.	Suo-motu cognizance regarding publication of objectionable news items on 23.12.2020 by Navbharat. (44, 182, 202, 417, 503, 504, 505, 1864/ 2020/ SM/A–PCI)	29.05.2023	Dropped being sub judice
77.	Suo-motu cognizance regarding publication of objectionable news items on 23.12.2020 by Hindi Samachar . (44, 182, 202, 417, 503, 504, 505, 1864/ 2020/SM/A–PCI)	29.05.2023	Dropped being sub judice
78.	Suo-motu cognizance w.r.t. publication of misleading advertisements by Dainik Bhaskar, Delhi Edition. (2/Suo-Motu/2020-A–PCI)	21.08.2023	Censured
79.	Suo-motu cognizance w.r.t. publication of advertisement as news by the Dainik Bhaskar, Delhi Edition. (1641/Suo-Motu/2020-A–PCI)	21.08.2023	Closed as corrigendum published by respondent newspaper
80.	Suo-motu cognizance w.r.t. publication of advertisements in the form of news by the Dainik Jagran, Delhi Edition. (SM/3/ JUNE/2021-A-PCI)	21.08.2023	Disposed of with warning to respondent newspaper
81.	Suo-motu cognizance w.r.t. publication of advertisements in the form of news by the Dainik Jagran, Delhi Edition. (SM/ JUNE/5/2021-A-PCI)	21.08.2023	Disposed of with Warning to respondent newspaper
82.	Suo-motu cognizance on publication of misleading advertisement by Nav Duniya (Ministry of Ayush) (14/455/SM/2019-20-PCI)	28.03.2024	Disposed of (undertaking filed by the respondent)
83.	Suo-motu cognizance on publication of misleading advertisement by Nai Duniya (Ministry of Ayush) (14/459/SM/2019-20-PCI)	28.03.2024	Disposed of with direction (undertaking filed by the respondent)

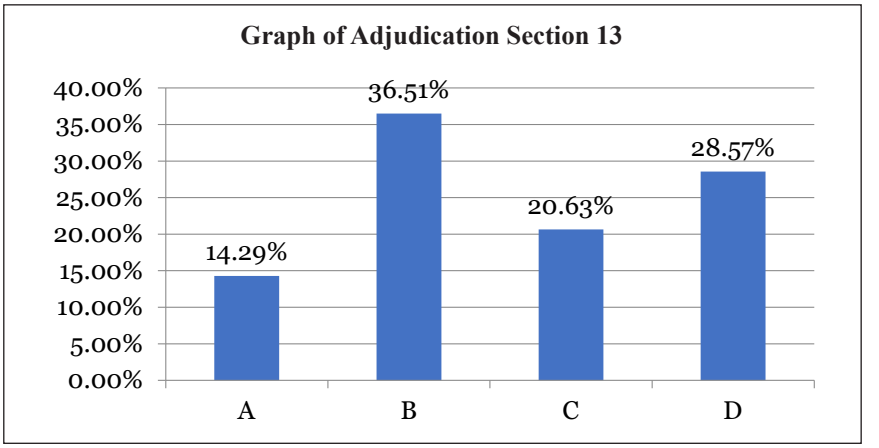
S. No.	Parties	Date of Order	Decision
84.	Suo-motu cognizance on publication of misleading advertisement by Dainik Jagran Patrika (Ministry of Ayush) (14/496/SM/19-20-PCI)	28.03.2024	Disposed of (undertaking filed by the respondent)
85.	Suo-motu cognizance on publication of misleading advertisement by Divya Himachal (Ministry of Ayush) (14/461/SM/2019-20-PCI)	28.03.2024	Disposed of (undertaking filed by the respondent)
86.	Suo-motu cognizance on publication of misleading advertisement by Amar Ujala (Ministry of Ayush) (14/464/SM/19-20-PCI)	28.03.2024	Closed with oral undertaking by the respondent
87.	Suo-motu cognizance w.r.t. publication of misleading advertisement by Munsif Daily Newspaper, Hyderabad Edition (Ministry of Ayush) (14/465/SM/2019-20-PCI)	28.03.2024	Disposed of with oral undertaking by the respondent
88.	Suo-motu cognizance on publication of misleading advertisement by Dinakaran, Erode Edition (Ministry of Ayush) (14/467/SM/19-20-PCI)	28.03.2024	Disposed of with undertaking filed by the respondent
89.	Suo-motu cognizance on publication of misleading advertisement by Udayavani, Bengaluru (Ministry of Ayush) (14/471/SM/19-20-PCI)	28.03.2024	Disposed of with oral undertaking by respondent
90.	Suo-motu cognizance on publication of misleading advertisement by Etemaad Daily, Hyderabad (Ministry of Ayush) (14/480/SM/19-20)	28.03.2024	Disposed of with undertaking filed by respondent

