

PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA

Annual Report
(April 1, 2010 - March 31, 2011)

New Delhi

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Press Council of India

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

Chairman: Mr. Justice G. N. Ray

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Shri Paranjay Guha Thakurta	University Grants Commission
Shri Milan Kumar Dey	Bar Council of India
*Shri A. Krishna Murthy	Sahitya Academy

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

Shri Ananth Kumar	(Lok Sabha)
Shri Vilas Muttemwar	(Lok Sabha)
Shri Sanjay Dina Patil	(Lok Sabha)
Shri Prakash Javadekar	(Rajya Sabha)
Dr. K. Keshava Rao	(Rajya Sabha)

Secretary : Smt. Vibha Bhargava

* Vice Dr. Lalit Mangotra *vide* Gazette Notification dated July 21, 2010

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Foreword

This is my last foreword to the Annual Report of the Press Council of India. I had assumed the prestigious office of the Chairman, Press Council of India in 2005 and have continued for two terms being selected for the second time by the Selection Committee chaired by the revered Vice President of India.

The Press Council of India has been entrusted, with the principal objective of ensuring the freedom of speech and expression of the Print Media of the country and to help in improving the quality of functioning of the print media and to ensure that the Print Media really acts with accountability and responsibility in the true spirit of a fourth estate. I am sorry to note that there has been paradigm shift in the functioning of media as a whole with no exception to print media in our country for quite some time past, propelled by various reasons including globalization, corporatisation of media houses and above all ever increasing propensity to adopt a mind set for deriving higher and higher profits like ordinary commercial venture, thereby sacrificing the primary goal of a media house to remain deeply attached with a mission of being a vibrant partner of democracy.

The “paid news syndrome” i.e. reporting untruly and unfairly for monetary consideration both during the electoral process and also in day to day commercial activities have shocked the conscience of the Nation and obviously of the Press Council of India, the statutory regulatory body of the Print Media in India. The Press Council of India set up a Sub Committee to study the phenomenon of paid news syndrome which surfaced during the last Parliamentary election and also in election in a few State Assemblies. The indepth report of the Sub Committee based on datas made available to it by touring length and breadth of the country and interacting with politicians, journalists, media houses and members of civil society and collecting inputs from various sources was considered by the Council and a final report with recommendations was made. The report revealed clearly that for monetary consideration improper reporting was made by a large section of media houses. The recommendation of Press Council of India to take urgent steps to eradicate such phenomenon has been considered and debated by various associations of journalists across the country, Editors Guild of India, members of civil society and also the Parliamentarians. It is heartening to note that the Election Commission of India has taken some effective steps to control such evil practice by noting the definition of ‘paid

news' as indicated by Press Council of India and in the last assembly election of several states, the 'paid news syndrome' appears to have been under check to a remarkable extent. The recommendation of Press Council of India that the media houses should declare their financial interest if any in a corporate house for which any reporting or articles are published by any particular media house has also been endorsed by SEBI, which has since brought out policy changes to mandate disclosures by listed companies having agreements with media. I however, place on record with deep satisfaction that there are quite a few media houses who despite unhealthy competition from erring media houses had not indulged in the nefarious activities like paid news syndrome.

The print media of India has a glorious tradition of about two hundred and forty years and despite various aberrations in its functioning, the print media of India is undisputably a formidable strength for Indian democracy even now. The need for the hour is serious introspection by the media itself and resolute determination by the media to play the role of fourth estate in the true spirit. To achieve this, the role of regulatory body is also equally important. Unfortunately, the Press Council of India the only statutory regulatory authority for the Print Media does not possess the teeth necessary to enforce its adjudicatory directions to correct the aberrations in media functioning noticed by it while deciding the complaints made to it by the journalists or media houses or by governmental authorities, public sector undertakings and members of civil society. The proposed amendments in the Press Council of India Act have been pending for long. It is high time that such amendments be effected without any further delay.

When the Press Council of India was constituted in 1966, the electronic media, excepting broadcasting under the sole authority of the government, was not in existence in our country. Therefore, the Indian Parliament had no occasion to consider for regulation of electronic media. This media has come in a very big way in every corner of India and having visual impact, has become a very powerful source of news and entertainment communication process. The electronic media needs proper regulation without any delay. The Press Council of India has been proposing for years to be converted as Media Council of India by reframing its constitution thereby providing for appropriate representation of peer body of electronic media. Sooner such integrated regulation is made, it is better for the country.

Financial autonomy of the Press Council or Media Council is essentially necessary. I have suggested for creation of "Media fund of India" by appropriate one time budgetary allocation coupled with restructure of levy on media houses so that the administrative set up of the Council is suitably expanded. Apart from

essential research works for better functioning of media, particularly in the field of rural reporting by small news papers operating in remote corners of the country, need for guidance and financial assistance to owners and reporters of such small newspaper for better functioning by augmenting the revenue through liberal advertisements by the government, public sector undertakings and also by commercial establishments requires serious consideration. Improved service conditions of the journalists, facilities of training of journalists particularly in rural areas and holding of workshops for the journalists across the country and appropriately sensitizing them and also setting up media academy in every state under active supervision of Press Council of India are to be ensured. For all such activities considerable infrastructure and fund are essential.

The financial autonomy of the Press Council of India is essentially necessary for its functioning as an independent autonomous body set up by an Act of Parliament. During my interaction with regulatory bodies in other countries in my capacity as President of World Association of Press Councils (WAPC), I have felt that functional autonomy of Press Council of India in absolute term was often viewed with a question mark for lack of financial autonomy.

Despite unfortunate limitation of the Press Council of India for want of appropriate power to enforce its adjudications, the complaints to Press Council of India are increasing regularly. This fact only indicates public confidence in Press Council of India and respect for its intervention in complaints both by the Press and by the government, Public sector undertakings commercial and industrial establishments and the common people. The confidence in Press Council of India's adjudicatory function is however bound to be eroded very soon if it is not vested with suitable power to make its adjudications effective and binding.

The Press Council of India at present functions from Sookna Bhawan at CGO Complex, Lodhi Road. The accommodation is quite insufficient and occupation at Sookna Bhawan was meant for a temporary period. Press Council of India is supposed to shift to its own new building for which a land has been earmarked. But for a number of years, such shifting in a new building has not been possible because of non cooperation of the joint allottee. The Urban Development & Housing Ministry and also the Information & Broadcasting Ministry despite repeated requests have not shown the keenness required for ensuring Press Council of India's new building.

The present infrastructure and staff pattern of Press Council of India need considerable improvement. Shortage of accommodation also stands against needed expansion of staff and infrastructure. A good Seminar Hall is urgently

required. Service conditions of the employees of Press Council of India are not at par with Central Government employees. In the matter of pensionary benefits and coverage of health under Central Government Health Scheme, the employees of Press Council of India stand discriminated for no good reasons. Representations of the employees of Press Council of India to place them at par with Central Government employees need appropriate consideration without delay.

I may place on record my gratitude and thanks for whole hearted cooperation from all the esteemed members of Press Council of India during the stint of two terms of Chairmanship. Despite difference of opinion on some issues amongst members of Press Council of India, the members had always acted in a democratic manner by maintaining the dignity of this august body and had never failed to show the courtesy and respect due to its Chairman. The respect and cooperation from the staff of Press Council of India have always been exemplary. The Secretary of Press Council of India, the Principal Executive Officer in the administration has always been keen to solve day to day functioning of Press Council of India with extreme care and delectation thereby making the task of Chairman lighter.

I have no hesitation in noting that my tenure as Chairman, Press Council of India has been extremely rewarding and educative. My office has given me an opportunity to know about media functioning in India and abroad, its problems and interface with society and the Government which I am confident will help me to remain more sensitive and responsible as a member of civil society. I am equally confident that my successor will carry forward the goal of Press Council of India in the best tradition of impartiality and independence and take the Press Council of India to a greater height.

Dated:- 31.3.2011

G.N. Ray
Chairman
Press Council of India

CHAPTER – I

General Review

The year 2010-11 was in many respects the year of the media. On one hand, the press itself was a victim of onslaught on its credibility and neutrality from various quarters, on the other it was credited with highlighting and prioritizing for the nation that were of utmost importance for the future of our democracy. The allegations regarding ‘paid news’ and the ‘Radia tapes’ showcased the media as a willful conniver with the corporate, the politicians and the state and evidence of involvement of media personnel in promoting private interest in politics. Whatever the arguments put forward by the journalists – even emergence of such doubts are indefensible acts of betrayal of public faith.

Interestingly not just reportage on grave issues like the possible impact of Ayodhya verdict and concerns over the commonwealth games organisation, 2G spectrum scam case and taped conversation, the threat of swine flu and of course the Kashmir crisis, the media also drew the readers attention to the depressing phenomenon of child abuse in its innumerable forms. The Indian media, print, broadcast and digital have played an influential and effective role in projecting these social issues, despite heavy flow of political news, national and international.

The present chapter provides an insight into the activities of the Council during the year and collection of reports that cover important developments in the world of the press at the national as well as international level during the period under review.

Introduction

This is the 32nd 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 organizations and news agencies notified by the Council 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 Councils performs are: to help newspapers and news agencies to maintain their independence; to build up a code of conduct for newspapers, news agencies and journalists, in accordance with the high professional standards; to ensure on the part of the newspapers, news agencies and journalists, the maintenance of high standards of public taste and foster a due sense of both the rights and responsibilities of citizenship; to encourage the growth of a sense of responsibility and public service among all those engaged in the profession of journalism; to keep under review any development likely to restrict the supply and dissemination of news of public interest and importance; to promote a proper functional relationship among all classes of persons engaged in the production or publication of newspapers or in 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.

Resume' of the Xth Term of the Council (January 7, 2008 - January 6, 2011)

The year under review witnessed the completion of the Xth three year term of the Council on January 6, 2011. During these three years, apart from the adjudications given out on the basis of the recommendations of the Inquiry Committees, several important matters were deliberated upon by this Council.

The full Council held **14** sittings (including three special meetings) during the Xth term to discuss matters having vital bearing on press freedom and its standards.

Complaints before the Council

During the last three years (from April 1, 2008 till March 31, 2011) a total of 2576 complaints were instituted in the Council. Of these 552 complaints were by the Press against authorities of the Government for violation of press freedom and 2024 complaints were directed against the press for breach of journalistic ethics. With 759 matters pending from financial year (2007-2008), there were a total of 3335 matters for disposal by the Council. Of these 2288 matters were disposed of during the tenure, 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 leading to action under Section 14(1) or 15(4) of the Act or non-pursuance, withdrawal or on account of matters having become *sub-judice*.

Suo- motu Action

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

1. Harassment of Journalist on the basis of the news report published by Jansatta in its issue dated 21.4.2008.
2. Attack on the offices of Andhra Jyothi on the basis of news report published in The Hindu issue dated 27.5.2008.
3. Sedition and treason charges against The Times of India, Ahmedabad by the City Police Commissioner on the basis of the news items published in The Hindu and The Indian Express dated 2.6.2008 and The Times of India dated 3.6.2008.
4. Attack on Loksatta Editor's Home published by The Hindustan Times, The Indian Express and The Hindu dated 6.6.2008.
5. Attack on the editorial office of a Nepali Daily Hamro Prajashakti, Gangtok, Sikkim as per the Press Release dated 5.7.2008 issued by the Sikkim Pradesh Congress Committee, Gangtok.
6. Attack on the media freedom in Jammu & Kashmir on the basis of a news report published by The Indian Express, New Delhi issue dated 3.9.2008.
7. Bid to attack The Hindu Office in Coimbatore on the basis of a news item published by The Hindu in its issue dated 14.10.2008.
8. Killing of journalists in Assam and Manipur on the basis of attention drawn by the former member, Press Council of India and press release, issued by

the Journalist Union of Assam and news items published in The Hindustan Times dated 25.11.2008.

9. An SOS, subversion of Press Freedom in Mangalore and Udupi on the basis of complaint filed by Editor-in-Chief, Karavali Ale, Mangalore.
10. Arrest of News Editor, Dinamalar on the basis of allegedly defamatory news reports published in Dinamalar on October 9, 2009.
11. Attack on the offices of Newspaper, Kannada Prabha and Jayakirana, Kannada dailies published from Karnataka.
12. Alleged hindrance of mediapersons in discharge of their professional duties by the armed forces in Jammu and Kashmir.
13. Alleged police action on Principal News Photographer of The Hindu and Reporters of Mangalam. - News published in The Hindu dated 22.10.2010.
14. Regarding murder of a journalist, Shri Umesh Rajput of Nai Duniya, Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

In the course of these adjudications, the Council has developed several guiding principles towards building up the code of conduct for the media. Similar guiding principles have been drawn for the benefit of the authorities dealing with the press. In its efforts to take justice to the doorstep, the Inquiry Committees of the Council held their sittings at Guwahati/Shillong, Chennai/Puducherry, Nagpur, Dehradun, Hyderabad, Indore, Varanasi and Kolkata during the year where the hearing into the cases of the region saved the litigants the travel to Delhi to mitigate their grievance.

During the Xth term of the Council apart from the adjudications given out on the basis of the recommendations of the Inquiry Committees, several other important matters were deliberated by the Council. The Council came out with studies and reports on important matters, which have a nexus with preservation of the freedom of the press and maintenance of its standards.

Reports

- Report on State of Newspapers Scene 2007
- Report of the Council on the complaint of the Managing Director and Editor-in-Chief, Karavali Ale, Mangalore against Anti Social Elements & Police Authorities of Karnataka
- Report on Media Coverage of Batla House Encounter

- Report on the complaint of Shri Samiuddin Neelu, Lakhimpur Khiri based staff reporter of Amar Ujala against Ms. N. Padmaja, the then Superintendent of Police, Lakhimpur Khiri, U.P.
- Report on charges of police brutality on journalists of Print and Electronic Media in the Osmiana University, Hyderabad
- Report on Paid News

In its advisory capacity the Council provided the government and other authorities with its views on following issues: -

Reference from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting regarding Draft Cabinet Note on the amendments to certain provisions of the Industrial Dispute Act, 1947 (Council meeting dated 12.6.2008). Growth of Print Media in Liberalized Economy: Consultative Committee of MPs attached to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (8.5.2008) (Meeting of Consultative Committee held on 2.6.2008). Opinion Polls/Exit Polls during Election Process: Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice-examination of the Representation of the People (Second Amendment) Bill-2008 (6.3.2009). Reference from Government of India regarding implementation of the provisions of UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) by Ministry of Information and Broadcasting(15.9.2008). Meeting with Departments/ Ministries on “NGO Database” and “National Policy on the Voluntary Sector” (19.9.2008). Ministry of Information and Broadcasting seeking comments/ATN on 2nd ARC-8th report-combating Terrorism (Council meeting dated 9.6.2009). Petition regarding misuse of Right of Freedom of Speech & Expression by Print and Electronic Media and the need to restrict it under Article 19(2) of the Constitution (Council meeting dated 9.6.2009). DGPs/IGPs Conference 2007-follow up action on recommendation on impact of media (Council meeting dated 7.9.2009). Ministry of Information and Broadcasting regarding recommendations made by the Working Group of National Integration Council to study the report of Commissions of Inquiry on communal riots (Council meeting dated 7.9.2009). Report of the Liberhan Ayodhya Commission of Inquiry-Memorandum of Action Taken thereon-reference from Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (Council meeting dated 22.2.2010). Judgement of Kerala Consumer Dispute Redressal Commission, Vazhuthacaud, Thiruvananthapuram dated 13.10.2009 in Appeal No. 698/03 filed by Perfetti Van Melle India Pvt. Ltd. (Council meeting dated 22.2.2010). Reference from Securities and Exchange Board of India(SEBI) Private Treaties by Media Companies (Council meeting dated 22.2.2010). Advertisement of a lottery/jackpot from the European Lottery Guild in a reputed magazine and prohibition of remittance of money for participation in lottery

schemes (23.2.2010). Defamatory and derogatory article published in Ambedkar today Magazine (17.3.2010). Report on the activities carried out to implement the programme of Action on a Culture of Peace during the International Decade for a Culture of Peace on Non-Violence for the Children of the World (3.5.2010). Report on programmes and activities being undertaken in North-Eastern States by the Press Council(8.7.2010). Prohibition of the obscene advertisements in print media and TV Channels (26.10.2010). Questionnaire for the preparation of UNESCO's Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013 (Council meeting dated 29.10.2010). Opinion on liquor advertisements (Council meeting dated 29.10.2010). Sitting of Standing Committee on Information Technology - issues related to Paid News(13.12.2010). Publication of advertisements inserted by unauthorised Recruiting Agents for overseas jobs (27.12.2010). Consultation paper-cum-questionnaire on "Undercover/Sting Operations" by Law Commission (Council meeting dated 3-4.1.2011).

Other Matters

- **Justice G.N. Ray nominated Chairman for the second term on May 19, 2008**

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

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

- **New Logo of the Press Council of India**

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

Memorandum of Understanding

- An MoU for exchange of information and promotion of discussion on journalists related issues was signed between Press Council of India and Press Council of Indonesia on January 25, 2011, on the historic occasion of the visit of the Hon'ble President of Indonesia as Chief Guest on the Republic Day.

Matters Considered by the Council

- Communication received from Shri V.K. Chopra, member, Press Council of India regarding DAVP.
- Ministry of Information and Broadcasting regarding minutes of the meeting of Consultative Committee of MPs attached to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting held on 2.6.2008.
- Reference received from Legal Luminary, Shri Fali S. Nariman regarding adherence of Code of Conduct by newspapers published in India
- Guidelines on caution against overseas employment advertisements
- Ministry of Information and Broadcasting seeking comments with regard to Committee of Governors (CoG) to study and recommend strategies for speedy Economic Development and Empowerment of Women.
- C.W.6804/2007 - Indian Federation of Working Journalists Vs. Press Council of India.
- Amendment to the Press Council Act, 1978 and Rules & Regulations made there under.
- Misuse of Press Council of India's name.
- Setting up of branches of Press Council in States-suggestion from Council for protection of Freedom of Press (CPFP), Chennai.
- Amendment of Section 16 of Press Council Act, 1978.
- Press Coverage of Elections: Paid News Syndrome.
- Judgement dated 15.11.2008 in defamation case Cr. Appeal No. 14/2004 between Shri Kundan Ramanlal Vyas, Mumbai Vs. Nitin B. Shah, Thane.
- Assault on journalists in Manipur.
- 27th Conference of the Ministry of Information & Cinemography of State Governments and Union Territory Administrations SIMCON XXVII.

