

# CHAPTER - I

## General Review

Year 2005-2006 witnessed the emergence of new trends in field of journalism globally. Two prominent newspapers of country came forth to appoint readers editor, another brought in important personalities and Guest Editors.

One of the newspapers in America introduced 'Reader's Choice' to finalise the story for being presented on the front page of the paper. Newspaper houses tried to attract the attention of public through improved looks of their newspapers. More and more newspapers across the world started adopting the tabloid form of newspaper. Similarly, blogging caught on the fancy of the people with a flair for writing.

On the flipside, as per the report made public by the international organisation to protect journalists interests/rights large number of journalists became victims of political or iconoclastic warfare. The publication of blasphemous cartoons of prophet Mohammad in Danish newspaper sparked a row leading to riots in various countries and a debate over freedom of the press verses religious sensitivity. This incident led to drafting of code of conduct for cartoons by European Union.

As regards the Indian press, it generally shouldered its responsibilities satisfactorily. Though communal and separatist write-ups with inflammable tendencies were avoided and reasonably high professional standards were maintained by the press. The press even questioned the role and values of the electronic media in coverage of some incidents and events like the coverage of the self immolation bid by a Patiala based trader in January 2006. It was however observed that certain sections of media/press are devoting increased space/coverage to unexplained phenomena associated with occult in such a way so as to make readers believe in them. Such practices hamper scientific temper and promote superstition at the cost of our rich literary heritage backed by reasoning.

The Press Council of India, the vanguard of press freedom of journalists ethics in India for the past 40 years has played a key role during the year in maintaining public trust and confidence in the news media by promoting professional ethics, fairness, accuracy and balance.

The present Chapter provides an insight into the activities of the Council during the year and the state of national as well as international press.

# Introduction

This is 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Report of the Press Council of India, since its re-establishment in April 1979 under the Act, 1978. During the year Council steadily worked towards promoting harmony and balance between the freedom of the press on the one hand and the maintenance and improvement of the standards of newspapers and news agencies on the other.

The Council consists of a Chairman and twenty-eight other members. The Chairman is a person nominated by a Committee consisting of the Chairman of the Council of States (Rajya Sabha), the Speaker of the House of the People (Lok Sabha), and a person elected from amongst themselves by the members. Of the other members, 13 are working journalists, of whom six are editors of newspapers, and the remaining seven are working journalists other than editors. Six members are those who own or carry on the business of management of newspapers. One member is a person who manages a news agency. Three members are persons having special knowledge or practical experience in respect of education and science, law, and literature and culture, of whom, respectively, one each is nominated by the University Grants Commission, the Bar Council of India and the Sahitya Academy. The remaining five members of the Council are members of Parliament, and of these, three represent the Lok Sabha and two the Rajya Sabha. The Chairman and other members hold office for a period of three years. It needs to be clarified here that the 20 members representing the press are nominated to the Council, in accordance with the procedure prescribed, out of the panel of names filed by press organisations and news agencies notified by the Council as having an all-India character. The Press Council Act does not provide for individual membership to newspapers or press persons. However, in reaching out to the newspapers of the country and rendering its adjudicatory and advisory role the Press Council levies an annual fee on newspapers/periodicals/news agencies that contribute to the revenue of the Council.

In furtherance of its objects, some of the important functions which the Press Council performs are: to help newspapers and news agencies to maintain their independence; to build up a code of conduct for newspapers, news agencies to maintain their independence; to build up a code of conduct for newspapers, news agencies and journalists in accordance with the professional standards; to ensure on the part of the newspapers, news agencies and journalists, the maintenance of high standards of public taste and to foster a due sense of both the rights and responsibilities of citizenship; to encourage the growth of a sense of responsibility and public service among all those engaged in the profession of journalism: to keep under review any development likely to restrict the supply and dissemination of news of public interest and importance; to promote a proper functional relationship among all classes of

persons engaged in the production or publication of newspapers or in news agencies; and to concern itself with developments such as concentration of or other aspects of ownership of newspapers and news agencies which may affect the independence of the Press. In the discharge of the above functions, the Council has a twin role to play, one of a guide and advisor and the other of an adjudicator of the complaints brought before it on any matter concerning the freedom of the press or its professional standards.

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

One of the unique features of the Press Council of India is that it is one of few such bodies to have been set up under an Act of Parliament. Most parallel institutions or similar bodies in most countries of the world are voluntary organizations or have come into existence after the Indian Council. Notwithstanding the fact that a substantial part of its funds is augmented by grant-in-aid from the Government, it has full functional autonomy and independence from government control in the discharge of its statutory responsibilities.

## **Working of the Council**

### **April 1, 2005-March 31, 2006**

## **Meetings of Council and its Committees**

The Council carries out its statutory obligations as set out in Section 8(1) of the Press Council Act, 1978 which says: "For the purpose of performing its functions

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

Pursuant to this provision, the Council not only constitutes Standing Committees but also *ad-hoc* Committees from time to time to facilitate the designated work. Generally all the Committees are headed by the Chairman of the Council. But at times *ad-hoc* Committees are constituted under convenorship of one of its members. The important Sub-Committees which were constituted and functioned during the period under review, were:- (i) Sub-Committee on formulating Model Press Accreditation Policy (ii) Sub-Committee on Problems of Small & Medium Newspapers and (iii) Sub Committee on the issue of Working Journalist Act *vis-à-vis* Appointment of Journalist on Contract .

The full Council held three sittings during the period under review. The workload of the Council has increased manifold.

The two Inquiry Committees, which are Standing Committees presided over by the Chairman of the Council shoulder the largest quantum of the workload of the Council by holding inquiries in respect of the complaints received by the Council. Their proceedings are open to the public. The parties to the cases are entitled to substantiate their stand through relevant evidence, oral or documentary. They are also allowed to be represented by lawyers. The Committees at the close of inquiry, considering the records and oral submissions made before them submit their recommendations with regard to cases inquired to the Council for final decision. During the financial year, the two Inquiry Committees held 10 sittings and heard a total of 193 matters and made their recommendations to the Council for final adjudication. The composition of Inquiry Committees headed by Chairman of the Council for the year under review is given below:

### **Inquiry Committee (I)**

1. Shri Kundan R. Vyas
2. Shri J.S. Dardi
3. Shri Hiranmay Karlekar
4. Shri K. Sreenivas Reddy
5. Shri Anant Bagaitkar
6. Shri Devendra Chintan
7. Shri S.N. Sinha
8. Shri Abhay Chhajlani
9. Shri Vijay Kumar Chopra
10. Shri Ramesh Gupta

11. Shri K.K. Thomas
12. Dr. Prabha Thakur, M.P.
13. Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, M.P.
14. Shri Laxman Singh, M.P.

## **Inquiry Committee (II)**

1. Shri K.S. Sachidananda Murthy
2. Shri Uttam Chandra Sharma
3. Shri R.K. Arora
4. Shri Geetartha Pathak
5. Shri Joginder Chawla
6. Shri Vinay Kumar
7. Shri M.K. Laul
8. Shri Hormusji Nusserwanji Cama
9. Shri Pratap T. Shah
10. Shri Keshav Dutt Chandola
11. Shri Pratap Pawar
12. Dr. Lalit Mangotra
13. Shri Balbir K. Punj, M.P.
14. Dr. Sebastian Paul, M.P.

## **Complaints before the Council**

During the year under review, a total of 726 complaints were instituted in the Council. Of these 150 complaints were by the Press against authorities of the Government for violation of press freedom and 576 complaints were directed against the press for breach of journalistic ethics. With 975 matters pending from the last year, there were a total of 1701 matters for disposal by the Council. Of these 940 matters were disposed of during the year, either by way of adjudication or through summary disposal by the Chairman on account of settlement by the mediation of the Chairman or due to lack of sufficient grounds for holding inquiries or non-prosecution, (withdrawal) or on account of matters having become *sub-judice*. In all 760 matters were being processed at the close of the year. A detailed statement of the institution and disposal of complaints is at Annexure - A.

## **Press & Registration Appellate Board**

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

At the beginning of the period under review 12 appeals were pending before the board and 10 more appeals were preferred. The board held four sittings during the year. Out of these 22 appeals, 19 appeals were disposed of three appeals are pending for consideration before the Appellate Board.

## **Appointment to the Post of Secretary in the PCI**

The post of Secretary to the Press Council of India was filled up with the appointment of Smt. Vibha Bhargava permanently to the post of the Secretary to the Council during the year.

## **Vigilance Activities**

The vigilance set up of the Council, consisting of the Secretary as the CVO and a Deputy Secretary and Section Officer, functioned under the direct supervision of the Chairman of the Council. It conducted surprise checks to prevent/combat any corrupt practices in the Secretariat.

## **Seminars and Workshops**

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

## **National Press Day Celebrations, 2005**

National Press Day was observed on November 16 with discussion on ‘**Media Ethics: Fetters or Freedom**’. The commemoration in the capital were inaugurated by Shri Shivraj V. Patil, Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs. Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, the then Information and Broadcasting Minister and Shri H.R. Bhardwaj, Hon'ble Minister of Law and Justice were the Guests of Honour. A Souvenir carrying contributions from eminent personalities was also released on the occasion. Similar deliberations were held at various levels through out the country and the newspapers dedicated the day to declare their commitment to a free and ethical press.

The Council also organized a workshop and two seminars during the year 2005-2006. Workshop on August 4, 2005 to “Sensitize Media on Disaster Management”; “Trivialization of Content in Media” in Pune on February 10, 2006 and “Role of Media During Communal Strife” in Ayodhya on March 25, 2006 respectively. Apart from the meets organized by the Council, the Chairman of the Council also represented it at various fora to promote the objects of the Council and create an awareness of its function.

## **Hindi Diwas-2005**

Like every year, Hindi Fortnight (Pakhwada) was observed in the Secretariat from 14.9.2005 to 28.9.2005. The 14<sup>th</sup> of September is observed as the Hindi Diwas.

A function commemorating Hindi Diwas was organised on 27 September, 2005 in the Secretariat. This was preceded by an essay competition among the students of journalism in their institutes during 14.9.2005 to 28.9.2005. A workshop was also organised on 21.12.2005 to improve the use of Hindi in the Secretariat.

## **Tributes**

Dr. Rafiq Zakaria and Mr. C.R. Irani, members of the Council between 1979-1984 and 1979-1982 left for their heavenly abode in July 2005. The Council condoled their demise and paid rich tributes to them recording their valuable contribution to the Press Council and dedicated and selfless service to the nation.

## **Changes in Membership**

Shri P.K. Bansal, Member of Parliament representing the Lok Sabha on the Council left the membership w.e.f. February 7, 2006 upon his induction in the Union Cabinet. The Council awaits the nomination to fill his vacancy.

## **References from the Central Government**

### **1. Reference from Ministry of I & B regarding draft National Policy for Consumers**

The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India *vide* its letter dated 24.5.2005 forwarded a copy of the letter dated 11.5.2005 of the Secretary, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, New Delhi along with a copy of draft National Policy for Consumers seeking Council's comments in the matter. The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution states that "consumer welfare and protection of consumer interests are concepts which are now universally accepted as critical factors of good governance and Department of Consumer Affairs, being the nodal department for ensuring consumer protection and welfare, has taken a number of measures/initiatives to protect consumers' interests including that of the enactment of a Central Legislation i.e. Consumer Protection Act.

The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has further stated that it had constituted a Committee for formulation of a National Consumer Policy which submitted the draft Consumer Policy.

The Council is concerned with Point 3 of the draft Consumer Policy reproduced below: -

Point 3: Information: Access of Consumers to adequate and reliable information: -

- a) Advertising laws and standards, including self regulation would be reviewed, by incorporating a suitable code in the proposed Trade Practices Act,

covering all advertisement channels: press, electronic, internet, cable and other advertisements;

- b) Mandate and support demystification of product/service standards laid down by various national agencies, including BIS, by a strong sustained and regular media program, road shows, VCO based dissemination programs, etc. on standards for daily use products/services;
- c) Partnerships with media associations like Advertising Standards Council of India, Press Council of India, cable TV associations, etc., to promote consumer interest through a Standing Committee on Consumer Information;
- d) Central and State Governments would pay special attention to development of mass media programs, especially for disadvantaged consumers like illiterate, to enable them to become more discriminating consumers, especially on product safety and unfair trade practices, and through National Literacy Mission.

The Council further noted that clause 4 of the draft policy regarding provisions of right of the consumers to make informed choice was an important aspect of consumers rights and clause 4(b) also had a bearing on the print media. It provides that "Advertisements targeted at children below 14 years would be banned keeping in mind their inability to make informed choices as part of the proposed Trade Practices Act".

Having discussed the matter at length the Council decided as follows:

- 1. The document should clearly provide for the answerability of the authorities to the citizen. Therefore, a methodology be devised whereby the citizen as a consumer of government service would know the status of his case.
- 2. It was necessary to guard against vulgarisation and glamorisation of advertisements, which only lead to trivialization of the message sought to be conveyed by the advertisements. This needs to be guarded against. The norms already developed by the Council on advertisements carried by the press may be incorporated in the policy for reference.
- 3. Care should be taken to ensure that the areas falling under the jurisdiction of quasi-judicial bodies like the PCI are kept out of the consumers' policy.
- 4. Duplication of authorities engaged in redressal of grievance should be avoided.
- 5. Complete ban on advertisements targeted at children below 14 years is not desirable. However, the advertisements, which may prompt a child to emulate an action, which is dangerous to life, should be banned.

6. A nominee of the Council is proposed, be taken as a member on the Standing Committee for Consumer Information. Therefore, the Council through its representative would examine the advertisement on case-to-case basis to further the cause of ethicality in advertisements.

Further, the Secretary, Press Council of India has been nominated as a member of the working Group of Misleading Advertisement Constituted by Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Department. As a convenor of sub-group set up to suggest short-term measures to curb misleading advertisements, a report is under preparation for consideration by Working Group.

## **2. Reference from Central Government regarding amendments to the Rules under Tobacco Control Act, 2003 to control advertisements.**

The Council noted that Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India vide its letter dated 10.5.2005 while forwarding a copy of the letter dated 21.4.05 of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare along with a copy of draft amendments to the Rules, under Tobacco Control Act 2003 has sought comments of the Press Council of India specifically on point (iii) and (iv) and (v) reproduced below.

- (iii) Ban on display of scenes in movies/TV serials depicting the tobacco products and their use;
- (iv) Mandatory requirement of health warning if such scenes appear in old movies and scenes where characters are shown smoking in public places in such movie/serials;
- (v) Comprehensive definition of 'indirect advertisement'

The Council noted that Central Government had thereafter issued certain directives prohibiting depiction of smoking on screen. The action elicited varied reactions from even within the government, with the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Information & Broadcasting adopting different approaches. However, the two ministries had since reached a mid way solution that is to come into effect in October 2005.

Insofar as the specific provisions aforementioned are concerned, the Council noted that in the past the Council had advised the government to lay down a clear cut policy on the issue of liquor and tobacco products advertisements and undoubtedly there was need to promote an awareness about the ill-effects of the products on the social well being of the citizenry, especially the adolescent citizens, but a complete ban on depiction of smoking in films etc. was not the solution. What was needed was to be on guard against glamorisation and glorification of the act of smoking etc. This it felt would help to gradually wean the people away from the products by way

of informed choice and a conscious decision. In a further development the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India *vide* its order dated 25.4.05 nominated Secretary, Press Council of India as member of the Screening Committee constituted by the Ministry to take cognisance *suo-motu* or look into specific complaints regarding violations of Section 5 of the Act relating to the prohibition of direct or indirect advertisements of the cigarettes and other tobacco products.

### **3. Civil Writ Petition No. 7654 of 2005 Filed by Shri Jaswant Singh Vs. Star News and others in High Court of Delhi at New Delhi.**

The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting *vide* their letter dated 13.6.2005 sought the comments of the Press Council in respect of an advertisement involving 'Star News' and 'Jagran' newspaper pending before the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi. The fact of the matter was that the correspondent of 'Star News' had released the impugned advertisement in 'Dainik Jagran' as a part of its 'sting operation' to expose the racket of sale of kidney, in violation of Section 19 of Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994. The consequential activities were recorded by them on a spy camera and telecast in the programme 'Red Alert' on 'Star News' in April 2005.

Arising out of this, a Writ Petition No. 7654 of 2005 was filed before the High Court of Delhi wherein the Union of India in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting was a respondent. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had sought the advise of the PCI particularly in the circumstances, when a newspaper advertisement is given by a third party without consent of the person, especially in the matter related to kidney transplantation, as also the action taken by the Press Council of India in this kind of matter.

The matter was discussed at length by the Council. It felt that the instant matter has important ramifications *vis-à-vis* investigative journalism and the editor's responsibility with regard to scrutiny of advertisement contents. The Council had laid down specific norms that guided the journalist undertaking an investigation as also regarding the editors' responsibility *vis-à-vis* content matter of advertisements. The Council also felt that the prime issue for consideration in the matter was whether or not the investigation undertaken was in public interest. The Council also felt that in investigative journalism, importance of accountability of the journalist should be underscored to ensure against any oblique motives in undertaking the investigations. Keeping in mind the facts of the case, the Council felt that there could be no doubt that the exposure was in public interest and the media channel had, in the impugned advertisement, not asked for kidney on payment basis but invited donation. This was a vital step in uncovering the racket in public interest and deserved the support of the authorities.

## **Reference from Rajya Sabha Secretariat regarding opinion of the Hon'ble Chairman, on Contempt of Court (Amendment) Bill, 2004.**

The Rajya Sabha Secretariat, *vide* its letter dated 29<sup>th</sup> June 2005, sought the views of the Chairman, Press Council on the provisions of the Contempt of Courts (Amendment) Bill, 2004 that the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel Public Grievances, Law and Justice, headed by Shri E.M. Sudarsana Natehiappan, M.P. was considering.

The Chairman forwarded his written opinion to Rajya Sabha Secretariat on 12.7.2005 and personally interacted with the Committee on 15.7.2005.

The Council took on record the opinion of the Hon'ble Chairman sent to Rajya Sabha on the Contempt of Court (Amendment) Bill, 2004.

**The Council received two references regarding blocking out of news of public interest and ignoring regional interest. The Council opined as follows:**

### **1. Blocking out of News by Media**

Freedom of Press should not be restricted and discretion of Press should not be challenged. If somebody has deliberately suppressed news in order to help some person or group proved to commit a crime, legal action may be taken against that agency through other channels. If any news is not published, it does not mean a negation of the right to information. State should make sure that all information of public interest reaches in time to the media.

### **2. Regionalisation of News**

Freedom of press should be maintained and it should be left to the discretion of newspapers to cover the different kind of news according to the needs of readership. Newspapers normally cover local, regional and international news according to the interest of existing and prospective readers and it depends on the availability of space in the newspaper.

### **News - Content-Advertisement Ratio:-**

The Council was approached during the year by an NGO for laying down a specific news content: Advertisement Ratio.

The Council discussed the matter at length with members, representing various segments of the press, expressing divergent views having regard to court judgements and recommendation of the Press Commission in the matter.

The first issue for consideration was whether the matter affected the standards of the press U/S 13 of the Press Council Act. The members felt that the press has to be relevant to the times. The dynamics of the print media was changing with the

advent of the electronic media and the changing social milieu and market driven economy. Despite its social responsibility, the newspaper publishing was still a business venture and had to be commercially viable. Another view point that emerged was that determination of price: page and news : advertisement ratio was essential for survival of plurality of newspaper industry and to stop the growing monopolistic trends. It was also felt that grievances were being raised at several quarters about suppression of news of public interest. After detailed debate the Council opined that while fixing a ratio between news: Advt. content or price : pages was not the concern of the Council, it was undoubtedly concerned over the trivialization of news and its market driven presentation at the cost of the social responsibility. The Council felt that while advertisements form a prominent constituent in the sale of a newspaper, these should by no means lead to marginalization of news. It decided that the Council should remain vigilant against any development that affected the standards of the press in the country.

**Matter raised by Mrs. Karuna Shukla, M.P. regarding “Need to ban fake advertisement in newspaper inviting applications for employment with view to safeguard the interest of unemployed persons”.**

With reference to the publication of advertisement of overseas job vacancies in contravention of Emigration Act, 1983, considered by the Council on April 28, 2003 and covered in 25th A.R. of the Council (2003-2004), the Council again received another such matter through Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, raised by Smt. Karuna Shukla, M.P. regarding “Need to ban fake advertisement in newspapers inviting applications for employment with view to safeguard the interest of unemployed persons” for comments. The Council drew the attention of the government to the guidelines developed by it on the issue in order to help to protect gullible people from being befooled or misled.

**MA No.399 of 2005 Abu Salem Abdul Qayoom Ansari Versus the State of Maharashtra and the Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting filed in the Designated Court of Bomb Blast cases, at Greater Bombay (TADA Court)**

Abu Salem an alleged accused in 1993 Mumbai Bomb Blast case approached the TADA Court for an appropriate inquiry against all newspapers, news agencies and TV channels instrumental in disclosure of outcome of the aforesaid case through Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The Ministry *vide* its communication dated 25/11/05 solicited factual statement on behalf of the print media from the Press Council of India.

The Press Council while noting out that the matter in question primarily related to coverage of applicant's case by electronic media, pointed out that its jurisdiction extends only to print media. However, standing by its earlier affirmation that the

standards and ethics for reporting cannot be different for these two mediums, it placed reliance on guidelines developed on reporting news pertaining to court proceedings or matters pending the consideration of the courts.

### **Implementation of Council's Adjudication and its Empowerment**

The Council noted the defiance of the direction of the Council u/s 14(1) of the Act and stressed the need for power ensuring that the press abided by the directives and the observations of the Council. It also noted that the Central Advertisement Policy drawn up by the DAVP held a provision for denial of advertisements to the newspaper held guilty of violation of ethics by the Press Council. Therefore, it decided that the adjudications of the Council, specially the case where the newspaper had been censured by the Council, should be forwarded to the DAVP for consideration of action under the aforesaid clause. The Council also decided that the State Governments may be advised to incorporate a similar provision in their respective policies. This would not only help in the enforcement of the Council's directives but by virtue of its functional implications act as a deterrent in violation of ethics by the press in the country.

The Council further resolved that since the Act also requires the Council to ensure that the media functions without any threat or hindrance, the adjudications of the Council in cases where the authorities were found to have impinged upon the freedom of the press should be brought to the notice of the Presiding officer of the Lok Sabha/Rajya Sabha or the state legislatures, as the case may be, through the Chief executive of the House under the mandate of the Press Council Act 1978.

### **Appeals to the Media**

In the context of bomb blasts at Varanasi in the evening of March 7, 2006, Mr. Justice G.N. Ray, Chairman, Press Council of India made fervent appeal to the media to show exemplary restraint in its reporting. The Council advised media not to allow itself to be used by divisive forces to create tension in the country and distrust amongst the communities. The electronic media was specially urged to eschew the repeated telecast of distressing footage available with it.

It also advised the Government Authorities that the publication of correct and authentic information is vital to control the situation. To this end, the Central/State government was advised to ensure that the media had access to the latest information from authentic sources at all levels. The Council expects the government and the media do not ragged against each other as adversaries but be partners in trying to restore peace and normalcy.

Pursuant to the reference received from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the Press Council appealed to the Press to create public awareness regarding need for health screening while seeking matrimonial alliances. It had earlier advised

the press to carry a 'caution note' in the matrimonial advertisement columns of their respective newspapers for benefit of public. To this it recommended the addition of the following:

*“While choosing the life partner one may also undertake health screening to prevent any genetic disorder in any future offspring”.*

**The Council took suo-motu cognisance of the incidents of violation against media persons in the following cases.**

1. Persistent threats to professional journalists from militants organisation in Manipur.
2. Arrest of Chandigarh-based Principal Correspondent of India Express reportedly following his news report on a complaint against Police Officer before the Punjab State Human Rights Commission.
3. Arrest of some journalists of the State of M.P. reportedly on the directions of the State Education Minister.
4. Blockading of Statesman House by hawkers affiliated to CITU the obstruction of the supply of copies of the Statesman and Dainik Statesman (Bengali)
5. Incident of lathi-charge on the journalists of print as well as electronic media at Jehanabad (Bihar) on 15th November 2005 after the Naxalities attack.
6. Order issued by Government of A.P. restricting press functioning in the State.

The matters were at various stages of processing at the close of the year.

### **Interaction with World Press Bodies**

The Press Council of India interacted with Press Councils and Similar Bodies across the world and also other organisations involved in promoting freedom of the press and its standards. The Council is attempting to create awareness of the advantages of its statutory authority insulating it from the governmental or media pressure in its adjudicatory process, as a model self regulatory authority.

### **State of the Press-India**

In a democracy, the media, plays a vital role in dissemination of information of public interest and in public interest. During the period under review despite growing of the electronic media, the print media continued to hold its sway. This is amply clear from escalation in number and range of new publications on varied subjects and growth of the readership base. With the government policy *vis-à-vis* FDI in print media, more and more foreign players have joined hand with the Indian Media houses to enter into Indian market.

The RTI Act, 2005 enacted by the government has now *inter-alia* thrown open the doors for the media to bring to light every thing taking place explicitly or implicitly in the organisation or authorities in the interest of public. Media well played its role of moulding public opinion, when the newspapers throughout the country criticised the verdict given in Jessica Lal murder case. The public outcry through media resulted into re-opening of the case on the direction of Hon'ble High Court of Delhi.

Given below are a collection of reports that cover important developments in the World of Indian Press during the period under review.

## **Readership Survey**

\*The NRS 2005 reported that in terms of readership, urban and rural, Hindi daily newspapers are ranked the highest with *Dainik Jagran* at number one with a readership of 21,123,000 and *Dainik Bhaskar* with 17,373,000 readers ranked number two. Of the dailies in the top 10, nine are in the regional languages – five in Hindi, one in Telugu, one in Tamil, one in Marathi and one in Bengali – and only one in English. These figures exclude the reach of Malayalam newspapers.

According to the NRS 2005, one of the reasons for the increase in the growth of readership of newspapers is increasing literacy as measured by the ability to read and understand any language. The study estimates that in these terms, literacy has risen from 62.5 percent to 70.6 percent in the last three years with the rise being higher in rural areas – from 55.6 percent to 64.6 percent – than in urban India where it has grown from 79.3 percent to 84.5 percent.

This suggests, states the study, that there is scope for further growth in the print medium as there are still 314 million people who can read and understand any language but who do not read any publication.

Apart from readership data, the survey also documents the reach of the radio, which has stagnated at 23 percent of the population listening to any radio station in an average week. In urban areas, however, the audience for radio has grown because of the introduction of FM radio. On the other hand, in rural areas it has dropped in the last three years from 25 to 23 percent today. (**The Hindu, New Delhi dated June 9, 2005**)

## **Trends in Journalism**

\*Television channels, are impacting life in a big way in Tamil Nadu. These have spurred consumerism and changed lifestyles in other ways too, according to a study conducted by a Professor of Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS).

Mr. Lakshmanan, Assistant Professor at MIDS, has conducted a study on “Television, globalisation and social change” to get an overview of the television

channels in Tamil Nadu. He stated, “Satellite channels, which are more than 10 years old in the state, have brought many changes like increase in the consumption of Western products and change in lifestyle. Spawning beauty parlours, lifestyle stores and Western outlets were also part of the impact”.

Mr. Lakshmanan said, “They do not provide innovative programmes on education, art, culture and so on.” The soaps have also had an impact with many products like sarees being identified with the soaps and its characters, the study said.

The study also mentions the political connections of the channels. He said, “Except a few channels, all of them are controlled by political parties which use the medium to produce news in their favour.”

The study suggested that with little efforts the content could be made more educative and development-oriented. (**The Tribune, Chandigarh dated August 1, 2005**)

\*In August, Mumbai was not only flooded with rain, but also with newsprint. Two new English newspapers-*Daily News* and *Analysis* (DNA) and *Hindustan Times* (HT) hit the stands in a metropolis where *The Times of India* (TOI) has had a virtual monopoly. Suddenly, piles of newsprint are being dished out to readers, as newspapers compete with quantity as well as quality.

For months, DNA kept up an aggressive hoarding campaign, raising curiosity before its launch. Its promoters, the *Dainik Bhaskar* and *Zee* media groups, did a pre-launch survey of over 3 lakh households which increased anticipation and helped it lay the ground for its distribution network. *Hindustan Times*, on the other hand, has been more low key, but has tried to get loyal readers by offering annual subscriptions which amount to paying less than Re. 1 a day.

Why has Mumbai’s lethargic newspaper industry suddenly become a ‘hot market’ for new competitors? First, because it has the country’s largest advertisement revenue of Rs. 1,000 crores, of which only one player – *The Times of India* - has the lion’s share. The new entrants are vying for a piece of the pie. *The Times of India*’s advertising rates are the highest in the country. For long, advertisers have felt that they have been held to ransom as they have no choice but to pay exorbitant rates to *The Times of India* in order to reach Mumbai’s upmarket consumers. Now, there are other platforms, but they will have to prove themselves before advertisers start considering them an option.

*The Indian Express* is emphasising its USP – ‘Journalism of Courage’. As part of a campaign called “India Explained, India Empowered”, it has got several prominent leaders including the President, Prime Minister, former Prime Ministers and film actor Shah Rukh Khan to write columns on the front page describing their idea of an ‘empowered’ India.