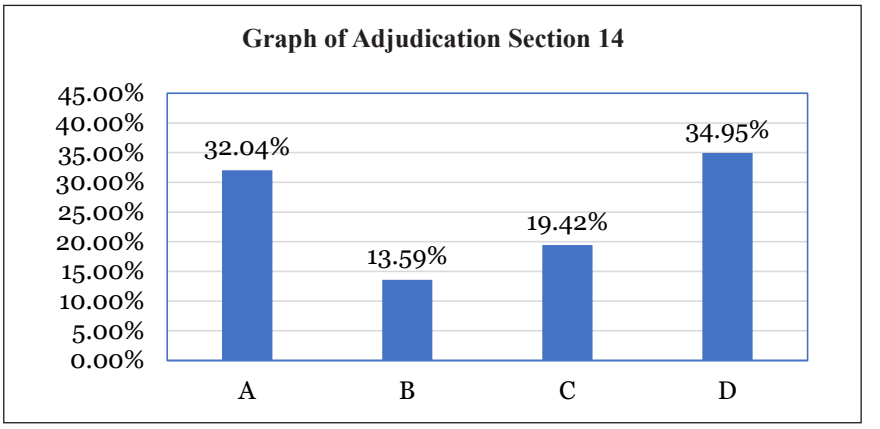
S. No.	Parties	Date of Order	Decision
91.	Suo-motu cognizance on publication of misleading advertisements by The Inquilab (Ministry of Ayush) (14/490/SM/19-20-PCI)	28.03.2024	Disposed of with undertaking filed by respondent
92.	Suo-motu cognizance w.r.t. publication of Misleading advertisement by Makkal Oli, Tamil Monthly Magazine (Ministry of Ayush) (14/509/SM/2019-20-PCI)	28.03.2024	Disposed of with undertaking filed by respondent
93.	Suo-motu cognizance on publication of misleading advertisement by Maalai Malar, Chennai Edition, (Ministry of Ayush) (14/511/SM/2019-20-PCI)	28.03.2024	Disposed of with undertaking filed by respondent
94.	Suo-motu cognizance on publication of misleading advertisement by Puthu Vasantham (Ministry of Ayush) (14/512/SM/2019-20-PCI)	28.03.2024	Disposed of with oral undertaking by respondent
95.	Suo-motu cognizance against the newspaper Dainik Jagran, New Delhi for publication of obscene, vulgar and misleading advertisement. (SM/Feb/1/2021-A-PCI)	28.03.2024	Assurance
96.	Suo-motu cognizance with regard to the publication of misleading, obscene and vulgar advertisements by Navbharat Times, New Delhi Edition. (SM/March/3/2021-A)	28.03.2024	Censured
97.	Suo-motu cognizance against the newspaper supplement of the Times of India, Delhi Times for publication of advertisement in the form of news (SM/March/2/2021-A-PCI)	28.03.2024	Warned

S. No.	Parties	Date of Order	Decision
98.	Suo-motu cognizance with regards to publication of advertisement in the form of news by the Times of India, New Delhi (Education Times and Supplement Delhi Times) (SM/2/June/2021-A-PCI)	28.03.2024	Warned
99.	Suo-motu cognizance against the Outlook Hindi Magazine, New Delhi for publication of advertisements in the form of news articles. (SM/June-1/2021-A-PCI)	28.03.2024	Warned
100.	Suo-motu cognizance against the Dina Thanthi newspaper, Madurai Edition for purportedly violating Press Councils Model Guidelines for publishing Overseas Advertisements in accordance with Emigration Act, 1983. (SM/233/2022-A-PCI)	28.03.2024	Discharged
Misleading Advertisement			
101.	Complaint of Shri Om Prakash Vijayvergia, Jaipur against the Editor, Mumbai Mirror, Mumbai. (14/524/19-20-PCI)	21.08.2023	Censured
102.	Complaint of M/S Hindustan Pencils (P) Ltd., Mumbai against Dainik Bhaskar, Jodhpur (398 & 399/2022-A-PCI)	21.08.2023	Complaint closed with observation for complainant
103.	Complaint of M/S Hindustan Pencils (P) Ltd., Mumbai against Divya Bhaskar, Ahmedabad. (398 & 399/2022-A-PCI)	21.08.2023	Complaint closed with observation for complainant

Graph of Adjudications (2023-2024)







A Upheld
B Dropped
C Assurance/Settled/Amends
D Dropped for Non-pursuance/Sub-judice/Withdrawal/Lack of Substance

ANNEXURE - J

Index of Principles Recorded in Adjudications in Complaints Filed against the Press

1. While writing about Indian Army, Navy or Air Force every newspaper should be extremely careful because they are the backbone of the country and irresponsible reporting may harm national interest. Nothing should be said which would in any way affect the morale of Indian Armed Forces. Sensitive news items or editorials pertaining to Indian Forces shall be published on proper verification and after exercising due caution.

(Adjudication No. 1877/2020-A -PCI dated 29.05.2023, The P.C.I. Review, July 2023 Issue)

2. Mere criticism of a political leader made by a letter writer cannot be objected to. However, the editor must verify whether the letter writer is making any statements which are personal, derogatory and made in unparliamentary language. The editor's discretion will come into play in such a situation.

(Adjudication No. 376/2022-A-PCI dated 29.05.2023, The P.C.I. Review, July 2023 Issue)

3. While publishing articles, news items etc., the newspapers should eschew unparliamentary or vulgar language, particularly when reference is made to a woman. Character assassination must be avoided.

(Adjudication No. 14/406/2019-20-PCI dated 29.05.2023, The P.C.I. Review, July 2023 Issue)

4. In a multi-religious country like India one has to be careful while opining on religious beliefs and rituals associated with any religion

because opinions expressed on half-baked knowledge without studying the tenets of a particular religion may lead to distortion of facts and hurt religious sentiments. Religious issues are sensitive issues and one must not take liberty of dealing with them unless one has the required expertise and thorough knowledge about the concerned religion and its rituals.

(Adjudication No. 303/2021-PCI dated 17.11.2023, The P.C.I. Review, January 2024 Issue)

PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA, NEW DELHI