- Complaints of the Deputy Chief Election Officer, Gujarat State against (i) Divya Bhaskar and (ii) The Times of India for violation of model code of conduct during the Bye-Election of Gujarat State Legislative Assembly 2009.
- C.W. No. 6592/2007 - All India Small and Medium Newspapers Federation (AISMF), Delhi *versus* Press Council of India and others.
- Communication dated 10.3.2010 from Shri Uttam Chandra Sharma, Member, Press Council of India regarding proposed amendments to Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867.
- National Media Policy.
- Ill effect of advertisements appearing in electronic and print media.
- Guidelines for designing and implanting Sevottam complaint system.
- Meeting of the Consultative Committee of MPs attached to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting held on March 11, 2011 - discussion Press Council of India

Updation of Guidelines on HIV/AIDS reporting

The Press Council of India in collaboration with the Centre for Advocacy and Research on December 2, 2010 organized a workshop on HIV/AIDS Reporting *vis-a-vis* Media Guidelines thereon. The Guidelines were forwarded to the Chief Secretaries of the all the States/UTs, Secretaries, Health Departments of the all the States/UTs and National dailies to follow while reporting on HIV/AIDS.

Updation of Norms of Journalistic Conduct

The 2005 edition of 'Norms of Journalistic Conduct' for observance by the print media has been updated and the next edition i.e. 2010 edition of Norms of Journalistic Conduct (English as well as Hindi version) was released on the occasion of the National Press Day on November 16, 2010.

Interaction with World Press Bodies

The Council interacts with press/media Councils and similar bodies in different parts of the world for active encouragement to preservation of the press freedom and promotion of its standards and ethics worldwide.

As a part of these efforts, the Chairman of the Council attended General Body meetings and the Executive Committee meeting of the World Association of Press Councils, an umbrella organization of Press Councils and similar bodies in different parts of the world committed to championing the cause of free speech and freedom of a responsible press on July 9, 2009 at Istanbul in Turkey wherein he was also elected President of the organization for a three year term. This is the second occasion when this prestigious body is being headed by India. Earlier Mr. Justice P.B. Sawant, former Chairman, Press Council of India presided over the body as its President between 1997-2001.

Hon'ble Chairman, also participated in the WAPC meet held on October 23-27, 2010, hosted by Nepal Press Council, Kathmandu in Nepal.

Seminars/Workshops

As a part of its mandate to create awareness about media related issues the Council has been organising various seminars and workshops in different parts of the country. During the Xth term of the Council following seminars and workshops had been organized:

Workshop on March 3, 2008 on "Standardization of Media Education in Consultation with the Concerned"

Two day Workshop on March 29 & 30, 2008 on "Reporting Court Proceedings by the Media and Administration of Justice"

National Press Day, 2008 - Seminar on "Women and Media"

Workshop on January 21, 2009 on "News Coverage During Crisis : Rights and Responsibilities of Media"

National Press Day, 2009- Seminar on "The Changing face of Indian Media"

National Press Day, 2010 – Seminar on "Media and Corporate World: Challenges and opportunities"

Workshop on December 2, 2010 on updation of media guidelines on HIV/ AIDS

Apart from the above discussions organized by the Council, the authority was represented at various deliberations by its Chairman

- The Council successfully published its quarterly house journals in Hindi and English that chronicle the activities/important developments of the press world.

PRAB

The Press Council of India has been entrusted by the Parliament with the additional responsibility of functioning as Appellate Authority under Section 8 (c) under the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867 and the Appellate Board comprises of the Chairman of the Council and a member of the Council. The Board chaired by Justice G.N. Ray, Hon'ble Chairman and Shri Ramesh Gupta as member held 10 sittings between January, 2008 to January, 2011 and dealt with 41 Appeals and disposed off 25 appeals.

Website of the Council

The Council maintained its website which is enriched with brief history of the Council, adjudications of the Council and also all the information pertaining to the significant activities done or are being undertaken for the benefit of general public.

Propagation of Official Language

The adjudications and other pronouncements of the Council were recorded in bilingual form and brought in public domain. The Council received four awards from the Official Language Department of the Government of India for its contribution in promotion of the Hindi Language during this term.

Working of the Council April 1, 2010 - March 31, 2011

Reconstitution of the Press Council of India

The Press Council of India is reconstituted after every three years. The tenth three-year term of the Council ended on January 6, 2011.

Following the due prescribed process the Council finalized in its meeting held on 16.11.2010 the names of the associations to be recognized. A notification was thereafter issued in the official gazette on 19.11.2010 notifying the associations and news agencies for the purpose of filing panels of names for nominating members on the Council (Annexure - C).

In pursuance of Press Council (Procedure for Nomination of Members) Rules, 1978 the names of 20 members elected as representatives of the press from among the panels filed by the notified associations/news agencies were communicated to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for being notified in the gazette along with the remaining eight names of members from the

categories (d) and (e) specified in the Act. The Gazette Notification notifying the names of members of the Council for the 11th three year term is awaited.

Meetings of the Council and its Committees

The full Council held five sittings during the reviewed year including one Special Council meeting to discuss matters having vital bearing on press freedom and its standards. Some of them have been reported hereinafter.

In pursuance of Section 8(1) of the Press Council Act, 1978, the Council for the purpose of performing its functions under the Act, constitutes from among its members, Committees for general and specific purpose from time to time keeping in view the requirements of the tasks assigned. These Committees through their untiring efforts and coordination ensure the smooth functioning of the institution.

Generally, all Committees are headed by the Chairman of the Council, though at times Sub-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 :

1. Drafting Committee constituted for the purpose of preparing the Report on Paid News
2. Sub-Committee constituted for the purpose of scrutinizing the claims received from the press organizations for 11th term of the Council
3. Sub-Committee constituted in the complaint of Shri Ritu Krishan Srivastava, Editor, Tamsa Sanket against police authorities
4. Sub-Committee set up to go into the proposed amendments to the PRB Act, 1867

The composition of the two Inquiry Committees in the year under review stood as under:

Inquiry Committee (I)

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

5. Shri G. Prabhakaran
6. Shri S.N. Sinha
7. Shri T. Venkatram Reddy
8. Shri Kundan Raman Lal Vyas
9. Shri Ramesh Gupta
10. Shri Sushil Jhalani
11. Shri Milan Kumar Dey, Advocate
12. Shri Ananth Kumar, M.P.
13. Shri Vilas Muttemwar, M.P.
14. Dr. K. Keshava Rao, M.P.

Inquiry Committee (II)

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

The above mentioned Inquiry Committees, presided over by the Chairman of the Council, shouldered the major workload of the Council. In the proceedings

before the Committees, which are open to the general 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 Inquiry Committees (tenth term) at the close of their respective inquiries, considered the records and oral submissions advanced by the parties and submitted their recommendations, with regard to the cases inquired into, to the Council for final decision. During the financial year, the two Inquiry Committees held 15 sittings and heard a total of 223 matters and made their recommendations to the Council for final adjudication.

Complaints before the Council

During the year under review, a total of 900 complaints were instituted in the Council. Of these, 187 complaints were by the Press against authorities of the Government for violation of press freedom and 713 complaints were directed against the press for breach of journalistic ethics. With 1173 matters pending from the last year, there were a total of 2073 matters for disposal by the Council. Of these, 1026 matters were disposed off during the year, either by way of adjudication or through summary disposal by the Chairman on account of settlement by the mediation of the Chairman or due to lack of sufficient grounds for holding inquiries or non-pursuance; withdrawal or on account of matters having become *sub-judice*. Out of these 1026 matters, two matters were directly placed before the Council for adjudication. In all 1047 matters were being processed at the close of the year. A detailed statement of the institution and disposal of complaints is at Annexure-A.

Opinion

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

Advertisement of a lottery/jackpot from the European Lottery Guild in a reputed magazine and prohibition of remittance of money for participation in lottery schemes (23.3.2010)

Writ Petition No. 5367 (MIB) (PIL) of 2010 filed by Bhartiya Jan Kalyan Party Vs. Union of India and others in Hon'ble Allahabad High Court, Lucknow Bench, Lucknow in respect of a defamatory and derogatory article published in Ambedkar today Magazine (17.3.2010)

Report on the activities carried out to implement the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace during the International Decade for a Culture of Peace on Non-Violence for the children of the World (3.5.2010)

Guidelines for designing and implanting Sevottam complaint system (20.10.2010)

Prohibition of the obscene advertisements in print media and TV Channels (26.10.2010)

Questionnaire for the preparation of the UNESCO's Draft Programme and Budget for 2012-2013 (29.10.2010)

Opinion on liquor advertisements(Council meeting dated 29.10.2010)

Ill-effect of advertisements appearing in electronic and print media (25.11.2010)

Sitting of the Standing Committee on Information Technology (2010-2011) issues related to Paid News (13.12.2010)

Notice of Motion dated 14.12.2009 received from Superintendent (writs) for Assistant Registrar (writs). High Court of Punjab and Haryana at Chandigarh in CWP No. 1300 of 2009 i.e. M/s Faridabad Gurgaon Minerals Vs. State of Haryana regarding implementing of Council's direction-powers

Publication of advertisements inserted by unauthorised Recruiting Agents for overseas jobs (27.12.2010)

Suo motu Cognizance

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

(i) Alleged hindrance of mediapersons in discharge of their professional duties by the armed forces in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Council initiated *suo-motu* cognizance on the beaten up/stoppage of media persons in discharge of their professional duties by the armed forces in Jammu & Kashmir on the basis of news reports titled "Media resents curbs" and "Valley Simmers newspapers suspend publication, say more may backfire" published by The Hindustan Times in its issue dated 8.7.2010. On perusal of the report, Hon'ble Chairman requested Hon'ble Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir to take personal intervention to ensure that the media is able to discharge its duties without any fear or hindrance. Reports from the State Government and the newspaper were called for. Hon'ble Chief Minister of J&K *vide* his D.O. letter assured that no further action was taken against the newspapers and stated that he is an ardent supporter of freedom of press but it is equally necessary that the press conducts itself in a mature and responsible manner and does not distort or misreport facts.

(ii) Alleged police action on Principal News Photographer of The Hindu and Reporters of Mangalam.

The Press Council of India came across a news report that appeared in The Hindu dated 22.10.2010 captioned “The Hindu’s photographer injured in police action” reporting that Shri S. Gopakumar, Principal News Photographer of The Hindu in Thiruvananthapuram received baton blows in the forehead and back by police during news coverage of lawyers protest in the Vanchiyoor district court premises on 20.10.2010.

Shri G. Prabhakaran, Member, Press Council of India vide his letter dated 21.10.2010 also informed the Council about the brutal police attack on media. He further informed that more than half a dozen photographers and reporters from “The Hindu”, “Mangalam”, ACV etc., were seriously injured and are admitted in Hospital. According to him, the media persons were attacked by the police while they were covering the clashes between the police and lawyers in the Vanchiyoor court premises. He requested the Council to take up the matter with the Government of Kerala so that stern action is taken against the guilty.

On perusal of the report, the Council initiated *suo-motu* cognizance of the matter. Hon’ble Chief Minister of Kerala was requested to take personal intervention to ensure that the media is able to discharge its functions without any threat or fear.

Reports from the State Government and the newspapers have been called for. The matter is under active consideration.

(iii) Murder of a journalist, Shri Umesh Rajput of Nai Duniya, Raipur, Chhattisgarh.

The Council came across a report published in the issue dated 25.2.2011 of Deccan Chronicle under the caption ‘Journalist killed for exposing graft’ reporting that a senior scribe, Shri Umesh Rajput working with Nai Duniya, Raipur was shot dead by two assailants at Raipur for highlighting corruption by some government officials.

On perusal of the report, the Council initiated *suo-motu* cognizance and requested the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh to take personal intervention to ensure that the media is able to discharge its functions without any threat or fear. The Council has called for reports from the State Government and the newspaper vide letter dated 21.2.2011.

Hon’ble Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh *vide* his letter dated 15.3.2011 has informed that the matter is being inquired into.

Report adopted by the Council

- **Report on Paid News**

Concerned over the serious dimensions acquired by the phenomenon of payment for news in the media in the General Elections 2009, the Council not only took cognizance of matter *suo-motu* but also considered representations from various eminent persons. The analysis of its Sub-Committee was studied by the Drafting Committee to prepare the final Report of the Council on Paid News that was adopted on July 30, 2010. The Report defines Paid News as “Any news or analysis appearing in any media (Print & Electronic) for a price in cash or kind as consideration”.

The text of the report can be perused in Chapter-IV of this report.

Seminars and Workshops

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

In conjunction with the World AIDS Day on December 1 and reference the guidelines drawn by the Press Council of India on HIV/AIDS reporting, the Centre for Advocacy and Research, New Delhi approached the Council for a consultation between the reporters, activists and affected communities with the Press Council of India to deliberate on ‘How Communities most affected by the epidemic can engage with the 2008 guidelines of HIV/AIDS Reporting of the Press Council of India.

Considering the significance of the issue involved, a workshop on HIV/AIDS Reporting *vis-à-vis* Media Guidelines was held on December 2, 2010.

National Press Day, 2010

The National Press Day, this year centered around “Media and Corporate World : Challenges and Opportunities”. To mark the occasion a Souvenir carrying valuable articles on the subject was released along with Norms of Journalistic Conduct 2010 (English as well as Hindi edition). The states also commemorated the day at various levels with discussions on the subject.

Interaction with World Press Bodies

The Council also initiated a process of consultation and dialogue with press/media Councils and similar bodies in different parts of the world for active encouragement to preservation of the press freedom and promotion of its standards and ethics worldwide. As a part of these efforts, Hon’ble Chairman

in his capacity as President, World Association of Press Councils, an umbrella organization of the Press Councils and similar bodies in different parts of the world committed to championing the cause of free speech and freedom of a responsible press, attended WAPC meeting from October 23-27, 2010 in Nepal.

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

An MoU was signed between Press Council of India and Press Council of Indonesia on January 25, 2011 (Annexure D) agreeing to:

- 1) to cooperate in activities promoting peace journalism;
- 2) to organize a seminar on journalism in conflict areas and covering terrorism activities;
- 3) to carry out a journalism exchange programme.

Updation of Norms of Journalistic Conduct

The 2005 edition of Norms of Journalistic Conduct for observance by the print media has been updated and the new edition namely, 2010 edition has been brought out which as already stated in this report was released on the occasion of National Press Day on November 16, 2010.

Website Updation

During the period under review the website of the Council was updated regularly and also enriched with latest activities of the Council for greater transparency.

Press and Registration Appellate Board

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

At the beginning of the period under review, 11 appeals were pending before the Board and seven more appeals were preferred. The board held three sittings during the year. Out of these 18 appeals, eight appeals were disposed off, 10 appeals are pending for consideration before the Appellate Board along with a review petition.

Tributes

The Council mourned the demise of its two members namely, (i) Shri K.M. Mathew (1966-1970, 1991-1994) who passed away on August 1, 2010 and (ii) Shri Kanhaiya Lal Nandan (1995-1998) who passed away on September 25, 2010. Paying rich tributes to them the Council passed resolution regarding their valuable contributions to the Press Council and their dedicated and selfless service to the nation.

Change in Membership

The Central Government in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting *vide* its Gazette Notification dated July 21, 2010 notified the nomination of Shri A. Krishna Murthy, Secretary, Sahitya Academy as member of the Council *vice* Dr. Lalit Mangotra.

Hindi Diwas – 2010

The 14th of September has been declared as the Hindi Diwas in India. Hindi fortnight (Pakhwada) was observed in the Secretariat of the Council from 14.9.2010 to 28.9.2010. On this occasion a function was organized on September 22, 2010 in which awards and certificates were given to the employees under “Protsahan Yojana”. During the period under review Quarterly Workshops relating to official language were organized for the benefit of its employees.

Press Council of India, under the category of autonomous bodies, Government of India, received **Second Prize** from the Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs for the year 2008-2009 under ‘Indira Gandhi Official Language Awards’ in region ‘A’. The Award was conferred on September 14, 2010 by Hon’ble Vice President of India.

In house Hindi Journal of Press Council of India namely, ‘Press Parishad Samiksha’ was selected for third prize under ‘Sarvashreshtha Patrika Puraskar Yojana 2007-2008’ organized by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The Award was presented by the Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on 15.12.2010.

Vigilance Activities

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

Grievance Redressal Mechanism

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

Citizen's Charter

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

Economic solvency of the Press Council of India

Hon'ble Chairman apprised the Council that financial viability of the Press Council of India was discussed with the Finance Minister and he had purposed budgetary allocation of fund as Corpus to the Council so that the interest accruing therefrom could be used for its functioning. The Council appreciated the need for financial strength of the Council for better discharge of its mandate and resolved that the issue be pursued by the Council in its next term.