*The Times of India*, while maintaining some of its fluff, has become far more news-oriented and also more colourful. “Our newspaper is aimed at empowering the reader. We are not into crusading or agenda journalism, but are still doing investigative stories on issues that matter in our reader’s life,” says Das. “With all the new newspapers coming in, the reader is the ultimate winner because everyone is splurging to gain his/her attention.”

But is it merely a Hobson’s choice? As Charudatt Dangat, Mumbai’s largest newspaper agent, put it, “What choice does the reader really have? It’s more in terms of price. Most of the stories in all of the newspapers are the same. The journalists keep shifting, from *The Times of India* to DNA and back again.” Another industry insider added, “Even though the readers want better content, unfortunately, the competition is taking place on the marketing and sales front, rather than the editorial”. (**The Frontline, Chennai dated September 23, 2005**)

## Press—A Ringside View

\*Rajasthan has recommended framing of a national information policy to deal with the enormous expansion of electronic and cyber media in the country and called for widening the scope of functioning of the Press Council of India by reconstituting it as the Media Council.

The State Parliamentary Secretary in charge of information and public relations, Bhawani Singh Rajawat, making the recommendation at the 25<sup>th</sup> conference of Information Ministers in New Delhi on April 16, said that a policy setting out the parameters for electronic media would facilitate the growth of responsible television and Internet journalism.

He added that the services of Press Information Bureau should also be expanded by opening its offices at all divisional headquarters.

The Rajasthan Minister said the national policy would especially benefit a border State like Rajasthan, which was facing “cultural attack” from across the border through radio and television. (**The Hindu, New Delhi dated April 18, 2005**)

## FDI in Print Media

\*The Union Cabinet on June 16 decided to facilitate greater foreign presence in the print media. This will be done by allowing printing of facsimile editions of foreign newspapers and periodicals and increasing the syndication limits in Indian newspapers.

Also, greater flexibility has been allowed for foreign investment in the print media within the existing 26 percent ceiling. This is expected to provide more avenues for Indian entities to overseas funds. As against the prevailing print media policy,

wherein only 26 percent foreign direct investment (FDI) is allowed, the Cabinet has decided to permit investments by non-resident Indians, overseas corporate bodies and persons of Indian origin and portfolio investments by recognised Foreign Institutional Investors within the existing ceiling.

While facilitating greater foreign participation, the Cabinet decided to continue with the policy of not allowing Indian editions of foreign newspapers. Foreign participation in the print media was allowed for the first time in 2002. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated June 17, 2005)**

\*The Commerce Ministry notified the foreign direct investment (FDI) norms for uplinking of news channels. Under the norms, based on the cabinet approval given last year, the government has allowed 100 percent FDI in uplinking of television channels in non-news category and 26 percent for news channels.

According to the norms, FDI upto 100 percent would be allowed with prior approval of the government for up-linking a non-news and current affairs TV channel. Added to this, FDI upto 49 percent would be permitted with prior approval of the government for setting up-linking HUB/teleports. **(The Indian Express, New Delhi dated January 18, 2006)**

\*The Delhi High Court has struck down a Union Cabinet decision which imposed a restriction on publication of syndicated foreign material by Indian newspapers, journals and periodicals making it amply clear that any restriction on the Press freedom of speech and expression has to be reasonable and legally backed.

The impugned notification of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting had sought to restrain foreign content in Indian newspapers, magazines, periodicals and journals. Under the syndication agreement Indian newspapers were allowed to publish 7.5 percent of foreign content on its publications. In July 2005, the Ministry by way of a notification raised this bar to 20 percent. The petitioner (Sunil Dang) had challenged the validity of the Government restriction on syndication terming it as an infringement of the rights and freedom of the Press.

The Centre defended its restriction by linking it with restriction on foreign equity in Indian newspapers. **(The Pioneer, New Delhi dated January 20, 2006)**

### **Incidents of Attack on Press**

\*Media persons from All Manipur Working Journalists Union and Editors Forum Manipur organised a protest rally in Imphal against the outlawed Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP) that allegedly took six senior scribes as hostages for not publishing or airing the full text of a press statement issued by the outfit. KCP also allegedly banned publication of an English for three months for misquoting a statement. The banned outfit took five editors of local dailies and a news editor of a local cable network, as hostages on April 16. The journalists were freed the next day after the

full statement was aired on the TV channel and published in the newspapers. The journalists also handed over a memorandum to Chief Minister, O Ibobi Singh, urging him to initiate steps so that mediapersons could work freely. **(Dated April 18, 2005)**

\*Manipur Hill Journalists' Union suspended publication of all Churachandpur-based newspapers from June 16-19, 2005 in protest against 'interference' and 'pressure' from several armed groups. The All Manipur Working Journalists' Union and Editors' Forum of Manipur also joined the protests and ceased publication of all Imphal-based newspapers on June 20, 2005. **(Dated June 14, 2005)**

\*Newspapers in Manipur on October 28, 2005 failed to hit the stands with journalists and editors protesting the growing interference by militants in media houses. Managements of daily newspapers published from Manipur took the extreme step of ceasing work to protest direct pressure being put by an outlawed militant group, the Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP), led by guerrilla leader City Meitei, on media houses.

"KCP militants had sent a Press release by fax a few days back to several dailies. Most of the newspapers did not carry the news-item" proprietor of a prominent vernacular daily published from Imphal said requesting anonymity.

On 27<sup>th</sup> rebel leader City Meitei himself called up several newspaper offices and warned editors and proprietors not to bring out their editions the following morning if they fail to carry the news- item. "We decided not to work and protest the mounting interference on journalists and newspaper managements" an editor of a vernacular daily said.

The All Manipur Working Journalists Union (AMWJU) has extended support to the decision and appealed to underground groups not to interrupt the functioning of the media in the State. Some publications have decided to stay off the stands on 29<sup>th</sup> as well.

Manipur has about 10 newspapers, seven vernacular and three English dailies. This is not the first time that dailies in Manipur have failed to hit the stands with journalists deciding to protest against interference by militant groups in the functioning of newspapers.

The Press in Manipur is caught in a Catch –22 situation with journalists becoming the target of both separatist groups and the State Government, leading to a muzzling of the freedom of the Press. Several journalists were killed by militants in Manipur and newspaper offices attacked with bombs. Newspaper editors were also arrested by police for publishing "seditious" and "anti-national" reports pertaining to some separatist groups. **(The Pioneer, New Delhi dated October 29, 2005)**

\*In an ironic assault on workers' rights on May Day, police attacked newspaper staff under the banner of the newly formed Confederation of Newspaper and News Agencies Organisations, who were on their way to Greater Noida to hold a demonstration at the venue of a function organised by the Hindustan Times, a leading English daily. In spite of the fact that prior permission for the march had been obtained, police stopped the workers and when the latter tried to proceed they attacked them injuring three people. **(Dated – May 1, 2005)**

\*Seven journalists were injured in the cross fire between militants and security personnel while covering a grenade explosion by militants on a police vehicle in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir. Ejaz Ahmed and Amir Ahmed (ANI), Manzoor Ahmed (India TV), Muzamil Rashid (Srinagar Mail), Firdous Ahmed (Zee Kashmir) and Amir Hussain (Subhe Kashmir) sustained injuries and were shifted to hospital. Sahara TV cameraman, Muzaffar Ahmed, was also seriously injured as he sustained bullet injuries to his abdomen. **(Dated July 29, 2005)**

The ULFA accused D.N. Bezboruah, a veteran journalist and former editor of English daily, The Sentinel, and Dhirendranath Chakrabarty of Dainik Asom of running a 'hate-ULFA' campaign in Assam and asked them to mend their ways or face the 'wrath of the masses'. **(Dated August 1, 2005)**

\*India is increasingly witnessing cases of violence against the media and systematic attacks on the freedom of the Press. The country, though, has a better record than neighbours like Bangladesh, China and North Korea, says the annual report by the "Reporters Without Borders" the organisation that tracks attacks on the media.

North India accounts for the majority of cases in which the media is targeted by the state or anti-social elements.

Last fortnight, the arrest of *The Indian Express* journalist Gautam Dheer by the Punjab Police and the knife attack on Shikha Das in Chhattisgarh had made headlines.

Last year, three journalists were killed in North India, says the annual report for 2004.

Parvaz Mohammad Sultan (35) was shot by two gunmen who entered his home in Srinagar's Press Enclave. Sultan was the owner and editor of a news agency - the News and Feature Alliance - a correspondent for the Indian newspaper *Quami Awaaz* and contributor for the Urdu-language daily *Chattan*.

Another media person who died on September 18, 2004, was Parmanand Goyal of Kaithal, Haryana. He used to work for the Hindi daily *Punjab Kesri*.

The third, Dineswar Brahma, a correspondent for the regional daily *Ajir Batori*, was killed in Assam's Dhubri by separatists.

Two other journalists were murdered in 2004, though it is not clear whether their deaths were related to their work.

The year also saw five journalists being arrested, two detained, 15 physically attacked and another 50 threatened.

Ram Chander Chaterpatti was the editor of *Poora Sach* in Sirsa and was gunned down after a spat with the Dera Sacha Sauda sect. The CBI is now investigating the case.

The year also saw some infamous arrests – like that of Iftikhar Ali Gilani and Kumar Badal of *Tehelka*. Several policemen also attacked Muzamil Jaleel, Bureau Chief of *The Indian Express* in Srinagar. **(The Indian Express, New Delhi dated September 5, 2005)**

\*Sixteen journalists have filed a complaint before the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and the Press Council of India demanding a probe into an incident involving the Jehanabad district magistrate a day after Maoists stormed a sub-jail on November 13.

A big contingent of print and electronic journalists was covering the chaotic scenes in front of the sub-jail, when magistrate Rana Awadhesh Singh came up with a large number of policemen, the petition said.

When he accosted an *Aaj Tak* team which was telecasting the developments of the day after the jailbreak, K. Balchand, special correspondent of *The Hindu*, tried to intervene to prevent matters getting out of hand. Just then a mob, seeking “justice” from Mr. Singh, attempted to manhandle the magistrate. At this, he asked his guards to beat up the journalists. He himself hit Mr. Balchand with a baton and shouted expletives at him, the petition said.

Copies of the petition have been sent to the President, the Prime Minister, the Chief Justice of India, the Chief Justice of the Patna High Court, the Chief Election Commissioner and the General Secretary of the Council of Protection of Public Rights and Welfare, Patna. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated November 24, 2005)**

\*The Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO) of Visakhapatnam in his capacity as Sub Divisional Magistrate, issued an order asking journalists working in *Andhra Jyoti* and *Leader* to submit reports filed by the city bureau of the two papers for screening.

The notice said the two papers were publishing adverse reports of alleged land deals by bureaucrats and politicians in the city. Citing Section 144 of the Cr. PC, the RDO said any news reports about these issues should be submitted to a three person committee.

Interestingly, the screening committee comprised three senior journalists of the city and the convenor was the district public relations officer. The three journalists

protested against including their names without their consent and promptly submitted their resignations. When angry journalists held meetings and burnt the effigies of the RDO and the District Collector to protest against the efforts to curtail press freedom, an embarrassed government worked overtime to get the offending order rescinded. **(The Deccan Herald, Bangalore dated December 12, 2005)**

\*Police used batons and fired tear gas shells as protesters in several areas on the city damaged vehicles and enforced a shutdown against a photograph of the holy kaaba in Mecca on playing cards published in a leading news weekly.

Copies of the issue of *India Today* have been seized from newspaper agents and a case registered against the weekly at the Maisuma police station. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated March 1, 2006)**

### **Regulation of Electronic Media**

\*Cable TV operators, beware ! Principals of local women's colleges could be keeping tabs on what you are showing in your localities. They will be part of the monitoring committees being set up by the I&B Ministry in every district of India to check transmission of pornographic programmes on cable TV networks.

Having failed to enforce the Cable TV Act effectively, the government has issued orders for setting up district-level monitoring panels for programmes and ads telecast by cable TV operators and channels.

These surveillance Committees, one in every district will be headed by the District Magistrate, and will have as members the District Police Superintendent, Principal of one of the women's colleges in the District and the District Public Relation Officer. The other members, to be nominated by the DM, will include representatives of a prominent NGO in the district and of an NGO dealing with women's welfare.

The panel will also induct a psychologist, a sociologist or an academician.

"The committees will review and deliberate on complaints, even take *suo-motu* cognisance of violation of codes," says the government order. If the panel detects a violation, the DM can under Section 20 of the CTV Act, confiscate the equipment or initiate action under IPC. In case of a violation by a channel beaming the programme, the DM will apprise the Additional Secretary of the I&B Ministry. **(The Indian Express, New Delhi dated October 29, 2005)**

\*Government is mulling a law to regulate content on TV and an inter-Ministerial group is already looking into the matter. The proposed Bill could be ready before the Budget Session of Parliament, Information and Broadcasting Minister, Shri P.R. Dasmunshi said in Rajya Sabha. **(The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated November 29, 2005)**

\*Gudiya died of gynaecological problems in Delhi hospital. Within a month of her marriage, she became a “widow” only to get married to another person in due course. But when her first husband who was presumed to have died in the Kargil war returned from a Pakistani jail, she was already in the family way. That was when an intense “debate” occurred on her in newspaper columns. Who had greater claim on her – the first husband or the second? What about the paternity of the “child”?

Gudiya could have herself decided all this. But that was not to be. At that juncture, a news channel thought of what it called a “historical intervention”. It organised a “live panchayat” where the families concerned and some clerics were brought together. It was titled “Kiski Gudiya”? (Whose Gudiya?) with a sub-title “Yeh Kaisa Bandhan?” (What kind of a bond is this?) It was telecast live into millions of households. The panchayat was conducted under the framework of the Shariat (Islamic law) and the anchor constantly reminded the viewers that any decision had to be taken within this frame work.

What mattered to the channel was clear when the anchor announced, “Isi majlis mein faisla hoga” (the decision will be taken in this gathering). Gudiya had no time to reflect upon. Nor was she given a choice.

Ultimately, Gudiya decided to stay with her first husband.

The point to be noted is that the anchor was not prepared to allow a dissenting voice in the whole proceedings. The “panchayat” was to decide the fate of a woman but no women were allowed anywhere near it. “Gudiya ki marzi” (Gudiya’s wish) everybody sighed when they departed from the panchayat. If she belonged to a rich family, would the channel have organised this farce? What mattered to the channel was not “Gudiya ki marzi” but viewership rating. She was forgotten the moment the arlight was switched off. Choice was not a word that existed in her lexicon. (**The Tribune, Chandigarh, dated January 4, 2006**)

## Court Cases

\*Upholding the media’s right of a “fair criticism” of court judgements, the Supreme Court has cautioned news organisations against casting motive on the judiciary merely for the purpose of “sensationalising” news reports on any verdict. It said such motivated criticism would erode people’s faith in the justice-delivery system.

Laying down the guidelines for media as to what extent they could go in criticising the judgement of a court, a Bench of Mr. Justice Y.K. Sabharwal and Mr. Justice Tarun Chatterjee upheld the conviction of trade union leader Rajendra Sail from Madhya Pradesh for contempt of court. He was awarded a sentence of six months’ imprisonment by the MP High Court for “casting motive” on the judge for acquitting the accused in trade union leader Shankar Ghua Niyogi murder case in 1998.

His statement against the judgement was published in a local Hindi daily, *Hitavada*, whose editor, publisher, printer, bureau chief, chief sub-editor and reporter were also convicted by the High Court.

However, the Supreme Court let off the functionaries of *Hitavada* as it had published an apology for the mistake committed by it even before the High Court had issued notices to them.

The Bench said while criticising the judgements of the courts the media should keep in mind that the “freedom of expression must be exercised with utmost care and responsibility. It must not be abused”.

“Judgements of courts are public documents and can be commented upon, analysed and criticised, but it has to be in dignified manner without attributing motives. The media – whether print or electronic – all concerned have to see whether any such criticism has crossed the limits.”

Court also suggested that the media has to evolve a mechanism by itself against unfair and motivated criticism of court verdicts as TV channels were telecasting news round the clock to every nook and corner of the country. (**The Tribune, Chandigarh dated April 26, 2005**)

\*Terming the provisions of the Press And Registration of Books Act, 1867 as a reflection of “colonial mindset”, the Delhi High Court has said that the government should consider introducing changes in the archaic law to bring it in conformity with freedom of speech and expression guaranteed under the Constitution.

“These provisions reflect a colonial mindset which appears to be an anachronism in the contemporary democratic era in which freedom of speech and expression is guaranteed under Article 19(1)(A) of the Constitution and is one of the pillars of the Indian democracy,” Justice Mukul Mudgal said.

The court felt that the 138 year old Act, particularly Section 5(2), needed to be changed as it required the printer and publisher of a newspaper to appear in person or through an agent before a magistrate for the declaration in respect of publication of newspaper and every change carried out in relation to the newspaper. “It is for the government to consider whether such outdated norms embodied in the Act which are reflective of expression of imperial power of the ruler over printers and publishers of newspapers ought to remain on the statute book,” the court observed. (**The Asian Age, New Delhi dated August 10, 2005**)

\*The Himachal Pradesh High Court has held a reporter of a Hindi daily newspaper guilty of committing contempt of court and sentenced him to pay a fine of Rs. 1,500.

The Chamba-based reporter of the Jalandhar based daily, Deepak Raina, sent a news item wherein he commented adversely on the functioning of the judiciary in

the Asha Kumari land case. The High Court took a *suo-motu* notice of the news - item and issued a show cause notice to the editor as well as the reporter of the daily.

The court observed that the comments reflected in the newspaper were patently contemptuous in nature and the publication of the news item tended to bring to disrepute the institution of judiciary. (**The Tribune, Chandigarh dated August 13, 2005**)

\*A juvenile court has held two prominent TV channels and a national English daily guilty of revealing the identity of a minor boy involved in the shocking MMS scandal. The court has contravened them under Section 21 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act.

Imposing a fine of Rs.1000 each on them, Juvenile Justice Board Principal Magistrate Santosh Snehi Mann said in her order, "I hold that all the three answering notices, (*NDTV, Zee TV and The Times of India*) have contravened Section 21 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, which safeguards the delinquent's identity, privacy and confidentiality, by revealing minute details about the boy, while reporting the case." Taking strong exception to disclosure of facts about the boy, the court said "these would expose him to the stigma from which he needs to be protected under the Act."

The boy and his school moved separate petitions in the court on December 12, last year complaining about the manner in which the entire incident was being highlighted by the media. (**The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated August 23, 2005**)

\*The Delhi High Court issued notices to the editors and reporters of *The Times of India* and *The Hindustan Times* for publishing allegedly "false and fabricated news" reports about jailed MP Pappu Yadav and a cultural show in Tihar jail.

"We feel that these two news items are further revelation of the facts on the issue before us in the matter of security and the administration in Tihar," the Judges said in the order. (**The Tribune, Chandigarh dated September 22, 2005**)

\*Delhi High Court on September 28, issued notices to *India Today* and *Outlook* Magazines for allegedly publishing obscene and sexually explicit articles in their respective issues of 19-26 September.

A division bench of Justice Vijender Jain and Justice Rekha Sharma also issued notices to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Press Council of India (PCI) to file their replies by December 7 as the articles allegedly influenced young minds.

Counsel Varun Goswami appearing for petitioner Supriya Aggarwal sought court's direction to the Ministry and PCI to formulate a policy to curb such sexually

explicit, obscene, lewd and objectionable articles in newspapers and magazines. The petition also sought direction not to sell any more copies of the issues.

Mr. Goswami alleged that in the cover story “Sex and Single Women” of *India Today* and “Women buy men sex, first hand encounters with Indian Gigolos and nationwide survey for forbidden sex” of *Outlook*, the Editors and Correspondents of the respective magazines had exceeded all restraints, limits and barriers of civility, responsibility towards the citizens.

The stories under the garb of statistical survey were loaded with explicit, lewd, cheap and indecent expressions and details, which were absolutely unnecessary, said the petition.

“Enquiries revealed that publication of pornographic, adult and sexually explicit articles are prohibited in India and it has been so prohibited keeping in mind, the typical and traditional values and ethos of the Indian society,” it said. **(The Tribune, Chandigarh dated September 29, 2005)**

\* Editor of *India Today* Prabhu Chawla moved the Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court, seeking to quash a case against him for publishing the remarks of actress Kushboo on premarital sex, in the Tamil edition of the magazine issue dated September 28.

In his petition, Mr. Chawla said Sankarankoil town secretary of the Pattali Makkal Katchi R. Ramkumar had moved the complaint against him and the actress under Sections 499 (defamation), 500 (punishment for defamation) and 501 (printing or engraving a matter known to be defamatory) of the IPC.

The views expressed by the actress as published in the magazine would not disclose the commission of the alleged offences, he said and added. “The learned magistrate, on an erroneous appreciation of law, took cognisance of the complaint and has issued process upon the petitioner,” the petition stated. Moreover, that the case had been filed to settle political scores against the actress and the intention of the complainant was to “silence the voice of media from expressing any fair opinion.” **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated November 17, 2005)**

\*A city court has taken on file a complaint by Union Shipping and Road Transport Minister T.R. Baalu, seeking punishment for the Editor and Managing Editor of a Tamil journal who, he alleged, had defamed him.

The court has posted the case to December 7.

In his complaint filed by counsel A. Balaguru and P. Wilson, Mr. Baalu submitted he commanded “a remarkable and unassailable reputation in the estimation of the public.” *The Junior Vikatan*, in its October 23, 2005 issue, published a defamatory news item under the caption “Mulaividuthu Moondravathu Goshti” It was published

with his photograph with the object of tarnishing his political image and lowering his reputation. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated November 22, 2005)**

\*Actress Khushboo has decided to file a defamation suit against *Maxim*, a UK- based men's magazine recently launched in India. The first Indian edition of this magazine carried a morphed picture of the actress.

Khushboo said, "The story and the photograph are both in bad taste. They have made derogatory remarks and I am very upset." According to her lawyer, R. Karthikeyan, the actress will file a defamation case along with criminal and obscenity charges against the British publishers as well as the editors of the Indian edition. **(The Asian Age, New Delhi dated January 24, 2006)**

\*The notice came even as two other actors – Shilpa Shetty and Reema Sen- were summoned by a Madurai district court on February 14, for "posing for obscene photographs" published in the Tamil evening *Tamil Murasu*, owned by the Sun TV group. The actors have been asked to appear before the court on March 10. The court has also issued summons to the newspaper's editor and publisher. **(The Indian Express, New Delhi dated February 16, 2006)**

## Parliamentary Privileges

\*The Lok Sabha Inquiry Committee, which probed the cash-for-question scam involving members of Parliament, has not only given the media a clean chit but said that it had done its duty.

"Media is in no way to blame for exposing genuine wrongdoing", the five member Committee headed by Congress MP Pawan Bansal said in its report tabled in Lok Sabha. **(The Pioneer, New Delhi dated December 23, 2005)**

## Media Update-India

### Awards, Launches etc.

\*29<sup>th</sup> Matrishree Awards were conferred on journalists on May 8, 2005. The names of awardees are Manish Pandey(*Times of India*), Chandra Prakash Kamat(*Navbharat Times*), Anusuya Ray(*NDTV*) Ravi Sharma (*Aaj Tak*) Neeraja Chaturvedi (*Doordarshan*) Ritu Rajput(*Akashvani*), Rakesh Shukla(*Rajasthan Patrika*), Satish Makhija (*Medical*) Subhash Sachdeva(*Samaj Sewa*) Ziya Aslam(*Hindu*), Ashish Bhargava(*Hindustan*), H.C. Tiwari(*Hindustan Times*) Pratibha Shukla (*Jansatta*), Jitesh Vadhavan(*PTI*), Naresh Kaushik(*Bhasha*), Fazal Khan(*UNI*), R.K.Saxena(*Univarta*), Javed Akhtar(*UNI-Urdu*) Tridev Raman(*Punjab Kesari*), Manoj Verma(*India Today*)Shailesh Seth(*Star News*), Surendra Mandral(*Zee News*), Indrajeet Tanwar(*Rasthriya Sahara*), Shyam Sunder(*Dainik Jagran*) and C.N. Rao(*Eenadu*) **(Navbharat Times, New Delhi dated May 9, 2005)**

\*Columnist of *Dainik Jagran*, Dr. Raj Budhiraja was conferred with Kabir Samman for her philosophical writings. (**Dainik Jagran, New Delhi dated May 12, 2005**)

\*Amit Mathew, resident editor of *Malayala Manorama*, has been elected Executive Board Member of the International Press Institute (IPI).

IPI, a Vienna based international organisation of editors and senior journalists is committed to the freedom of the press and strives for excellence in journalism. (**The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated May 25, 2005**)

\*In the first ever awards for excellence in sports writing and photography instituted by the Sports Journalists Federation of India (SJFI) for scribes across the country, *The Hindustan Times* won the maximum number of awards.

Delhi sports editor Kadambari Murali won two awards – best cricket writer of the year and best news story of the year. Kolkata sports editor, Dhiman Sarkar was declared the best football writer of the year and Hindustan's Rakesh Thapliyal won the best Hindi feature writer and the best Hindi sports writer awards of the year. Senior photographer Virendra Singh's hockey picture was declared the best action picture of the year. *India Today's* Sharda Ugra was declared the sports writer of the year in English. (**The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated June 6, 2005**)

\*Freelance journalist Neeti Dewan and photographer of France Press, Prakash Singh have been selected for this year's Udyan Samriti Patrakarita Samman. (**Navbharat Times, New Delhi dated June 28, 2005**)

\*Two journalists of *Indian Express* have bagged the Prem Bhatia Awards for excellence in journalism for 2004-2005. The newspaper's Principal Correspondent in Patna, Varghese K. George, has bagged the award for political reporting, while Senior Assistant Editor, Jay Mazoomdar has been awarded for excellence in reporting on environmental issues.

Mr. George has won the prestigious award for his investigative series that exposed how State Government officials misused funds allotted for flood relief in Bihar.

Similarly, Mr. Mazoomdar's reports on the vanishing tiger population in the country got him the award. (**The Hindu, New Delhi July 20, 2005**)

\*It was a proud day for *The Pioneer* group as its product *Darpan*, the Inflight magazine of Alliance Air and Indian Airlines, was judged the Best Inflight Magazine by Hospitality India at a glittering ceremony at Hotel Ashok.

Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs, Jagdish Tytler handed over the Lifetime Achievement trophy to Dr. Chandan Mitra, Editor-in-Chief for making *Darpan* the best inflight magazine. The award is part of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of

Hospitality India, a noted trade magazine of the tourism and hotel industry. **(The Pioneer, New Delhi dated August 8, 2005)**

\*Dainik Jagran has been conferred with The Amity Media Excellence Award for giving a new face to the Hindi Journalism and for its extensive reach throughout the country. **(Dainik Jagran, New Delhi dated August 26, 2005)**

\*Shobhana Bhartia, Vice-Chairperson of *Hindustan Times*, was elected chairperson of the Board of Directors of PTI on September 8, 2005.

R. Lakshmiopathy, publisher of *Dinamalar* newspaper, was elected Vice-Chairman of the Board. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated September 9, 2005)**

\*Vinita Deshmukh, senior editor with *The Indian Express*, Pune, has won the first prize in The Statesman Award for Rural Reporting 2004.

She won the award-constituted in 1979-for her article, "The Village Roadshow", about the reverse migration into Maharashtra village, analysing the factors contributing to it. **(The Indian Express, New Delhi dated September 17, 2005)**

\*Shree Padre, well-known rainwater harvesting activist and development journalist, received the prestigious *Statesman* National Award for rural reporting at Kolkata on September 16.

According to a press release, he received the second prize, a cash award of Rs.5,000 and a citation from *Statesman* Chairman N.A. Udwardia at a ceremony held at Kalamandir, Kolkata.

The award winning feature on the successful drought-proofing techniques adopted and practiced by Nagal family of Hungund in Bagalkot was published in *Deccan Herald* in 2004. **(The Deccan Herald, Bangalore dated September 20, 2005)**

\*Jacob Mathew, Executive Editor, *Malayala Manorama*, Kottayam, was elected President, Indian Newspaper Society, for 2005-06 at its 66<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on September 29, 2005.

Gulab Kothari (*Rajasthan Patrika*, Jaipur) was elected Deputy President, I.Venkat (*Sitara* film weekly, Hyderabad) Vice-President, and Mahendra Mohan Gupta, Honorary Treasurer. Deepak S. Raja is the Secretary-General of the society.

Editor-in-Chief of *The Asian Age* M.J. Akbar has been re-elected President, Editors Guild of India for another term.

Om Thanvi – who edits the Hindi daily *Jansatta* – has been re-elected Secretary-General. Y. C. Halan will be Treasurer. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated September 30, 2005)**

\*Reputed news-magazine *Outlook* is celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary in a way that reflects its ethos. As a magazine that “speaks out against injustice”, *Outlook* will confer “Speak Out” awards on six persons who have made a difference by working for the underprivileged sections of society. **(The Asian Age, New Delhi dated October 7, 2005)**

\*Reporting for more than a decade from Kashmir, Muzamil Jaleel, Srinagar Bureau Chief of *The Indian Express*, said he “feels lucky to be alive”. Jaleel was speaking after receiving the Kurt Schork award in international journalism by the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. The other two awardees, Canada’s Patrick Graham and Poland’s Pawel Smolenski, were elected for their reporting from Iraq.

Constituted in May 2001 in memory of Kurt Schork – a US journalist killed while on assignment in Sierra Leone – the annual award is given for fearless news reporting. **(The Indian Express, New Delhi dated October 27, 2005)**

\*A journalist with *The Hindu Businessline* has received a global media award at the U.N. Sponsored World Summit on the Information Society. Vipin V. Nair, Kochi based Principal Correspondent for *Businessline* received the Media Award for 2005 given by the London-based Panos Institute, a development news resource and the Global Knowledge Project (GKP), an international net working agency, for his April 2005 feature story in the paper “Waiting to Fly” which dealt with funding challenges of the Kerala e-literacy programme. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated November 16, 2006)**

\*Fourth Banaras Beads Economic Journalism’s National Award was conferred on Shri Anshuman Tiwari of *Dainik Jagran*. State level award for economic journalism was conferred on Shri Harvir Singh of *Dainik Hindustan*. **(Dainik Jagran, New Delhi dated November 16, 2005)**

\*The Prime Minister Manmohan Singh went in for a selective reshuffle of the portfolios of his ministers. The Information and Broadcasting Ministry has been given to P.R. Dasmunshi who will also look after Parliamentary Affairs. **(The Tribune, Chandigarh November 19, 2005)**

\*The State Government announced the Environmental and Developmental journalism awards for the year 2002-2005.

Sri Padre, Principal Advisor ‘*Adike Patrike*’ for the year 2002: Nagesh Hegde, Assistant Editor, *Prajavani* for the year 2003; H.R. Krishnamurthy, Deputy Director General, Akashvani South Zone for the year 2004 and Abbur Rajshekar, Chief Reporter, *Prajavani*, Davangere for the year 2005.

M R Gavirayappa, former Deputy Director, Akashvani for the year 2002; Viswanath B. Patil, editor, *Damana Patrike*, Bidar for the year 2003; G. S. Ujjinappa,

reporter, *Chitradurga* for the year 2004 and T.V. Shivananda, reporter, *The Hindu*, Gulbarga for the year 2005. The award carries a cash prize of Rs.50,000 each and a memento. **(The Deccan Herald, Bangalore dated November 24, 2005)**

\*At a glittering ceremony in Singapore on December 1, Karan Thapar won the Asian Television Award for Best Current Affairs Presenter for the year 2005. This is the first time in the 10-year history of the Asian Television Awards the most highly regarded in the Asian continent, that someone has won the coveted trophy for Best Current Affairs Presenter three times. Mr. Thapar first won the award in 1999 and then again in 2003.

This year, Karan Thapar won the Best Current Affairs Presenter award for a HARD talk India India interview broadcast of BBC World.

Indian News channel NDTV bagged two awards. NDTV was also the winner in the Best News Programme category for its programme Waves of Destruction, on last year's devastating tsunami. **(The Tribune, Chandigarh dated December 3, 2005)**

\*Doordarshan, NDTV, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation and Australian Broadcasting Corporation have won top honours at the Commonwealth Broadcasting Awards 2006.

Doordarshan bagged the CBA-World Bank Award for Programmes on Development Issues for its programme "From Fallows to Food Baskets", produced by DDK, Hyderabad.

Doordarshan has also won the CBA-UNICEF Award for Children's Programme for the television drama "Joymoti". The CBA-IBC Award for Innovative Engineering went to NDTV. **(The Deccan Herald, Bangalore dated February 17, 2006)**

\*One of the most visible faces of science journalism, Pallava Bagla, was awarded the first National Award for Outstanding Efforts in Science and Technology Communication in Print Media by the National Council for Science and Technology Communication.

He has been writing for 18 years now, and has contributed reports and pictures to *National Geographic*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Time* and *The Indian Express* among other publications. **(The Indian Express, New Delhi dated February 28, 2006)**

\*The IPDC Bureau awarded the 2005 IPDC-UNESCO Prize for Rural Communication, to the Indian daily newspaper, *Malayala Manorama*.

The paper was awarded for its imaginative communication campaign aimed at raising awareness among the people of Kerala on the importance of water

conservation as a solution to the problem of droughts in the region. **(The Malayala Manorama, Kottayam dated March 2, 2006)**

\*“*Rajasthan Patrika*”, a Hindi daily published from Jaipur and other towns in Rajasthan on March 21 announced the appointment of a Readers’ Editor and Instituted two “international awards” for excellence in journalism and social advertising.

Gulab Kothari, Editor of *Rajasthan Patrika*, said at a function marking the newspaper’s golden jubilee here that the Readers’ Editor would protect the interest of readers and contribute a commentative piece in the newspaper every week.

*Rajasthan Patrika* is the first language newspaper in the country to establish this institution. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated March 20, 2006)**

\*The Vice-President Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, on May 30, inaugurated a special research project on “Post –Independence Indian Journalism” by advocating the cause of Hindi and asserting that methods should be explored to ensure that the rashtrabhasha (national language) becomes the Rajbhasha (official language) of this country.

The research project on ‘Post Independence Indian Journalism’ has been launched by the Makhanlal Chaturvedi Rashtriya Patrakarita. Vishwavidyalaya (Makhanlal Chaturvedi National University of Journalism). **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated May 31, 2005)**

\*Inaugurating the launch of the Orissa edition of *The Pioneer*, the Chief Minister said a historic newspaper like *The Pioneer* has entered Orissa at a time when so many things are happening to the State’s advantage. The newspaper will make meaningful contribution to our progress, Mr. Patnaik observed.

Dr. Chandan Mitra, Editor-in-Chief and CMD of *The Pioneer*, said the launch of the Orissa edition completed a big link in the paper’s chain in India. Initially, a UP-based paper, *The Pioneer* launched its Delhi edition in 1991 and today has five live editions across the country.

He said the Bhopal edition was launched in April, 2004 and only last month, the paper made its grand entry into south India by launching its Kochi edition. **(The Pioneer, New Delhi dated June 5, 2005)**

\*June 16, 2005 witnessed the launch of the much-awaited *Business and Economy magazine*, India’s pioneering research and analysis-driven business and economy fortnightly, an initiative of Planman Consulting India Limited and Centre for Economic Research and Advanced Studies, IIPM unveiled ceremoniously at a city hotel by former diplomats and cabinet ministers, Arun Shourie and Yashwant Sinha; *B and E* heralds a new beginning in the publication industry in India. The

magazine would be available on stand from June 18 and would carry a prize tag of Rs.10 (**The Tribune, Chandigarh dated June 18, 2005**)

\**Hindustan Times* which launches its maiden public issue on the 4<sup>th</sup> August plans to mop up Rs.300-400 crores from the market. The company with the proceeds from the IPO plans to expand its readership base by entering the competitive Mumbai market, besides spending on printing facility in Greater Noida.

HT Media Vice Chairman Shobhana Bhartia said the funds generated through the IPO would be utilised primarily to meet the company's capital expenditure plans and brand building initiatives as well as obtain the benefits of listing. (**The Pioneer, New Delhi dated July 27, 2005**)

\**Dainik Jagran* with a view to strengthen its attachment with J&K started its Jammu edition on August 1, 2005. (**Dainik Jagran, New Delhi August 1, 2005**)

\*With the launch of its Newspaper in Education (NIE) programme in the Capital on August 5 *The Hindu* is all set to catch the early morning school bus to 40 educational institutions across the city.

Principals and representatives of a large number of schools attended the launch ceremony at Hotel Samrat here in the afternoon.

Having successfully run the NIE programme down South since 2000, covering 640 educational institutions in 24 cities, the programme in Delhi will revolve round select themes during this academic year.

They include "Know your newspaper". "Improve your language skills", "Disaster management", "Dramatics" and "Cartooning". (**The Hindu, New Delhi dated August 6, 2005**)

\*"The Tribune has stood as a sentinel. It is not a mere newspaper. It has become a part of the family in the society of this region", Justice R. S. Pathak, President of The Tribune Trust, said while launching the Jalandhar edition of the paper at a glittering ceremony on October 14.

Justice Pathak said that Sardar Dyal Singh Mejjithaa had intended to publish a newspaper for educating the masses and *The Tribune* had been maintaining its standards of "accuracy and objectivity". He hoped that the "bond between *The Tribune* and the public will continue to grow in strength and confidence." (**The Tribune, Chandigarh dated October 15, 2005**)

\**International Herald Tribune*, the international newspaper owned by *The New York Times* and printed at 30 sites, including India started printing in Istanbul. (**The Deccan Chronicle, Hyderabad dated November 17, 2005**)

\**Nature*, the world's most prestigious journal on science and technology, may come up with an Indian edition by 2006-end besides opening an office in Bangalore.

As per its plans, Nature would recruit a business development officer by the first quarter of 2006, who would take the final decision on the southern office after assessing the publication and market scenario in India. The business development office will be located in Gurgaon near Delhi.

The 146 year old journal that has published some of the most outstanding scientific discoveries, including discovery of DNA's double helical structure, is keen on increasing its presence in the Indian subcontinent. **(The Deccan Herald, Bangalore dated November 27, 2005)**

\*The popular English magazine *Reader's Digest* is launching a special edition exclusively on conservation, wildlife and animal stories on December 17, hoping to do its bit to save the flora and fauna of the country.

A joint initiative of the Union Ministry of Tourism, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) India and *Readers' Digest*, this latest edition is aimed at creating awareness and generating funds to conserve the Indian one horned rhino found in Assam and other parts of the country.

The special edition will have a selection of 50 photographs contributed by over ten photographers from across the country, along with interesting write-ups. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated December 16, 2005)**

\*Mr. Priya Ranjan Dasmunshi, Information and Broadcasting Minister released 'Making News', a compact book on highlighting scenario of journalism, challenges and future in contemporary India. **(Hindustan, New Delhi dated January 27, 2006)**

\*Cushrow Russy Irani - Cushrow to all who knew him well – was 74 years old when he died on July 23, 2005 afternoon after a longish illness. He was the chairman and editor-in-chief of *The Statesman*. He originally trained to be a lawyer in the Government Law College in Mumbai and then worked in insurance. He came to *The Statesman*, the newspaper with which his name has come to be inextricably linked, in 1968 at the initiative of Nani Palkhivala, a close relative.

Once in *The Statesman*, Irani never looked back and within a few years came to control the newspaper and the organisation. He was the author of major changes in *The Statesman* during his long innings at the top. These changes would not have been possible without Irani at the helm of affairs. **(The Telegraph, Kolkata dated July 24, 2005)**

\*With the passing of Chanchal Sarkar on October 10 Indian journalism has lost one of its initial stalwarts whose outstanding contribution helped it, in the uncertain days after independence, to acquire the ethos that has made it one of most vibrant and free of its kind in the world today.

An alumnus of Presidency College, Kolkata and Cambridge University, and called to the bar from Lincoln's Inn, London, he was among the few Indians of his time who had a direct entry in *The Statesman's* fabled corridor as an Assistant Editor. He quickly proved his worth, both in Kolkata, where he joined, and in Delhi, where he was transferred to lend the paper a larger profile in India's capital city. **(The Pioneer, New Delhi dated October 11, 2005)**

\*Renowned journalist and TV personality Y.K. Madhavankutty, who had survived a plane crash and reported about it, died on November 2, 2005 at the age of 71.

A doyen of journalism, he began his career with the popular Malayalam daily "*Mathrubhumi*" in 1952 after he left his village in Palakkad in Kerala and rose to become its Chief of Bureau in Delhi. He retired as the Editor of the newspaper. **(The Tribune, Chandigarh dated November 3, 2005)**

\*Freedom Fighter and Veteran Journalist Kumud Dasgupta died on November 18. As a revolutionary youth he took part in freedom movement and in British regime he was imprisoned for 14 years. Dasgupta was founder member of Press Club of Kolkata and Indian Journalists Union. As a journalist he fulfilled his responsibility as reporter as well as an editor. He worked in Bengali newspaper like *Satyug*, *Basumati*, *Aajkal* and *Bharat Katha*. **(Jansatta, New Delhi dated November 19, 2005)**

\*P.R Gupta journalist and founder editor and publisher of *Dairy India* and *Indian Poultry Industry Yearbook*, passed away on January 17 after a brief illness.

Popularly known as PRG, Gupta in 1952 took up his first job at the *Indian Express*. He also worked for the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Bureau of Petroleum Information, Burmah-Shell News and in the USIS. **(The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated January 29, 2006)**

\*Captain V.V.K. Mani, former Regional Manager of The Hindu at Bangalore, and now a Consultant, passed away here after a brief illness on February 18, 2006.

Captain Mani graduated from the Presidency College, Chennai, and joined the Army and became an artillery officer. Later, he was in the field of advertising and joined *The Hindu* in 1978. He served the paper for a quarter century. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated February 19, 2006)**

\*The Dalit Diary was born on April 4, 1999, in this relatively small-circulated daily. In six years, the column has expanded to a vast readership and broken language and continental barriers. The column now appears in the Telugu daily *The Vaartha*, published from 14 cities of Andhra Pradesh, and is reproduced by the Kannad journal *Samvada* from Bangalore. In all probability, a Malayalam weekly, too, is reproducing Dalit Diary. Some of the Dalit Diary articles are reproduced in Tamil as well. **(The Pioneer, New Delhi dated April 3, 2005)**

\*At 82, C.J. Chen is the editor and publisher of India's only Chinese newspaper, *Overseas Chinese Commerce of India*.

“Our circulation has dipped from 500 five years ago to 300,” says Chen who wears a compulsive smile. “That is because many of the 40,000 strong Chinese community in the city have migrated to China and Taiwan. Others do not know the Chinese script as they are studying in elite schools across the city.”

With a cover price of Rs.2.50 *Overseas Chinese Commerce of India* is a four-page daily newspaper, which focuses mainly on international news. “Because of lack of manpower and finances, we can't do justice to local news,” says Chen, who came to Kolkata from China in 1949. Some of the articles are handwritten, the rest is composed on a computer, and the paper is printed in an offset press. **(The Week, New Delhi dated May 1, 2005)**

\*“Udayanchal” is a small newspaper that prints only 1,000 copies but has managed to achieve what most mainstream newspapers have failed to do - getting Khanpur, a crowded settlement here in the Capital, to count. Making a difference with their stories, these are children who could teach most scribes a lesson in real journalism.

“The mainstream media is often dependant on the advertising. But our paper brings out the problems of the local community. We talk to residents, ask them about their problem and then print it. The newspaper talks about our problems,” says 16 year old Yogesh who is the editor. A result of a summer school organised by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti as part of the Gandhi Media Literacy Programme that aims to get children to read between the lines and equips with skills to empower them, “Udayachal” aims to carry on the tradition of journalism started by the Mahatma in “Indian Opinion” with the next generation. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated May 5, 2005)**

\*Marking the first time, two major newspaper houses in the same city have combined their readership for the benefit of advertisers, The Indian Express Group and the Mid-Day Group on May 12 announced a strategic advertising rate alliance for the Mumbai market.

The collaboration comes soon after The Indian Express Group bought a 10 percent stake in Mid-Day Multimedia Ltd. for Rs.25.54 crore. The two newspapers have a combined readership of roughly 20 lakh in Mumbai. **(The Indian Express, New Delhi dated May 13, 2005)**

\*Deccan Chronicle Holdings Ltd. (DCHL) has acquired an additional 67 percent stake in Asian Age Holdings Ltd. (AAHL) for a consideration of Rs.17.10 crore, taking its total holding in the media company to 90 percent.

Hyderabad based DCHL already holds 23 percent stake in AAHL, *Deccan Chronicle* said in a press note.

“The acquisition of *Asian Age* will transform DCHL into a national player with presence in the large advertising markets of Mumbai and Delhi in addition to the presence in Kolkata, Bangalore and London. (**The Tribune, Chandigarh dated May 24, 2005**)

\*The Rajasthan Government on June 1, banned the distribution of a book on the state’s folk gods and goddesses published by the Devasthan department following protests that certain paragraphs in it tended to glorify the practice of Sati.

According to an official spokesman, a probe also has been ordered into the publication of the book. The step followed protests by women’s organizations, who are seeking the lodging of a police complaint against Mr. Kalla, writer of the book, Mahendra Bhanawat and Minister of State for Tourism and Devasthan, Usha Punia, who released the book titled “Rajasthan Ke Lok Devi Evam Devta.” (**The Tribune, Chandigarh dated June 2, 2005**)

\*A weekly publication in Gujarat has just completed thirty years of living without carrying a single advertisement.

It may baffle marketing wizards but publishers of *Chandan* have already got an entry in the Limca Book of Record and are getting ready now for the next logical stop: The Guinness Book, for being the only weekly in the world to come out without any advertisements.

The weekly carries a small prefix *Chakram* before its title-this was its original name when it was started in 1947 by Noormohammad Jusabbhai Kutchi Memon.

With the birth of the talkies, the voice of Noormohammad-better known as ‘Golibar’ fell silent. He soon found it though by launching *Chakram*, a humour weekly. *Chakram* in Gujarati means a clown. (**The Indian Express , New Delhi dated July 10, 2005**)

\* “This is not a victory for me or for the book but for literature, democracy and safeguarding of the freedom of speech” Bangladeshi author in exile Taslima Nasreen told *The Hindu* here shortly after the Calcutta High Court quashed the ban on her controversial book *Dwikhandita* (Split in Two). (**The Hindu, New Delhi dated September 23, 2005**)

\*A Sex survey conducted by a weekly supplement circulated with the *Mumbai Mirror* has landed the publisher in trouble. Sam Dastoor was arrested on November 15 on charges of sale of obscene material and obscene objects to young persons before being released on bail.

The survey in question “Mercury Rising: How hot is Mumbai?” – was published in the November 12–18 issue of *Mirror Buzz* and explored sexual trends in the city.

*Mumbai Mirror*, Editor Meenal Baghel, however said conducting such as survey was a *bona fide* journalistic activity the world over. “This is not the first time such a survey has been conducted, she said”. (**The Indian Express, New Delhi dated November 17, 2005**)

\*The entry of a hi-tech and sleek Urdu daily is expected to add new vigour to the language of poets and nobles in this historic city.

Hyderabad has the distinction of being the largest hub of Urdu newspapers in the Indian subcontinent and is second only to Karachi.

Existing Urdu dailies are, however, gearing up to meet the challenge of *Etemad*, which is being printed using ultra-modern machinery. It also boasts a top-class editorial team. (**The Asian Age, New Delhi dated November 25, 2005**)

\*Newspaper growth is stagnating in the developed world. And as for advertising, as O’ Reily put it, it is growing by less than 2 percent a year in the European market.

And India? Year end figures put advertising growth in this country in 2005 at 14.1 percent, double digit for the second year running. What’s more, newspaper advertising grew faster at 16.1 percent to TV advertising’s 11.4 percent (Adex figures from TAM media research) With China and Indonesia, India tops advertising growth in the global market.

*Business Standard* and *Hindustan Times* got foreign partners after government policy changed to permit foreign direct investment (FDI). *Independent News* and *Media PLC* took a 26 per stake in *Jagran Prakashan*, which is poised to go in for an initial public offering (IPO) early this year. When it does so, the value of the stake that the foreign partner has in the Indian paper will grow. And meanwhile with policy changing to permit facsimile editions of foreign papers, it has applied for a license to bring the *Independent* here. (**The Hindu, New Delhi dated January 1, 2006**)

## **World Media in Indian Press**

### **United States of America**

\*American newspaper, *Los Angles Times* and *Wall Street Journal* were conferred with two each and Associated Press was conferred with one Pulitzer Prize. *Los Angles Times* got the public service award for highlighting the perilous problems and racism prevalent in the hospital. Second one was given to Kim Murphy for her reporting on Russia. *Wall Street Journal* got the award for highlighting the condition of cancer patients. (**Jansatta, New Delhi, dated April 7, 2005**)

\**Newsweek* has apologised for errors in a story that claimed that US interrogators had desecrated the Koran at a detention facility in Guantanamo Bay, and promised to investigate the story that led to deadly protests in Afghanistan.

In the magazine's latest edition, Editor Mark Whitaker wrote in a note to readers: "We regret that we got any part of our story wrong, and extend our sympathies to the victims of the violence and to the US soldiers caught in the midst.

According to reports from Afghanistan, at least 15 persons died following violent protests sparked by a May 9 report in the magazine that cited sources saying investigators looking into abuses at the military prison in Guantanamo Bay found interrogators "had placed Korans on toilets, and in at least on case flushed a holy book down the toilet"

In the past week it was condemned in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, Malaysia and by the Arab League. (**The Tribune, Chandigarh dated May 17, 2005**)

\**Newsweek* magazine will only use anonymous sources with the approval of a top editor from now on, the editor said after a retracted report on abuse of the Koran ignited riots in the Muslim world.

"From now on, only the editor or the managing editor, or other top editors they specifically appoint, will have the authority to sign off on the use of an anonymous source," Richard Smith *Newsweek's* chairman and editor-in-chief, wrote in the edition of the magazine for sale this week.

The name and position of such a source will be shared with the top editor, and the magazine will try to characterize the source appropriately, Smith said in his letter to readers explaining how news-gathering procedures would be improved following the retracted report. "The cryptic phrase 'source said' will never again be the sole attribution for a story in *Newsweek*" he said. *Newsweek* retracted its May 9, article, saying it could not substantiate the report that an internal military investigation had uncovered Koran abuse at the US military prison at Guantanamo Bay. (**The Statesman, New Delhi dated May 24, 2005,**)

\*Reporting news is a hazardous job. In 2004, 53 journalists were killed, 1146 were mal-treated and more than 600 news organisations were censured worldwide, according to the UN. (3May) was the 15<sup>th</sup> World Press Freedom Day, celebrating the theme, "Media and Good Governance".

In the USA, they don't kill journalists; but they do give them hell, using the subpoena power. Recently about 30 American journalists have been subpoenaed or questioned about confidential sources used in their reporting. Journalists cultivate confidential sources to uncover corruption and sometimes they know more about a case than crime investigators.

Sometimes courts, and even legislatures, demand information including photos and videos that have not even been published. They issue subpoenas to get the necessary information, failing which they exercise the contempt power. Contempt power could chill freedom of the Press because journalists would dread going behind

public relations handouts to find out the truth about the misbehaviour of public men. **(The Statesman, dated May 11, 2005)**

\*A watchdog group known for its campaigns against on-air indecency is protesting a popular fast-food commercial featuring celebrity heiress Paris Hilton seductively washing both a car and herself.

The Parents Television Council said it is encouraging its more than one million members to voice their disapproval of the ad to Carl's Jr., a hamburger chain owned by California-based CKE Restaurants.

Federal regulations bar television and radio broadcasters from airing indecent material – typically sexually explicit content-except late at night when children are less likely to be in the audience. **(The Telegraph, Kolkata dated May 26, 2005)**

\*Blogging has been a growing phenomenon on the internet for the past three years amid much speculation that it would change the face of media as we know it today. Millions of bloggers maintain their Weblogs, akin to writing in diaries or notebooks, with subjects so diverse that everything from horseshoes to the heavens is covered.

This is done at several thousands of blogging sites with an audience of several million. Blogging is absolutely simple. All one needs is an internet connection to log on to a blogging site (the majority of these being free), create an ID and a topic and go about writings as one wishes to. Today eight in 10 journalists in America regularly read blogs as they believe people should have the constitutional protection of free speech.

Now the latest study by Pew Internet and American Life Project revealed this month that blogs have not displaced the traditional media's information and influence, even though they have emerged as a powerful new force in American politics. **(The Statesman, New Delhi dated May 29, 2005)**

\*A bold *Los Angeles Times* experiment in letting readers rewrite the paper's editorials lasted all of three days. The newspaper suspended its 'Wikitorial' web feature after some users flooded the site over the weekend with foul language and pornographic photos.

The paper had posted on its website on June 17, 2006 an editorial urging a better-defined plan to withdraw troops from Iraq. Readers were invited to add their thoughts. Dozens did, with some adding hyperlinks and others adding opposing views.

One reader split the long editorial in two, something that pleased Michael Kinsley, 'The Times' editorial and opinion editor. But the number of 'inappropriate' posts soon began to overwhelm the editors' ability to monitor the site. On June 20th, editors decided to remove the feature. **(The Times of India, New Delhi dated June 22, 2005)**

## Source of Information

\*For 30 years, *The Washington Post* kept secret the identity of Deep Throat, waiting for the right moment to disclose the name of the person who helped the paper develop the biggest story in its history. On May 31st, the paper was scooped on Deep Throat's identity by a monthly magazine.

The revelation by the magazine, *Vanity Fair*, caught *The Post* by surprise and threw the paper into turmoil.

The initial reaction was not to comment. But at 5.29 p.m., the newspaper confirmed on its website that W. Mark Felt was Deep Throat. "It really landed on us," said Benjamin C. Bradlee, *The Post's* executive editor during the Watergate era. "I had no idea it was coming."

The surprise stemmed partly from the fact that *The Post* had pledged to Felt to keep his identity secret until he died. Moreover, *Vanity Fair*, which has a policy of fact-checking articles before they are printed, had not contacted the Watergate reporters, Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, deliberately, it turns out. **(The Indian Express, New Delhi dated June 2, 2005)**

\*For decades, readers have turned to *The Wall Street Journal* to learn how business and politics are played out in the boardrooms, and the back-rooms of the nation.

Will those same readers turn to make the perfect soufflé? Starting September 17. *The Journal* will add a Saturday issue named Weekend Edition, with a new emphasis on softer features- entertainment, travel, sports, arts, books real estate and, yes, recipes. The goal is to attract a more diverse base of advertising to pull *The journal* out of its prolonged slump.

The Saturday paper, which will be delivered at no extra charge- at least initially- to subscribers, will have a more airy, more casual feel than its daily counterpart, but will still be instantly recognisable as *The Wall Street Journal*. **(The Asian Age, New Delhi dated June 21, 2005)**

## CIA Leak Case

\*One of America's prestigious news magazines has caved in to pressure from the courts and agreed to hand over documents that risked revealing the identity of the confidential sources of one of its reporters.

Time magazine's decision to hand sub-poenaed records over to a special prosecutor investigating a White House security leak appeared to be aimed at sparing jail time for its reporter, Matthew Cooper, who was facing upto 120 days behind bars for contempt. But the move ignited a furore at a time when traditional protections afforded to journalists and their sources in the United States are becoming seriously eroded.

The magazine's decision was immediately criticised by *The New York Times*, which had hoped the two publications could stand firm together. (**The Tribune, Chandigarh dated July 2, 2005**)

\*US senators wrestle with a plan to shield journalists who protect anonymous sources, as a top reporter languishes in jails, still defying the courts in a politically charged leak probe.

Judith Miller of the *New York Times* will mark two weeks of times served for refusing to divulge her source in a legal showdown which has mushroomed into a *bonafide* scandal, centering on White House political guru, Karl Rove.

As Miller paid the price for what supporters say is a brave defence of press freedoms, senior US Senators prepared for hearing on a bill which would shield reporters who refuse to divulge anonymous sources.

The Free Flow of Information Act, before the Senate Judiciary Committee, would prevent federal agencies from forcing a journalist to spill the name of a confidential source. "The free flow of information is an essential element of democracy," said Senator Richard Lugar, one of the bill's co-sponsors.

"Compelling reporters to testify and, in particular, forcing them to reveal the identity of their confidential sources without extraordinary circumstances, hurts the public interest."

Lugar's spokesman, Andy Fisher, said that 12 senators had so far co-signed the bill, at a time of high political tension over the leak probe. (**The Times of India, New Delhi dated July 21, 2005**)

\*The Bush administration opposed federal legislation to protect journalists from having to reveal confidential sources because it would create "serious impediments" to law enforcement and fighting terrorism.

With *New York Times* reporter in jail for refusing to testify before a grand jury probe into the outing of CIA operative Valerie Plame, bills in the Senate and House of Representatives allowing reporters to shield their sources in most cases have gained traction.

But in written testimony provided to a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing, US Deputy Attorney General James Comey called the legislation "bad public policy" and warned it would cover "criminal or terrorist organisations that also have media operations, such as al-Qaida." "The bill would create serious impediments to the department's ability to effectively enforce the law and fight terrorism," Comey wrote.

The proposed legislation would require federal prosecutors and courts to exhaust all other avenues to obtain information before compelling news outlets and journalists to testify or produce documents except in cases of potential harm to national security.

Thirty one states and the District of Columbia have shield laws. **(The Times of India, New Delhi dated July 22, 2005)**

\*Fallout from the scandal of how a secret CIA operative's name came to be leaked to the U.S. media, which is threatening to engulf the White House in crisis this week, has also reached the newsroom of the venerable *New York Times*.

In an extraordinary memo to the paper's staff, Executive Editor, Bill Keller has launched a thinly-veiled attack on its controversial reporter Judith Miller, who spent 85 days in jail to protect the identity of a secret source in the affair of the CIA operative, Valerie Plame.