Right to Information Act, 2005

The Council received 125 applications under RTI Act, 2005 and 120 applications were disposed off during the period under review

Matters Considered by the Council

Setting up of branches of Press Council in States - suggestion from Government of Maharashtra, Mumbai

The proposal from the Government of Maharashtra regarding setting up branches of Press Council in States was considered by the Council in the light of the previous discussions over the last two decades. In the light of its earlier detailed reasoning adopted in the meeting held on March 20-21, 1991 the Council decided that no fresh grounds are made out for deviation from the stand already taken by it.*

* 31st Annual Report (April 1, 2009-March 31, 2010, Chapter-I, Pages 13-15)

Draft Cabinet note of setting up of a Central Tribunal Division to look into complaints or allegations of corruption against the Chairman and Members of the Tribunal/Autonomous Bodies

The Central Government in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting sought comments of the Press Council of India on Draft Cabinet Note for the Cabinet for setting up of Central Tribunal Division in the Ministry of Justice to oversee the functions of all tribunals/regulatory bodies/authorities set up by the Central Government. The Council discussed the matter with reference to the mandate given to the Council by the Parliament in furtherance of the constitutional guarantees of freedom of speech and expression and its conscious decision to grant and guarantee its insulation from any governmental or industrial control. The Government (Ministry of Information and Broadcasting) acts only as nodal agency for the Council in sanction of funds to it by the Parliament which are directly audited by the CAG. It also observed that the proposal aimed for the Division to oversee the functions of Tribunal Bodies etc. set up by the Central Government and that the Press Council as a statutory autonomous authority is to act as a regulatory authority of the Indian Press to promote its freedom as well as maintain its standards. Under the scheme such authority exercising quasi judicial authority over all agencies including the Government must necessarily be outside any control of such agencies and it is only desirable that the functions of the Press Council of India will be subject to overseeing by the Parliament only. The Council recorded that the Press Council may not and cannot be placed at par with other autonomous regulatory bodies created/set up by the Central Government and therefore this authority may not be brought within the scope of the Central Tribunal proposed to be set up under the Ministry of Law and Justice.

Communication dated 15.11.2010 from Law Commission of India - regarding consultation paper-cum-questionnaire on Undercover/Sting Operations”

The Council considered the communication dated 15.11.2010 received from the Ministry of Law & Justice, Department of Legal Affairs, Law Commission of India forwarding therewith a consultation paper-cum-questionnaire on “Undercover/Sting Operation” for its views/suggestions on the issue. It noted that sting operations or investigative reporting are a very potent weapon in protection of national as well as public interest. Exposures of dark deeds conducted in the dark could only be possible through investigative arms of the state through this fourth limb of democracy. It is to be noted that Supreme Court had also rejected a plea for putting curbs on the media and television channels from conducting sting operations. It held that any attempt to control

and regulate the media from outside was likely to cause more harm than good. The judgment further stated that “It is not our intent here to lay down any reformist agenda for the media. The norms to regulate the media and to raise its professional standards must come from inside.” Further, the Court said “Moreover, to insist that a report concerning a pending trial may be published or a sting operation concerning a trial may be done only subject to the prior consent and permission of the court would tantamount to pre-censorship of reporting of court proceedings. And this would be plainly an infraction under Article 19(1) of the Constitution”.

The Council recalled its own guidelines on sting operation as below:

- (i) A newspaper proposing to report a sting operation shall obtain a certificate from the person who recorded or produced the same certifying that the operation is genuine and *bonafide*.
- (ii) There must be concurrent record in writing of the various stages of the sting operation.
- (iii) Decision to report the sting operation should be taken by the editor after satisfying himself of the public interest of the matter and ensuring that report complies with all legal requirements.
- (iv) Sting operation published in print media should be scheduled with an awareness of the likely reader in mind. Great care and sensitivity should be exercised to avoid shocking or offending the reader.

It also noted that litmus test laid down for investigative reporting reads:

- a. It has to be the work of the reporter, not of others he is reporting;
- b. The subject should be of public importance for the reader to know;
- c. An attempt is being made to hide the truth from the people.

The first norm follows as a necessary corollary from

- (a) That the investigative reporter should, as a rule, base his story on facts investigated, detected and verified by himself and not on hearsay or on derivative evidence collected by a third party, not checked up from direct, authentic sources by the reporter himself.
- (b) There being a conflict between the factors which require openness and those which necessitate secrecy, the investigative journalist should strike and maintain in his report a proper balance between openness on the one hand and secrecy on the other, placing the public good above everything.

- (c) The investigative journalist should resist the temptation of quickies or quick gains conjured up from half-baked incomplete, doubtful facts, not fully checked up and verified from authentic sources by the reporter himself.

Having taken all these factors into consideration the Council held that sting operation by the media should only be subject to self regulation following the principles and methodology detailed above.

Review of Amendments proposed to the Press Council Act, 1978

The Council noted that comprehensive amendments to the Press Council Act had been sent to the Government. However, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting *vide* its letter dated 4.8.2010 sought comprehensive revised amendments on the ground that the proposed amendments would have wide reaching implications and thus unanimous view of the Council was desirable.

The Council resolved that the amendments proposed by it had been drawn up taking into account all the relevant factors and it did not find any reason to revise the same.

Proposed Amendments to the PRB Act, 1867

The Council considered the communication of its member Shri Uttam Chandra Sharma dated 10.3.2010 regarding proposed amendments to Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867 along with The Indian Newspaper Society letter dated 22.2.2010 and RNI's D.O. letter dated 18.2.2010. Shri Sharma asserted that the proposed amendments would seriously interfere with the free functioning of press and it would also violate the fundamental right of the people conferred in the Constitution of India. He stressed that immediate consideration was required on it in the interest of free press. The Council after due consideration constituted a Sub-Committee to consider the proposed amendments and give recommendations in this regard.

The Council in its meeting of 3-4/1/2011 while taking on record the report of its Sub-Committee expressed preliminary concern over the serious ramifications of some of the proposals and recorded the need for more time to go into the matter in depth. The Council also noted that after their preliminary concern was brought to the notice of the government, it had forwarded another draft proposal revised on the basis of the feed back received by the Government. This draft was discussed by the Council.

It noted that though the time constraints did not permit it to examine the proposal thoroughly, *prima facie* the revision appeared to have been taken care

of the provisions that were deemed to be in direct conflict with the constitutional guarantees. The Council however, recorded the following specifics:

1. Section 6(4) may be amplified to provide for rejection of titles bearing names similar to names or symbols of organizations like Police, CBI, etc.
2. Section 14(1) may be amplified to provide for filing of suspension or ceasing declaration within a period of three weeks, if an owner/publication voluntary ceases/suspends publication.
3. Section 20(1) – The change in the existing provision (Section 8c) to vest the power to constitute Press and Registration Appellate Board (comprising of a Chairman and a Member from amongst the Members of the Council) in the Central Government instead of Press Council of India is opposed.
4. Section 44(1) – The provision for imprisonment for publication not conforming to the PRB Act, 1867 is not supported as the Act is primarily to administer and regulate the publication of the newspapers in the country for violation of which, the provision of imposing fines is deemed sufficient.

The Council decided that these views may be forwarded to the Government, reserving the right of the Press Council in the XIth Term to go into the matter in depth if deemed necessary by it. It also took on record the communication received from its member Shri Prakash Javadekar, M.P. carrying his views on the proposals and decided that this communication may be annexed to the reply for being forwarded to the Government.

Reference regarding opinion on liquor advertisements in Namaskar

The Council took note of the reference from Ministry of Health and Family Welfare regarding publication of advertisements of liquor products in Air India's in-flight magazine, Namaskar. Earlier a reference was received in March 2009 concerning stoppage of direct/indirect advertisement of liquor products in the magazine and TV and formation of national policy to control consumption of liquor and the detailed reply sent by the Council on 16.4.2009. In response thereto the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting sent an interim reply to PMO quoting Norm 36(ii) of Code of Journalistic Ethics that Press Council takes care of direct/indirect advertisement of liquor/tobacco and it can warn, admonish and censure a violator after conducting an inquiry in the matter. It requested the Council to treat the cases regarding surrogate advertisement of liquor and tobacco as references from Government of India to Press Council and take suitable action in the matter.

In response to the notice for comments dated 19.6.2009 the editor-in-chief/publisher, Namaskar, in-flight magazine of Air India, the respondent editor on

behalf of the Namaskar produced by CNYK Printech Ltd., which is also the publisher of the Pioneer newspaper countered that the complainant had singled out Namaskar when similar and more direct advertisements have appeared in a number of other publications. According to the respondent the Namaskar is the in-flight magazine of Air India's international flights only and therefore unlike other magazines copies of Namaskar are not for circulation in India. Further, liquor is served on board flights in and out of India although not in the domestic sector and all international airlines sell liquor as part of their duty free offering. The respondent also pointed out that the surrogate advertisement of liquor brands are freely aired on India television channels and former Minister had issued a similar notice to Air India which in turn forwarded his complaint to them for clarification and following their submission Air India decided not to proceed further in this matter.

The Council on perusal of the record restated its earlier stand and the guidelines already framed on the issue. On the specific issue of the advertisements published in 'Namaskar', the Council was satisfied with the defence filed by the respondent and did not find any grounds for cognizance of the matter under Section 14(1) of the Press Council Act, 1978.

Report on the issue of threats/problems being faced by Small and Medium Newspapers for non-adoption of the Model Accreditation/ Advertisement Rules framed by the Council

The Council discussed the short report prepared by Sub-Committee on the issue of threats/problems being faced by Small and Medium Newspapers for non-adoption of the Model Accreditation/Advertisement Rules framed by the Council. Shri S.N. Sinha, Convenor briefed the members about the developments and major points drawn up by it. He however, pointed out that the matter needed further scrutiny. The Council decided to take this report on record and decided that the next Council may take the matter further.

National Media Policy

Road map for media and framing a National Media Policy was also debated upon by the Council in its meeting held on 3-4/01/2011. The members were of the view that the media has undergone much change and Media Commission was the need of the hour to look into the problems and observations within the media houses and conditions of journalists; standardization of media education; Empowerment of the regulatory bodies e.g. Media Council and/or Press Council. The members also opined that two separate bodies on press and electronic are not advisable since ethics to the two are common even though method of operation may be different. Taking serious note of lack of sufficient

infrastructure or faculty in many teaching institutions, the members stressed that core curriculum for journalism should be followed and the media institution must be affiliated to a recognized university. The members, however, had some reservation on prescribing qualification to become a journalist that may impinge on the freedom enshrined under the Constitution, yet it opined that some sort of standardization was necessary. The Council resolved that the technological advancements over the last two decades demanded that the country may have a National Media Policy that may study the functioning of the media to prepare a roadmap for the future. This, opinion has been conveyed to the government.

State of the Press—India

Media and Entertainment (M&E) is one of the fastest growing sectors in India. The sector consists of creation, aggregation and distribution of content, products and services, news and information, advertising and entertainment through various channels and platforms.

The industry is taking initiatives like regional content and distribution platforms (digital, non-digital and mobile) to enhance customer experience as well as monetize content. New technologies such as 3G, broadband and mobile infrastructure are also helping in propelling the growth rate.

The Indian economy grew at a faster pace in 2010 compared to 2009, which translated into more advertising as well consumer spending. This high growth rate will continue to remain in 2011 as well. The Indian advertising industry will grow by 17 per cent in calendar year 2011 and is expected to add about US\$ 889 million to the existing ad pie worth US\$ 5248 million, according to Pitch Madison Media Advertising Outlook 2011. This robust growth in advertising industry will benefit the M&E industry in 2011 as well.

The entertainment industry in India is estimated at about US\$ 9.4 billion in revenues in year 2010, which is expected to grow at a rate of 14.1 per cent to reach revenues of US\$ 10.7 billion in 2011.

The newspaper market in India has grown at 13 per cent compound annual growth rate (CAGR) over the last five years to US\$ 3.9 billion in 2010 will continue on its growth trajectory at an estimated CAGR of around 12 per cent between 2010 and 2013 to reach US\$ 5.9 billion in 2013, according to Ernst & Young India.

As per the Indian Readership Survey (IRS) for the third quarter of 2010, conducted jointly by the Media Research Users Council (MRUC) along with research firm Hansa Research Group Pvt. Ltd. Dainik Jagran, published by

Jagran Prakashan and Dainik Bhaskar continue to be the most preferred newspapers in the country followed by Hindustan and Malayala Manorama.

Amar Ujala, which launched an NCR edition in February 2011, is the No. 4 newspaper according to IRS Q4, 2010. It has lost a marginal 125 thousand readers and its total readership is down from 29.7 million to 29.6 million. The No. 1 Bengali daily, Anandabazar Patrika is at No. 10. The Times of India , India's No. 1 English daily, continues to be at No. 11 with a total readership of 13.8 million. It had gained 114 thousand readers in Q3, 2010, while in the Q4, it has added 204 thousand readers.

In Mumbai, the average issue readership (AIR) has grown from 6,06,000 to 6,27,000. Total Readership (TR) across all Hindustan Times editions have risen from 63,33,000 to 64,57,000. In Mumbai, the TR figures have increased to 9,73,000 from 9,43,000 in Q3.

Foreign investment, including foreign direct investments (FDI) and investment by non-resident Indians (NRIs)/person of Indian origin (PIO)/foreign institutional investor (FII), up to 26 per cent, is permitted for publishing of newspapers and periodicals dealing with news and current affairs under the Government route. **(Information compiled from various websites)**

Over the last 18 months or so the exposure of the unethical practice of publishing or broadcasting 'paid news' has created awareness among the people about how it corrupts the press as well as the democratic process. The Election Commission of India rose to the occasion by tightening its vigil over the media as well as candidates.

'Paid news', selling news space under the table to candidates and dishonestly presenting the paid –for advertising as news which has created much furore in India amongst members of various journalists unions and also members of civil society and eminent media personalities is a relatively recent arrival on the India electoral scene. Besides giving the client an advantage over the rival contestants, it helps him or her hide the money spent on paid news from the mandatory electoral expenditure accounts, thereby violating electoral laws. Many journalists pressed for the intervention of organizations such as the Editors' Guild, besides the Press Council of India and the Election Commission, to stigmatize and put an end to the corrupt practice and initiate action against the guilty. **(Online website edition of The Hindu)**

Realising the danger of 'paid news' to democracy as well as the right to freedom of expression enshrined in Article 19 of the Constitution of India, the Press Council of India appointed a Sub-Committee to examine the issue. The report of the Sub-Committee was discussed in detail by the Press Council and

a drafting committee was appointed to prepare the final report for consideration of the Council. The said report was adopted by the Council on July 30, 2010. The full text of the report has been covered in Chapter-IV of this Annual Report.

The government was considering a broadcast authority along the lines of Trai to address concerns relating to the sector. It was felt that Trai was unable to settle issues including content regulation, FM phase-III and TRPs as quickly as the ministry would like. The ministry is also looking at a committee that will examine the issue of TRP ratings. Information and Broadcasting Minister, Ms. Ambika Soni said while the committee would do its work, the ministry was also taking steps to revive the Broadcasting Audience Research Council (BARC), a mechanism which had been formed by some broadcasters in 2007 on recommendation of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) for measuring TRPs. She added that the issue of increase in foreign direct investment in FM phase-III will be examined by the company of secretaries. **(The Times of India, New Delhi dated May 4, 2010)**

Backing an independent self regulatory body to assess television rating points (TRP) the committee set up by the I&B ministry expressed concern over the current system of evaluation and recommended increasing sample size and switching to a more scientific approach for accurate data. The Committee recommended an increase in the sample size from 8,000 homes to 15,000 over a period of two years and then to 30,000 over the next three years covering urban areas, rural areas and small towns. Expressing concern over the lack of transparency in the methodology of conducting the TRP measurement, the committee said the selection process of a rating agency should be carried out in a credible, transparent and statistically robust manner, which should be subjected to financial and process audit. **(The Times of India, New Delhi dated January 11, 2011)**

The criminal culpability of candidates getting “paid news” published during elections was closely examined by the poll panel and if needed, the Commission would propose an amendment in law to prosecute candidates for the offence. The new guidelines for expenditure which were issued during Bihar elections were being fine-tuned to be applied to the forthcoming ‘Assembly elections in Kerala; Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Puducherry and Assam. **(The Indian Express, New Delhi dated December 28, 2010)**

With several political parties expressing serious concern regarding the paid news phenomenon, the government set up a GoM headed by finance minister, Pranab Mukherjee to look into the issue. The group of ministers is expected to frame guidelines, create an institutional mechanism and devise a comprehensive

policy to stop such corrupt practices in the media industry. **(The Asian Age, New Delhi dated January 7, 2011)**

Proceedings of Orissa Assembly were boycotted by the mediapersons of Bhubaneswar on July 16, 2010 as a mark of protest against apathy of the state government towards rising attack on journalists in the state. Not a single media person covered the question hour of the House and even Orissa Television (OTV) which telecasts the proceedings live. **(Posted by IMC on website on July 16, 2010)**

Transcripts of telephone conversation that a lobbyist and public relations consultant had with members of the extended journalistic fraternity was another major event of the year that also raised serious questions about professional ethics during the period under review. The tape recordings of Nira Radia's phone conversations came to light against the backdrop of the recent Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) report on the allocation of 2G spectrum, which demonstrated how the rules were arbitrarily bent by the then Telecom Minister, A. Raja, in order to favour a handful of private companies at government expense. Apart from telecom, the tapes also provide valuable insight into the gas dispute between the two Ambani brothers.

The Indian chapter of South Asian Media Commission (SAMC) viewed with shock and anguish the contents of tapped conversations of lobbyists seeking to manipulate media coverage to serve corporate interests. The government has ordered investigations to find out who leaked the Radia tapes and Tata Group Chairman, Ratan Tata, whose conversations with Radia also feature in the tapes, moved the Supreme Court, calling the tapes an invasion of his privacy. **(Information compiled from newspapers)**

The Law Commission, the panel that advises the government on legal policies, could recommend curbs on "sting operations". The Commission released a consultation paper seeking responses from media professionals, activists, elected representatives, academics and the public by November 30 on sting operations, including its impact on right to privacy and *sub-judice* matters, particularly where the accused is a juvenile, and whether journalists should enjoy immunity from prosecution for illegal acts committed during such operations.

The media has often been criticized for taking recourse to extreme methods, such as secret recordings and setting up traps, for exposes. Eleven MPs were expelled from Parliament in 2005 after a news channel aired a sting operation showing them accepting bribes. Another sting in 2007 showed a Delhi school teacher forcing girls into prostitution. But it was found to be incorrect and the journalists were prosecuted.