He said Ms. Miller had misled the paper about the real nature of her contacts with her source, later revealed as Lewis 'Scooter' Libby, a White House aide who could face criminal charges this week. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated October 24, 2005)**

\**The Washington Posts* editorial watchdog slammed legendary reporter Bob Woodward for committing a journalistic "sin" by waiting more than two years to reveal to the paper what he knew in a controversial CIA leak case. The newspaper's ombudsman, Deborah Howell, said Woodward should follow the same rules as other *Post* journalists despite the fame he has garnered since his prize-winning work in the Watergate scandal that brought down President Richard Nixon. Howell said the *Posts* credibility had taken "a hit" because the best selling author waited until last month to tell executive editor, Leonard Downie that a senior US administration official told him about CIA agent Valerie Plame in June 2003. **(The Statesman, New Delhi dated November 22, 2005)**

\*While the world focussed on remembering the atomic bombing of Nagasaki on August 9, 1945, journalists in New York announced on August 10 plans to dispute a Pulitzer prize awarded to a *New York Times* reporter for his eyewitness account of the bombing during World War II.

As a *New York Times* reporter, William L. Lawrence was given the prestigious award in 1946 for his eyewitness account of the bombing of Nagasaki.

Amy Goodman, host of the national radio and TV programme Democracy Now! And her brother, David Goodman, a contributing writer for Mother Jones magazine, are hoping that other journalists will follow their lead in asking the board to revoke the prize. The pair contended that Lawrence, a science correspondent for the "New York Times" at the time, was also on the pay roll of the US war department".

Lawrence was awarded by being given a seat on the plane that dropped the bomb on Nagasaki, an experience that he described in *The Times* with religious awe," they write. **(The Tribune, Chandigarh dated August 11, 2005)**

\*Federal auditors said the Bush administration violated the law by buying favourable news coverage of President George W. Bush's education policies, by making payments to the conservative commentator Armstrong Williams and by hiring a public relations company to analyse media perceptions of the Republican Party.

In a blistering report, the investigators, from the government accountability office, said the administration had disseminated 'convert propaganda' in the US, in violation of a statutory ban. **(The Times of India, New Delhi dated October 4, 2005)**

\*The United States has tied with Burma for sixth place among countries that are holding the most journalists behind bars, according to a new report by the Committee to Protect Journalists.

Each country is jailing five journalists. The United States is holding four Iraqi journalists in detention centres in Iraq and one Sudanese, a cameraman who works for *Al Jazeera*, at the United States naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. None of the five have been charged with a specific crime. This year, China topped the list of countries with the most journalists, 32, in jail, many of them for activity on the Internet. This is the seventh year in a row in which China has led the list.

A total of 125 writers, editors and photojournalists were held in jails around the world on December 1, 2005, the report said. **(The Asian Age, New Delhi dated December 15, 2005)**

\*Recent controversies over US anti-terror tactics have shed fresh light on attempts by the White House to use arguments of national security in pressuring the media to suppress damaging reports.

That pressure has included secret meetings between President George W. Bush and the Executive Editors of the country's most influential newspapers, *The New York Times* and the *Washington Post*. In both cases, the editors were warned that pieces they were planning to run challenging aspects of the US war on terror were against the national interest.

Both newspapers eventually ran the reports in question, but not without triggering debate over the extent to which their final content and timings were tweaked to satisfy the concerns of the Bush administration.

Coverage of national security issues became a hugely sensitive journalistic beat in the wake of the September 11, 2001 attacks when the charged atmosphere served to equate media criticism of the government's policies with a lack of patriotism.

The sit-down meeting was aimed at dissuading the *NYT* from publishing a report that Mr. Bush had authorised the National Security Agency to eavesdrop, without

a court warrant, on US citizens with suspected ties to *Al-Qaeda*. **(The Asian Age, New Delhi dated January 5, 2006)**

\*Wisconsin's second-largest newspaper is letting readers help decide what to put on the front page.

In an experiment designed to boost reader interest, the *Wisconsin State Journal* allows readers to go on its Website every weekday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and vote for their favourite out of five story ideas. Barring late breaking news, the winning story typically will appear on Page 1 the next day.

Ms. Ellen Foley, Editor of the paper, said it was not shirking its responsibility to judge news because editors provide the choices and do not have to follow the readers' pick, "The smart editors of America.... All understand that interactivity is part of our future," she said. **(The Asian Age, New Delhi dated January 26, 2006)**

\*A reporter and photographer from the *Chicago Tribune* won the George Polk Award for International reporting for exposing a human trafficking network that supplied cheap and sometime forced labour to the rebuilding effort in Iraq. Journalists from *The Washington Post* and *ABC News* also won Polk Awards for their reporting on the CIA's secret prisons, alleged abuse of detainees and waste in the US effort to rebuild Afghanistan. The Times – Picayune, of New Orleans will receive the Polk Award for metropolitan reporting for its coverage of the aftermath of hurricane Katrina, despite the loss of its presses, its offices and most of its subscribers. **(The Asian Age, New Delhi dated February 22, 2006)**

\*Privacy campaigners in the US hailed a victory of sorts for Internet search engine Google after a court case focusing on demands from the Bush administration for access to its data appeared to swing in Google's favour.

The White House had served a subpoena on several web search giants demanding data on billions of search requests and website addresses as part of its defence of an online pornography law.

But a U.S. district judge in San Jose, California, indicated repeatedly that he shared Google's concerns about privacy, and he did not want to create the impression the Government could keep track of individuals searching the Internet.

"It is the leading search company in the world, and the implications for Google if the Government is able to routinely make these requests would have a big impact on business and internet privacy," said Marc Rotenberg, executive director of the Electronic Privacy Information Centre.

The administration did not ask for information that would identify individual internet users, or their internet protocol addresses. Some search giants including Yahoo! Microsoft and AOL, complied, handing the administration billions of internet search records.

Google alone has fought the subpoena, arguing the demand violates the privacy of its users. (**The Hindu, New Delhi dated March 17, 2006**)

## United Kingdom

\*A Recent survey carried out by *The Guardian* newspaper in Britain has revealed just how few Asians there are in the top media jobs in the UK.

It was some four years ago that Greg Dyke, then the Director General of the BBC described that organisation as “hideously white”, and not much, if anything, has changed in the intervening period. And the rest of the media is even worse, according to the head of the racial equality watchdog, who says that: “There are now fewer ethnic minority figures at senior broadcasting level than there were fifteen years ago”. Even broadcasters themselves are being forced to admit that there is sort of a glass ceiling blocking the progress of Asian people and other ethnic minorities. But it is not all bad news even though *The Guardian* survey, produced in association with Asians in Media magazine, shows that board meetings at the big broadcasters and newspapers “are about as white as a Klu Klux Klan gathering in the deep South of The States in the 1950s”.

The good news comes with the names who are in positions of power and influence, names such as that of Waheed Ali, now Lord Ali. At the age of 34, the man who was the co-founder of a company called Planet 24, became the youngest peer in Parliament.

Another Asian prominent in the corridors of power is Meera Syal, the actor, writer, and broadcaster. (**The Pioneer, New Delhi dated April 12, 2005**)

\*Clarence House, the Prince of Wales’ London office, has complained to the editors of two British tabloid newspapers after their photographers were accused of driving dangerously to secure photographs of Prince Harry and his girlfriend Chelsy Davy on holiday at a game reserve in Botswana. (**The Asian Age, New Delhi dated April 27, 2005**)

\*So Who won? In last week’s British court of appeal decision in the legal action brought by Michael Douglas and Catherine Zeta-Jones against *Hello!* Magazine, there was in fact no clear winner. True, rival *OK!* had a bad day, losing the £1 million plus it had been awarded initially. But *Hello!* was still held to have breached the privacy of the couple and the damages award granted to them was maintained. The Douglases’ claim for additional damages was refused and the £14,500 they were awarded would hardly even pay for their flights. But at least the law of privacy was clarified by this judgement – well, until the next big privacy case.

This may be the last clash in a marathon legal battle that started when *Hello!* published unauthorised photos of the Douglases’ wedding in November 2000. It

was the first substantial privacy judgment from a court in the U.K. since the landmark decision last June from the European court of human rights in the case brought by Princess Caroline of Monaco. In this, the European court signalled that all European states must give a high degree of protection to individuals from privacy invasions by the press. The court of appeal has now handed down perhaps the first judgment in English legal history with the distinctive character of a privacy law. (**The Hindu, New Delhi dated May 24, 2005**)

\*A planned 48 hour strike by thousands of BBC journalists and technicians here next week was called off after a breakthrough during marathon all-night talks.

Union leaders and managers from the corporation spent 20 hours at the London head office of the conciliation service, Acas, trying to break the deadlock in a row over controversial plans to axe 4000 jobs. Leaders of Bectu, the National Union of Journalists, and Amicus said the BBC made a revised offer which involved “significant movement” on the threat of compulsory redundancies and on the outsourcing of jobs. The new offer will be put to a meeting of workers next Tuesday, but without any recommendation from the Unions.

In the meantime, a 48 hour strike due to start on Tuesday, has been cancelled.

Founded in 1922, the BBC has occupied a unique place in the British national identity over the past 80 years. (**The Asian Age, New Delhi dated May 28, 2005**)

\*With regional newspapers trying every trick in the book to bolster circulation, the idea of supporting a potential rival seems like commercial suicide. But in England *The Evening Post* (Bristol) and the Leicester Mercury are doing just that.

*Somali Voice* is a free monthly newspaper produced and edited by volunteers for the Somali community in both cities. The paper is distributed to mosques, businesses and community centres – with a 5,000 print run in Bristol and 3,000 in Leicester – but it is only scraping the surface of a community which numbers around 200,000 in Britain and has no dedicated media of its own. The established city papers have offered their backing in the form of practical support rather than hard cash, supplying news and information to the *Voice*, but there have been benefits on both sides.

The paper has been funded with a £1,000 government grant and a donation from a Somali firm.

*The Somali Voice's* 12 pages contain a mixture of stories written in both English and Somali. The next issue, its fifth, will feature an interview with the newly elected Bristol MP Kerry McCarthy and a follow up to a previous splash about the execution of five Somalis in Saudi Arabia.

The regional police now use the paper to make specific appeals to the Bristol Somali community. (**The Hindu, New Delhi dated June 7, 2005**)

\*Three hundred years of British newspaper history came to an end with Fleet Street's last news giant closing shop and departing for a gleaming tower in south east London.

Fleet Street's desertion by Reuters, the world's largest publicly traded provider of financial data, comes after more than 20 years of ceaseless flight by Britain's news leaders. It leaves the legendary address to resonate around the world henceforth as no more than an empty phrase symbolising the collective twilight world of the media. (**The Times of India, New Delhi dated June 16, 2005**)

\*Indians have been declared the world's most avid readers, on an average spending 10 hours and 42 minutes every week with some form of the written word. According to a global survey released, this is nearly a 4.2 hours ahead of the world's average.

The NOP world survey of 30,000 people across 30 industrialised nations crowned Britain with the dubious honour of being the couch potatoes of Europe with 18 hours a week spent in front of the television and just five hours, 18 minutes reading. The US pastime habits echo those across the Atlantic with Americans spending 19 hours watching TV each week and only 5.7 hours reading. However, the leaders were again to be found in Asia with Thailand watching television for 22 hours and 24 minutes a week, followed by the Philippines on 21 hours.

Indians emerged as the clear leaders in the research aimed at revealing global reading habits in a world of hi-tech entertainment. (**The Asian Age, New Delhi dated June 17, 2005**)

\*Seventeen inches long eleven inches wide, That could be the shape of things to come in the newspaper industry.

Fifty-six newspapers across the world turned tabloid last year to offset falling sales. This autumn, *The Guardian* is expecting to go "compact", and its sister paper, *The Observer*, will follow early next year, The shorter version already accounts for 36 percent of the world's newspapers, up 2 percent in the past 12 months.

The size slash has spelt success. Since, *The Independent* became the first British "heavy" to go compact – tabloid in size put not in content – in September 2003, its circulation has gone up by 20.6 percent, from 218,567 to 263,595.

The latest sales figures for *The Guardian* show almost a 4.5 percent decline year-on year to 370,000 while the paper has seen the gap between it and *The Independent*, its politically left-of-centre rival, narrow down to just 100,000 from 165,000 in two years.

So what makes small profitable?

One reason is that in the West, the newspaper is scanned more and more on the way to office in crowded buses and trains rather than read leisurely at the breakfast table.

“It was clear from our research that people liked smaller papers, especially from the point of view of convenience,” said *The Guardian’s* editor.

India has seen a morning compact newspaper, *Bombay Mirror*, launched recently in a city that goes to work by train, as in the West. But are the broadsheets thinking of going tabloid? Not yet, feel senior journalists.

“It’s difficult to foresee... because unlike Britain and Europe, the media scene, whether print or television, is expanding in India,” said Gautam Adhikari, edit page editor of *The Times of India*.

Indian newspaper sales jumped 8 percent in 2004 as against a world average of 2 percent, says the World Association of Newspapers. The five-year figures since 2000 are: India 14 percent, world 4.8 percent.

In contrast, circulation fell by 1 percent across America last year, while British newspapers recorded losses of 4.43 percent.

In terms of daily sales, India, with a figure of 78.8 million, ranks second behind China (93.5 million) and is way ahead of the US (48.3 million).

“Several new papers and tabloids are being launched in India because there is still room for growth in the Indian market,” Adhikari said. **(The Telegraph, Kolkata dated June 20, 2005)**

\*The UK government is planning an outright ban on obscene pornographic and sexually violent images on the Internet.

A new offence of possession of violent and abusive pornography would mean any images acquired electronically would be illegal in Britain.

All other forms of pornographic material are currently forbidden under the Britain’s Obscene Publications Act 1959, which did not cover the Internet. **(The Asian Age, New Delhi dated August 31, 2005)**

An International row over newspaper cartoons of Prophet Mohammed gathered pace as more European dailies printed controversial Danish caricatures and Muslims stepped up pressure to stop them.

Danish Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen said the issue had gone beyond a row between Copenhagen and the Muslim world and now centred on western free speech versus taboos in Islam, which is now second religion in many European countries. **(The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated February 3, 2006)**

\*The European Union may try to draw up a media code of conduct to avoid a repeat of the furore caused by the publication across Europe of cartoons of the Prophet Mohammad, an EU commissioner said.

In an interview with Britain's *Daily Telegraph*, EU Justice and Security Commissioner Franco Frattini said the charter would encourage the media to show "prudence" when covering religion.

Frattini proposed voluntary code would urge the media to respect all religious sensibilities but would not offer privileged status to any one faith.

The code would be drawn up by the European Commission, the EU executive body, and European media outlets, he said. It would not have legal status. **(The Statesman, New Delhi, dated February 10, 2006)**

\*A Europe-wide voluntary code of conduct for the media has been proposed to prevent a repetition of incidents such as the current row over the publication of cartoons of Prophet Muhammed, which have sparked worldwide protests by Muslims.

The code, proposed by the European Union Commissioner for Justice, Freedom and Security Franco Frattini, would call for "prudence" by the media when reporting sensitive faith issues.

He said in an interview that Europe faced a "very real problem" of trying to reconcile the "freedom of expression and the freedom of religion" both of which, he acknowledged, were "fundamental".

Mr. Frattini clarified that the proposed code would not be legally binding. The E.U. would not have powers to enforce it. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated February 10, 2006)**

\* The British government has threatened to prosecute newspapers if they reveal further details of a leaked document alleging US President George W. Bush suggested bombing *Al-Jazeera* television.

Three newspapers – *The Daily Mirror*, *The Times* and *The Guardian* – said the government's most senior legal adviser had warned them they could face High Court action under the Official Secrets Act if more details appeared.

"If the report is correct then this would be both shocking and worrisome not only to *Al-Jazeera* but to media organizations across the world," said *Al-Jazeera* in a statement on November 23, 2005. **(The Statesman, New Delhi dated November 24, 2005)**

\*Carroll, a 28 year old American freelance for *The Christian Science Monitor*, was abducted in Baghdad last weekend when gunmen ambushed her car and killed

Allan Enwiyah, her Iraqi translator. Al-Qaida posted a statement on the internet claiming responsibility for her kidnapping but her fate remains unknown.

The days when journalists plastered the word press in bold capital letters on their car windscreens for protection have gone. According to the New York based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), the Iraq war has claimed the lives of 60 reporters in two years, only six fewer than the number of journalists killed in 20 years of fighting in Vietnam. **(The Times of India, New Delhi January 16, 2006)**

## **Russia**

\*One of Russia's top TV news anchors has been unceremoniously driven off air for apparently being too critical of the Kremlin. The move has drawn fierce criticism from free speech advocates and former Soviet President, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev.

Ms. Olga Romanova, host of REN TV's daily news programme 24, discovered she had been dropped after she found her way to her broadcast studio physically blocked by security guards. The men told her they had orders from REN's Director-General Mr. Alexander Ordzhonikidze not to allow her to go on air.

Mr. Ordzhonikidze has denied his decision was political and claimed it was driven by the programme's allegedly low ratings, the need to get in fresh talent and natural rotation. It was, he claimed "a normal working process". However, Ms. Romanova, who is preparing a lawsuit against the station, has revealed that she ran into trouble after she accused REN TV's management of deliberately suppressing news so as not to upset the Kremlin. **(The Statesman, New Delhi dated November 28, 2005)**

## **France**

\*More journalists and media staffers have been killed during the Iraq war than during 22 years of conflict in Vietnam, press freedom group Reporters Without Borders said.

Worldwide, at least 63 journalists were killed last year, the group said in an annual report.

Iraq was the world's deadliest for media for the third consecutive year, with 24 journalists and five media assistants killed, it said.

A total of 76 journalists and media staff have been killed since the US-led invasion in March 2003, the group said.

In the Philippines, the country with the second – highest death toll, seven journalists were killed by politicians, businessmen or drug traffickers, the group said. China had the most jailed journalists as of January 1, i.e. 32. Cuba followed with 24,

and Ethiopia was next with 17. As the New Year began, 126 reporters and three media assistants were behind bars around the world.

A day earlier, the Committee to Protect Journalists said 47 journalists were killed in 2005. (**The Statesman, New Delhi January 5, 2006**)

### Austria

\*International Press Institute (IPI) in its Annual Report has stated that in year 2005 65 journalists were killed and press freedom in many countries is still in danger. Though the number of deaths of journalists as compared to last year is 13 less, but the danger to press freedom is continuing as stated in the Report of IPI printed in Vienna.

According to report Iraq is still a dangerous placed for journalists for gathering news. (**Jansatta, New Delhi dated March 31, 2006**)

### Africa

\*World Press Freedom Day? Not if you ask the Kenyan President's wife, who stormed into the newsroom of the nation's largest newspaper, demanding journalists be arrested for "biased coverage" and slapping a cameraman. The midnight to 5 a.m. confrontation followed reports by newspapers of allegations the First Lady acts like highhanded royalty.

The takeover of the newsroom of *The Daily Nation* "sends shivers down your spine," said Mwangi, the newspaper's editorial director. (**The Hindu, New Delhi, dated May 4, 2005**)

### Asia

\*A Chinese editor whose newspaper broke stories about China's SARS outbreak and a fatal police beating has been ordered not to attend a ceremony to accept a United Nations Press Freedom Award a news report said.

Cheing Yizhong, former editor-in-chief of the *Southern Metropolis News* in China's Southern province of Guangdong, was to receive the \$25,000 awarded in Dakar, Senegal. The *South China Morning Post* of Hong Kong reported that he was ordered not to attend the ceremony, citing an unidentified source.

It said he called on Chinese journalists to "speak the truth" The *Southern Metropolis News* is known as one of China's most daring papers, regularly reporting on corruption and social issues. It gained fame abroad in December 2003 when it announced the first case in a new outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome before Beijing told the World Health Organisation. (**The Statesman, New Delhi dated May 3, 2005**)

\*China said it has charged a reporter for a Singapore newspaper with spying for rival Taiwan, four months after detaining him.

A report by the official Xinhua News Agency said Ching Cheong, a China correspondent for Singapore's *The Straits Times*, had confessed to spying for Taiwan and had been supplied with hundreds of thousands of dollars to buy classified political and military secrets. Ching, who was based in Hong Kong, was not heard from since he was detained on April 22 while visiting the mainland. **(The Times of India, New Delhi, dated August 6, 2005)**

\*Beijing has scuppered plans by Rupert Murdoch's News Corp. to expand its broadcasts in China as the government tries to curb foreign influence in local programming, company executives said.

A joint venture allowing the media giant to broadcast Channel V and Star TV through the Qinghai Satellite TV Station in northwest China fell foul of regulators nearly three months ago, a News Corp, executive said.

The venture had operated for six months and could reach more than 100 million people in the provinces of Qinghai, Liaoning, Xinjiang as well as Chongqing and Beijing municipalities.

But it allegedly violated regulations by broadcasting before winning final approval from top authorities, the executive said. **(The Asian Age, New Delhi dated August 27, 2005)**

\*The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) termed the passing of the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority Bill as a setback to freedom of expression in Pakistan.

"By passing the PEMRA, the National Assembly has set the stage for a tightened government grip over broadcast media," said IFJ President Christopher Warren in a press release. According to the law, police can arrest any broadcast journalist.

Warren also termed the government's claim of lifting restrictions on cross media licenses a sham.

"In fact, the PEMRA under Clause 27 can impose a ban on channels in the name of national interest, national security, ideology of Pakistan and vulgarity - all of which are subjective notions.

The PEMRA makes violation of the bill's provisions a cognizable and compoundable offence with sentence of up to three years imprisonment and a fine of Rs 10 million.

IFJ has asked the Pakistan government to reconsider the bill before submitting it to the Senate for approval. **(The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated May 20, 2005)**

\*Worldwide newspaper sales edged up by more than two percent in 2004 while advertising revenue recorded significant gains, the World Association of Newspapers said.

In its report on trends in the newspaper industry, the WAN said 395 million copies of newspapers were sold daily in 2004 and read by an estimated one billion people worldwide.

China, India and Japan were the world's biggest newspaper markets in 2004 and China overtook Japan as the country with the highest number of publications in the world. Three-quarters of the world's 100 best selling daily newspapers were now published in Asia where sales were up 4.1 percent for the year.

The figures, from WAN's annual survey of press trends, were released to more than 1,300 publishers, editors and other senior newspaper executives from 81 countries attending the World Newspaper Congress and the World Newspaper Congress and the World Editors Forum, Asia's biggest ever media gathering, which opened here. Worldwide newspaper circulation grew 2.1 percent, the number of daily titles was up two percent and advertising revenue rose by 5.3 percent, its biggest jump in four years, the WAN report said. "It has been an extraordinarily positive 12 months for the global newspaper industry," said Mr. Timothy Balding, Director General of the Paris-based WAN. "Newspapers are clearly undergoing a renaissance through new products, new formats, new titles, new editorial approaches, better distribution and better marketing." **(The Asian Age, New Delhi dated May 31, 2005)**

\*The New York based Committee to Protect Journalist said it would seek the help of the international community to restore press freedom in Nepal. It expressed concern at violent attacks on journalists by both government forces and Maoist rebels and sought the release of jailed media personnel. **(The Hindustan Times, New Delhi, dated April 13, 2005)**

\*In a massive show of strength, over 1,500 journalists from across Nepal marched through the streets of the capital demanding immediate lifting of press censorship, release of their detained colleagues and restoration of democracy and civil liberties.

Organised by the Federation of Nepalese Journalists (FNJ) to mark its Golden Jubilee and the World Press Freedom Day, the marchers carrying placards and banners shouted slogans like "End press censorship", "Restore democratic rights", "Guarantee journalists rights" and "Release all detained journalists."

The FNJ said at least six journalists remained under detention and more than 2,000 had lost their jobs since the February 1, royal takeover. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated May 4, 2005)**

\*Two newspapers in Nepal came under fire for their reports saying the royal government was planning new limits on the media on top of restrictions already imposed when King Gyanendra seized control of the country in February.

The Press Council, a nominally independent panel that monitors the media but which is widely considered to favour the King's administration, said the reports in the *Kantipur* and *Kathmandu Post* newspapers were groundless and based on speculation.

The Council demanded that the two newspapers clarify why they published the reports, giving them seven days to respond. The newspapers said they stood by their story. "We will protest and fight the allegations. We stand by our story and believe it was an attempt by the government to control the media," said Mr. Gunaraj Luitel, *Kantipur's* News Editor.

The country's attorney general, Pawan Ojha, has acknowledged that the government is preparing new laws to regulate the media, but officials have declined to give details of the legislation.

The newspaper reports said that the legislation would place further restrictions on the media, including longer prison terms and tenfold increases in fines imposed for defamation.

Journalists in Nepal already are under tight restrictions since King Gyanendra, a former constitutional monarch, sacked the previous government and took over absolute power on February 1. (**The Asian Age, New Delhi dated May 25, 2005**)

\*In a major boost to media rights activists Nepal's Supreme Court has overturned the royal government's order to close a communication centre which was supplying programmes to several radio stations in the country.

The recent directive by the ministry for information and communications asking the "communication corner" to stop operation was illegal, the Nepali Supreme Court said.

The communication corner had petitioned the Nepali Supreme Court to reverse the order, which was served on it on May 27 as part of an ongoing media crackdown by the royal government. (**The Asian Age, New Delhi dated June 9, 2005**)

\*King Gyanendra has promulgated an ordinance prohibiting publication of any news item which criticises any member of the royal family, including himself and his heir Crown Prince Paras.

The ordinance essentially seeks to amend the country's existing press law which was enacted in 1990 with the advent of multi-party democracy. The amendment was announced in the form of a small news item issued by the state-owned news agency RSS.

The ordinance was passed by the cabinet some four months ago to curb press freedom in the Kingdom, following a media campaign against the King's February 1

coup. But the law could not be introduced back then following tremendous pressure from the international community.

The new law prohibits cross-media ownership, in effect preventing any organisation or individual from operating radio stations, television networks and newspapers simultaneously. It also lays down that those who have already been granted licences to operate all the three media, must choose any two within a year.

Further, the new prohibits any news item that “causes hatred or disrespect” to the king and members of the royal family, as opposed to only the king previously.

It also bans the import of foreign publications that contain prohibited information and news and bars FM stations from broadcasting news related programmes.

The new law also enhances the penalty for editors or publishers publishing “materials deemed to be falling under banned items” to Rs. 100,000 from Rs. 10,000.

Similarly, anyone publishing, translating and importing banned items would be liable to face a fine 10 times more than the present amount of Rs. 50,000. **(The Telegraph, Kolkata dated October 11, 2005)**

\*The Malaysian Government ordered the indefinite shut down of a local newspaper for reproducing controversial cartoons of Prophet Mohammed.

Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who is also the Internal Security Minister, ordered the immediate suspension of *Sarawak Tribune*'s publication permit after it reproduced the controversial caricatures Bernama news agency reported. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated February 10, 2006)**

\*In a strong warning the Philippine National Police said it would take over any media organisation that would not follow “standards set by the government” during the state of national emergency.

A government team will examine the editorial contents of newspapers and the news or views aired by broadcast stations to see if these conform to the standards, according to PNP Director General Arturo Lomibao.

“If they (the news groups, do not follow the standards - and the standards are if they would contribute to instability in the government, (or) if they do not subscribe to what is in General Order No.5 and Presidential Proclamation No.1017 we will recommend (a takeover)” Lomibao said.

Lomibao said he would recommend that the PNP take over the operations of *The Daily Tribune*, a broadsheet critical of the Arroyo administration. That means the government will review the reports to be published by the paper, but it will not be closed down, he said. Lomibao said the paper had been engaged in “a concerted effort and systematic conspiracy with known elements out to bring down the duly constituted government since May 2004.” **(The Statesman, New Delhi dated February 27, 2006)**

# State of Press-A Global View

## Australia

\*The Australian Attorney General, Philip Ruddock, has agreed to consider demands from ruling Coalition MPs for laws to protect journalists from being forced to reveal their sources.

Ruddock's promise came shortly after the Australian media community rallied around Michael Harvey and Gerard McManus, two *Melbourne Herald Sun* reporters who could face jail after refusing to reveal the source of a government leak in court.

An editorial in the Fairfax-owned *Sydney Morning Herald* said the government should not challenge journalists to reveal their sources unless absolutely necessary, and then perhaps only in national security matters. (CPU News, October 2005)

## Cameroon

\*The Independent Cameroon weekly *L'Oeil du Sahel* is fighting for financial survival after facing a dozen lawsuits brought by army officers this year.

The officers brought all 12 suits against the paper as retaliation for reporting alleged abuses of power by the security forces.

Local officials and soldiers often threaten its journalists, CPU sources said. (CPU News, October 2005)

## Pakistan

\*Rural journalists in Pakistan will from October have access to an Urdu-language newsletter designed to help them cope with press freedom-related attacks.

Launched with the assistance of UNESCO and the *Nawa-I-Ahmedur Sharqia* newspaper, the Sadiq news will inform rural journalists about their democratic rights, enhance their networking capabilities, and fight threats against freedom of expression.

Information about violations in remote areas will be gathered and documented using the National Press Union and Rural Media network and *Nawa-I-Ahmedur Sharqia* correspondents. (CPU News, October 2005)

## Papua New Guinea

\*Two Commonwealth journalists who have doggedly battled corruption and violence in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands while facing threats to their staff and themselves have been awarded the Order of the British Empire.