There is no specific law to regulate sting operations in India. The Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995, has been found to be inadequate. The government has proposed to set up an independent regulatory body - the Broadcasting Regulatory Authority of India - under a new law.

In October 2008, the News Broadcasting Association (NBA), an umbrella organization of TV news channels, had put in place a self-regulatory body called News Broadcasting Standard Authority to enforce code of ethics formulated by it. The Commission talked of the Broadcasting Standards Commission, the UK, which is accountable to British Parliament and asked if India should have an independent body to grant permission, monitor and take custody of materials collected by a sting operation. **(The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated November 30, 2010)**

To ensure that journalists do not face criminal proceedings for anything published or a broadcast by them, the government is considering a proposal to make amends to the law on defamation. The proposal follows a longstanding demand from various media organizations that the government should amend old laws, which act as a deterrent in the way of fearless journalism. Defamation is currently a criminal offence in India, defined under the Indian Penal Code (IPC). Anybody held guilty of defamation faces maximum jail term of two years and a fine. **(The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated January 15, 2011)**

The Union Cabinet approved the Press and Registration of Books and Publications Bill on February 10, 2011. In response the Indian Newspaper Society (INS) made certain observations that the proposed Bill was cleared 'without any proper consultation' and that it 'contains a section providing "penalty" which is draconian.'

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting clarified that the proposal to amend the Press & Registration of Books (PRB) Act, 1867 was mooted as far back as 2005. Representation and comments were received, among others, from Indian Newspaper Society (INS) on the proposed amendments and a meeting was also held with the representatives of INS in September, 2005 to discuss the draft amendments. Discussions were also held with various newspaper associations in April, 2006 on the draft amendments to the Act. Subsequently, in 2010 the Ministry decided to once again invite suggestions/comments from key stakeholders on the proposed amendments the PRB Act, 1867 in view of the issues raised by the concerned stakeholders. The stakeholders were asked to submit their comments latest by 3rd March, 2010 to the office of the RNI. Besides this, RNI also wrote to various newspaper associations inviting suggestions on the proposed amendments. In fact, on the request of INS, the last date of receipt of comments was extended till 10th March, 2010.

RNI received suggestions/comments from various stakeholders including the Indian Newspaper Society as well as Indian Language Newspapers Association, The Times of India, The Financial Times, The Indian Express, Sage Publications, HT Media, Association of Indian Magazines etc. Some comments, which were received much after the last date of receipt of comments, were also taken into consideration. Besides this, the proposed amendments were also discussed in the State Information Ministers' Conference on 5th December 2009. The various comments thus received from various stakeholders were examined by the Ministry in consultation with RNI and suitable suggestions were incorporated in the draft amendments to the PRB Act, 1867.

The final draft of the proposed amendments was also sent to Press Council of India (PCI) in December, 2010 for comments. Press Council of India, which has representatives from all key stakeholders, sent comments in January 2011 after considering it in the Council meeting. These were also considered by the Ministry before the final Cabinet Note was moved for approval of the Cabinet. Thus it is evident that wide consultations were undertaken prior to placing the matter before the Cabinet for approval. As regards the comment on the 'draconian penalty' clause in the Bill, it clarified that the graded penalty cited by the INS, which was there in the earlier draft, has been removed from the present Bill. In reality, not only has the graded penalty been removed, but the penalty clause under the new Sections 12 and 13 have been liberalized by removing the provision of six months imprisonment in existing Act and substituting it only with suspension of publication for a period of 30 days, which would act as a deterrent to non-serious publications.

Regarding the issue of 'restriction on registration of names similar to foreign titles etc.' it clarified that the INS in their letter dated 15.3.2010 had in fact considered this issue and suggested that the words 'known' used in the amendment needs to be explained as it is vague. This point was considered and in order to remove any vagueness, the proposed amendments provides for prescribing Rules to notify as to what are 'known foreign publications.'
(Website version of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting regarding PRAB Act)

Amid public outrage over "vulgarity" on prime time television, the National Commission for Women (NCW) demanded that the Prohibition of Indecent Representation of Women and Children Act be passed immediately so that the content on electronic media can be monitored. The Commission reviewed the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act 1986 and drafted amendments to broaden the definition of "indecent representation" and expand the scope of the Act to include electronic and digital media. The proposed bill

has a provision to set up a central authority to regulate and prohibit indecent representation of Women. “A new clause ‘publish’ will be introduced to cover audio visual media, computer, satellite related communication or internet communication. **(Deccan Herald, Bangalore dated November 22, 2010)**

A Hi-tech Media Facilitation Centre to provide journalists covering the State Government the facility to transmit news directly from the Secretariat was inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Delhi Ms. Shiela Dixit. The centre would facilitate briefing by ministers and bureaucrats when required. Delhi Government is also considering setting up a corpus fund of around Rs. 5 crore to provide relief to journalists in need. The Government has also decided to amend the rules relating to medical facilities provided to journalists. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated August 4, 2010)**

By mid April, 2011 a panel headed by a retired judge with the mandate to monitor television channels will be in place. It will report and weed out sensitive and vulgar content on television. This panel will also take up complaints from civil society regarding any objectionable content on TV. The government is taking these measures in the backdrop of increasing reports of vulgar content in TV Shows. The Electronic Media Monitoring Centre has been set up by the ministry to monitor and record content. **(The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated March 29, 2011)**

Another matter of concern was the draft proposal to amend the Indian IT Act so as to impose restrictions on intermediaries that provoked a huge outcry in the country, especially among its vocal bloggers. While the proposed rules seek to control the ‘intermediaries’ such as television networks, web-hosting sites and Internet service providers, search engines, online payment, cyber cafes and auction sites, it is the focus on blogs that has provoked an outburst. Besides curtailing the freedom of expression of individual bloggers, the draft holds them responsible for reader comments and online discussions. The blogging community sees these rules as an outcome of the larger censorship of areas of scrutiny that do not really fit into the Indian cyber space. The issue of Internet freedom is really about the tension between national security and personal liberty, and national security will always prevail under the pretext of economic growth, social stability or military threats, say the bloggers. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated March 13, 2011)**

Attacks

In the first four months of 2010, there were at least 11 attacks on journalists and one on a media house, and eight instances of bans, restrictions

or regulation of media. This is the sobering result of the first ever exhaustive documentation of threats to free speech in India, published by The Free Speech Hub, an initiative of the Media Foundation, which also runs the media watch website The Hoot ironically enough, on World Press Freedom Day. “Freedom of speech and expression in India is balanced precariously between the ever-present threat of direct, physical attacks from both security forces and social vigilante groups on the one hand, and the reassurance of protection from higher judicial authorities on the other hand, but the scales seem tipped in favour of the former”, says the report. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated May 5, 2010)**

Shortly after the death threats issued to journalists of Manipur by a rebel group, which prompted them to launch a two day cease-work, Yumnam Ibomcha, a staff reporter of a local daily, was beaten up by paramilitary troopers in the Collector’s office in Imphal West district. In an emergency meeting of the All Manipur Working Journalists Union (AMWJU) the scribes demanded exemplary punishment for the troopers, and adequate financial assistance for the injured journalist for medical treatment. Newspapers didn’t hit stands in Manipur on November 21, 2010 as scribes in Imphal went on a cease work protesting against militant threats. “In last few years, there have been unexplained killings of about 10 journalists, including editors, in Manipur. Though none of the culprits have been brought to book by law-enforcing agencies, CBI is currently investigating the killing of K. Rishikanta, a young sub-editor of an English daily in 2008. Following a meeting convened, an office-bearer of All Manipur Working Journalists’ Union said the journalists will resume work from November 23, 2010. AMWJU, including all media units of the state, organized a rally in Imphal following similar threats to media houses in September, 2010. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated July 2, 2010 and The Times of India, New Delhi dated November 22, 2010)**

Office of TV Today was vandalized by a mob allegedly protesting the sting operation aired by Headlines Today on July 16, 2010 exposing a discussion held between RSS Leaders for carrying attacks against meetings of Muslims. The media fraternity and Editors’ Guild of India condemned this attack on a T.V. news channel. **(Information compiled from newspapers of July 2010)**

The civil unrest witnessed in Kashmir also negatively impacted the media scenario in Kashmir. The authorities in Kashmir imposed restrictions on it. Offices of three English dailies of Kashmir were sealed. Media organizations protested the onslaught on the media there. **(Information compiled from newspapers of July 2010)**

The Press Council of India also initiated *suo-motu* cognizance on alleged hindrance of mediapersons in discharge of their professional duties by the

armed forces in Jammu and Kashmir. On perusal of the reports appearing in the newspapers Hon'ble Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir was requested to take personal intervention to ensure that the media is able to discharge its duties without any fear or hindrance. The Chief Minister assured that no further action was taken against the newspapers and stated that he is an ardent supporter of freedom of press but it is equally necessary that the press conducts itself in a mature and responsible manner and does not distort or misreport facts.

Delhi Union of Journalists (DUJ)- condemned the attack on a journalist at Lucknow, Md. Abdul Waheed Chishti reportedly by supporters of Jama Masjid Shahi Imam during a press conference, shortly after he raised some questions on the Ayodhya Supreme Court verdict. In a letter to the U.P. Chief Minister Ms. Mayawati, the DUJ has further called for his protection amidst reports of threat to him. **(DUJ Press Release, dated October 15, 2010)**

A day after the arrest of the Mumbai-based Dalit activist and editor of *Vidrohi* magazine Sudhir Dhawle, by the Gondia police in Wardha on charges of waging a war against the State, more than 150 human rights activists, writers, social activists and journalists protested against the detention. Mr. Dhawle also a freelance journalist was arrested on charges of having links with the banned Communist Party of India (Marxist - Leninist). He has been booked under Section 121-A of the Indian Penal Code, read with sub-sections 17, 20 and 39 and under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention Act). **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated January 5, 2011)**

The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) was deeply concerned by continuing reports of the harassment and violent intimidation of journalists in Dantewada district in the Bastar region of Chhattisgarh State in central India. Since the active denial of access to the site of a developing story which the IFJ noted with concern, sources in Chhattisgarh revealed that there had been a sequence of incidents in which journalists seeking to travel to the scene of a purported armed encounter between security forces and Maoist insurgents had been blocked and assaulted, reportedly with the sanction of the police. **(Information compiled from website)**

Court Cases

Taking a serious view of 'media trial' in high-profile and sensitive cases, the Supreme Court cautioned the print and electronic media to ensure that there was no interference in the pending investigation/trial of the case while reporting it.

A Bench of Justices, P. Sathasivam and Swatanter Kumar said: “We would certainly caution all modes of media to extend their cooperation to ensure fair investigation, trial, defence of the accused and non-interference in the administration of justice in matters *sub judice*.”

Writing the 229 page judgement in the Jessica Lal case, Justice Sathasivam said: “The freedom of speech protected under Acticle 19(1)(a) of the Constitution has to be carefully and cautiously used, so as to avoid interference in the administration of justice and leading to undesirable results in matters *sub judice*.”

The Bench said: “Presumption of innocence of an accused is a legal presumption and should not be destroyed at the very threshold through the process of media trial and that too when the investigation is pending. In that event, it will be opposed to the very basic rule of law and would impinge upon the protection granted to an accused under Article 21.” The Bench said: “It is essential for the maintenance of the dignity of courts and is one of the cardinal principles of rule of law in a free democratic country that criticism or even reporting, particularly in *sub judice* matters, must be subjected to checks and balances so as not to interfere with the administration of justice.

In the present case, “various articles in the print medium had appeared even during the pendency of the matter before the (Delhi) High Court which again gave rise to unnecessary controversies and apparently, had an effect of interfering with the administration of criminal justice.”

The Bench said: “Every effort should be made by the print and electronic media to ensure that the distinction between trial by media and informative media should always be maintained. Trial by media should be avoided particularly, at a stage when the suspect is entitled to the constitutional protections. Invasion of his rights is bound to be held impermissible.”

Referring to the High Court’s criticism of the trial court, which acquitted the prime accused, Manu Sharma, the Bench said: “The respect of the judiciary and for the judiciary is of paramount consideration. Every possible effort should be made and precaution taken which will help in preservation of the public faith and individual dignity. A judicial consensus would require that the judgment should be set aside or affirmed as the case may be but preferably without offering any undesirable comments, disparaging remarks or indications which would impinge upon the dignity and respect of judicial system, *actus curiae neminem gravabit*.” (**The Hindu, New Delhi dated April 20, 2010**)

The Supreme Court on July 9, 2010 greenlit publication of a book on Shivaji that was banned by Maharashtra government. A Bench led by Justice

D.K. Jain upheld the 2007 order of the Bombay High Court lifting the ban on American author James Laine's *Shivaji – The Hindu King in Muslim India*. Maharashtra had banned the book saying it “contains material promoting social enmity”. But the Bombay High Court was not convinced. It said the ban was not sustainable as the Supreme Court had already quashed criminal proceedings against Laine for allegedly “promoting social enmity”.

The state government then moved the Supreme Court, which upheld the High Court's order. The state government, however, is not inclined to give up. “Our stand remains the same. But since this is the decision of the Supreme Court, we will examine the judgment when we get its copy and then decide” Home Minister, R.R. Patil said. **(The Indian Express, New Delhi dated July 10, 2010)**

The Supreme Court on August 13, 2010 held that truth based on facts should be allowed as a valid defence, if courts are called upon to decide contempt proceedings relating to a speech or an article or an editorial in a newspaper or magazine unless such defence is used as a camouflage to escape the consequences of a deliberate attempt to scandalize the court. A Bench of Justices G.S. Singhvi and A.K. Ganguly said: “Section 13 of the Contempt of Courts Act represents an important legislative recognition of one of the fundamentals of our value system: truth. The amended Section enables the court to permit justification by truth as a valid defence in any contempt proceeding if it is satisfied that such defence is in public interest, and the request for invoking the defence is *bona fide*.”

In this case Excise Law Times wrote an editorial in its June 1, 2009 issue, highlighting what it perceived as irregularities in the transfer and postings of some members of the Customs, Excise and Gold (Control) Appellate Tribunal. The Indirect Tax Practitioners Association filed a contempt petition against the Editor of the magazine, R.K. Jain, contending that the editorial amounted to contempt of court, and the respondent had violated an earlier undertaking given to the Supreme Court. Dismissing the petition the Bench said: “What was incorporated in the editorial was nothing except the facts relating to manipulative transfer and posting of some members of the CESTAT and the substance of the orders passed by the particular Bench of CESTAT, which were set aside by the High Courts of Karnataka and Kerala. **(The Hindu, New Delhi August 14, 2010)**

In an order that is bound to have far-reaching consequences, the Supreme Court ordered that no news story relating to any probe could be published if it had the potential to interfere with investigation. The proceedings took place in a PIL filed by advocate Surat Singh, who had first moved the court in 2008

seeking some restraint in reporting in the wake of “wild allegations” levelled by Noida police, which first investigated the Aarushi murder case. The Bench comprising Justices Altamas Kabir and A.K. Patnaik passed the order after the counsel for the parents of Aarushi pointed out to news reports and repeated telecasts casting aspersion on the character of everyone - the victim, Talwars and their deceased servant. While questioning the CBI – “who are these anonymous sources dishing out information to the press” – the apex court also mulled whether it would be proper to gag the press as sought by the Talwars’ counsel. It said, “Nobody wants to gag the press but someone can surely gag an irresponsible press. Have some restraint while reporting about a 14-year-old dead girl. Respect her honour.”

While asking for all guidelines relating to media from Press Council of India, National Broadcasters Association and Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the Bench went on to pass a virtual gag order on reporting solely based on sources and which had the potential to interfere with the probe, tarnish the image of a person or prejudicially affect the accused.

To leave no ambiguity, it clarified, “We, however clarify that this would not prohibit publication of information which will not interfere with investigation, damage reputation or prejudice the accused.”

The Bench said, “The press is important in a democracy. But it must observe self-restraint. **(The Times of India, New Delhi dated August 10, 2010)**

The Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court, set to pronounce the judgment in the Ayodhya title suit, asked the media not to speculate about the verdict till it has the copy of the operational part of the order on September 24. Media, both print and electronic were kept away from the High Court compound on that day and photocopies of the judgment were made available at district collectorate. As per the statement issued by the Registrar of the Lucknow bench, a request had been made to the media not to speculate about the judgment until they have a copy of the issues answered by the court and the operational part of the order. **(The Statesman, New Delhi September 22, 2010)**

In a boost to the fight against corruption at all levels, including the judiciary, the Delhi High Court ruled no one, including journalists, can be prosecuted for carrying out sting operations. Quashing chargesheets against two journalists for carrying out a sting operation in 2005 against 11 Members of Parliament (MPs) to expose the ‘cash – for-query scam’, the court went a step forward by invoking Chanakya who in his Arthashastra had suggested that the honesty of even judges should be put to test. Justice S.N. Dhingra noted that journalists Anirudh Bahal and Suhasini Raj had conducted a sting to expose the practice

prevalent amongst some MPs of taking money to raise questions in Parliament. “The practice was known to the public for quite some time but was not brought to the notice of the public at large with credible proof”, the court said. The court endorsed the views of lawyers Sidharth Luthra and Pramod Dubey, who defended the journalists saying “they were in no way offenders and the sting was to expose corruption and not to commit a crime”. **(The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated September 25, 2010)**

A mere newspaper write-up raising grievance and giving opinion on a topic that is *sub judice* doesn't by itself amount to trial by media, Delhi High Court said in a recent order. Declining the plea of Nehru Memorial Museum and Library Society (NMMLS) to haul up one N. Balakrishnan for contempt of court, Justice Manmohan Singh said there was no scope for invoking contempt of court powers just because Balakrishnan gave an interview to a newspaper while embroiled in a legal dispute with NMMLS. Rejecting the contempt demand the judge noted “The right to free speech and expression envisaged under the Constitution also includes right to express opinion in media. Times have changed and media has an active role to play in the country. There are cases of a more heinous nature where media tries to delve into areas which the parties litigating may find objectionable. That doesn't mean it is trial by media”. **(The Times of India, New Delhi dated October 29, 2010)**

The Supreme Court on November 22, 2010 cautioned the media, both print and electronic, against distorting the court proceedings in the Spectrum scam case and in the process tarnishing the image of individuals.