John Lamani, owner of the *Solomon Star*, and Oseah Philemon, editor of the *PNG Post Courier* were awarded the OBE for services to the media as part of the Queen Elizabeth's Birthday Honours in June. (CPU News, October 2005)

## CHAPTER-II

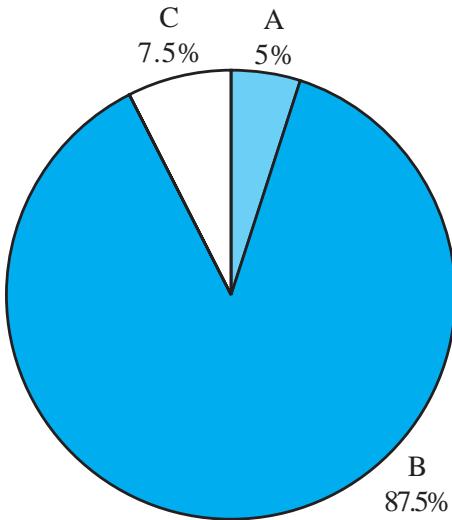
# Adjudications in Complaints Regarding Threats to Press Freedom

The Press Council of India has been entrusted with the important task of promoting the freedom of the press and the independence of the newspapers and the news-agencies and journalists, keeping under review any development which may interfere with the free flow of information and dissemination of information, and monitoring development such as concentration of ownership of newspapers/matters relating to editor managerial relationship etc. which may affect the independence of the press.

During the period under review, the Council received 150 complaints, charging the governmental or other authorities with attempts at curbing the free functioning of the print media. Besides 182 matters were pending consideration from the previous year. A total of 332 matters thus required consideration. Of these, 40 matters were disposed of through adjudications, while 197 matters were dismissed or disposed of for lack of grounds for inquiry or sufficient amends having been made by the concerned authorities or matters being outside the Council's charter or having become *sub-judice* or on account of non-prosecution on the part of the complainants. One matter, which was directly placed before the Council, was closed for not being pursued by the complainant. The remaining matters were under process at the end of period under review.

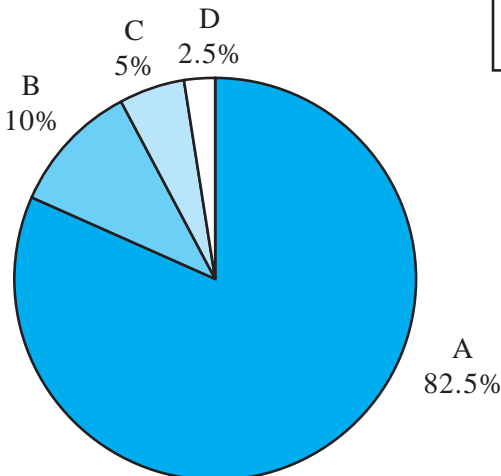
Adjudications on complaints under this chapter have been analysed graphically while detailed adjudications have been carried in the Council's quarterly journals, viz PCI Review in English and Press Parishad Samiksha in Hindi.

## Categories of Complainants



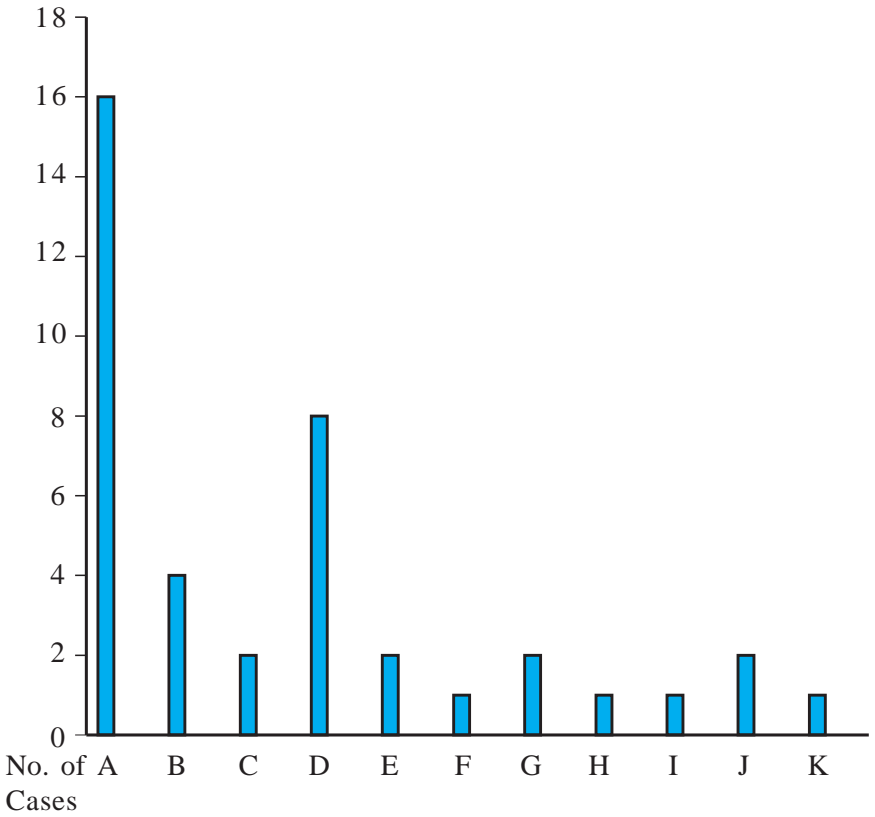
- A. English Press
- B. Indian Languages Press
- C. Journalist Associations/News Agency

## Categories of Respondents



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

# Statewise Distribution of the Complainant Publications



## Key to Abbreviation

Total No. of Cases : 40

A. Uttar Pradesh	16
B. West Bengal	4
C. Bihar	2
D. Delhi	8
E. Punjab	2
F. Tripura	1
G. Haryana	2
H. Uttaranchal	1
I. Rajasthan	1
J. Madhya Pradesh	2
K. Jharkhand	1

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## Harassment of Newsmen

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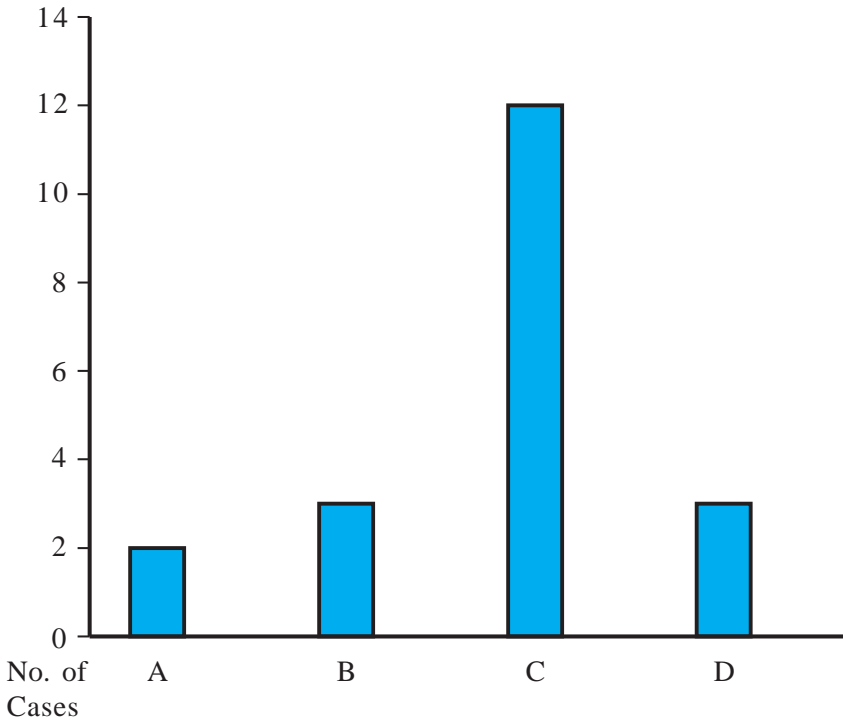
For honestly discharging their professional duties, the journalists often bear the brunt, and are subjected to illegal, inhuman and uncivilized manner of harassment by the police, and various extremists group active in the country. The journalists working in the areas are the worst sufferers at the hands of arbitrary authorities. Endeavours to contain such unsavoury and undemocratic practices require the concern and co-operation of all concerned.

The Council adjudicated a total of 20 such matters in the year. Of these, the charges, were found to be substantiated in two matters while three only stood dismissed on merits. In 12 cases the respondents concerned made or assured adequate amends at Council's behest. Three complaints were disposed of for non prosecution or for the matter having become *sub-judice* or when no action by the Council was found to be warranted after hearing the parties. The chart that follows makes the position more clear.

# Harassment of Newsmen

Total No. of Cases : 20

A. Upheld	2
B. Rejected	3
C. Assurance/Settled/Amends	12
D. Dropped for non-prosecution/withdrawal/sub-judice/lack of substance	3



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## **Facilities to the Press**

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Smooth functioning of the press requires certain facilities to be provided to it by the authorities. Prime facilities given by authorities to the press are issuance of advertisements to the newspapers and grant of accreditation cards provided to the journalists. These two basic facilities on one hand provide economic stability to the newspaper and on the other hand facilitate collection and presentations of news and information. As such these facilities form the backbone of a newspaper.

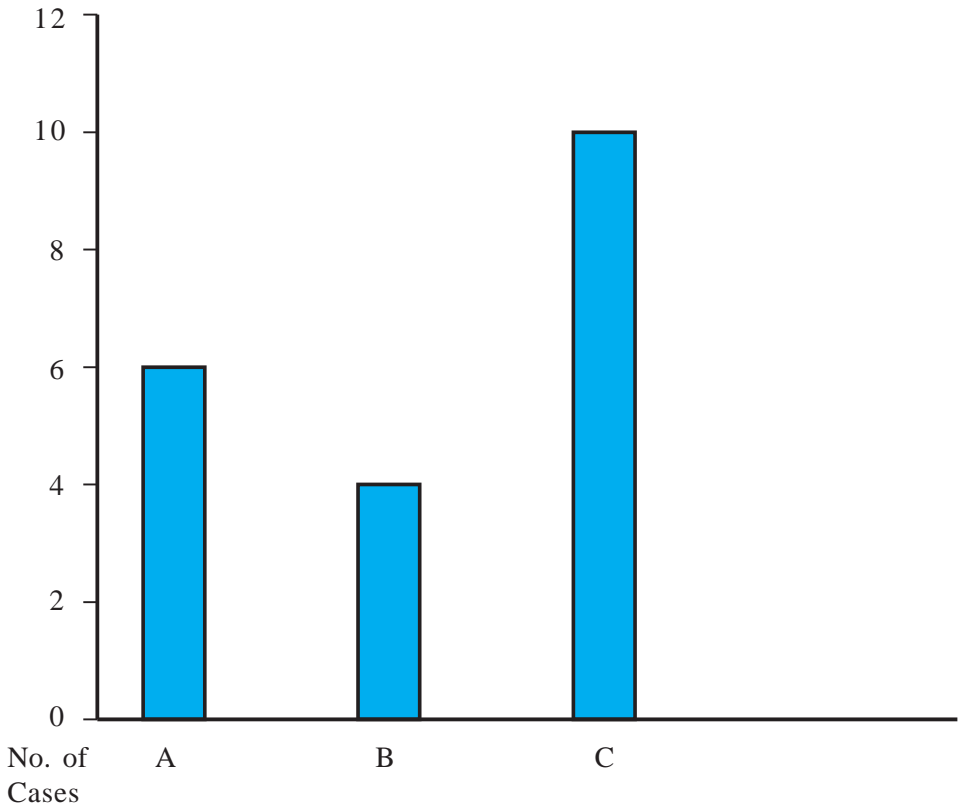
The facilities are expected to be extended to the press under well defined policies and rules. Often, however, the authorities guided by extraneous consideration, misuse the power to discriminate in release of advertisements or to grant accreditation, telephone facilities, postal facilities, etc.

Complaints against biased withdrawal/denial of the above facilities abound. From 20 adjudications detailed under this sub head, only six were upheld while four were rejected on merits. In 10 matters, the authorities concerned redressed the grievances of the complaining parties. The chart that follows presents the position graphically.

## Facilities to the Press

Total No. of Cases : 20

A. Upheld	6
B. Rejected	4
C. Assurance/Settled/Amends	10
D. Dropped for non-prosecution/ withdrawal/sub-judice/lack of substance	–



## CHAPTER - III

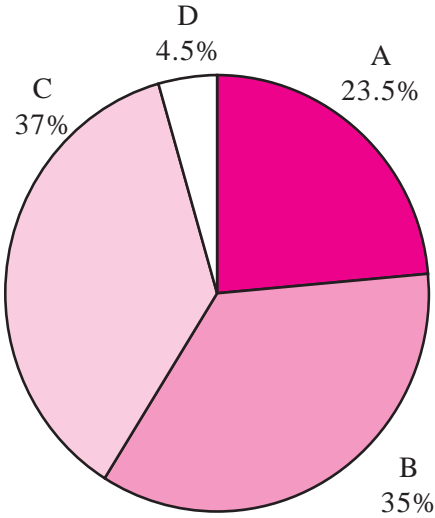
# **Adjudications Rendered by the Council in Complaints Filed Against the Press**

Maintenance and improvement of standards of the Press is one of the prime objectives of the Press Council of India. The aim is to encourage the print media to restrain from indulging in malpractices for self aggrandisement at the cost of journalistic norms. Publishing defamatory news items/articles to settle personal scores; or to extort money, sensationalizing issues/controversies are some of the negative trends which need to be curbed in the print media.

In an effort to facilitate positive growth of the Indian Press, the Council has laid down norms through the medium of its adjudications on complaints made by person/authorities/institutions against the press. Most of them are internationally accepted norms that those in the profession of journalism are morally bound to follow while discharging their professional duties.

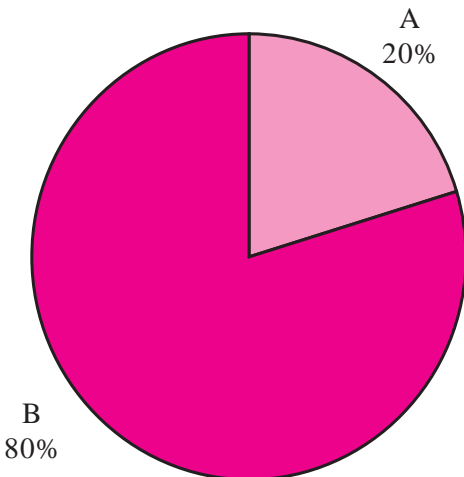
During the course of the year under review, the Council received 576 fresh complaints against the press. Besides, there were 793 matters pending from the previous year. Thus, the Council was to consider in all 1369 complaints against the press during the year under review. Of these, 153 matters were disposed of through adjudications, 550 matters were disposed of at the preliminary stage, either by settling these to the satisfaction of the parties or dismissing the complaints due to lack of substance or on account of non-prosecution, etc. Thus 666 matters were pending in this category at the close of financial year under review. The detailed text of the adjudications can be seen in the Council's quarterly house journals published in Hindi as well English.

## Categories of Complainants



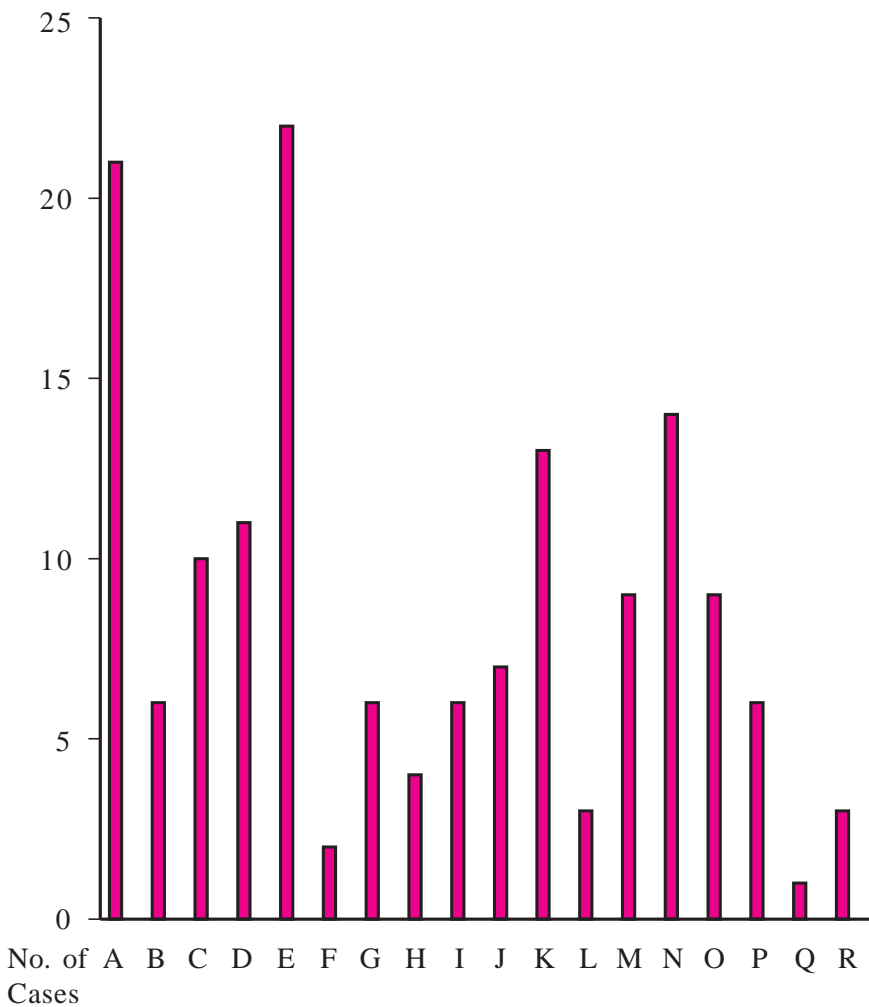
- A. Government Authorities/  
Government Officer
- B. Private Persons
- C. Institutions/Private  
Companies/  
Newspaper Association
- D. Public Persons

## Categories of Respondents



- A. English Press
- B. Indian Languages  
Press

## Statewise Distribution of the Respondent Publications



## Key to Abbreviation

Total No. of Cases : 153

A.	Uttar Pradesh	21
B.	West Bengal	6
C.	Bihar	10
D.	Assam	11
E.	Delhi	22
F.	Punjab	2
G.	Haryana	6
H.	Uttaranchal	4
I.	Rajasthan	6
J.	Orissa	7
K.	Andhra Pradesh	13
L.	Kerala	3
M.	Tamil Nadu	9
N.	Karnataka	14
O.	Chandigarh	9
P.	Madhya Pradesh	6
Q.	Jharkhand	1
R.	Maharashtra	3

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## **Principles and Publication**

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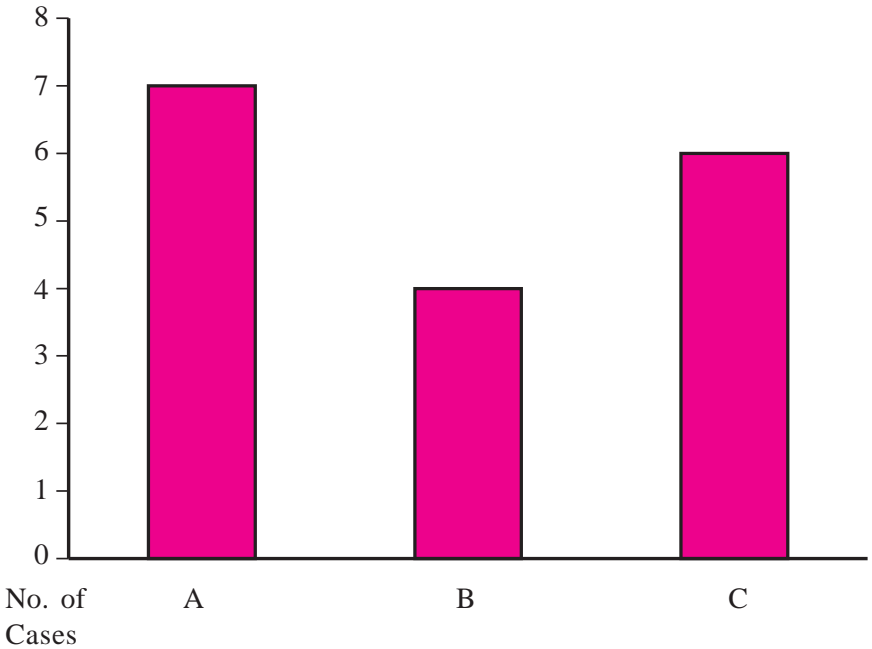
The Council received during the year several complaints against newspapers where the complainants challenged the principles behind the publication or non-publication of reports/views. Similarly, the malpractices adopted by a certain section of Press of lifting news/views, from other newspaper and publishing them subsequently as their own, are also in the notice of the Council. The Council has from time to time taken action against such newspapers and directed them to adhere to the journalistic norms while discharging their professional duties.

The Council received during the year several cases against newspapers where the complainants were primarily aggrieved over non-publication of their rejoinder/reply/contradiction by the respondent newspapers. 17 adjudications delivered this year fell under this category. Of these, seven were upheld with appropriate directions while in four charges could not be substantiated. Six complaints were disposed of by the Council when the respondents offered to make amends. The graphics details follow.

# Principles and Publication

Total No. of Cases : 17

A. Upheld	7
B. Rejected	4
C. Assurance/Settled/Amends	6
D. Dropped for non-prosecution/ withdrawal/sub-judice/lack of substance	–



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## **Press and Defamation**

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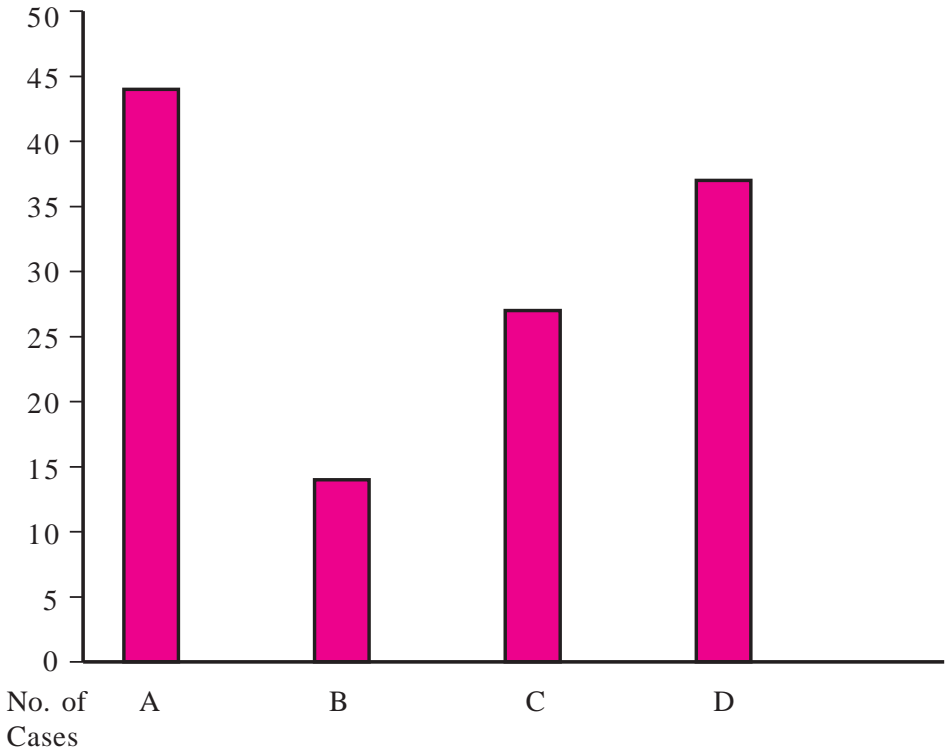
Like all other institutions of the society, the press is also affected by partisan behaviour in its subtle and not so subtle form. Time was when yellow journalism and blackmailing were the only forms of corruption in journalism known to the society. But over the year some in the press have developed it into a fine art giving it varied coloured hues. The suppression, distortion and planting of news to serve vested interests is on the increase. The defamatory, slanderous, self-cooked stories leave stigma on the reputation of the persons/ organizations, concerned, and render them immensely embarrassed in society and sometimes in official circles as well.

The Council adjudicated 122 complaints this year pertaining to alleged defamatory publications. Of these the press was found guilty of violation of journalistic ethics in 44 cases, while charges were rejected in 14. In 27 matters, the Council was able to bring about reconciliation between parties while in 37 complaints were disposed of for non-prosecution or on account of matters having become *sub-judice* or where no action by the Council was found to be warranted after hearing the parties. The following graphics make the position more clear.

# Press and Defamation

Total No. of Cases : 122

A. Upheld	44
B. Rejected	14
C. Assurance/Settled/Amends	27
D. Dropped for non-prosecution/ withdrawal/sub-judice/lack of substance	37



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## **Press and Morality**

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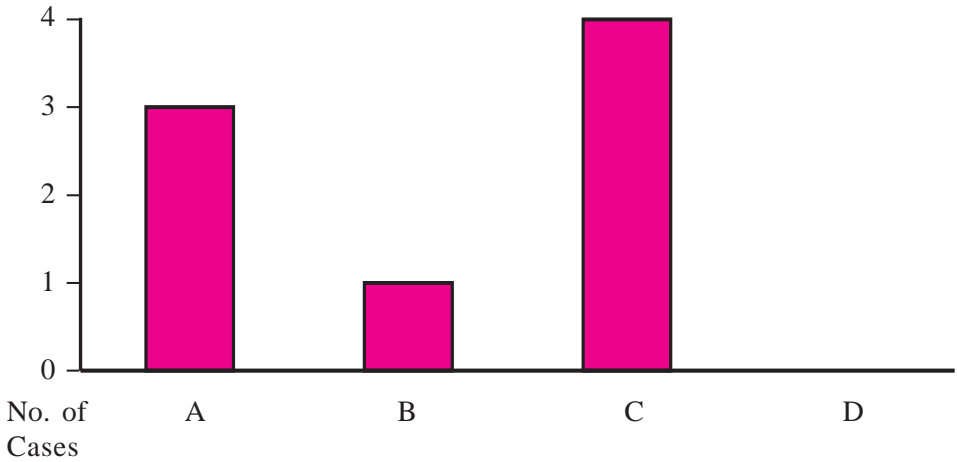
A section of the Press, under the influence of western life style culture, carry reports/columns/advertisements, and photographs which militate against the cultural ethos well entrenched in the minds of Indian society. While, such publications do not serve public interest in any manner. They also violate the legal provision on offences relating to public decency and morality. Self-regulation however, is known to score over punitive action.

In eight matters, the question of obscenity was adjudicated upon by the Council. The charge of offence against public taste and morality against the newspapers concerned were upheld in three matters. The Council dropped action in one matter while four matters were settled upon assurance. Graphics clarify the statistics.

# Press and Morality

Total No. of Cases : 8

A. Upheld	3
B. Rejected	1
C. Assurance/Settled/Amends	4
D. Dropped for non-prosecution/ withdrawal/sub-judice/lack of substance	–



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## **Communal, Casteist and Anti-Religious Writings**

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India is a vast country where people professing different religions and faiths, belonging to different castes and creeds, speaking different languages and having different cultures live together. Newspapers and journals and the editors, thereof have an important duty to promote harmony and national unity.

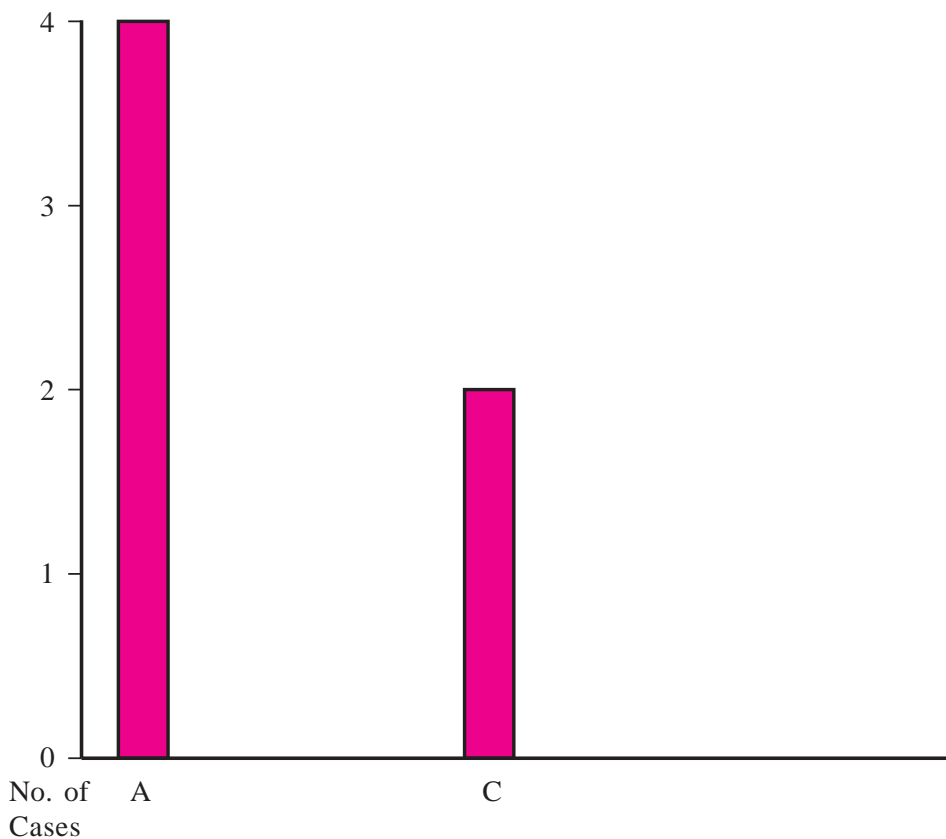
The Council has, through its adjudications, often appealed to the press to exercise due care and caution while reporting on matters where sentiments of communities or castes are involved. While the responsible section of the press covers events and speeches in a balanced manner and tries in its own way to defuse tensions, unfortunately, some section of the press openly propagate communal and casteist views in an irresponsible manner. Many others do it in a subtle and unobtrusive manner. Both contribute to the fragmentation of national mindset and do disservice to the country.

During the period under review, the Council adjudicated six complaints under this category. Of these four matters were upheld. Remaining two matters were disposed of by the Council as no further action was found warranted. The following chart makes the position more clear.

# Communal, Casteist and Anti Religious Writings

Total No. of Cases : 6

A. Upheld	4
B. Rejected	–
C. Assurance/Settled/Amends	2
D. Dropped for non-prosecution/ withdrawal/sub-judice/lack of substance	–



## CHAPTER – IV

# How to Make a Complaint

### Complaints Against the Press

It is open to any person to lodge a complaint with the Press Council against a newspaper for a breach of the recognized ethical canons of journalistic propriety and taste. The complainant need not necessarily be the person aggrieved or directly involved. The alleged breach may be in the publication or non-publication of a news-item or statement, or other material, like cartoons, pictures, photographs, strips or advertisement which are published in a newspaper. Cases can also be initiated by any member of the public against a professional misconduct of journalists whether they be on the staff of a newspaper or engaged in freelance work. There can also be a complaint against any matter transmitted by a news agency by any means whatsoever.

By virtue of the Press Council (Procedure for Inquiry) Regulations, 1979, limitation of time is provided under clause 3(1) (f) for filing complaints with the Council, namely within two months in the case of a complaint relating to the publication or non-publication of any matter in respect of dailies and weeklies or in regard to any matter transmitted by the news agencies, and within four months in all other cases, provided that a relevant publication of an earlier date may be referred to in the complaint. In the case of a complaint against any professional misconduct by an editor or a working journalist, the same shall be lodged within four months of the misconduct complained of.

### Writing to the editor first

It is a requirement of the Inquiry Regulations that the complainant should initially write to the editor of the newspaper drawing his attention to what the complainant considers to be a breach of journalistic ethics or an offence against public taste. Such prior reference to the editor affords him an opportunity to deal with the matter in the first instance and thus allows the respondent to take such remedial action as he might consider appropriate before the complaint is lodged with the Council. This rule is necessary because it acquaints the editor with the identity of his accuser and the details of the complaint. It is conceivable that in some instance the complainant has been wrongly informed or has misinterpreted the facts. In others, it may be a case of inadvertent error which the editor is only too ready to admit and correct. If the would-be-complainant is satisfied, that would be the end of the matter.

Where, after reference to the newspaper, the person desires to proceed with the complaint, he should enclose with his complaint copies of correspondence with the editor, if no reply has been received from the editor, the fact should be mentioned in the complaint.

The complainant has, in his complaint, to give the name and address of the newspaper, editor or journalist against whom the complaint is directed. A clipping of the matter or news-items complained of, in original, should accompany the complaint. The complainant has to state in what manner the passage or news-items or the material complained of is objectionable. He should also supply other relevant particulars, if any.

In the case of a complaint against non-publication of material the complainant will, of course, say how that constitutes a breach of journalistic ethics.

The Council cannot deal with any matter which is *sub-judice* in the law court. The complainant has to declare that "to the best of his knowledge and belief he has placed all the relevant facts before the Council and that no proceedings are pending in any court of law in respect of any matter alleged in the complaint." A declaration that " he shall notify the Council forthwith if during the pendency of the inquiry before the Council any matter alleged in the complaint becomes the subject matter of any proceedings in a court of law" is also necessary.

**(COMPLAINANTS IN THEIR OWN INTEREST SHOULD FILE A COMPLAINT COMPLETE IN ALL RESPECTS I.E. THEY SHOULD ENCLOSE CLIPPINGS OF THE IMPUNGED NEWS-ITEM, DRAW THE ATTENTION OF THE EDITOR AND ALSO FORWARD THE NECESSARY DECLARATIONS MENTIONED ABOVE. FURTHER, THEY SHOULD FURNISH ALL THE DETAILS IN THE FIRST INSTANCE SO THAT CASES COULD BE PROCESSED QUICKLY. IF AT A PARTICULAR STAGE THEY DO NOT WANT TO PURSUE THEIR COMPLAINT THE COMPLAINANTS ARE ADVISED TO IMMEDIATELY INTIMATE THE COUNCIL ABOUT THEIR DESIRE TO DO SO).**

## **Complaints Regarding Threats to Press Freedom**

A newspaper, a journalist or any institution or individual can complain against Central or State Government or any organization or person for interference with free functioning of the press or encroachment on the freedom of the press. Such complaints should contain full particulars of the alleged infringement whereupon the

Council shall follow the procedure of inquiry set out herein above so far as may be.

The opinion expressed by the Council subserves two useful purposes, namely (i) that any abuse of press freedom does not pass without anybody noticing it or raising a finger of protest, and (ii) that the press should not in its own interest indulge in scurrilous or other objectionable writings-writings such as have been considered below the level of recognized standards of journalistic ethics by a fair minded jury like the Council constituted of the press itself, for it would lead to the very loss of the much prized freedom of the press.

**(IN CERTAIN CASES IT HAS BEEN NOTICED THAT CENTRAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS ARE QUICK TO TAKE REMEDIAL ACTION IN RESTORING ADVERTISEMENTS, NEWSPRINT OR ACCREDITATION FACILITIES. IN SUCH CASES IT IS THE DUTY OF THE COMPLAINANT TO IMMEDIATELY INFORM THE COUNCIL ABOUT THIS AND WHETHER HE WOULD LIKE TO PURSUE THE COMPLAINT WITH THE COUNCIL OR NOT. THIS IS NECESSARY IF THE COMPLAINANTS WANT THAT THEIR COMPLAINTS SHOULD BE ATTENDED TO BY THE COUNCIL IN RIGHT EARNEST.)**

9

## CHAPTER-V

# Appeals Decided by the Press & Registration Appellate Board

The constitution of India guarantees freedom of speech and expression to all its citizens. Newspapers constitute a potent medium for exercise of this freedom. In our country, the publication of newspapers is regulated primarily by the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867. The Act seeks to regulate the operation of printing presses and newspapers and registration and preservation of copies of such newspapers. Section 5 of the Act lays down the rule under which a newspaper may be published, the most important being the requirement of subscribing to the printer and publisher thereof the following declaration:

“I, A.B., declare that I am the printer (or publisher, or printer and publisher) of the (newspaper) entitled .....(and to be printed or published, or to be printed and published), as the case may be at.....”

Section 6 mandates authentication of such declaration by the D.M. concerned before any newspaper can commence publication and Section 8-B provides for cancellation of such a declaration on the grounds specified. The section which follows i.e. Section 8-C provides for an appellate board against the order of a Magistrate refusing to authenticate a declaration under Section 6 or canceling a declaration under Section 8(b) *ibid*.

The Press Council of India has been assigned since 1979 the responsibility of functioning as an Appellate Board under this section to deal with the matters attracting the provisions of Section 6 and 8-B of the PRB Act.

Section 6 of the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867 reads thus:

“Authentication of declaration - Each of the two originals of every declaration made and subscribed shall be authenticated by the signature and official seal of the Magistrate before whom the said declaration shall have been made.” Under this Section, the Magistrate should authenticate the declaration by his signature and official seal. It is only after the Magistrate signs the declaration that the printer/publisher can start publication/printing of his paper.

Under Section 8-B of the PRB Act, 1867 if the Magistrate empowered to authenticate a declaration under this Act, is of the opinion that any declaration made in respect of a newspaper should be cancelled, he may, after giving the person

concerned an opportunity of showing cause against the action proposed to be taken, hold an inquiry into the matter and if, after considering the cause, if any, shown by such person and after giving him an opportunity of being heard, he is satisfied that-

- “(i) The newspaper, in respect of which the declaration has been made is being published in contravention of the provisions of the Act or rules made thereunder; or
- (ii) The newspaper mentioned in the declaration bears a title which is the same as, or similar to, that of any other newspaper published either in the same language or in the same state; or
- (iii) The printer or publisher has ceased to be printer or publisher of the newspaper mentioned in such declaration; or
- (iv) The declaration was made on false representation or on the concealment of any material fact or in respect of a periodical work which is not a newspaper.

The Magistrate may, by order, cancel the declaration and shall forward as soon as possible a copy of the order to the person making or subscribing the declaration and also to the Press Registrar.”

Under this Section principles of natural justice are to be observed. It is incumbent on the Magistrate to serve a show-cause notice on the person concerned and also to afford an opportunity of being heard to him, before the action proposed to his detriment can be taken.

The language of this section appears to make it necessary that a personal hearing should have been given to the person concerned before orders are passed for canceling the declaration to his detriment.

Section 8-C of the PRB Act, which deals with appeals to be filed before Press and Registration Appellate Board, provides:

- (i) Any person aggrieved by an order of a Magistrate refusing to authenticate a declaration under section 6 of canceling a declaration under section 8-B may, within sixty days from the date on which such order is communicated to him, prefer an appeal to the Appellate Board to be called the Press and Registration Appellate Board consisting of a Chairman and another member to be nominated by the Press Council of India established under Section 4 of the Press Council Act, 1978 from among its members.

Provided that the Appellate Board may entertain an appeal after the expiry of the said period, if it is satisfied that the appellant was prevented by sufficient cause from preferring the appeal in time.

- (ii) On receipt of an appeal under this section, the Appellate Board may, after calling for the records from the Magistrate and after making such further inquiries as it thinks fit, confirm, modify or set aside the order appealed against.
- (iii) Subject to the provisions contained in sub-section (2), the Appellate Board may, by order, regulate its practice and procedure.
- (iv) The decision of the Appellate Board shall be final”.

The Appeals before the Appellate are regulated by the Press and Registration Appellate Board(Practice and Procedure) Order,1961. The Orders of the Board can be seen in the Council's quaterly journals,*viz* “PCI Review” in English and "Press Parishad Samiksha" in Hindi respectively.

## CHAPTER – VI

### Finances of the Council 2005-2006

The Budget Estimates of the Council for the financial year 2005-2006, as accepted by the Central Government, were Rs.230.00 lakhs. The funds of the Council were primarily made up of (i) levy of fee collected by the Council from newspapers/periodicals registered with the Registrar of Newspapers for India and from the news-agencies and other miscellaneous receipts, like interest on bank account etc., estimated at Rs.40.00 lakhs and (ii) Grant-in-aid from the Central Government in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting estimated to be Rs.190.00 lakhs. Revising the estimates for 2005-2006 in March, 2006 the Central Government approved the budget of Rs.252.02 lakhs with revenue receipts estimated at Rs.34.71 lakhs and the grant-in-aid element at Rs.217.31 lakhs.

As the Final Grant for 2005-2006 the Government accepted the following figures of finances for the Council:-

	(in lakhs of rupees)
Gross Expenditure	Rs. 262.02
Revenue Receipts	Rs. 44.71
Net Expenditure	Rs. 217.31
Unspent balance of Previous year i.e. 2004-2005	Rs. 2.83
Grant-in-aid from Central Government	Rs. 214.48

Accordingly, while Council received grant-in-aid amounting to Rs.214.48 lakhs during the financial year 2005-2006 from the Central Government, it collected Rs.28.42 lakhs as fees levied upon newspapers/periodicals and news agencies. Apart from this Rs.22.85 lakhs accounted for other miscellaneous receipts, like interest on bank accounts, interest on F.D.Rs with the Banks, etc. during the year under report.

As a result of vigorous effort under way to realise as much revenue as possible from newspapers/periodicals defaulting in payment of the fee levied on them under the mandate of the Act, during the year the Council recovered Rs.5.16 lakhs as outstanding levy of fee from the defaulters. This figure is included in the total figures of Rs.28.42 lakhs mentioned above.

Section 22 of the Press Council Act, 1978 provides that the accounts of Press Council of India shall be maintained and audited in such manner as may, in consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, be prescribed. The Annual Account of the Press Council of India for the financial year 2005-2006 which were maintained in accordance with the aforesaid provisions, were audited by the Audit party of the office of the Director General of Audit, Central Revenues, New Delhi and certified to be to their satisfaction. The Annual Accounts of the Council are annexed hereto.

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# **BALANCE SHEET**

**As on 31st March 2006**

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# PRESS COUNCIL RECEIPT AND PAYMENTS FOR

Previous Year 2004-2005	Receipt 1.4.2005 to 31.3.2006	Amount	Total
	<b>I. Opening Balance</b>		
2,000	(a) Cash in hand (Imprest Account)		
	(b) Bank Balances		
	– General Fund	265,467	
	– Levy of Fees Account	5,491	
	– Revolving Fund (Loan & Advance)	337,075	
4,711,016	– C.P.F. Account	2,871,838	3,479,871
14,998	(c) Postage Stamps in Hand		9,935
	<b>II. Grants Received</b>		
14,226,497	(a) From Government of India (Ministry of I & B)		21,448,000
	<b>III. Interest Received</b>		
	(a) On Bank deposits		
	– Term Deposits	2,765,889	
2,836,633	– Saving Accounts	63,557	2,829,446
66,204	(b) Loans, Advances etc.		49,545
	<b>IV. Other Income (specify)</b>		
	Levy fees received from Newspapers/ Periodicals/News Agencies		2,841,872
2,817,846	Others		2,105
48,649			
	<b>V. Receipts from Matured Investments</b>		
	Encashment of FDRs		
	– Revolving Fund Account	472,000	
6,895,611	– C.P. F. Account	10,445,923	10,917,923
	<b>VI. Any Other receipts</b>		
	(a) <u>Refund of Securities</u>		
	– Car Care Centre/MTNL	12,000	
5,768	– Computer Maintenance	—	12,000

# OF INDIA

## THE YEAR ENDED ON 31.03.2006

Previous Year 2004-2005	Payment 1.4.2005 to 31.3.2006	Amount	Total
	<b>I. Expenses</b>		
15,226,607	(a) Establishment expenses (Corresponding to Schedule 11)		16,369,883
2,539,802	(b) Administrative Expenses (Corresponding to Schedule 12) (net of previous year advances adjusted)		4,593,428
	<b>II. Payments made against funds</b>		
	Agt. Revolving Fund (Loans & Advances)		
	– Disbursements of Loans		
	– Festival Advance	49,500	
	– Scooter Advance	—	
	– Cycle Advance	9,000	
106,500	– Table Fan Advance	2,000	60,500
	Agt. C.P.F. Fund		
	– Advance/Withdrawal to Staff	1,954,219	
2,919,873	– Final Payments to Outgoing Employees	—	1,954,219
	<b>III. Investments and deposits made</b>		
	(a) Out Earmarked/Endowment funds		
	– Agt. Revolving Fund (Loans & Advances)	773,427	
9,894,612	– Agt. C.P.F. Fund	13,695,293	14,468,720
	(b) Out of own funds (Investments-Others)		
	<b>IV. Expenditure on Fixed Assets &amp; Capital work-in-progress</b>		
	(a) Purchase of Fixed Assets		
	– Library Books	36,142	
	– Furniture & Others	974,364	
147,332	– Telephone Instruments	36,880	1,047,386

Previous Year 2004-2005	Receipt 1.4.2005 to 31.3.2006	Amount	Total
	(b) <u>Recovery of Advances</u>		
	– Housing Building Advance	30,336	
	– Festival Advances	49,500	
	– Scooter Advances	51,168	
	– Motor Car Advance	—	
	– Cycle Advance	5,250	
142,393	– Table Fan Advance	1,800	138,054
	(c) Recovery from Employee	3,226	
	TDS Payable	30,449	
2,862,348	C.P.F. Contr. and refund loan	3,428,530	3,462,205
	(d) Amount trf. from General Fund to C.P.F. Fund on account of:		
	– Council's Contribution to PF	908,098	
	– Interest on Employees' Cont.	1,579,938	
	– Interest on Council's Cont.	812,509	
2,742,392	– Others	26,678	3,327,223
	(e) Amount Excess trf. to General Fund from C.P.F. Fund		
	– On a/c of rec. of PCI Contr. to	—	
126,279	– Others	—	—
<b>37,498,634 Total</b>			<b>48,520,179</b>

Previous Year 2004-2005	Payment 1.4.2005 to 31.3.2006	Amount	Total
	(b) Expenditure on Capital Work-in-progress		
	<b>V. Refund of surplus money/Loans</b>		
	(a) To the Government of India	—	
	(b) Excess of Levy fee Refunded	—	
11,250	(c) Excess Recovery Loan Refunded	<u>670</u>	670
	<b>VI. Finance Charges (Interest)</b>		4,045
	<b>VII. Other Payments (Specify)</b>		
	(a) Amount trf. from General Fund to C.P.F. Fund on account of:		
	– Interest on Employees' Cont.	1,579,938	
	– Interest on Concil's Cont.	812,509	
2,186,248	– Others	<u>26,678</u>	2,419,125
	(b) Advance		
	– for Books & Periodicals	2,732	
	– for Capital Assets	233,280	
848,325	– for Others	<u>832,115</u>	1,068,127
	(d) Salary Excess paid to Staff		9,538
126,279	(e) Excess trf. from C.P.F. Fund to General Fund		—
	<b>VIII. Closing Balances</b>		
2,000	(a) Cash in hand (Imprest Account)		13,250
	(b) Bank Balances		
	– General Fund	1,588,428	
	– Levy of Fees Account	6,960	
	– Revolving Fund (Loan & Advance)	475,433	
3,479,871	– C.P.F. Account	<u>4,424,002</u>	6,494,823
9,935	(c) Postage Stamps in Hand		16,465
<b>37,498,634</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>48,520,179</b>

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

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

**PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA**  
**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR**  
**THE YEAR ENDED ON 31.03.2006**

<b><u>INCOME</u></b>	<b>Schedule</b>	<b>Current Year</b>	<b>Previous Year</b>
Income from Levy Fees & Others	8	4,571,355	4,633,647
Grants from GOI	9	16,669,183	12,797,527
Interest Earned	10	2,284,797	2,323,127
<b>TOTAL (A)</b>		<b>23,525,335</b>	<b>19,754,301</b>
<b><u>EXPENDITURE</u></b>			
Establishment Expenses	11	16,369,883	15,226,607
Other Administrative Expenses	12	6,580,232	2,630,780
Finance Charges	13	4,045	—
Depreciation(Corresponding to Schedule 5)			
<b>TOTAL (B)</b>		<b>22,954,160</b>	<b>17,857,387</b>
Balance being excess of Income over Expenditure (A-B)		571,175	1,896,914
- Transfer to Special reserve (Specify each)			
- Transfer to /from General Reserve			
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) CARRIED TO INCOME &amp; EXPENDITURE A/C</b>		<b>571,175</b>	<b>1,896,914</b>

SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

14

CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND NOTES ON ACCOUNTS

15

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

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

**PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA**  
**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31.03.2006**

Amount Rs.

<b><u>LIABILITIES</u></b>	<b>Schedule</b>	<b>Current Year</b>	<b>Previous Year</b>
CAPITAL FUND	1	9,631,707	8,704,118
RESERVES AND SURPLUS	2	43,600,493	41,690,334
C.P.F. FUND	3	34,557,970	29,783,114
CURRENT LIABILITIES AND PROVISIONS	4	229,495	188,998
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>88,019,666</b>	<b>80,366,564</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>			
FIXED ASSETS	5	9,631,707	8,704,118
INVESTMENTS-FROM EARMARKED FUNDS	6	32,739,756	29,968,370
CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS, ADVANCES ETC.	7	45,648,202	41,694,076
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>88,019,666</b>	<b>80,366,564</b>

SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES	14
CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND NOTES ON ACCOUNTS	15

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

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

**PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA**  
**SCHEDULES FORMING PART OF BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31.03.2006**

**SCHEDULE 1 - CAPITAL FUND**

Amount Rs.

	<b>Current Year</b>	<b>Previous Year</b>
Balance as at the beginning of the year	8,704,118	8,560,783
Add: Funds Capitalised During the Year	1,047,386	147,332
Add: Excess Amount written off in Previous Years now written Back	14,258	—
	9,765,762	8,708,115
Less: Amount of Fixed Assets overstated in Previous Year	134,055	780
Less: Amount Written Off on condemned Assets	—	3,217
<b>BALANCE AS AT THE YEAR_END</b>	<b>9,631,707</b>	<b>8,704,118</b>

**SCHEDULE 2- RESERVES AND SURPLUS**

Amount Rs.

	<b>Current Year</b>	<b>Previous Year</b>
<b>A. Income &amp; Expenditure Account:</b>		
Balance as at the beginning of the year	41,407,441	39,542,083
Add/(Deduct): Balance of net income/(expenditure) transferred from Income and Expenditure Account	571,175	1,896,914
Add/(Deduct): Other adjustment (Please Specify) Excess Interest booked in Previous Year written back		(31,556)
<b>B. Unspent Grant</b>	1,621,877	282,893
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>43,600,493</b>	<b>41,690,334</b>

**SCHEDULE 3- C.P.F. FUNDS**

Amount Rs.

	<b>Current Year</b>		<b>Previous Year</b>	
a) <u>Opening balance of the funds</u>	29,783,114		27,226,176	
b) <u>Addition to the Funds:</u>				
i. Councils' Contr. To C.P.F.	908,098		556,144	
ii. Employees' Contr. To C.P.F.	2,928,638		2,860,698	
iii. Interest on C.P.F. Funds from Govt.	2,392,447	6,229,183	2,186,248	5,603,090
<u>TOTAL (a+b)</u>	36,012,297		32,829,266	
c) <u>Utilisation/Expenditure towards objectives of funds</u>				
C.P.F. Withdrawals	1,374,500		1,900,245	
Final Payments to Outgoing Employees	—		1,019,628	
Reversal of excess credit of CPF in pr. Year	—		99,601	
PF Advances	79,827		—	
Other	—	1,454,327	26,678	3,046,152
<b>Net Balance of Fund as at the year end (a+b-c)</b>	<b>34,557,970</b>		<b>29,783,114</b>	

**SCHEDULE 4- CURRENT LIABILITIES AND PROVISIONS**

Amount Rs.

	<b>Current Year</b>		<b>Previous Year</b>	
<b>A. CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>				
1 Advances Received				
- Advance Levy of Fee	76,924		70,852	
- Levy Fee Suspense	78,701	155,625	78,951	149,803
2 Security Deposits	35,500		35,500	
3 Statutory Liabilities (TDS)				
- Overdue	—		—	—
- Others	30,449	30,449	—	—
4 Other current Liabilities	7,921		3,695	
<b>TOTAL (A)</b>	<b>229,495</b>		<b>188,998</b>	
<b>B. PROVISIONS</b>	—		—	
<b>TOTAL (A+B)</b>	<b>229,495</b>		<b>188,998</b>	

**SCHEDULE 5 - FIXED ASSETS**

DESCRIPTION	GROSS BLOCK			
	Cost As at 01.04.05	Additions during year	Ded./Adjustt Cost during year	Cost As at 31.03.06
<u>A. Fixed Assets:</u>				
Furniture & Fixtures	6,828,260	139,211	119,797	6,847,674
Air Conditioners & Coolers	—	230,772	—	230,772
Computer/Peripharals	—	422,600	—	422,600
EPABX System	—	28,080	—	28,080
Conference System	—	97,770	—	97,770
Library Books	540,007	36,142	—	576,149
Heat Convector & Heaters	—	37,230	—	37,230
Tape Recorders	—	5,304	—	5,304
Mobile Phones	—	8,800	—	8,800
Stabelisers	—	26,551	—	26,551
Cars & Bicycle	952,767	3,926	—	956,693
Television	—	11,000	—	11,600
Typewriter & Duplicator	383,084	—	—	383,084
<b>TOTAL OF CURRENT YEAR</b>	<b>8,704,118</b>	<b>1,047,386</b>	<b>119,797</b>	<b>9,631,707</b>
<u>B. CAPITAL, WORK-IN-PROGRESS</u>	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,704,118</b>	<b>1,047,386</b>	<b>119,797</b>	<b>9,631,707</b>

**SCHEDULE 5 - FIXED ASSETS**

DEPRECIATION				NET BLOCK	
Depreciation As at 01.04.05	On Additions during year	On Deductions during year	Depreciation As at 31.03.06	As at the 31.03.06	As at the 31.03.05
—	—	—	—	6,847,674	6,828,260
—	—	—	—	230,772	—
—	—	—	—	422,600	—
—	—	—	—	28,080	—
—	—	—	—	97,770	—
—	—	—	—	576,149	540,007
—	—	—	—	37,230	—
—	—	—	—	5,304	—
—	—	—	—	8,800	—
—	—	—	—	26,551	—
—	—	—	—	956,693	952,767
—	—	—	—	11,000	—
—	—	—	—	383,084	383,084
—	—	—	—	<b>9,631,707</b>	<b>8,704,118</b>
—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	9,631,707	8,704,118

**SCHEDULE 6- INVESTMENTS FROM EARMARKED FUNDS**

Amount Rs.

	<b>Current Year</b>		<b>Previous Year</b>	
1. Fixed Deposits with Schedule Banks				
- Against C.P.F. Fund	30,160,646		26,911,276	
- FDR Interest Accrued thereon	<u>2,579,110</u>	32,739,756	<u>3,057,094</u>	29,968,370
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>32,739,756</b>		<b>29,968,370</b>

**SCHEDULE 7- CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS, ADVANCES ETC.**

Amount Rs.

	<b>Current Year</b>		<b>Previous Year</b>	
<b>A. CURRENT ASSETS:</b>				
<b>1. Sundry Debtors:</b>				
- On Account of Levy Fees				
Debts Outstanding for a period exceeding six months	31,480,161		33,247,412	
Others	<u>2,270,251</u>	33,750,412	<u>—</u>	33,247,412
<b>2. Cash balances in hand</b> (including Postage in Hands and imprest)				
Cash in Hand	3,250		—	
Imprest Account Balance	10,000		2,000	
Postage Stamps in Hands	<u>16,465</u>	29,715	<u>9,935</u>	11,935
<b>3. Bank Balances:</b>				
- With Scheduled Banks:				
Saving Accounts				
- State Bank of Hyderabad - General Account	1,588,428		265,467	
- State Bank of Hyderabad - Levy Fee Account	6,960		5,491	
- State Bank of Hyderabad - Revolving Account	475,433		337,075	
- State Bank of Hyderabad - C.P.F. Account	<u>4,424,002</u>	6,494,823	<u>2,871,838</u>	3,479,871
Deposit Accounts				
- State Bank of Hyderabad - Revolving Account		1,743,116		1,447,685
<b>TOTAL (A)</b>		<b>42,018,066</b>		<b>38,186,903</b>

	<b>Current Year</b>		<b>Previous Year</b>	
<b><u>B. LOANS,ADVANCES AND OTHER ASSETS</u></b>				
1 <u>Loans to Staff:</u>				
- Cycle Advance	3,750		—	
- Fan Advance	200		—	
- Festival Advance	28,350		28,350	
- Housing Building Advance	179,637		209,973	
- Scooter Advance	37,202	249,139	88,370	326,693
2 <u>Advances and other amounts recoverable in cash or in kind lor for value to be received:</u>				
- On Capital Account	233,280		—	
- Prepayments				
- Advance for Books Periodicals	3,352		7,525	
- Advance to Parties	2,738,064		2,745,052	
- TA Advance	95,400		—	
- Tax Deducted at Source	45,331		—	
- Others				
- Salary Recoverable	9,538		—	
- MCA Suspense	1,000		—	
- Scooter Suspense	1,340		670	
- C.PF. Suspense	6,673	3,133,978	33,351	2,786,598
3 <b><u>Income Accrued</u></b>				
a) On Deposits of Revolving Account (includes income due unrealised- Rs. ....		190,688		325,551
4 Deposits with Different Departments		56,331		68,331
<b>TOTAL (B)</b>		<b>3,630,136</b>		<b>3,507,173</b>
<b>TOTAL (A +B)</b>		<b>45,648,202</b>		<b>41,694,076</b>

**SCHEDULE 8- INCOME FROM LEVY FEES & OTHERS**

Amount Rs.

	<b>Current Year</b>		<b>Previous Year</b>	
1 Levy fees received from Newspapers/ Periodicals/News Agencies	2,841,872		2,817,846	
Add: Demand raised for previous year	4,250		—	
Add: Advance of Previous Years adjusted	23,751		43,250	
Add: Fees outstanding for current Year	2,242,250		2,336,944	
Less: Fees received for previous Years	515,950		718,670	
Less: Fees received in advance / suspense	26,923	4,569,250	22,301	4,457,069
2 Others(Specify)				
- Recovery from Employee for Excess Credit of of PCI Contr. To C.P.F. in Pr. Year	—		99,601	
- Rcovery of Subs. To CGHS Card	—		1,650	
- Excess amount trf from CPF to GR	—		26,678	
- Other	2,105	2,105	48,649	176,578
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>4,571,355</b>		<b>4,633,647</b>

**SCHEDULE 9- GRANTS**

Amount Rs.