“Every individual has his own reputation. Why should it be sullied unnecessarily,” a Bench comprising Justices G.S. Singhvi and A.K. Ganguly remarked during the hearing.

Pointing out that the public opinion was influenced by media reports, the Bench said a section of the media had been misreporting details relating to the highest political office of the Prime Minister, the authority responsible for granting permission to prosecute then Telecom Minister, A. Raja for his alleged role in the scam.

The court also advised all the advocates involved in the case not to take part in media debates or issue statements to the media. The Bench warned that it would not continue to be a mute spectator to all this. **(The Tribune, Chandigarh dated November 23, 2010)**

The Ghaziabad district judge barred the entry of mediapersons and outsiders inside the courtroom during the hearing of Aarushi – Hemraj murder case. The

decision was taken in view of the attack on Dr. Rajesh Talwar inside the Ghaziabad court premises. (**The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated January 27, 2011**)

The Special Prevention of Atrocities Act court convicted a Mumbai-based columnist for making casteist comments in an editorial article written for a Mumbai tabloid in 2006. Anish Trivedi, a columnist for Mid-Day was sentenced to six months imprisonment and fined Rs. 25,000. The case pertains to an April 30, 2006 article he penned in the tabloid, in which he wrote about the “bad condition of government offices” and attributed this to the policy of reservation. Trivedi’s column, titled “Children of a Lesser God”, blamed caste-based reservations as a primary reason for the bad condition of government offices. While a case was registered with the Bhoiwada police station, the police included the editors of the publication as accused in the case. However, Judge C.K. Bedi acquitted the editors. (**The Indian Express, New Delhi dated January 28, 2011**)

During hearing of claims of ownership of disputed site in Ayodhya, the bench of Lucknow High Court found Dainik Jagran, PTI and Telex Division guilty of publishing contemptuous news and penalized them for Rs. 1000/- each. The special bench of Justice S.U. Khan, Justice Sudhir Agarwal and Justice U.K. Dixit stated in their order that the impugned news item was not only incorrect but had potential to create enough loss. (**Nai Duniya, New Delhi dated March 12, 2011**)

Media Round Up

Even as newspapers in the West reel under declining sales and readership, Indian newspapers are enjoying a period of rapid growth, characterized by intense competition and exciting innovations. This global powershift was reflected in the prestigious INMA (International Newsmedia Marketing Association) Awards, announced in New York. For the first time ever, the top two winners in the INMA Awards competition came from the same company: Bennett, Coleman and Company Ltd. (BCCL), publishers of The Times of India and The Economic Times. The coveted ‘Best of Show’ award was won by The Economic Times for “The Power of Ideas”. The multimedia campaign, which sought to help readers turn their entrepreneurial dreams into reality unleashed a mass movement in corporate India. This win puts The Economic Times in elite company, with other recent recipients of the honour including *The New York Times*, *The Gazette of Canada* *Dagens Nyheter of Sweden* and *The Times of India*. *TOI*- which had won the ‘Best of Show’ for its path-breaking ‘Lead India’

campaign in 2008 – was this time declared runner up in the category for its campaign ‘Lead India 2009’. **(The Times of India, New Delhi dated May 1, 2010)**. Dainik Jagran winner of INMA Awards, 2010 represented the world’s best newspaper marketing campaign. The competition generated 533 entities from 137 newspapers in 28 countries. **(Dainik Jagran, New Delhi dated May 1, 2010)**

India’s first woman photojournalist, 97 year old Homai Vyrawalla, has been selected for the first-ever national photography award for her contribution to the field before and after the Partition. A total of four photojournalists have been selected for the awards being given for the first time in order to commemorate the golden jubilee celebrations of Photo Division, a media unit of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry. **(The Asian Age, New Delhi dated July 28, 2010)**

For her series on the CBI as a rubber-stamp, Ritu Sarin, Chief of the investigative bureau of *The Indian Express*, will get this year’s Prem Bhatia Award for Best Political Reporting. The award Best Reporting on Environmental Issues has gone to Raajkumar Keswani of Bhopal Post. **(The Indian Express, New Delhi dated July 29, 2010)**

Afaqs!, a media industry publication, presented the News Innovation Awards 2010 on August 29, 2010 to recognize best innovative practices in news business. The awards were given in partnership with *The Hindustan Times*. The awards identify best practices in the media business that helps increase profitability of the news business without compromising the principles of ethical journalism. *Mid Day* won gold in the Print Big category for the use of QR Code, which allows a reader with a camera phone to seek information on a subject. *Hindustan* shared the bronze in the Print Media category with *Malayala Manorama*. *Hindustan* also bagged the award for identifying the consumer need of learning English and offering a special page for readers. *NDTV Worldwide* bagged gold in the Television Big category for Yoda- an innovative software that reduces technical complexity in multi-camera shoots and cuts costs. Marathi daily *Sakal* won gold in Print Emerging category for Agrowon – a unique daily for farmers that takes into account the agro-climatic conditions. **(The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated August 30, 2010)**

Vineet Jain, Managing Director of the *Times of India* Group, was on August 30, 2010 elected Chairman of the board of directors of the Press Trust of India (PTI). M.P. Veerendrakumar, Chairman and Managing Director of the *Mathrubhumi* Group was elected Vice-Chairman at the 62nd annual

general meeting of the PTI's shareholders. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated August 31, 2010)**

Hindustan Times journalist, Pankaj Jaiswal was conferred with The Statesman Award for Rural Reporting on September 10, 2010 for reporting on crisis ridden Bundelkhand region in 2009. **(The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated September 17, 2010)**

Mr. Vijay Jawaharlal Darda, the Rajya Sabha MP and Chairman and Managing Director of the *Lokmat* group of newspapers was unanimously elected as the Chairman of the Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC) for 2010-2011. He has been a member of ABC's council of management since 2003 and was Deputy Chairman of the bureau in 2009-10. **(The Asian Age, New Delhi dated September 22, 2010)**

Kundan R. Vyas of *Janmabhoomi* Group was on September 24, 2010 elected President of the Indian Newspaper Society for the year 2010-2011. At the 71st Annual General Body Meeting of the society, Ashish Bagga of *India Today* was elected Deputy President. Mr. K.N. Tilak Kumar of *Prajavani* was elected Vice-President. **(The Asian Age, New Delhi dated September 25, 2010)**

The Hindu was awarded membership of the International Newspaper Color Quality Club (INCQC) for 2010 through 2012, a prestigious award for newsprint quality globally. The World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers announced that *The Hindu* is among 109 newspapers in 43 countries that have been awarded membership. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated October 15, 2010)** Other Indian newspapers who have been awarded membership in the INCQC for 2010 through 2012 are Ananda Bazar Patrika, Dainik Bhaskar, Dainik Jagran, Deccan Herald, Divya Bhaskar, DNA, Hindustan, Hindustan Times, Malayala Manorama, Mid Day, Mint, The Telegraph and The Times of India. **(Information compiled from INCQC website)**

Manu Joseph bagged *The Hindu* Best Fiction Award 2010 for his debut novel *Serious Men*. The award was instituted by *The Hindu* Literary Review as a prelude to celebrating its 20th year in 2011. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated November 2, 2010)**

Weekly magazine *Tehelka* has been selected for the IPI India Award for Excellence in Journalism, 2010, for out-standing journalistic work. The International Press Institute is an active forum of editors, publishers and senior executives of

newspapers, magazines and news agencies committed to promotion of free exchange of accurate and balanced news among nations. **(The Hindu New Delhi November 18, 2010)**

The New Crusading Guide, a daily newspaper from Ghana in West Africa, has been named the winner of Rajasthan Patrika Group's K.C. Kulish International Award for Excellence in Print Media Journalism 2009. The daily has been chosen on the basis of a series of reports on Ghana's Madhouse and Chinese sex mafia. The merit awards have been announced for reports appearing in *Hindustan* (Lucknow), *Malayala Manorama* (Kottayam), *Hindustan Times* (Delhi), *Indian Express* (Delhi), *Rashtra Deepika* (Kottayam), *La Opinion* (Los Angeles) and *Daily Jang Mir* (Quetta, Balochistan). **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated December 11, 2010)**

N. Murali, Senior Managing Director of Kasturi and Sons Limited, was presented the Music Forum Award for media excellence instituted by the International Foundation for the Fine Arts on January 23, 2011. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated January 23, 2011)**

India's biggest media group, Bennett Coleman and Company on January 27, 2011 declared to establish Media Network and Distribution (India) Limited, a Joint enterprise with Yogesh Radhakrishnan. This enterprise will launch a brand *viz.* 'Prime Connect which would be an independent Distribution Platform. **(Navbharat Times, New Delhi dated January 28, 2011)**

As many as 36 journalists, including *Prajavani* Editor K.N. Shanth Kumar and Associate Editor Padmaraj Dandavati, were bestowed with the Karnataka Media Academy Awards for the year 2008 and 2009. **(Deccan Herald, Bangalore dated March 15, 2011)**

The 2010 Chameli Devi Jain award for "Outstanding Woman Media Person" was presented to a former *Tehelka* correspondent from Thiruvananthapuram, Shahina K.K. at a function on March 15, 2011 for her "demonstrated ability to focus on issues that have deep social consequences impacting lives and concerns of ordinary people. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated March 16, 2011)**

Two correspondents of *The Times of India* have been recognized for highlighting gender inequities. The Laadli Award instituted by NGO Population First, for promoting gender sensitivity, has gone to special correspondent Himanshi Dhawan and Principal Correspondent, Sukhbir Siwach. **(The Times of India, New Delhi dated March 16, 2011)**

Dilnaz Boga an Indian reporter and photographer, received the Kate Webb Prize from Agence France-Presse for her courageous investigative work in Jammu and Kashmir. Boga, spent a year in Srinagar working for the respected news portal Kashmir Dispatch as well as a number of international publications and websites, the culmination of a decade covering the troubled region. **(The Statesman, New Delhi dated March 31, 2011)**

World Media in Indian Press

United States of America

Washington Post Co is putting *Newsweek* up for sale. The company has retained investment bank Allen and Co to help find a buyer for the money-losing weekly. Post Chairman Donald E. Graham said, “*Newsweek* is a lively, important magazine and website, and in the current, climate, it might be a better fit elsewhere”. **(The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated May 7, 2010)**

In a move that aims to strengthen the U.S. monitoring and, where possible, enforcement of press freedom the world over, President Barack Obama signed the Daniel Pearl Freedom of the Press Act into law. Named after the *Wall Street Journal* reporter who was kidnapped and killed by militants in Pakistan in 2001, the bill was signed in the presence of Mr. Pearl’s wife and son and described by Mr. Obama as “a strong message from the U.S. government and ...State Department that we are paying attention to how other governments are operating when it comes to the press”. Mr. Obama said the Act would uphold the U.S. “core values” and directed the State Department to record how press freedom operates in conjunction with U.S. Human Rights assessments. It would hold countries that facilitate press repression to world opinion, Mr. Obama added. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated May 19, 2010)**

Newsweek, a 77-year-old magazine that once helped set the national news agenda, is linking its future with a startup website just two years in the making. Three months after agreeing to buy the money-losing weekly for just \$1, audio equipment magnate Sidney Harman has completed on-again, off-again negotiations to merge it with *The Daily Beast*. It is not just a marriage between old and new media. Harman will also be getting as an editor for *Newsweek* Tina Brown, who led both *Vanity Fair* and *The New Yorker* before deciding to give Web publishing a try. **(The Times of India, New Delhi dated November 13, 2010)**

Rupert Murdoch, head of the media giant News Corp and Steve Jobs, the chief executive of Apple, are preparing to unveil a new digital “newspaper”

called *The Daily* at the end of this month, according to reports in the US media. The collaboration, which has been secretly under development in New York for several months, promises to be the world's first "newspaper" designed exclusively for new tablet-style computers such as Apple's iPad, with a launch planned for early next year. Intended to combine "a tabloid sensibility with a broad-sheet intelligence", the publication represents Murdoch's determination to push the newspaper business beyond the realm of print. According to reports, there will be no "print edition" or "web edition"; the central innovation, developed with assistance from Apple engineers, will be to dispatch the publication automatically to an iPad or any of the growing number of similar devices. With no printing or distribution costs, the US-focused Daily will cost 99 cents (62 p) a week. **(The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated November 23, 2010)**

Journalists have been hired and are in place at multiple US bureaus, including Los Angeles and New York. The formal announcement of the digital publication owned by News Corp will be made at an event at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art on January 19. The publication is a bold attempt by Murdoch to rewrite the business of journalism, as revenue from print circulation and advertising has plunged and growing advertising sales on websites have not made up the difference. At an investor's conference last month, News Corp Chief Operating Officer, Chase Carey called "*The Daily*" a "small bet" because costs were limited mainly to a modest editorial staff. By contrast, printed newspapers also have such costs as newsprint, ink and delivery. Newspaper publishers view the iPad and other tablets as a golden opportunity because they can sell ads and subscriptions at higher prices than they have been able to get on websites, though those rates are still lower than for print. User behaviour so far has indicated that reading on the iPad is more of a "lean back" experience akin to perusing a print newspaper. **(Deccan Herald, Bangalore dated January 14, 2011)**

UK

After the *Times London*, another UK newspaper *Daily Telegraph* apologized to Dr. R.K. Pachauri, head of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) for claiming in an article in December 2009 that he had made "million of dollars" while heading the IPCC. "It was not intended to suggest Dr. Pachauri was corrupt or abusing his position. We apologise to Dr. Pachauri for any embarrassment caused", the paper said. **(The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated August 22, 2010)**

A bid by Rupert Murdoch who already controls a significant share of Britain's media market through his ownership of The Times group of newspapers – to further increase his influence by trying to buy out BSKyB, the satellite broadcaster which runs the Sky TV network, appears to have hit a rough patch. The media regulator, Ofcom was reportedly set to recommend greater scrutiny of the controversial £8-billion deal that, it is widely feared, would give Mr. Murdoch disproportionate influence over the British media. His company News Corporation already owns 39 per cent of BSKyB and its bid to acquire the remaining 61 per cent has become one of the most hotly debated issues uniting the normally fractious Fleet Street behind calls for the deal to be stopped in the interest of “media plurality”. Last week, the European Commission cleared the move but ruled that its decision did not affect a separate investigation by British regulators. In a rare show of unity, rival media groups including *The Guardian*, *The Telegraph*, *The Daily Mail* and the *Daily Mirror* came together to oppose the move arguing that it would breach the principle of media plurality. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated December 31, 2010)**

Britain plans a drastic shakeup of its libel laws to ensure that people's right to free speech, including responsible journalism and scientific debate, is protected. The libel cases against two Indian-origin writers had galvanized the opinion for reform of the English libel law. British-born, science writer Simon Singh, whose parents moved from India to the UK in 1950, had a long battle over libel laws against the British Chiropractic Association over a newspaper article on chiropractors that he wrote in a newspaper. The libel case against Singh, author of bestselling books on science like Fermat's *Last Theorem*, *The Code Book* and Fermat's *Enigma*, became a test case for the reform of libel law and the Labour Party, Liberal Democrats and the Conservative Party all agreed in 2010 before the general election on the urgent need for reform of the archaic libel law. **(The Asian Age, New Delhi dated March 17, 2011)**

France

A French Internet billionaire, a patron of the arts and a flamboyant banker won control of the *Le Monde* newspaper despite President Nicolas Sarkozy's bid to stop them. The trio includes Xavier Niel, an internet entrepreneur. With him is Pierre Berge, the rich partner of the Laurent fashion guru Yves Saint-Laurent, and Matthieu Pigasse, a senior figure at investment bank Lazard who owns the alternative news and culture magazine *Les Inrockuptibles*. Their bid won the approval of the paper's supervisory board, 11 of whose members voted for it. Mr. Berge, Mr. Pigasse and Mr. Niel promised to let the paper's editors maintain full editorial independence and let the journalists association keep its

right to veto major decisions. The world's leading French-language newspaper has been struggling to survive in the Internet age and called for investors willing to buy into the loss-making daily and pay off its debt of around €100 million. Several bidders – including a Russian billionaire- joined the race to take over what for the moment is more of a status symbol than a viable money-making business. A senior journalist at the newspaper, said *Le Monde* staff were on the whole happy with the outcome and believed that the trio would honour their promise not to interfere editorially. The left-of-centre daily's search for fresh capital turned political earlier this month when Mr. Sarkozy summoned the publisher of the daily, Eric Fottorino. The right-wing President told him he opposed the Berge-Pigasse-Niel bid because of their ties to France's left-wing opposition, drawing accusations from the Socialist Party that Mr. Sarkozy was threatening press freedom. About 280 journalists work for *Le Monde*, which has a circulation of about 3,00,000-AFP. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated June 6, 2010)**

France's most celebrated newspaper, *Le Monde* accused, President Nicolas Sarkozy's government of ordering an illegal probe into its reporting of L'Oreal party funding scandal. Sarkozy's office firmly denied the claim it had ordered the police intelligence officers to trace a leak to the paper, but his opponents seized on the report to accuse him of misusing state power to muzzle media criticism. *Le Monde* accused the Elysee Palace of trying to stifle reporting of a long-running party finance investigation and of breaking a law protecting whistle-blowers by investigating the source of one of its stories. The daily said it had lodged a legal complaint after being told by police sources that domestic intelligence studied the telephone records of a justice ministry official to discover if he had leaked sensitive information. "The counter-espionage service was used to find the source of one of our reporters", *Le Monde's* news director Sylvie Kauffmann wrote in a front page article headlined: "The Elysee broke the law on protecting press sources". **(The Asian Age, New Delhi dated September 14, 2010)**

Geneva

Some 105 journalists have been killed while doing their job this year, media watchdog Press Emblem Campaign said describing the killing of reporters as an "epidemic with no cure". Fewer fatalities have been reported this year compared to 2009 when 122 journalists died, but the toll is nevertheless higher than the 91 deaths recorded in 2008. The killing of journalists has become an epidemic with no cure", noted the watchdog's Secretary General, Blaise Lempen. "The international community has not found solutions to it, or put in place effective

mechanisms for bringing the perpetrators of those crimes against journalists to trial”, he said. Mexico and Pakistan are the two most dangerous countries for media workers this year. Fourteen journalists were killed in Mexico’s drug war, while another 14 fatalities were reported in Pakistan most of them occurring in the border areas with Afghanistan. Over five years, some 529 journalists have been killed with Iraq topping the list as the most dangerous country where more than a fifth of deaths occurred. The media watchdog’s president, Hedayat Abdel Nabi, pressed for action to better protect journalists. **(The Statesman, New Delhi dated December 28, 2010)**

Africa

There is growing fear that the Government is seeking to muzzle the Press as the ruling ANC party supports the formation of media regulations in South Africa. The African National Congress is in the final stages of deciding on a Media Appeals Tribunal, while Parliament is mulling the Protection of Information Bill, which mediapersons claim would limit investigative news coverage. According to the ruling party, the media tribunal, first mooted in 2007, aims to adjudicate complaints on media reports so that mediapersons are made legally accountable. Media reports on lavish spending by the Government, particularly on luxury vehicles have irritated the ruling ANC. There is growing concern among mediapersons and civil society over the Government’s move, many comparing to it “the dark days of apartheid”. Critics say the ANC would be recreating the restrictions of the past with the Protection of Information Bill, criticized even within the party, which is currently in Parliament. Media houses have called for the current self-regulation by the Press Council to continue. The South African National Editor’s Forum (SANEF) and the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) have both expressed strong opposition to the proposal as being unconstitutional and have vowed to fight it in court. The latter is also an alliance partner with the ruling ANC. SANEF Chairperson, Mondli Makhanya said there was a “mobilization against the media”, warning that it was likely that the ANC Government would pass the Media Appeals Tribunal for print media through Parliament by the end of the year. **(The Pioneer, New Delhi dated August 9, 2010)**

The front pages of South Africa’s newspapers are regularly splashed with articles about politicians living it up at public expense in a country blighted by poverty. Reporters recently pounced on news that a black empowerment deal meant to benefit ‘previously disadvantaged’ South Africans under government guidelines was enriching a company led by President Jacob Zuma’s 28-year-old son, Duduzane, among others giving them a lucrative stake in the South African

arm of a steel giant, Arcelor Mittal. Business executives, civic leaders and journalists responded with increasingly dire warnings that stringent measures being advanced by the governing African National Congress would threaten press freedom, enshroud much official activity in secrecy, potentially punish offending journalists or whistle-blowers with up to 25 years in prison and undermine the fight against corruption in the continent's largest economy. As now written, the ANC-led government's Protection of Information Bill would empower heads of government agencies to classify broad categories of information in the 'national interest'. It would also mandate the imprisonment of those who disclose the material for three to 25 years. The party has also stepped up its push for a tribunal, answerable to Parliament that would regulate the print media-oversight that Business Leadership South Africa, which represents companies that pay 80 per cent of the corporate taxes, said "raises the prospect of a media answerable to political bosses. The official hostility to journalists is palpable. In a July 29 party document, the ANC described portions of the press as having an 'anti-ANC stance', and accused the print media of "an astonishing degree of dishonesty". The cabinet acknowledged the risks this rancorous debate poses to the country's image, saying that it would meet with editors to discuss what it termed the erroneous perception that it was trying to muzzle the press. The African National Congress has been deniably angered by revelations in the press. Some involve complex deals, but others damage the party's image as a champion of the poor, fuelling a sense that the rules are different for people with political power. **(Deccan Herald, Bangalore dated September 1, 2010)**

China

Over 360 newspapers or periodicals in China- or 3% of the nation's total publications – would be shut down over the next three years. A total of 188 newspapers and periodicals were closed in 2009, after China's General Administration of Press and Publication introduced a market-oriented competition plan in 2008 that shuts down struggling and poorly managed newspapers. The quality evaluation programme analyses newspapers' infrastructure, environmental resources and management abilities. For many years, newspapers were allowed to stay in the market whether or not they made profit. In a pilot programme launched in 2008, 12 newspapers and periodicals in Liaoning were closed, while three other publications in Hebei were shut down. There are 1,943 newspapers and nearly 10,000 periodicals in China statistics said. **(The Times of India, New Delhi dated May 11, 2010)**

The Xinhua news agency, China's dominant news service and the propaganda arm of the Communist Party, introduced a 24-hour English-language news

channel and is preparing to open a prominent newsroom in Times Square, part of an expensive push to increase the reach and influence of the Chinese media overseas. The President of Xinhua, Li Congjun said at a press conference in Beijing that CNC World, the agency's new 24 hour news channel, was part of a government effort to "present an international vision with a Chinese perspective". Beijing officials have long complained that China is often portrayed unfavourably in the Western media and what it considers biased news coverage has hurt the country's interests abroad. **(The Asian Age, New Delhi dated July 3, 2010)**

Rupert Murdoch's News Corp said that it would sell control of its three Chinese TV channels to a fund backed by China's No. 2 media company, in a pullback from the market after years of difficulty. The deal would see China Media Capital acquire a controlling stake in News Corp's Xing Kong, Xing International and Channel Mainland China channels, along with its Fortune Star Chinese movie library, it said in a statement. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated August 10, 2010)**

China's first private magazine, which was launched by famous blogger Han Han in a bid to break monopoly of the tightly controlled official media has shut down apparently after its printing was blocked by authorities. "Han Han magazine dies", read the front page headline of the state-run *Global Times* daily. It said that the magazine named *Party* was shut after it was bogged down by a host of procedural problems, leading it to seek clearance for each of its page by officials. "The magazine bore an International Standard Book" Number (ISBN) instead of an International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) meaning it was regarded as technically being a book, and therefore needed to undergo government inspection before every new issue was published", the report said. China's General Administration of Press and Publication did not respond to a *Global Times* inquiry on the issue. Despite its successful debut, the maiden issue was the magazine's only publication. Southern Metropolis Weekly(SMW) reported in July that the maiden copy dropped about 70 per cent of Han's originally planned content in order to be approved by the publication watchdog. Many wondered how Han had managed to bring out the first issue as it was regarded as a direct attempt to challenge the might of the state media, which is the only permitted source of information by the ruling Communist Party of China. **(The Statesman, New Delhi dated December 29, 2010)**

Sri Lanka

The Sri Lankan government seems to be worried sick about the state of

journalism here. What else could have prompted its sudden longing to introduce a new set of media ethics guidelines to promote professionalism and skills among journalists? The guidelines are to be bunched under the soon-to-be-formed 'media development authority' (MDA), which might sound wholly like a civic body where babus hunch over ageing type-writers, but which could at least partly be inspired by the Media Development Authority of Singapore. And, which critics said is often used to sue journalists for defamation and help the Singapore government to regulate free speech. But the media authority here will do no such thing a minister promised. "What we intend is to give a professional recognition to journalists in line with other professional bodies in the country. Journalists are the unofficial agents of the masses", Media Minister K. Rambukwella said. It's heartening to know how one government can easily emulate another if an aspect of governance suits the first one's definition of best practices in a field. For example, if the Lankan government was looking at the Singapore MDA model to vigorously promote journalistic ethics, Pakistan in June talked about setting up the 'media coordination committee on defence planning' - which sounded coincidentally like the Media Centre for National Security (MCNS) here. The MCNS, in short, has the job of keeping journalists always embedded psychologically with the government even if not in the flesh every time. In between these guidelines, some journalists - who need to be most urgently taught the virtues of professionalism - slip, fall and disappear. **(The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated July 21, 2010)**

Nepal

Journalism is a deadly profession in Nepal. Perks of the job include receiving death threats, abduction, physical attacks and even death. Prices that many are paying in a country riddled with political instability and elusive peace. Devi Prasad Dhital, Chairman of Tulsipur FM, a local radio station in Dang district bordering Uttar Pradesh, who was shot dead while returning home is the third media mogul in Nepal who has fallen prey to bullets this year. Records compiled by Committee to Protect Journalists, a New York-based non-profit organization, say that 14 journalists have been killed in Nepal since 1992. Motives behind half of those deaths have not been confirmed. A CPJ report shows while 14 per cent of the deaths were due to dangerous assignments, 86 per cent were results of murderous attacks. Government inaction is biggest cause for journalists becoming targets. Nepal ranks seventh in a list of 12 countries "where journalists are murdered on a recurring basis and governments are unable or unwilling to prosecute the killers". **(The Times of India, New Delhi dated July 26, 2010)**

Pakistan

Pakistan government is framing new “policy guidelines” to grant permission to foreign media for reporting in the country, even as it is exploring ways to “dilute and ultimately eliminate the Indian media infiltration”. A law is also being framed to restrict graphic coverage of militant attacks, and possibly curb harsh criticism of the government, by increasingly independent television channels. If approved by the National Assembly, the bill, known as the Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority Bill, would ban live coverage of the militant attacks, as well as broadcast of “anything defamatory against the organs of the state”. Information Secretary convened a meeting of the hitherto un -heard of ‘Media Coordination Committee on Defence Planning’ to discuss the formulation of guidelines for electronic and print media and preparation of a standard operating procedure for giving permission to foreign media for reporting and making documentaries, Dawn newspaper quoted sources in the information ministry as saying. The committee will also “suggest measures for dilution and ultimate elimination of Indian media infiltration in the country. (**The Times of India, New Delhi dated July 2, 2010**)

The Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists described 2010 as one of the worst years in the country’s history as 19 media persons lost their lives in floods, targeted killings, bomb blasts and suicide attacks during the period. The past year also witnessed the “record retrenchments of over 1,500 media-related employees”, including 850 of the electronic and print media without any legal formalities and payment of legitimate dues, it said in a statement. Media houses had not taken any measures for the safety and training of their employees despite the “heavy casualties” during the performance of professional assignments, PFUJ said. Media organizations had also failed to provide insurance to employees working in hostile environments, it added. (**The Pioneer, New Delhi dated January 3, 2011**)

Thailand

When a government, especially one in a developing society struggling with institution building and defining the extent of free expression, talks about Press freedom, it is usually a cause for concern. Just recently, the Thai Cabinet approved a draft Bill that was designed to protect Press freedom but immediately provoked skepticism. People in the industry aren’t too happy because, despite some positive clauses, there are also signs that are not so encouraging. The stated aim of the draft Bill on “protection of media freedom and liberty and promotion of journalistic standards” is just as its name implies.

And the draft was made with media experts and professionals providing key input. As the Bill heads to Parliament, debate will go on about whether this piece of legislation is to be trusted. It is something made out of good intent, but will the seemingly minor shortcomings eventually lead us on a wrong path? The ambivalence for some is understandable, given the circumstances. The Bill was drafted when two issues were prominent in our turbulent society –the political intimidation of journalists and journalists pursuing (allegedly) dubious political agendas. Both issues exist, and which gave birth to which is contentious. Did unethical journalism cause the need for dictatorship, or vice versa? On the issue of financing, state funding for a media supervisory body is not unique. Its done in several Western countries. Yet where the money comes from here will raise questions about the integrity and independence of such a committee— unless, of course, legislators can come up with a way to fund it in a less controversial way. But the reality is that there still must be some form of criteria to identify media organizations. To really help the media industry, everyone involved with, or affected by the Bill will have to be most realistic and least political. Its strong points must be embraced while questionable ones must be addressed in an open-minded manner. The Bill’s name seems to sum up Thailand’s situation – how to enhance media freedom and to ensure freedom is exercised with great responsibility. The Bill’s own problem is how to convince the people it seeks to protect of its sincerity. **(The Statesman, New Delhi dated January 14, 2011)**

Foreign journalists will not be allowed into Burma to cover the military-ruled country’s first election in 20 years, election officials said issuing the latest restriction for an election widely criticized as a sham. The Election Commission said there was no need to grant visas for foreign reporters because there are local reporters in the country who work for foreign media. The Commission also reiterated that it was “not necessary” for foreign observers to monitor the elections. There are 25 officially registered “foreign correspondents” in Burma, mostly Burmese nationals who work for 17 foreign news media outlets. **(The Asian Age, New Delhi dated October 19, 2010)**

Malaysia

An insensitive cartoon by a Malaysian daily showing the Japanese superhero Ultraman running helter-skelter from a massive tsunami has sparked an outrage in the country, prompting the newspaper to tender a public apology. *Berita Harian* newspaper, the Malay-language daily, on its front page on March 14, 2011 apologized for the offending caricature of the popular Japanese icon running away from an oncoming tsunami. Several people had voiced their

objection and regret over the newspaper's insensitive attitude to the plight of the Japanese who were hit by the tsunami. Malaysian authority also issued a stern warning to the daily. The minister warned the newspaper not to use calamities like earthquakes or tsunami as a source of humour. (**The Statesman, New Delhi dated March 15, 2011**)



CHAPTER – II

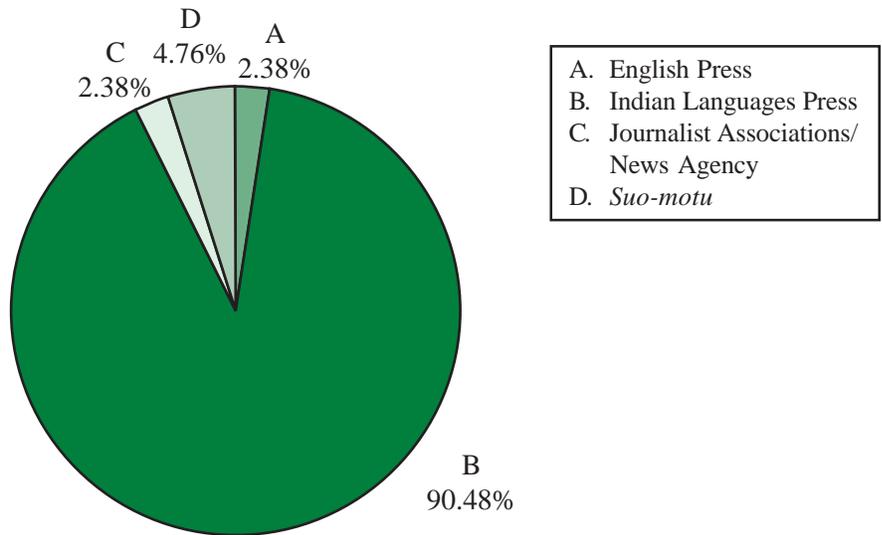
Adjudications in Complaints Regarding Threats to Press Freedom

This chapter and the next, details one of the most important tasks assigned to the Press Council of India. The adjudications herein fall under the category of complaints registered with the Council against Governments - Central and State and other authorities under Section 13 of the Press Council Act, 1978 for alleged attempts at curtailment of and hindrance with the free and independent working of the Press.

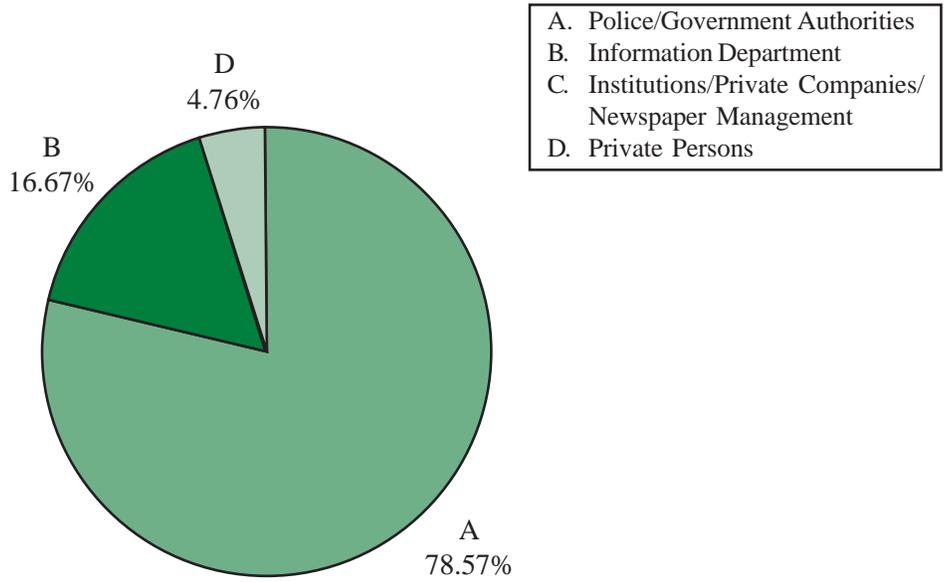
Beginning of the financial year 2010 saw inquiry pending in 247 cases. While during the year under review 187 new complaints were filed before the Council seeking justice. Council also initiated *suo-motu* action in one case. The total number of complaints which thus required attention of the Council came to 434. Of these, 42 matters were disposed off through adjudications which included two matters directly considered by the Council. 165 matters were dismissed or disposed off for lack of sufficient grounds for holding inquiry or where satisfactory amends had been made by the concerned authorities or matters fell outside the Council's charter or became *sub-judice* or for non-pursuance on the part of the complainants. The remaining 227 matters were under process at the close of the period under review.

Adjudications on complaints under this chapter have been analyzed graphically while detailed adjudications have been carried in the Council's quarterly journals, *viz.* 'PCI Review' in English and 'Press Parishad Samiksha' in Hindi and Compendium of Adjudications 2010-2011.