	<b>Current Year</b>		<b>Previous Year</b>	
(Irrevocable Grants & Subsidies Received)				
- Central Government (Ministry of I & B)				
- Grant Received During the Year	21,448,000		14,226,497	
- Add: Unspent Grant for the Previous Year	282,893		1,187,503	
	21,730,893		15,414,000	
- Less: Grant Utilised for Interest on C.P.F. Funds	2,392,447		2,186,248	
- Less: Grant Utilised for Fixed Assets	1,047,386		147,332	
- Less: Unspent Grant for the Current Year	1,621,877	16,669,183	282,893	12,797,527
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>16,669,183</b>		<b>12,797,527</b>

**SCHEDULE 10- INTEREST EARNED**

Amount Rs.

	<b>Current Year</b>		<b>Previous Year</b>	
1 On Term Deposits:				
a) With Scheduled Banks				
- CPF Account (trf to General Fund)				
Interest Received During the Year	2,470,458		2,792,293	
Add: Tax Deducted at Source	39,335		—	
Less: Related to Previous Years	2,110,253		2,303,180	
Less: Interest excess booked reversed in Pr. Year	26,678		—	
Add: Interest Accrued for the Year	1,632,269	2,005,131	1,577,274	2,066,387
- Revolving Fund Account				
Interest Received During the Year	295,431		—	
Add: Tax Deducted at Source	5,996		—	
Less: Related to Previous Years	241,548		—	
Add: Interest Accrued for the Year	106,685	166,564	146,196	146,196
2 On Savings Accounts:				
a) With Scheduled Banks				
- General Fund Account	1,829		—	
- CPF Account (Trf. To General Fund)	39,202		28,376	
- Levy Fees Account	9,597		7,596	
- Revolving Fund (Loans & Advances)	12,929	63,557	8,368	44,340
3 On Loans:				
a) Employees/Staff				
- Housing Building Advance	15,552		17,811	
- Scooter Advance	19,930		19,753	
- Motor Car Advance	14,063	49,545	28,640	66,204
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2,284,797</b>		<b>2,323,127</b>

**SCHEDULE 11 - ESTABLISHMENT EXPENSES**

Amount Rs.

	<b>Current Year</b>	<b>Previous Year</b>
a) Salaries and Wages	14,373,913	13,307,792
b) Sumptuary Allowances (incl.arrears)	133,706	30,750
c) OTA	13,279	6,231
d) Tution Fees Reimbursement	15,190	15,823
e) Medical Reimbursement	436,263	400,313
f) Bonus	149,713	149,253
g) L.T.C.	331,413	118,893
l) Encashment of E.L.	2,352	—
j) Contribution to Provident Fund	908,098	556,144
k) Leave Salary & Pension Contr. To deputationists	—	269,673
l) Expenses on Employees' Retirement and Terminal Benefits	—	368,359
m) Others (Honorarium Awards)	5,956	3,376
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,369,883</b>	<b>15,226,607</b>

**SCHEDULE 12 - OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES**

Amount Rs.

	<b>Current Year</b>	<b>Previous Year</b>
1 Electricity and Water	217,081	181,231
2 Office Expense	463,526	82,242
3 Insurance	1,155	—
4 Repairs and maintenance	604,258	—
5 Vehicles Repairs and Maintenance	177,617	81,021
6 Travelling and conveyance Expenses	2,205,508	529,772
7 Rent,Rates and Taxes	14,624	—
8 Postage, Telephone and Communication Charges	482,140	440,672
9 Printing and Stationary	749,872	408,208
10Newspapers & Periodicals	77,019	72,915
11Liveries to Class IV Staff	44,773	10,450
12Hospitality Expenses	143,471	26,398
13Subscription Expenses	22,598	—
14Professional Charges	46,390	—
15Auditors Remuneration	—	—
16Advertisement and Publicity	100,000	—
17Others(specify)- Sundries	—	713,692
18Provision for Bad and Doubtful IDebts/Advances	1,230,200	66,300
19Tax Deducted	—	17,879
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,580,232</b>	<b>2,630,780</b>

**Note:**

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

**SCHEDULE 13 - FINANCE CHARGES**

Amount Rs.

	<b><i>Current Year</i></b>	<b><i>Previous Year</i></b>
a) On Fixed Loans		
b) On Other Loans (including Bank Charges)	4,045	—
c) Other (specify)		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,045</b>	<b>—</b>

**PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA**  
**SCHEDULE FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2006**

**SCHEDULE 14 - SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**1. Accounting Convention**

The financial statements are prepared on the basis of historical cost convention unless otherwise stated.

**2. Method of Accounting**

Council is following the accrual method of accounting unless otherwise stated.

**3. Investments**

- a. Investments against C.P.F. Fund are classified as earmarked investments.
- b. Investments against Revolving (Loans & Advances) account are treated as current assets.
- c. Investments are shown at the principal value as increased by the interest accrued thereon.

**4. Fixed Assets**

- a. Fixed assets are stated at cost of acquisition inclusive of duties and taxes thereon. Other direct expenses related to acquisition are not capitalised.
- b. Capital Fund is maintained to denote the cost of Fixed Assets.

**5. Depreciation**

The Council is not providing any depreciation on its assets right from its inception.

**6. Government Grant**

- a. Government Grants are accounted on cash basis.
- b. Grants utilised towards the addition of fixed assets are transferred to the Capital Fund.
- c. Grants utilised towards the interest on C.P.F. Fund are transferred to C.P.F. Account.
- d. Unspent Grant for the year are transferred to Reserve & Surplus to further use in the next year.

## 7. Retirement Benefits

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

Sd/-  
**(Kunwar Singh)**  
Deputy Secretary

Sd/-  
**(G.N.Ray)**  
Chairman

Sd/-  
**(Vibha Bhargava)**  
Secretary

**PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA**  
**SCHEDULE FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2006**

**SCHEDULE 15 - CONTINGENT LIABILITIES & NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

**A. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES**

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

**B. NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

**1. Current Assets, Loans & Advances**

- a. Balances in the Sundry Debtors, Advances for Books & Periodicals and Advance to Parties have not been confirmed from the respective parties/departments.
- b. In the opinion of the management of the Council, the other current assets, loans & advances have a realisable value equal at least to the amount shown in the Balance Sheet, in the ordinary course of business.

**2. Provision for Taxation**

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

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

Sd/-  
**(Kunwar Singh)**  
Deputy Secretary

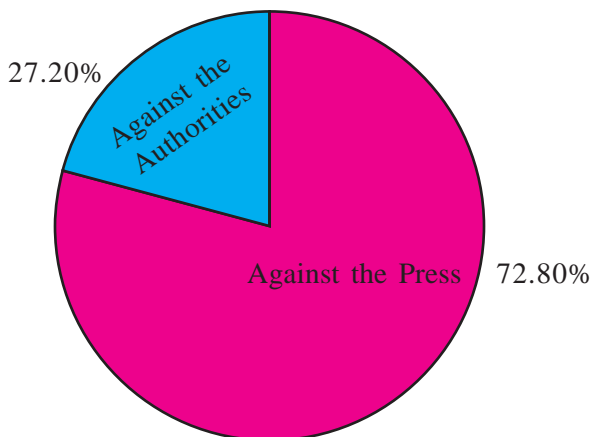
Sd/-  
**(G.N.Ray)**  
Chairman

Sd/-  
**(Vibha Bhargava)**  
Secretary

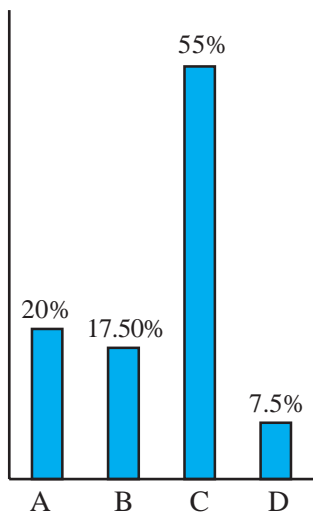
**Statement of Cases**  
(April 1, 2005 — March 31, 2006)

S.No.	Particulars	Complaints by the Press	Complaints against the Press	Total
1.	Cases pending as on 31.3.2005	182	793	975
2.	Cases filed between 1.4.2005 to 31.3.2006	150	576	726
3.	Cases adjudicated between 1.4.2005 to 31.3.2006	40	153	193
4.	Cases disposed of by way of dismissal at preliminary stage between 1.4.2005 to 31.3.2006	197	550	747
5.	Cases directly placed before the Council	1	—	1
6.	Cases pending as on 31.3.2006	94	666	760

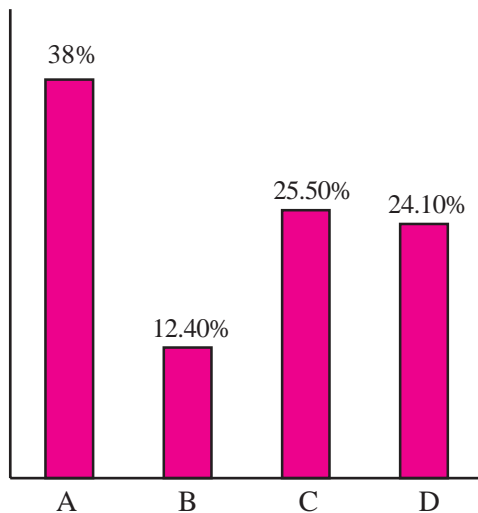
## Graph of Adjudications 2005-2006



### Against the Authorities



### Against the Press



#### **Foot Note:-**

A: Upheld

B: Rejected

C: Assurance/settled/amends

D: Dropped for non-prosecution/withdrawal/sub-judice/lack of substance

## Subject Index of Adjudications in Complaints Regarding Threats to Press Freedom

S. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
<b>Harassment of Newsmen</b>			
1.	Complaint of Shri Lalji Bharmar, Editor-in-Charge, Rashtriya Chinha, Gorakhpur, U.P. against police authorities, Gorakhpur and Government of U.P.	June 28, 2005	Disposed of with observations
2.	Complaint of Shri Bhupinder Singh, Owner/Printer/Publisher/Editor, India One Day, Hindi Fortnightly, New Delhi against Executive Engineer, Public Works Division, Delhi.	,,	Dismissed being un-substantiated
3.	Complaint of Shri Bhupinder Singh, Owner/Printer/Publisher/Editor, India One Day, Hindi Fortnightly, New Delhi against Smile Foundation Public School, Nangloi, Delhi.	,,	Dismissed being devoid of merit
4.	Complaint of Shri Ramesh Chandra Likhariya, Editor/Publisher, Mahakal Bharat, Jhansi, U.P. against anti-social elements.	,,	Dismissed being devoid of merit
5.	Complaint of Shri Rajender Mayer, Editor, Kesari Nandan, Punjabi Weekly, Ludhiana, Punjab against Shri Rajesh Kumar, Clerk, O/o Sub-Registrar, Ludhiana West, Punjab.	,,	Settled
6.	Complaint of Shri Bhagwat Swarup Sharma, Journalist, Rishikesh, Uttaranchal against local administration and police authorities of Rishikesh, Uttaranchal.	,,	Dismissed for lack of substance

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Parties</b>	<b>Date of Decision</b>	<b>Category</b>
7.	Complaint of Shri Ramji Prasad Gupta Editor/Publisher, Gorakhpur Mail, Gorakhpur, U.P. against Shri P.K. Singh, SHO, Gorakhpur, U.P.	June 28 2005	Directions
8.	Complaint of Shri Krishna Narayan Tiwari, Publisher/Editor, Yug Jwala, Hindi Fortnightly, Gonda, U.P. against The Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh and Tehsildar, Torbaganj, Gonda, U.P.	October 7, 2005	Settled
9.	Complaint of Shri Bharat Bhushan Sharma, Press Correspondent, Punjabi Tribune, Faridkot, Punjab against police authorities, Government of Punjab.	''	Directions
10.	Complaint of Shri Jogender Singh, Correspondent, Amar Ujala, Khuttar, Shahjahanpur, U.P. against police authorities of U.P.	''	Matter dropped
11.	Complaint of Shri Pankaj Kumar Singh, Correspondent, Dainik Swatantra Chetna, Meerut, (U.P.) against Agriculture Production Mandi, Meerut, U.P.	''	Settled
12.	Complaint of Shri Chandan Kumar Singh, Correspondent, Azad Mazdoor, Hindi Weekly and Shri Shailender Mehot, Cameraman, Azad News, Jamshedpur against police authorities, Jamshedpur.	February 9, 2006	Upheld
13.	Complaint of Shri Lalji Bhramer, Editor/Publisher, Rashtra Chinha, Gorakhpur, U.P. against police authorities of Uttar Pradesh.	''	Disposed of with directions

S. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
14.	Complaint of Shri Ved Prakash Sharma, Editor, Hind Prahari, Hindi Weekly Delhi against (i) Manager, Canterbury Public School, Delhi, (ii) Director, Education Department, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (iii) Police Authorities (iv) The Chief Secretary, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi and (v) The Secretary, Home (Police) Department, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, Delhi.	February 9, 2006	Closed with directions
15.	Complaint of Shri Ved Prakash Sharma, Editor, Hind Prahari, Hindi Weekly, Delhi against (i) Manager, Canterbury Public School, Delhi (ii) Director, Education Department, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (iii) Police Authorities (iv) The Chief Secretary, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi and (v) The Secretary, Home (Police) Department, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, Delhi.	”	Closed with directions
16.	Complaint of Shri Ved Prakash Sharma Editor, Hind Prahari, Hindi Weekly, Delhi against (i) Manager, Canterbury Public School, Delhi, (ii) Director, Education Department, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (iii) Police Authorities (iv) The Chief Secretary, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi and (v) The Secretary, Home (Police) Department, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, Delhi.	”	Closed with directions

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Parties</b>	<b>Date of Decision</b>	<b>Category</b>
17.	Complaint of Shri Ram Kumar Gupta, Editor/ Publisher, Veshya Lehar, Lucknow, U.P. against plice authorities, U.P.	February 9, 2006	Matter allowed to rest
18.	Complaint of Md. Aman Khan, District Representative, Jagrook Express, Hindi Daily, Mirzapur, U.P. against police authorities of Uttar Pradesh.	”	Closed with observation
19.	Complaint of Shri Sanjeev Sharma, Journalist, Bhind, M.P. against local police, Bhind/M.P.	”	Sub-judice
20.	Complaint of Shri Vijay Garg, Press Photographer, Action India, Hindi Weekly, Delhi against police authorities, Delhi.	”	Matter closed

### **Facilities to the Press**

21.	Complaint of Shri Prabir Kumar Sarkar, Chief Editor, Coal Field Times, Kolkata, against Chairman, Coal India Ltd., Kolkata, West Bengal.	June 28, 2005	Disposed of with observa- tions
22.	Complaint of Shri Arun Nath, Editor/Publisher, Tripura Observer, Agartala against Directorate of Information & Cultural Affairs and Tourism, Govt. of Tripura, Agartala.	”	Withdrawn
23.	Complaint of Shri Ganga Prasad Verma, Editor, Rapti Express, Baharaich, U.P. against District Information Officer, Baharaich, U.P.	”	Settled
24.	Complaint of Shri Bal Kishan Verma, Chief Editor, Swarn Darpan, Jhansi, U.P. against DAVP, New Delhi.	”	Disposed of
25.	Complaint of Md. Mokhtar Ahmad, Correspondent, Quami Tanzeem, Nalanda, Bihar against District Information and Public Relations Department, Nalanda, Bihar.	”	Closed with observations

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Parties</b>	<b>Date of Decision</b>	<b>Category</b>
26.	Complaint of Choudhary Amar Singh Jauhari, Editor, Akhiri Koshish, Panipat, Haryana against Chief Electoral Officer, Haryana/Chandigarh.	June 28, 2005	Dismissed
27.	Complaint of Shri Joginder Mittal, President, Rashtriya Patrakar Sampadak Sangh, Karnal, Haryana against Government of Haryana	”	Directions
28.	Complaint of Smt. Bijoy Lakshmi Chatterjee, Publisher, Gramanchal Shilpanchaler Khabar, Chittaranjan against Sr. Superintendent of Post Offices, Asansol and Post Master General, South Bengal Division, Kolkata.	”	Disposed of with directions
29.	Complaint of Smt. Bijoy Lakshmi Chatterjee, Publisher, Gramanchal Shilpanchaler Khabar, Chittaranjan against Sr. Superintendent of Post Offices, Asansol and Post Master General, South Bengal Division, Kolkata.	”	Disposed of with disrections
30.	Complaint of Shri Subhrangshu Chatterjee, Editor, Gramanchal Shilpanchaler Khabar, Chittaranjan, Burdwan against Block Development Officer and Executive Officer, Burdwan, Solanpur Panchayat Samiti, Burdwan, West Bengal.	”	Directions
31.	Complaint of Shri Sanjay Kumar, District General Secretary, Bihar Working Journalist Union, Nalanda, Bihar against Information and Public Relations Department, Bihar.	October 7, 2005	Directions

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<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Parties</b>	<b>Date of Decision</b>	<b>Category</b>
32.	Complaint of Shri Lal Chand Puneet, Editor, Marukeshtra, Balhotra, Rajasthan against Postal Department, Jodhpur, Rajasthan.	October 7, 2005	Directions
33.	Complaint of Shri Naresh Kumar Choubey, Press Reporter, Lamba Safar, Hindi Weekly, Delhi against Director of Information and Public Relations, Government of NCT of Delhi.	”	Directions
34.	Complaint of Shri Avinash Kumar Singh, Editor, Fatehpur Rangshala, Fatehpur, U.P. against Election Commission.	”	Upheld with directions
35.	Complaint of Shri Ramesh Chandra Likhariya, Publisher, Mahakal Bharat Samachar, Jhansi, U.P. against RNI.	”	Grievance mitigated
36.	Complaint of Shri P.V. Ramana Rao, Correspondent, PTI, Guntur (A.P.) against Manager and Chief Public Relations Officer, South Central Railway, Guntur.	”	Grievance ventilated
37.	Complaint of Shri D.V. Laxmi Narayan, Editor, Viniyoga Hakku, Guntur, (A.P.) against Director, I&PRD, Government of Andhra Pradesh.	”	Assurance
38.	Complaint of Shri Chandradev Rajbhar Chandra, Chief Editor, Times of Singrauli, Singrauli Sindhi, M.P. against RNI, New Delhi.	February 9 2006	Disposed of directions
39.	Complaint of Shri Vinod Kumar Jain, Chief Executive Officer, Business Star, English Monthly, Delhi against Chief Post Master General, Delhi Circle.	”	Matter allowed to rest
40.	Complaint of Shri Zaki Ullah, Editor, Gul Hai Khandan, Urdu monthly, Rampur, Uttar Pradesh against DAVP, New Delhi.	”	Directions

## Subject Index of Adjudications in Complaints Against the Press

S. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
<b>Principles and Publication</b>			
1.	Complaint of Mrs. Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, New Delhi against The Editor, Today, English Daily, New Delhi.	June 28, 2005	Closed with advise
2.	Complaint of Shri Suresh Kumar Dua Rohtak, Haryana against Editor, Dainik Bhaskar, Panipat, Haryana.	”	Disposed of advise of caution
3.	Complaint of Shri Baldev Singh, Goindwal, Punjab against Editor, The Tribune, Chandigarh.	”	Dismissed being devoid of merit
4.	Complaint of Ms. Savita Agarwal and Ms. Ritu Jain, Advocates, New Delhi against The Editor, Employment News, New Delhi	”	Closed with directions
5.	Complaint of Shri P.K. Sengupta, Secretary, Justice Mukherjee Commission for Inquiry, Kolkata against Ananda Bazar Patrika, Kolkata.	”	Disposed of
6.	Complaint of M/s Bibaha Bandhani, Marriage Bureau and Marriage Registration Office, Kolkata against The Editor, Ananda Bazar Patrika, Kolkata.	”	Disposed of
7.	Complaint of Shri J.V. Ramanan, Kolkata against The Editor, The Hindustan Times, Kolkata.	”	Closed
8.	Complaint of Shri Jayanta Deka and Others, Advocates of Mangaldai Town, Darrang, Assam against Editor, Sadin, Guwahati, Assam.	”	Censured

M-Adjudications Merged

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Parties</b>	<b>Date of Decision</b>	<b>Category</b>
9.	Complaint of Shri Achanta Bapiraju, Secunderabad, (Andhra Pradesh) against Deccan Chronicle, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh.	October 7, 2005	Directions
10.	Complaint of Shri K.N.K. Karthiayani, Chief Post Master General, Department of Posts, Kerala Circle, Thiruvananthapuram against Deshabhimani, Thiruvananthapuram.	”	Grievance ventilated
11.	Complaint of The Public Relations Officer, Traffic Department, Industrial Relation Section, Tuticorin Port Trust, Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu against Financial Express, Chennai and PTI.	”	Amends made with advise
12.	Complaint of Shri Mathews Philip, Convenor Advocacy Unit, Campaign Against Child Labour, Karnataka, Bangalore against Deccan Herald, Bangalore.	”	Censured
13.	Complaint of Shri S.M. Kulandaisamy, Madurai, Tamil Nadu against the editor, Dinamalar, Madurai, Tamil Nadu.	”	Amends made
14.	Complaint of Shri S.M. Kulandaisamy, Madurai, Tamil Nadu against the editor, Dinamalar, Madurai, Tamil Nadu.	”	Disposed of
15.	Complaint of Shri Ravi Gupta, Journalist, Chhattarpur, M.P. against Chhattarpur Bhramar, Chhattarpur, M.P.	February 9, 2006	Censured
16.	Complaint of Shri Rahman Azer, Editor, Nayab Publications, Bangalore against The Pioneer, New Delhi.	”	Upheld
17.	Complaint of Shri Vinod Kumar Yadav, Hanumangarh, Rajasthan against Rajasthan Patrika, Rajasthan.	”	Settled

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Parties</b>	<b>Date of Decision</b>	<b>Category</b>
<b>Press and Defamation</b>			
18.	Complaint of Dr. Om Prakash Bhandari and Smt. Radha Bhandari, Chittorgarh, Rajasthan against Surya Rath, Chittorgarh, Rajasthan.	June 28, 2005	Censured
19.	Complaint of Mrs. Manju Wadwalkar, Public Relations Officer, Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh against the Editor, The Indian Express.	''	Withdrawn
20.	Complaint of Shri Hemanta Kumar Dash, Secretary, Jatiya Sabha Prathisthan, Baripada, Orissa against The Samaj, Buxibazar, Cuttack, Orissa.	''	Disposed of with observation
21.	Complaint of Shri Sanjiv Jaiswal Puri, Champaran, Bihar against the Editor, Dainik Hindustan, Champaran, Bihar.	''	Disposed of with direction
22.	Complaint of Dr. Narendra Kumar Singh Gaur, MLA and Ex Minister, U.P. Government Allahabad against the Editor, Dainik Amar Ujala, Allahabad.	''	Dismissed
23.	Complaint of Shri Sudhir Tyadi, Ex-District President, Congress Committee, Jyotiba Phule Nagar, U.P. against the Editor, Dainik Shah Times, Muzaffarnagar, U.P.	''	Censured
24.	Complaint of Shri B.N. Upadhyaya, General Manager, (TT&A), BSNL, Jaipur, Rajasthan against Editor, Sajag Pratinidhi, Hindi Weekly, Jaipur, Rajasthan.	''	Dismissed
25.	Complaint of Dr. Harminder Singh Kalra, Bijnor, U.P. against the Editor, Shah Times, Moradabad, U.P.	''	Censured
26.	Complaint of Shri Makhan Singh and All Devotees of Param Deva Ashram, Jalandhar, Punjab against Editor, Sailaab, Punjabi Weekly, Hoshiarpur, Punjab.	''	Censured

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Parties</b>	<b>Date of Decision</b>	<b>Category</b>
27.	Complaint of Shri Dilip Kumar Jain, Grocery Merchant, Lalitpur, U.P. against the Editor, Lalit Padam, Lalitpur, U.P.	June 28, 2005	Dismissed
28.	Complaint of Shri Gurdeep Singh and Ms. Kiranjyot, Chandigarh against Dasmesh Pita, Patiala, Punjab.	”	Censured
29.	Complaint of Dr. N.P. Singh, N.P. Singh Hospital, Ambala City, Haryana against the Editor, The Indian Express, Chandigarh.	”	Warned
30.	Complaint of Shri Surendra Kumar Sharma and Shri Sanjay Kumar Kaushik, New Delhi against the Editor, Rohini Samarpan Times.	”	Matter allowed to rest
31.	Complaint of Shri Surendra Kumar Sharma and Shri Sanjay Kumar Kaushik, New Delhi against the Editor, Rohini Samarpan Times, Delhi.	”	Matter allowed to rest
32.	Complaint of Deputy Commissioner of Police, Detective Department, Government of West Bengal, Kolkata against Ananda Bazar Patrika, Kolkata.	”	Disposed of with directions
33.	Complaint of The Principal, Christ Jyoti School, Nagaon, Assam against the Editor, Ajir Asom, Guwahati.	”	Admonished
34.	Complaint of The Principal, Christ Jyoti School, Nagaon, Assam against the Editor, Asomiya Pratidin, Guwahati.	”	Admonished
35.	Complaint of The Principal, Christ Jyoti School, Nagaon, Assam against the Editor, Amar Asom.	”	Admonished
36.	Complaint of The Principal, Christ Jyoti School, Nagaon, Assam against the Editor, Sadin.	”	Admonished

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Parties</b>	<b>Date of Decision</b>	<b>Category</b>
37.	Complaint of Dr. Chanakaya Das, Professor, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Guwahati Medical College and Hospital, Guwahati against the Editor, Aji, Assamese Daily, Guwahati.	June 28, 2005	Censured
38.	Complaint of Ms. Rajni Gupta, Freelance Journalist, Panipat, Haryana against Dainik Jagran, Panipat.	October 7, 2005 M	Censured
39.	Complaint of Ms. Rajni Gupta, Freelance Journalist, Panipat, Haryana against Dainik Bhaskar, Panipat.		Censured
40.	Complaint of Shri Alok Kumar Roy, IPS, Superintendent of Police, Rohtak, Haryana against Dainik Tribune, Chandigarh.	M	Dismissed-not pursued
41.	Complaint of Shri Alok Kumar Roy, IPS, Superintendent of Police, Rohtak, Haryana against The Hindustan Times, New Delhi.		Dismissed-not pursued
42.	Complaint of Shri Alok Kumar Roy, IPS, Superintendent of Police, Rohtak, Haryana against Hari Bhoomi, Rohtak, (Haryana).		Dismissed-not pursued
43.	Complaint of Dr. Neeraj Nagpal, Secretary, Indian Medical Association, Chandigarh State Branch, Chandigarh against The Times of India, Chandigarh.		Dismissed-not pursued
44.	Complaint of Shri Jagdish Sewalani, M/s Vishnu Agency, Marwar Junction, Pali-Marwar (Rajasthan) against Garib Sathi, Jodhpur, Rajasthan.	''	Censured
45.	Complaint of Shri Sudesh Kumar Gupta, Smt. Saroj Gupta, President Rashtriya Bhrashtachar Unmulan Samiti, Jind, Haryana against Dainik Bhaskar, Panipat, Haryana.	''	Dismissed-not pursued

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Parties</b>	<b>Date of Decision</b>	<b>Category</b>
46.	Complaint of S/Shri Pappu and Ramesh Chander, Kasganj, Etah, U.P. against "Aaj", Agra.	October 7, 2005	Directions
47.	Complaint of Shri Mahant Malkit Dass of Shree Gaushalaji, Katkapur, Punjab against Desh Sewak, Punjabi Daily, Chandigarh.	M "	Dismissed-not pursued
48.	Complaint of Shri Mahant Malkit Dass of Shree Gaushalaji, Katkapur, Punjab against Desh Sewak, Punjabi Daily, Chandigarh.		Dismissed-not pursued
49.	Complaint of Shri Rampal Sharma, Sarai Rohilla, Delhi against Rashtriya Times, Delhi.		Censured
50.	Complaint of Dr. (Mrs.) Kusum Sharma, Medical Women Hospital, Bharatpur, Rajasthan against Lal Nishan, Bharatpur, Rajasthan.	"	Admonished
51.	Complaint of Ms. Indu Chadha, Principal, Government College, Gurgaon, Haryana against Hindustan, New Delhi.	M "	Censured
52.	Complaint of Ms. Indu Chadha, Principal, Government College, Gurgaon, Haryana against Amar Ujala, Noida, U.P.		Directions
53.	Complaint of Ms. Indu Chadha, Principal, Governement College, Gurgaon, Haryana against and Dainik Jagran, New Dehi.		Directions
54.	Complaint of Prof. Prakash Singh Bisen, Director and Yusuf Saify, Research Student, Madhav Institute of Science and Technology, Gwalior, M.P. against Nav Bharat, Gwalior, M.P.	"	Disposed of with observations