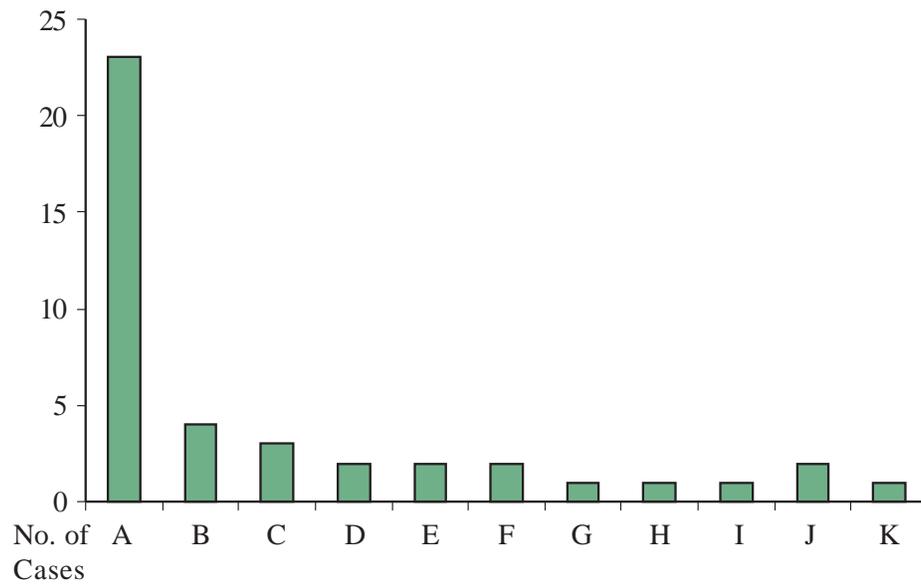
Categories of Complainants



Categories of Respondents



Statewise Distribution of the Complainant Publications



Key to Abbreviation

Total No. of Cases : 42

(Including two matters adjudicated directly by the Council)

A. Uttar Pradesh	23
B. West Bengal	4
C. Madhya Pradesh	3
D. Chhattisgarh	2
E. Delhi	2
F. Sikkim	2
G. Bihar	1
H. Maharashtra	1
I. Haryana	1
J. Tamil Nadu	2
K. Uttarakhand	1

Harassment of Newsmen

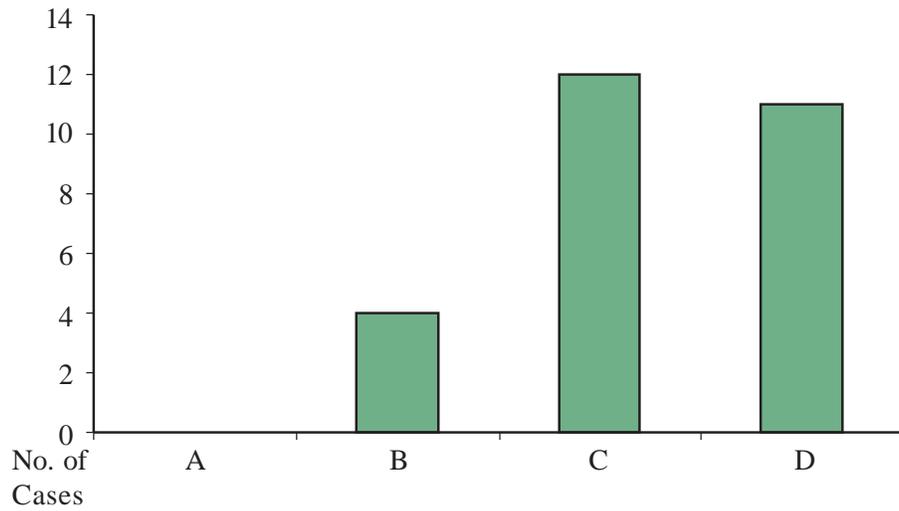
Fearless reporting by the journalists often leads to their harassment not only at the hands of authorities but also militant organizations and anti-social elements. Legitimate criticism of executive functioning and reporting of misdemeanors of anti national/social and outfit elements is responded to in the form of attacks on journalists, their entanglement in false cases, raids at their offices/home, abduction and in extreme cases, murder. In this way the press has to face dire consequences in discharging their professional duties honestly.

It is noteworthy that out of 27 complaints dealt with under this category including two matters directly placed before the Council it was only in four cases that the allegations stood dismissed (rejected). In 12 matters the Council dropped inquiry when respondents concerned made or assured adequate amends. 11 complaints stood disposed of for non-pursuance or for the matters having become *sub-judice* or when no further 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 : 27

A. Upheld	–
B. Rejected	4
C. Assurance/Settled/Amends	12
D. Dropped for Non-Pursuance/ Withdrawal/ <i>Sub-judice</i> / Lack of Substance	11



Facilities to the Press

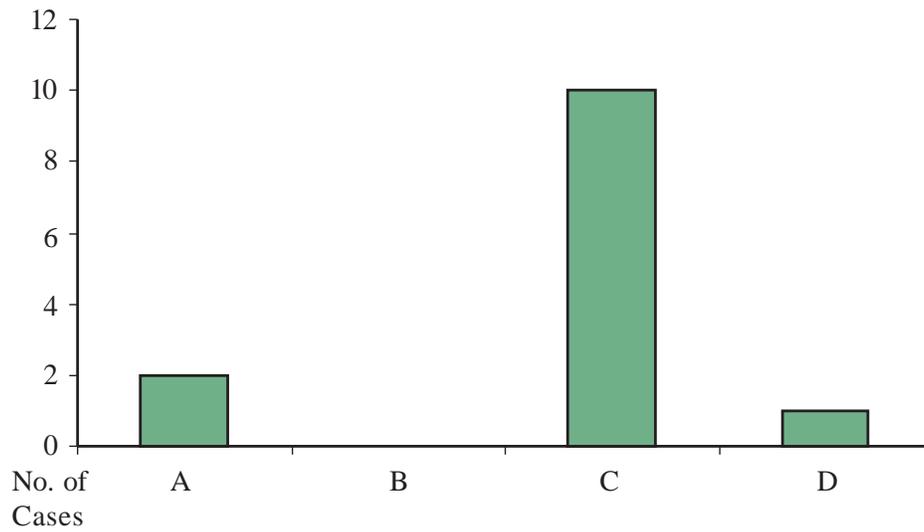
The dependence of the fourth estate on advertisements make them very vulnerable to pressures direct or indirect. Accreditation constitutes another factor in as much as it facilitates collection and presentation of news. Authorities have at times been seen to use their authority to empanel newspaper to release advertisements or to grant accreditation, telephone connections and postal concessions etc. as a bait or means to have papers toe their line of thought.

During the year under review the Council adjudicated upon 13 such complaints alleging withdrawal or denial of due facilities. Of these two were upheld while in 10 matters, the Council dropped inquiry upon amends or on assurances given by the authorities. Action was dropped in one matter on account of withdrawal of the matter by the complainant. The chart that follows makes the position more clear.

Facilities to the Press

Total No. of Cases : 13

A. Upheld	2
B. Rejected	-
C. Assurance/Settled/Amends	10
D. Dropped for Non-Pursuance/ Withdrawal/ <i>Sub-judice</i> / Lack of Substance	1



Curtailment of Press Freedom

Freedom of expression and information is the cornerstone of democracy. The fourth estate, along with the executive, legislature and judiciary hold up the great edifice of democratic entity of the country. Freedom of press implies that its sole mission is to inform and educate the people adequately and objectively on individuals and matters and on all issues and problems to enable them to form their opinion independently and without interference from any source.

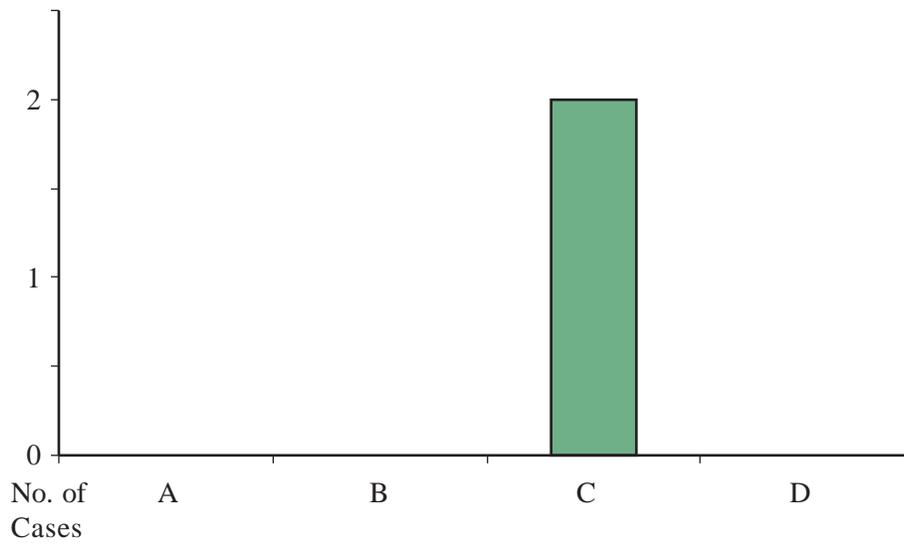
At times the press freedom is threatened by unreasonable restrictions imposed by the Government by legislative provisions or executive instructions. Similarly, the trade unions, political parties, social religious organisations and other pressure groups too attempt to bring pressures on the press in attempts to compel it to compromise on its independent views. The press is also subject to the internal pulls and pressures. In many cases owners of newspapers tend to overrule their editor and to exercise their veto, to control the contents.

The two adjudications falling in this category represent the diverse means which can be used to curb the freedom of the press. The Council decided to dispose off both the matters in view of the assurance given by the state authorities. Graphically it is depicted below.

Curtilment of Press Freedom

Total No. of Cases : 2

A. Upheld	–
B. Rejected	–
C. Assurance/Settled/Amends	2
D. Dropped for Non-Pursuance/ Withdrawal/ <i>Sub-judice</i> / Lack of Substance	–



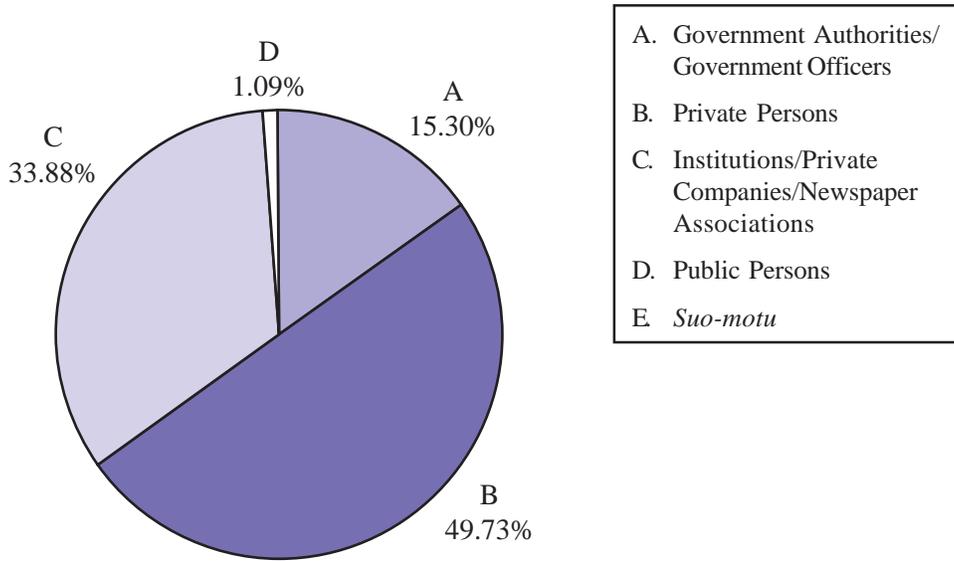
CHAPTER – III

Adjudications Rendered by the Council in Complaints Filed Against the Press

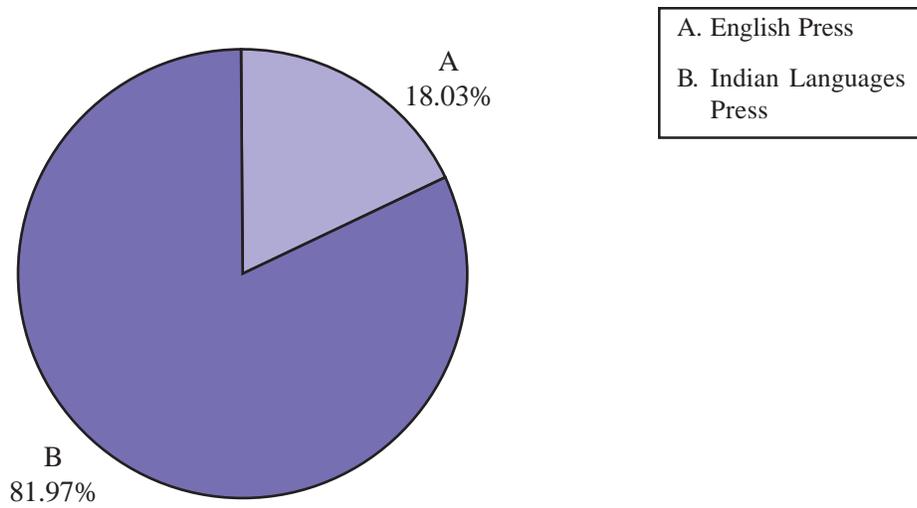
While cases of threats to press freedom are in plenty, in much more abundance come before the Council, the matters which charge the press with actions violative of the universally accepted journalistic norms. Breach of norms of journalistic ethics and violation of press propriety attract the provisions of Section 14 of the Press Council Act, 1978 and give rise to cause of action against the editors of newspapers/periodicals/news agencies.

During the course of the year under review, the Council received 713 fresh complaints against the press. Besides, there were 926 matters pending from the previous year. Thus, the Council was to consider in all 1639 complaints against the press during the year under review. Of these, 183 matters were disposed of through adjudications, 636 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-pursuance, etc. Thus 820 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 English as well as Hindi and also the Compendium of Adjudications 2010-2011.

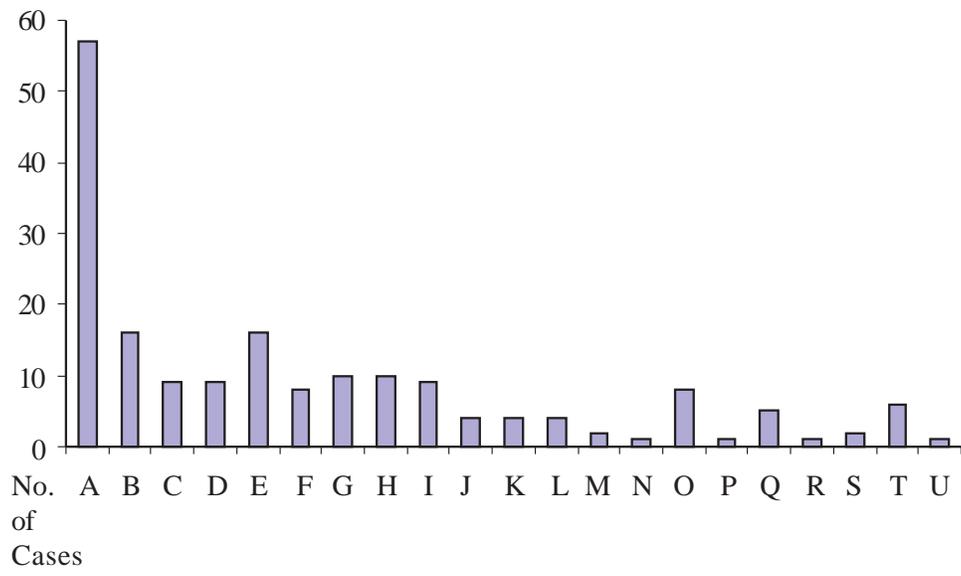
Categories of Complainants



Categories of Respondents



Statewise Distribution of the Respondent Publications



Key to Abbreviation

Total No. of Cases: 183

A.	Uttar Pradesh	57
B.	Madhya Pradesh	16
C.	Rajasthan	9
D.	Gujarat	9
E.	Maharashtra	16
F.	Karnataka	8
G.	Assam	10
H.	West Bengal	10
I.	Delhi	9
J.	Jharkhand	4
K.	Chhatisgarh	4
L.	Bihar	4
M.	Punjab	2
N.	Haryana	1
O.	Orissa	8
P.	Meghalaya	1
Q.	Andhra Pradesh	5
R.	Goa	1
S.	Kerala	2
T.	Tamil Nadu	6
U.	United Kingdom	1

Principles and Publication

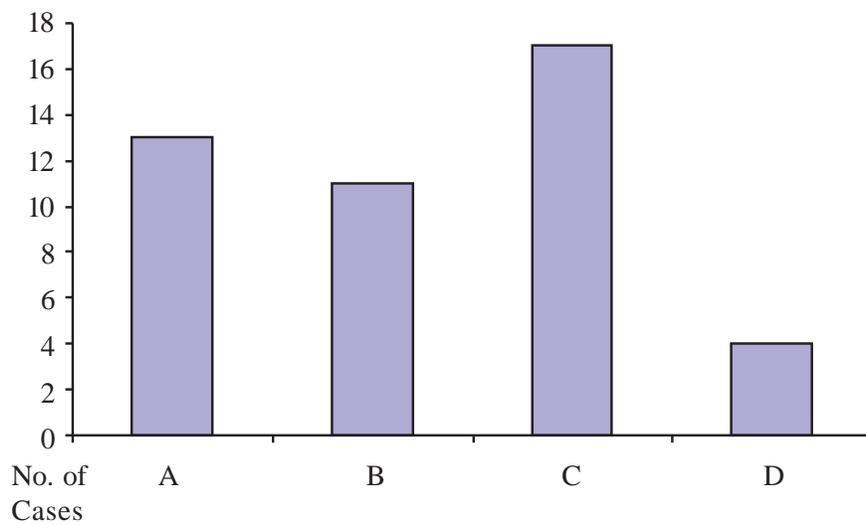
In their enthusiasm for reporting, journalists often overlook the basic principles underlying the functions and duties of a reporter. Alleged violation of journalistic ethics and publications contrary to the general principles of reportage cause the maximum number of complaints to be registered with the Council. It is therefore, incumbent on the media to be alive to its moral commitments. This need to adopt and follow ethical behaviour in their respective spheres of functioning holds good for the entire media personnel, including not just editors and journalists but also proprietors and managers.