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Parties</b>	<b>Date of Decision</b>	<b>Category</b>
55.	Complaint of The Manager, Danish Housing Co-operative Society Ltd., Bhopal against Dainik Sandhya Prakash, Bhopal, M.P.	October 7, 2005	Directions
56.	Complaint of Dr. N.K. Rai, Joint Director, Institute of Human Behaviour & Allied Sciences, Delhi against Sabki Khabar, Delhi.	”	Disposed of with directions
57.	Complaint of Dr. A.C. Nagpal, Nagpal Nursing Home, Kurukshetra, Haryana against Hari Bhoomi, Rohtak, Haryana.	”	Directions
58.	Complaint of Shri K. Raghava Reddy, G.M. Medinova Diagnostic Services Ltd. and Shri J.A. Kumara Swamy, Marketing Manager, Medinova Diagnostic Services Ltd., Bangalore against Agni Idhu Pathrikeyalla Prathibhataneya Astra, Bangalore.	”	Dismissed in default
59.	Complaints of Dr. D.S. Dhankar, Public Relations Officer and Pandit B.D. Sharma, PGIMS, Rohtak, Haryana against The Tribune, Chandigarh.	” M	Dismissed
60.	Complaints of Dr. D.S. Dhankar, Public Relations Officer and Pandit B.D. Sharma PGIMS, Rohtak, Haryana against The Tribune, Chandigarh.		Dismissed
61.	Complaint of Shri Madhukar Jetely, Advocate Lucknow against Jadid Markaz, Lucknow (U.P.).	”	Dismissed in default
62.	Complaint of The Assistant Regional Transport Officer (Administration) Sultanpur, U.P. against Dainik Jagran, Kanpur, U.P.	”	Dismissed

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Parties</b>	<b>Date of Decision</b>	<b>Category</b>
63.	Complaint of Shri Bharat Bhushan Bansal, Proprietor, M/s Ramlal Chandanlal, Muzaffarnagar, U.P. against Amar Ujala, Meerut, U.P.	October 7, 2005	Directions
64.	Complaint of Shri Mehboob Ali, M.L.A., Former State Minister of Waqf, Amroha, U.P. against Amar Ujala, Moradabad, U.P.	”	Dismissed
65.	Complaint of Dr. Prem Swaroop, Ex-CMO, Shravasti, U.P. against Bhinga Times, Shravasti (U.P.)	” M	Closed
66.	Complaint of Dr. Prem Swaroop, Ex-CMO, Shravasti, U.P. against Janmorcha, Shravasti (U.P.).		Closed
67.	Complaint of Shri N.K. Chaudhary, Executive Engineer, Public Health Division-II, Yamunanagar (Haryana) against Dainik Bhaskar, Chandigarh	”	Dismissed in default
68.	Complaint of Chowdhury Ravindra Singh, Roorkee, Uttaranchal against Badri Vishal, Haridwar.	” M	Reprimanded
69.	Complaint of Chowdhury Ravindra Singh, Roorkee, Uttaranchal against Dainik Jagran, Dehradun.		Grievance settled
70.	Complaint of Shri R.S. Pawar, PRO for Commissioner of Police, New Delhi against The Times of India, New Delhi.	”	Closed
71.	Complaint of M/s Shahi Export House, Faridabad, Haryana against “Bigul”, Lucknow, U.P.	”	Warned
72.	Complaint of Shri Pradeep Kumar Saravgi, Dilip Medical Store, Mauranipur, Jhansi (U.P.) against Janta Ki Guhar, Jhansi, U.P.	”	Warned

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Parties</b>	<b>Date of Decision</b>	<b>Category</b>
73.	Complaint of Dr. Bimal Kundu, Hooghly, West Bengal against Mafaswal Bani, Hooghly, West Bengal	October 7, 2005	Warned
74.	Complaint of Dr. N.S. Tewari, Ex-Director (Retd.) Central Research Institute, Bhubaneswar, Orissa against the Samaj, Cuttack.	''	Proceedings dropped
75.	Complaint of Mrs. Manika Pradhan, Director (Retd.) Central Research Institute, Bhubaneswar, Orissa against the Samaj, Cuttack.	''	Proceedings dropped
76.	Complaint of Shri B.R. Tripathi, Commissioner, Office of the Commissioner of Customs, (Prev) Patna, Bihar against Dainik Hindustan, Patna, Bihar.	''	Warned
77.	Complaint of Shri B.R. Tripathi, Commissioner, Office of the Commissioner of Customs, (Prev) Patna, Bihar against Dainik Jagran, Patna, Bihar.	''	Warned
78.	Complaint of Shri Madhu Singh, Ex Minister of Land Reforms & Revenue, Government of Jharkhand, Ranchi against Ranchi Express, Jharkhand.	''	Proceedings dropped
79.	Complaint of Dr. A.K. Singh, M.D. M/s K.K. Hospital, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi against Bharat Post, Delhi.	''	Dismissed
80.	Complaint of Shri Jameer Ahmed Ali, Bangalore against Lankesh Patrike, Bangalore.	''	Censured
81.	Complaint of Shri R. Raghu, Chairman, Karnataka Exhibition Authority, Mysore, Karnataka against Lankesh Patrike, Bangalore, Karnataka.	''	Warned

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Parties</b>	<b>Date of Decision</b>	<b>Category</b>
82.	Complaint of Shri R. Raghu, Chairman, Karnataka Exhibition Authority, Mysore against Andholan Dinapatrike, Mysore.	October 7, 2005	Dismissed
83.	Complaint of The Secretary, Hyderabad Race Club, Hyderabad against The Times of India, Hyderabad.	''	Dismissed
84.	Complaint of Shri P.R. Ramesh, Mayor, Bangalore City Corporation, Bangalore, Karnataka against The Times of India, Bangalore.	M	Dismissed
85.	Complaint of Shri P.R. Ramesh, Mayor, Bangalore City Corporation, Bangalore, Karnataka against Vijay Karnataka, Bangalore.		Dismissed
86.	Complaint of Shri N.R. Jagadesh, Chairman Sarvodaya Trust, Tumkur, Karnataka against Hai Bangalore, Bangalore.	''	Warned
87.	Complaint of Shri Prakash Tapa Shetty, Chairman, Basaveshwara Co-operative Bank, Bagalkot, Karnataka against Hai Bangalore, Bangalore.	''	Withdrawn
88.	Complaint of Shri B.T. Dayanand Reddy, Bangalore against Agni Idhu Patrike Alla Pralhibaleneya Ashtra, Kannada Weekly, Bangalore.	''	Dismissed-not pursued
89.	Complaint of The Managing Director, A.P. State Warehousing Corporation, Hyderabad against Vartha, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh	''	Censured
90.	Complaint of Shri Ramoji Rao, Chief of Eenadu Group of Companies and General Manager of Ramoji Film City, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh against Vartha, Hyderabad.	''	Admonished

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Parties</b>	<b>Date of Decision</b>	<b>Category</b>
91.	Complaint of Shri K. Rama Krishna, Vijayawada, A.P. against Andhra Bhoomi, Vijaywada, Andhra Pradesh.	October 7, 2005	Disposed of with directions
92.	Complaint of Shri K. Rama Krishna, Vijayawada, A.P. against Andhra Jyoti, Vijaywada, Andhra Pradesh.	M	Disposed of with directions
93.	Complaint of Shri K. Rama Krishna, Vijayawada, A.P. against Eenadu, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh.	M	Disposed of with directions
94.	Complaint of The General Manager, Cannanore Spinning and Weaving Mills, Cannanore, Kerala against Malayala Manorama, Kannur, Kerala.	M	Settled
95.	Complaint of Shri G.M. Joseph Raj, Principal, St. Antony's Matriculation and Higher Secondary School, Chennai against Dinamalar, Chennai.	M	Dismissed being devoid of merit
96.	Complaint of Shri K.M. Kurian, Commercial Manager, M/s Air India Ltd., Cochin, Kerala against Kerala Mid Day Times, Kochi, Kerala.	M	Closed
97.	Complaint of M/s BPL Communications Ltd., Bangalore against The Economic Times, New Delhi.	M	Closed
98.	Complaint of Shri Manoj Ranjan Singh, M/s Riga Petroleum, Riga, Sitamarhi, Bihar against Dainik Hindustan, Muzaffarpur, Bihar.	February 9, 2006	Reprimanded
99.	Complaint of Manager Secretary, Sandila Girl's Intermediate College, Sandila, Hardoi, Uttar Pradesh against Hindustan, Lucknow, U.P.	M	Reprimanded
100.	Complaint of Shri Pradeep Jain, Devriya Sadar U.P. against Swatantra Chetna, Gorakhpur, U.P.	M	Censured

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Parties</b>	<b>Date of Decision</b>	<b>Category</b>
101.	Complaint of Shri L.P. Sinha, Managing Director, Bihar State Hydroelectric power Corporation, Patna against Prabhat Khabar, Patna.	February 9, 2006	Upheld
102.	Complaint of Shri Vijay Kumar Sinha, Patna against Aj, Patna.	” M ” ” ” ”	Offers to publish clarification
103.	Complaint of Shri Vijay Kumar Sinha, Patna against Dainik Jagran.		Direction to publish clarification
104.	Complaint of Shri Vijay Kumar Sinha, Patna against Hindustan Times.		Offers to publish clarification
105.	Complaint of Shri Vijay Kumar Sinha, Patna against Hindustan.		offers to publish clarification
106.	Complaint of Shri Vijay Kumar Sinha, Patna against Amrit Varsha, Patna.		Direction to publish clarification
107.	Complaint of Shri Ravinder Dwivedi, National President, Bhrastachar Nirmulan Samiti, Thane against Khabren Aaj Tak.		” M ”
108.	Complaint of Shri Ravinder Dwivedi, National President, Bhrastachar Nirmulan Samiti, Thane against Nav Bharat.	Dismissed	
109.	Complaint of Shri Ravinder Dwivedi, National President, Bhrastachar Nirmulan Samiti, Thane against Janambhoomi.	Dismissed	
110.	Complaint of Dr. (Smt.) Naseem Bhatia, Vice-Chancellor, Jai Narain Vyas University, Rajasthan against Dainik Navjyoti, Jodhpur, Rajasthan.	”	Settled
111.	Complaint of Shri Kheem Singh Bisht, General Secretary, Ex Servicemen League Haldwani, Nainital, Uttaranchal against Amar Ujala, Bareilly.	”	Censured

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Parties</b>	<b>Date of Decision</b>	<b>Category</b>
112.	Complaint of Shri Kheem Singh Bisht, General Secretary, Ex Servicemen League Haldwani, Nainital, Uttaranchal against Amar Ujala, Bareilly.	February 9, 2006 M	Censured
113.	Complaint of Shri Devendra Shastri, Chairman, Degree College, Sirmour, Rewa, M.P. against Dainik Jagran, Rewa, M.P.	”	Dismissed-not pursued
114.	Complaint of Shri Rajendra Sharma, Manager (Marketing) M.P. State Industiral Co-op. Federation, Bhopal, M.P. against Weekly Siddhanath, Bhopal, M.P.	”	Withdrawn
115.	Complaint of Smt. Savita Dewan Sharma, Former Member, Legislative Assembly, M.P. and Congress Candidate Hoshangabad, M.P. against Dainik Nav Bharat, Bhopal.	”	Dismissed-not pursued
116.	Complaint of Shri J. Alexander, Hon'ble Minister for Tourism, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore against Lankesh Patrike, Bangalore.	”	Dismissed-not pursued
117.	Complaint of Shri M.S. Zahed, Chairman and Managing Director, M/s HMT Limited, Bangalore against The Times of India, Bangalore.	” M	Censured
118.	Complaint of Shri M.S. Zahed, Chairman and Managing Director, M/s HMT Limited, Bangalore against The Times of India, Bangalore.	”	Censured
119.	Complaint of Shri I. Ventkateshwarulu IAS, Managing Diretor, A.P. State Warehousing Corporation, Hyderabad against Andhra Jyoti, Hyderabad.	”	Dismissed-not pursued

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Parties</b>	<b>Date of Decision</b>	<b>Category</b>
120.	Complaint of Shri I. Venkateshwarulu IAS, Managing Director, A.P. State Warehousing Corporation, Hyderabad against Eenadu, Hyderabad.	February 9, 2006	Dismissed-not pursued
121.	Complaint of Shri I. Venkateshwarulu IAS, Managing Director, A.P. State Warehousing Corporation, Hyderabad against Deccan Chronicle, Secunderabad, Andhra Pradesh.	”	Dismissed-not pursued
122.	Complaint of Shri S.A. Rahim, Chairman, Participatory Employment Net, (PEN-INDIA) Mehboobnagar, Andhra Pradesh against Vartha, Hyderabad.	”	Dismissed-not pursued
123.	Complaint of Mrs. Indira, Kottivakkam, Chennai against Kumudum Reporter.	”	Dismissed-not pursued
124.	Complaint of Mrs. Indira, Kottivakkam, Chennai against Malai Murasu.	”	Dismissed-not pursued
125.	Complaint of Mrs. Indira, Kottivakkam, Chennai against Dinamalar.	”	Dismissed-not pursued
126.	Complaint of Mrs. Indira, Kottivakkam, Chennai against Daily Thanthi.	”	Dismissed-not pursued
127.	Complaint of Mrs. Indira, Kottivakkam, Chennai against Dhinamani, Chennai.	”	Dismissed-not pursued
128.	Complaint of Prof. Dr. S. Jaishankar, MD., D.M. (CARD) Nizams Institute of Medical Sciences, Punjagutta, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh against Eenadu, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh.	”	Dismissed
129.	Complaint of S/Shri Rajpal Singh, Property Dealer, Geeta Colony, Delhi and Harish Rastogi, Gold Jewellery Dealer, Delhi against Punjab Kesari, Delhi.	”	Warned
130.	Complaint of Shri B.P. Singhal, Member of Parliament, New Delhi against The Indian Express, New Delhi.	”	Closed with observations

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Parties</b>	<b>Date of Decision</b>	<b>Category</b>
131.	Complaint of Ms. CTM Suguna, IAS Collector and DM, Mayurbhanj, Orissa against Dharitri, Bhubaneswar.	February 9, 2006	Reprimanded
132.	Complaint of Ms. CTM Suguna, IAS, Collector and DM, Mayurbhanj, Orissa against Dharitri, Bhubaneswar.	''	Reprimanded
133.	Complaint of Ms. Swarnali Brohmo Choudhary, Bongaigaun, Assam against Dainik Agradoot, Guwahati.	''	Censured
134.	Complaint of Ms. Swarnali Brohmo Choudhary, Bongaigaun, Assam against Aaji, Guwahati.	''	Censured
135.	Complaint of Ms. Swarnali Brohmo Choudhary, Bongaigaun, Assam against Asomiya Khabar, Guwahati.	M''	Censured
136.	Complaint of Ms. Swarnali Brohmo Choudhary, Bongaigaun, Assam against Amar Asom, Guwahati.	''	Censured
137.	Complaint of Shri S.K. Chakraborty, IPS, (Retd.), Kolkata, West Bengal against The Stateman, Kolkata.	''	Upheld
138.	Complaint of Dr. S.A. Hamideen, Acting Principal, Zakir Hussain Post Graduate Evening College, Delhi against The Stateman, New Delhi.	''	Disposed of with directions
139.	Complaint of Shri Kolagani Apparao, Secretary, Human Rights Council, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh against Eenadu, Hyderabad.	''	Disposed of
<b>Press and Morality</b>			
140.	Complaint of Shri Roshan Alag, General Secretary, Anti-Intoxication Journalists Association, Chandni Chowk, Delhi against the Editor, The Hindustan Times, New Delhi.	June 28, 2005	Closed with observation

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Parties</b>	<b>Date of Decision</b>	<b>Category</b>
141.	Complaint of Shri Nitish Kumar Dubey through Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, New Delhi against the Editor, Delhi Times, Supplement of Times of India, New Delhi.	June 28, 2005	Advise
142.	Complaint of Mr. S. Paul Arora, Humanist International, Delhi against the Editor, Punjab Kesari, New Delhi.	”	Advise
143.	Complaint of Padamshri Shri Prakash Singh, Former Director General, BSF, Noida, U.P. against the Editor, The Times of India, New Delhi.	”	Depracated/ Advise
144.	Complaint of Padamshri Shri Prakash Singh, Former Director General, BSF, Noida, U.P. against Hindustan Times, New Delhi.	”	Assurance
145.	Complaint of Shri P.K. Dhande, Indore M.P. against Grih Sobha, New Delhi.	October 7, 2005	No further action
146.	Complaint of Shri Maneesh Taneja and others, Delhi against Navbharat Times.	M	Matter allowed to rest
147.	Complaint of Shri Maneesh Taneja and others, Delhi against The Times of India		Matter allowed to rest

### **Communal, Casteist and Anti Religious Writings**

148.	Complaint of Shri Ehtisham Mirza, General Secretary, Uttar Pradesh Rashtriya Ekta Parishad, Lucknow against the Editor, India Today, New Delhi.	June 28, 2005	Advise
149.	Complaint of Shri Hazi Abdul Aziz, Chairman of Madrasa-Jamia-Arabia-Kasim ul ullah, Khurja, Bhulandshahar, U.P. against the Editor, Dainik Jagran, Meerut.	”	Censured

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Parties</b>	<b>Date of Decision</b>	<b>Category</b>
150.	Complaint of Shri Hazi Abdul Aziz, Chairman of Madrasa-Jamia-Arabia-Kasim ul ullah, Khurja, Bhulandshahar, U.P. against the Editor, Dainik Jagran, Agra, Uttar Pradesh.	June 28, 2005 M	Censured
151.	Complaint of S/Shri Devesh Kumar Verma, and Md. Javed Ahmed Khan, New Delhi against the Editor, Dainik Jagran, New Delhi.	”	Directions
152.	Complaint of Superintendent of Police, Bongaigaon, Assam against Amar Asom, Guwahati.	October 7, 2005	Caution
153.	Complaint of Ms. Pramodini Pradhan, Secretary, People's Union for Civil Liberties, (PUCL) Bhubaneswar, Orissa against Dharitri, Bhubaneshwar.	February 9, 2006	Upheld

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

### **Facilities to the Press**

While it is essential to ensure the security of the VVIP, it is also necessary to allow the press to have reasonable access to information and when important dignitaries such as the President or the Prime Minister of the country visit a place, there is all the likelihood of clamour to have access to information that the press is duty bound to bring to its readers. It is thus essential that not only should all reasonable arrangements be made to facilitate collection of information by the press, there should be no discrimination in allowing access to persons similarly placed. (*Shri Sanjay Kumar, District General Secretary, Bihar Working Journalist Union, Nalanda, Bihar versus The Chief Secretary, Government of Bihar, Patna; The Director, Information & Public Relations Department, Government of Bihar, Patna and The District Information Officer, Nalanda, Bihar. Complaint No.5, PCI Review, October 2005*)

## Index of Principles Recorded in Adjudications in Complaints Against The Press

### Principles and Publication

Employment News which is trusted as a purveyor of authentic news on government jobs should be more careful in accepting advertisements of private bodies. (*Ms. Savita Aggarwal and Ms. Ritu Jain, Advocates, New Delhi versus The Editor, Employment News, New Delhi. Complaint No.20, PCI Review July 2005*)

To say that the press should not publish any information, till it is officially released would militate against the spirit of investigative journalism and even to an extent the purpose of journalism. (*Shri P.K. Sengupta, Secretary Justice Mukherjee Commission, Kolkata, West Bengal versus Editor, "Ananda Bazar Patrika", Kolkata. Complaint No.21, PCI Review, July 2005*)

### Press and Defamation

The Press as a custodian of public interest has the right or even a duty to keep under review the working of public institutes. A corresponding duty of course developed on them to ensure that in doing so they presented a fair and balanced report, uninfluenced by any extraneous consideration. (*Dr. D.S. Dhankar, Public Relations Officer, Pandit, B.D. Sharma, PGIMS, Rohtak Haryana versus The Editor, The Tribune, Chandigarh. Complaint No.33, PCI Review October, 2005*)

The most basic tenet for a journalist is not to give in to any inducement, overt or covert. (*Shri P.R. Ramesh, Mayor, Bangalore City Corporation, Bangalore, Karnataka versus The Times of India, Bangalore and Vijay Karnataka, Bangalore. Complaint No.54, PCI Review, October 2005*)

A newspaper's prime duty is to its readers and to use the precious public platform available to them, not for trivials or gossip-mongering but for public good. In an age, when universally an attempt is being made for empowerment of women, particularly those from underdeveloped areas, the reports such as the impugned reports, tend to deflect and undo and the efforts by stigmatising women who need to interact with their male colleagues. (*Ms. Swarnali Brohmo Choudhary, Bongaigaun, Assam Versus The Editor, Agradoot; The Editor, Aaji; The Editor, Asamia Khabar and The Editor, Amar Asom. Complaint No36 , PCI Review, April 2006*)

## Press and Morality

Advertisements play extremely vital role in shaping the values and concerns of the present day society and as more and more lenient view is taken of what is not the norm, the speedier may be acceptability of such matters in 'public perception' but at what cost is the essential point for consideration. It should be borne in mind that in the race to be globally relevant we do not leave behind the values that have earned India the unique place it enjoys globally on moral and ethical plane. (*Shri Roshan Alag, General Secretary, Anti-Intoxication, Journalists Association, Chandni Chowk, Delhi versus The Editor, Hindustan Times, New Delhi. Complaint No.44, PCI Review, July 2005*)

The Advertising Standards Council of India, a voluntary body comprising of peers of the media as well as the advertising world, should advise the advertisers, particularly the advertisers of foreign products to prepare their advertisement as are in tune with the culture and ethics of the country as a whole and not necessarily the milieu of the modern advanced cities. (*Shri Roshan Alag, General Secretary, Anti-Intoxication Journalists Association, Chandni Chowk, Delhi versus The Editor, Hindustan Times, New Delhi. Complaint No.44, PCI Review, July 2005*)

The Indian reader is much more mature and able to appreciate good journalism and in the long run, the attempts to copy the west by promoting the 'so-called popular permissiveness' may defeat the very aim of the paper to boost circulation. The Indian media with its long cherished tradition of leading and guiding the public, needs to overcome its myopic vision to stride with the country's populace in achieving wider global perspective on social and economic developmental issues, issues much more relevant to the country than the marriage or the antics of a European pop icon. It is time for the Indian media to grow out of its reliance on standards of the western paparazzi and fulfill its obligations and duties towards its own country and the generation next. (*Shri Nitish Kumar Dubey, (Through Ministry of Information and Broadcasting), Government of India, New Delhi versus The Editor, Delhi Times, Supplement of Times of India, New Delhi. Complaint No.45, PCI Review, July 2005*)

## Communal, Casteist and Anti Religious Writings

While reporting matters even remotely touching the religious sensitivity of any community thereby disturbing the amity and harmony in the society, the press should be extremely careful. (*Shri Ehtisham Mirza, General Secretary, U.P. Rashtriya Ekta Parishad, Lucknow, (U.P.) versus Editor, India Today, Hindi & English Editions, New Delhi. Complaint No.41, PCI Review July 2005*)

The Press should realize that with the undeniable power of the pen as its tool,

the press carries the onerous responsibility of ensuring that no action of it is the cause of disturbing the delicate balance of relations in the sub continent or the harmony among the communities or castes within the country. (*Shri Hazi Abdul Aziz, Khurja, Bulandshahar, U.P, versus The Editor, Dainik Jagran, Meerut and Agra, U.P. Complaint No.42, PCI Review July 2005*)

## Subject Index of Orders Passed by the Press and Registration Appellate Board

S. No.	Name of Parties	Date of Order	Order Passed
1.	Shri Mahesh Prasad Sharma, Editor, Ab Hoga Insaf, Lalitpur, U.P. Vs. Shri Vijay Bahadur Singh, Pargana Magistrate and District Magistrate, Lalitpur.	17.5.05	The SDM, Lalitpur accepted the application of the appellant for review, thus the appeal becomes infurctuous. Disposed of.
2.	Shri Jawahar Lal Kori, Editor, Damoh Ki Takat, Hindi/Weekly, Damoh (M.P.) Vs. SDM, Damoh and Dr. L.P. Rai.	17.5.05	No interference in the Order of the SDM, Damoh, (M.P.)
3.	Shri Arvind Chopra, Jalandhar, Shri Ashwini Chopra, New Delhi and Smt. Sudarshan Chopra, Jalandhar Vs. (1) SDM, Ludhiana; (2) RNI, N.D and (3) Shri Vijay Kumar Chopra, Jalandhar.	17.5.05	The appeal brought before the Board by the appellant does not fulfill any condition of Section 8C of the Press & Registration of Books Act, 1867. Disposed of.
4.	Shim. Gopalsami @ Ayygo, Kalunguvilai Post, Tamil Nadu Vs. The Revenue Divisional Officer, Thiruchandur, Tamil Nadu.	10.11.05	The appellant informed that the Revenue Divisional Officer, Thiruchendur has given assurance to reconsider his application. The appellant wished not to press the appeal. The matter closed.

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Name of Parties</b>	<b>Date of Order</b>	<b>Order Passed</b>
5.	M/s Contemporary News Pvt. Ltd., Publishers of Business Economics, Kolkata, (W.B.) Vs. The Deputy Commissioner of Police (Licensing) and Others.	10.11.05	The Board found no reason to interfere with the order appealed against the orders dated July 11, 2005 passed by the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Licensing), Delhi.
6.	Shri K.C. Dubey, Owner, "Dainik Phir Swaraj" Rajgarh, Madhya Pradesh Vs. (i) The Sub Divisional Officer, (Revenue) Rajgarh, M.P; (ii) Shri D.D. Mahant, Saket Nagar Bhopal.	10.11.2005	No cause for further consideration, appeal disposed of.
7.	Shri Rajiv Prakash, Publisher/Printer/Owner/Editor, "Bhaskar Darpan", Hindi Weekly, Saharanpur, U.P. Vs. District Magistrate, Saharanpur.	10.11.2005	Appellant acted prematurely, appeal not admitted.
8.	Planman Consultant (India) Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi Vs. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Licensing), New Delhi.	10.11.2005	Withdrawn
9.	Shri Dharmender Singh Rathor, Chief Editor, Rathor Bandhu, Jabalpur Vs. (i) Shri Omkar Prasad Rathor, Jabalpur (ii) SDM, Jabalpur.	17.1.2006	The appellant was not serious in pursuing the matter. Dismissed for non prosecution.
10.	Shri Mahender Kumar Ahirwar, Owner/Publisher, Sachchai Ki Garjana, Chhattarpur (M.P.) Vs. Collector/DM, Chhattarpur, M.P.	17.1.2006	Dismissed for non-prosecution.

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Name of Parties</b>	<b>Date of Order</b>	<b>Order Passed</b>
11.	Shri Jawahar Lal Kori, Editor, "DAMOH KI TAKAT", Damoh Vs. The Sub Divisional Magistrate, District Tikamgarh, Madhya Pradesh.	17.1.2006	Appellant directed to file a fresh declaration before the SDM, Tikamgarh.
12.	Shri Kisan Yashwantrao Jarvekar, Owner Daily Gramastha, Jalgaon, Maharashtra Vs. (i) D.M. Jalgaon, Maharashtra (ii) Shri Sunil Ratnakar Magas, Owner/Publisher/Printer Saptahik Pratisad, Chalis gaon	17.1.2006	The order passed by the Sub Divisional Magistrate, Jalgaon was not appealable under the provisions of Section 8 {c} of the Act.
13.	Shri Amar Singh Johri, Investigating Journalist Vs. The Registrar, Newspapers for India.	17.1.2006	Appellant advised to approach the appropriate authority.
14.	Shri Rohtas Kumar Vicky, Editor/Printer/Owner/Publisher, Hamari Pahal, Hindi Weekly, Aligarh (U.P.) Vs. The City Magistrate, U.P.	17.1.2006	Dismissed for non-prosecution.
15.	Shri Jagdish Prasad Jain, Chief Editor and Shri Pradeep Jain, Publisher, Jaiswal Jain Darpan, Agra Vs. Akhil Bharatvarshiya Shri Digamber Jain Dharamshala Mahaveerji and ADM (City), Agra.	17.1.2006	Dismissed for non-prosecution.
16.	Sh. Sudhir Kachardas Mehta, Editor, Daily Lokyug, Amednagar Vs. (i) Sh. Popat Hastimal Lodha and S.D.M.,Ahmednagar.	27.3.06	The Appeal does not lie within four corners of Section 8C of the PRB Act, 1867 and rejected without going into the merits of case.

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Name of Parties</b>	<b>Date of Order</b>	<b>Order Passed</b>
17.	Shri Damodar Laxmanrao Kale, Editor,Chimruchak Awaz, P.O. Chimur, Chandrapur Distt. Maharashtra Vs. District Magistrate,Chanderpur, Maharashtra	27.3.06	No reason to interfere with the orders challenged before it, appeal dismissed.
18.	Shri C.H. Ramana Reddy, S/o Shri Konda Reddy, Editor Samagra Vaartha Vaara Patrika, Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, Vs. The Sub-Collector and Sub Divisional Magistrate, Vijayawada, Krishna District, Andhra Pradesh.	27.3.06	The impugned order dated 25.5.05 passed by Sub Collector/SDM, Vijayawada set aside and directed to authenticate the declaration filed by the appellent.
19.	Shri Shridhar Sakharam Balki Editor, Daily Lokshahi, Sarai Ward, Chandrapur District Chandrapur Vs. (i) Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Jalgaon, (ii) Sau Shanta Wani, District Jalgaon, Maharashtra and (iii) RNI, New Delhi.	27.3.06	Since the matter is <i>sub-judice</i> , the Board finds that no interference is called for in the matter.