45 adjudications cover a variety of such alleged violations. The Council upheld 13 complaints while in 11 the charges could not be substantiated. Settlement was brought about in 17 matters and the remaining four were dropped for non-pursuance, withdrawal etc. The chart that follows makes the position more clear.

Principles and Publication

Total No. of Cases : 45

A. Upheld	13
B. Rejected	11
C. Assurance/Settled/Amends	17
D. Dropped for Non-Pursuance/ Withdrawal/ <i>Sub-judice</i> /Lack of Substance	4



Press and Defamation

The fundamental objective of journalism is to serve the people with news, views, comments and information on matters of public interest in a fair, accurate and unbiased manner.

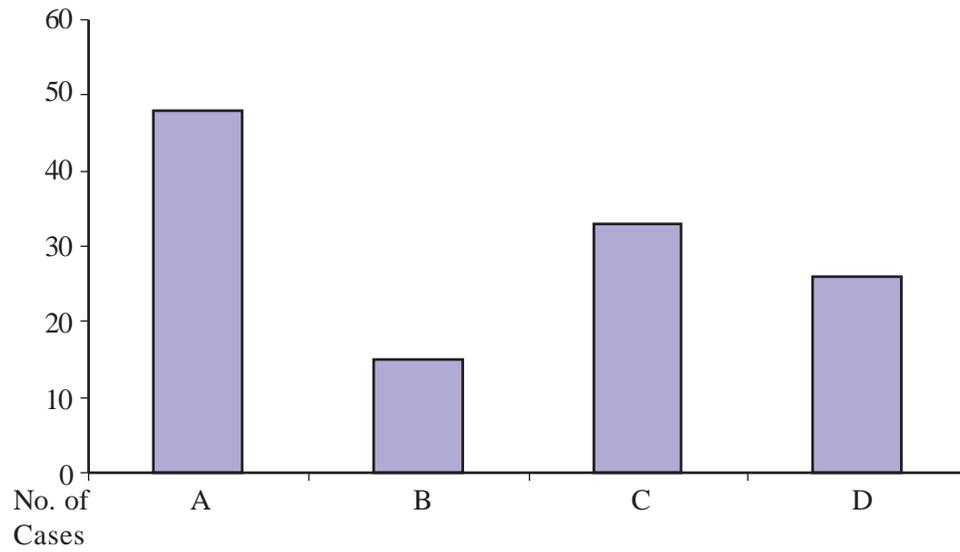
Like all other institutions of the society, the press is also affected by partisan behaviour in its subtle and not so subtle form. Time was when yellow journalism and blackmailing were the only forms of corruption in journalism known to the society. But over the years some in the press have developed 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. That the defamatory, slanderous, self-cooked stories leave stigma on the reputation of the persons/organisations, concerned, and render them immensely embarrassed in society and sometimes in official circles as well.

Complaints filed with the Council against alleged defamation by the newspapers showed an alarming increase during the year under review. Of the total of 122 such complaints disposed by way of adjudications by the Council during the period under review 48 matters were upheld, in 26 matters the Council decided to hold its hands, the matters having become *sub-judice* or where no action by the Council was found to be warranted after hearing the parties or for non-pursuance. Charges were rejected in 15 matters. In the remaining 33 matters the Council was able to bring out reconciliation between the parties. The following graphics explain the position.

Press and Defamation

Total No. of Cases: 122

A. Upheld	48
B. Rejected	15
C. Assurance/Settled/Amends	33
D. Dropped for Non-Pursuance/ Withdrawal/ <i>Sub-judice</i> /Lack of Substance	2



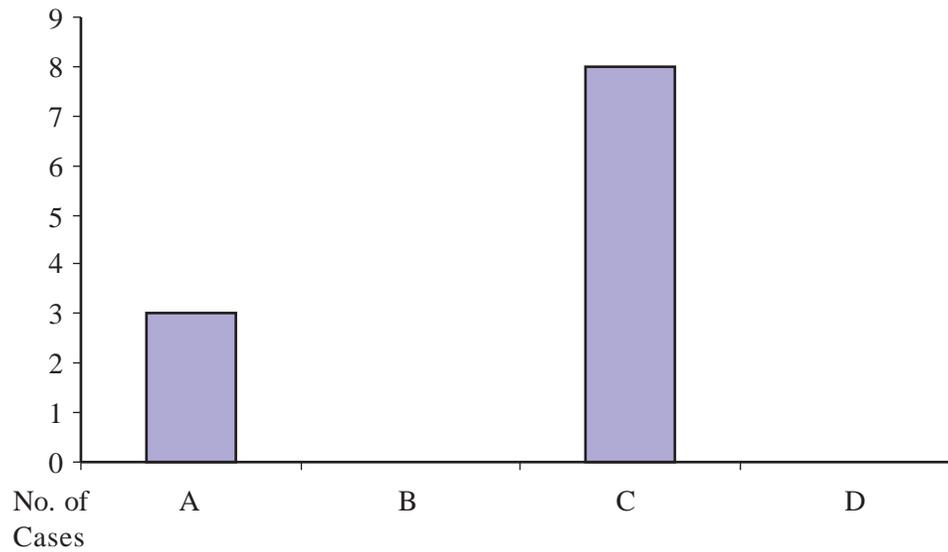
Press and Morality

One of the duties of the media is to preserve and promote our cultural heritage and social values. There is a section of the Press, which under the influence of western culture has been carrying reports/columns/advertisements, and photographs which militate against the cultural ethos well entrenched in the minds of Indian society. Further, such publications do not serve public interest in any manner. On the contrary such publications affect the adolescent mind in a negative manner. Whenever the Council comes across such instances, it takes *suo-motu* action. Apart from this it also adjudicates upon complaints received on such matters. 11 complaints under this head were brought before the Council with charges of obscene publication. The charges of offence against public taste and morality against the newspapers concerned were upheld in three matters. Eight matters were settled upon assurances. The chart that follows makes the position more clear.

Press and Morality

Total No. of Cases : 11

A. Upheld	3
B. Rejected	–
C. Assurance/Settled/Amends	8
D. Dropped for Non-Pursuance/ Withdrawal/ <i>Sub-judice</i> / Lack of Substance	–



Communal, Casteist, Anti National and Anti Religious Writings

It is commonly accepted that India's strength lies in its acceptance of the principle of unity in diversity. But this strength is seen to have been undermined during the past few years when communal violence reached its peak, and the secular philosophy received a set-back.

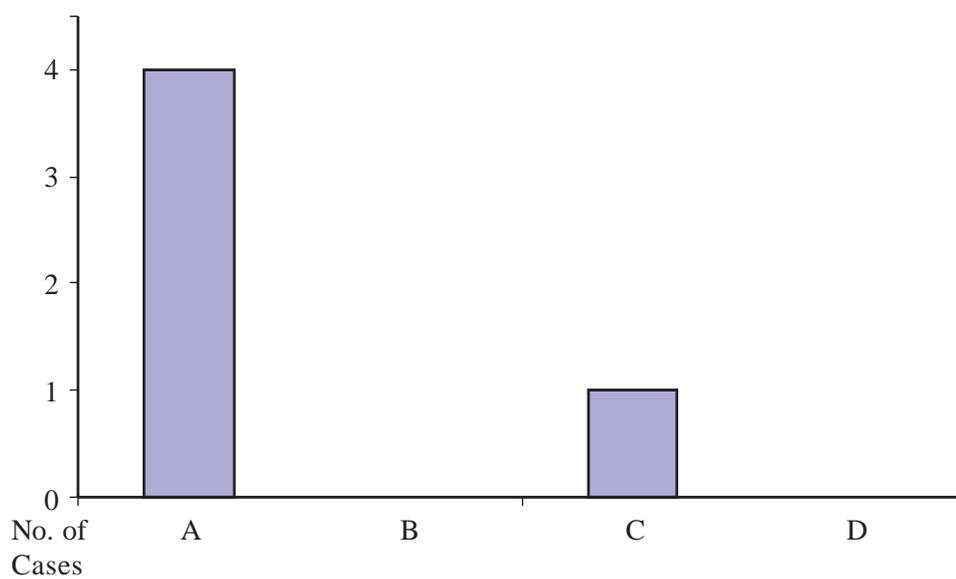
The Press leaves a powerful impression on the minds of the readers. Therefore, it has a great potential to promote national integration and communal harmony which is the need of the hour. In this respect, it can play both negative and positive role. Through its adjudications, the Council has often appealed to the Press to exercise due care and caution while reporting communal incidents or matters likely to hurt religious or caste sentiments. On the other hand, the Press should report news, incidents and stories in such a way as has the positive effect of promoting national unity and emotional integration.

It is a matter of concern that out of the five adjudications falling in this category, charges against newspapers were upheld in as many as four matters. One matter was settled with assurance of amends by the newspaper concerned. The chart that follows makes the position more clear.

Communal, Casteist, Anti National and Anti Religious Writings

Total No. of Cases : 5

A. Upheld	4
B. Rejected	-
C. Assurance/Settled/Amends	1
D. Dropped for Non-Pursuance/ Withdrawal/ <i>Sub-judice</i> / Lack of Substance	-



CHAPTER – IV

Report on Paid News

Adopted by the Press Council of India on July 30, 2010

The phenomenon of “paid news” has acquired serious dimensions. Today it goes beyond the corruption of individual journalists and media companies and has become pervasive, structured and highly organized. In the process, it is undermining democracy in India. This has anguished the leading sections of the society, including political leaders, thinkers, journalists and media owners. They all have expressed their unhappiness and concern about the pernicious influence of such malpractices.

Several veteran journalists, including late Shri Prabhash Joshi, Shri Ajit Bhattacharjea, Shri B.G. Verghese and Shri Kuldeep Nayar, wanted the Press Council of India to apply its mind on the issue and come up with suggestions on how the phenomenon of “paid news” could be curbed. Various journalists’ associations, including the Andhra Pradesh Union of Working Journalists and the Delhi Union of Journalists have examined the phenomenon, conducted surveys and organized discussions on the topic. The Editors’ Guild of India also discussed the phenomenon and expressed concern at this growing tendency. On June 8, 2010, the Election Commission of India issued detailed guidelines to Chief Electoral Officers of all states and Union territories on measures to check “paid news” before elections, that is, advertising in the garb of news.

The phenomenon of “political paid news” became particularly noticeable during the 2009 general elections and thereafter during the elections to the assemblies of various states. The phenomenon acquired a new and even more destructive dimension by redefining political “news” or “reporting” on candidates standing for election – many such “news reports” would be published or broadcast perhaps only after financial transactions had taken place, almost always in a clandestine manner. It is widely believed that many media companies, irrespective of the volume of their businesses and their profitability, were “selling” news space after arriving at an “understanding” with politicians and representatives of corporate entities that were advertisers. Space in publications and airtime were occupied by advertisements that were disguised as “news”.

News is meant to be objective, fair and neutral – this is what sets apart such information and opinion from advertisements that are paid for by corporate

entities, governments, organizations or individuals. What happens when the distinction between news and advertisements start blurring, when advertisements double up as news that have been paid for, or when “news” is published in favour of a particular politician by selling editorial spaces?

In such situations, a section of the reader or the viewer can hardly distinguish between news reports and advertisements/advertorials. Marketing executives use the services of journalists – willingly or otherwise – to gain access to political personalities. So-called “rate cards” or “packages” are distributed that often include “rates” for publication of “news” items that not merely praise particular candidates but also criticize their political opponents. Candidates who do not go along with such practices on the part of media organizations may be denied coverage. Sections of the media in India have willy-nilly become participants and players in such practices that contribute to the growing use of money power in politics which undermines democratic processes and norms – while hypocritically pretending to occupy a high moral ground. This has not merely undermined democracy in India but also tarnished the country’s reputation.

Identical articles with photographs and headlines have appeared in competing publications carrying by-lines of different authors around the same time. On the same page of specific newspapers, articles have been printed praising competing candidates claiming that both are likely to win the same elections. Nowhere is there any indication that the publication of such “news” reports has entailed financial transactions or has been sponsored by certain individuals or political parties. When confronted with circumstantial evidence that substantiate allegations of “paid news”, the standard reaction of individuals accused of corrupt practices is to pretend that nothing untoward has happened since the evidence is circumstantial in nature. The typical response of representatives of political parties as well as media organizations, is to flatly deny these allegations. In private, however, these very same people acknowledge that the cancer of “paid news” has spread deep into the country’s body politic and needs to be removed.

Realizing the dangers of “paid news” to democracy as well as the right to freedom of expression enshrined in Article 19 of the Constitution of India, on June 9, 2009, the Press Council of India appointed a Sub-Committee comprising Shri Paranjay Guha Thakurta and Shri Kalimekolam Sreenivas Reddy “to examine the phenomenon of paid news observed during the last Lok Sabha elections... based on inputs received from the members and others.” The two members met a cross-section of society in New Delhi, Mumbai and Hyderabad and also went through many letters and representations that were sent to the Council. The report of the Sub-Committee was discussed in detail by the Press

Council in its two meetings held in Indore and New Delhi on 31st March, 2010 and 26 April, 2010 respectively. Members gave a number of suggestions and thereafter, the Press Council of India's Chairman appointed a Drafting Committee to prepare a final report for the consideration of the Council. The Chairman appointed a 12-member Committee consisting: S/Shri H.N. Cama, Lalit Mangotra, U.C. Sharma, Y.C. Halan, K. Sreenivas Reddy, Kalyan Barooah, S.N. Sinha, Anil Jugal Kishore Agarwal, Kundan R.L. Vyas, Paranjoy Guha Thakurta, P. Javadekar, and Keshava Rao.

The Drafting Committee considered the views expressed during various meetings of the Press Council and has drafted a report for the consideration of the Council.

Introduction

Paid News can be defined as “Any news or analysis appearing in any media (Print & Electronic) for a price in cash or kind as consideration” Paid news is a complex phenomenon and has acquired different forms over the last six decades. It ranges from accepting gifts on various occasions, foreign and domestic junkets, various monetary and non-monetary benefits, besides direct payment of money. Another form of paid news that has been brought to the notice of the Press Council of India by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is in the form of “private treaties” between media companies and corporate entities. Private treaty is a formal agreement between the media company and another non-media company in which the latter transfers certain shares of the company to the former in lieu of advertisement space and favourable coverage.

Since the phenomenon of paid news is old, complex and deep rooted in the system and seems to be spreading its cancerous roots rapidly as observed after the 2009 elections, the Drafting Committee feels that the Press Council of India should initially focus only on the paid news observed during the last Lok Sabha elections (2009). This decision stems from the decision of the Press Council as conveyed by the Secretary to the Council members.

Election-time paid news

The election-time paid news phenomenon has three dimensions. One, the reader or the viewer does not get a correct picture of the personality or performance of the candidate in whose favour or against he decides to cast his vote. This destroys the very essence of the democracy. Two, contesting candidates perhaps do not show it in their election expense account thereby

violating the Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 framed by the Election Commission of India under the Representation of the People Act, 1951. Third, those newspapers and television channels which received money in cash but did not disclose it in their official statements of accounts, have violated the Companies Act 1956 as well as the Income Tax Act 1961 besides other laws.

The payment and receipt of election-time paid news is a clandestine operation and has become widespread and organised as advertising agencies, public relations firms, politicians, journalists, managers and owners of some media companies are believed to be involved in it. It, therefore, is not easy to find clinching evidence that pins responsibility on individuals, parties and organisations. However, a number of persons including members of the Sub-Committee setup by the Council have collected a large volume of circumstantial evidence that is with the Press Council, which indicates that monetary consideration was exchanged for favourable coverage, reporting and telecasting.

Separating Management from Editorial

Going through the observations of persons with whom the Sub-Committee interacted and the evidence provided by them and the discussions in the Press Council it is felt that election-time paid news deals are done between the candidates or political parties or their agents and media. It was felt that there should be a clear distinction drawn between the managements and editorial staff in media companies and that the independence of the editor should be maintained and safeguarded.

Role of Press Council

The Press Council of India was set up by Parliament as a statutory, quasi-judicial body “for the purpose of preserving the freedom of the Press and of maintaining and improving the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India.” However, it has been entrusted with only limited powers to admonish, reprimand and pass strictures. It cannot penalise the errant or those found guilty of malpractices. Besides, the Council’s mandate does not extend beyond the print medium. A proposal to amend Section 15(4) of the Press Council Act, 1978, to make the directions of the Council binding has been pending for a long time. It should be taken up on a priority basis.

Representation of the People Act, 1951

The Union and State elections are regulated by the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. The main purpose of this Act is to ensure free and fair elections in the country. Therefore, since election-time

“paid news” undermines free and fair elections, it is recommended that Section 123 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, should be suitably amended so as to declare any payment for the publication of news as a corrupt practice or an “electoral malpractice” and should be made a punishable offence.

Press Council of India

The Press Council of India should constitute a body of media professionals with wide representation at the national/state/district levels to investigate either *suo moto* or on receipt of complaints of instances of “paid news” and the recommendations of such a body – after going through an appellate mechanism– should be binding on the Election Commission of India and other government authorities.

The guidelines of the Press Council of India that news should be clearly demarcated from advertisements by printing disclaimers, should be strictly enforced by all publications. As far as news is concerned, it must always carry a credit line and should be set in a typeface that would distinguish it from advertisements. The guidelines of the Council, as decided in 1996, are reproduced hereunder and efforts should be made to ensure that these are followed by all media organizations.

i) General Election is a very important feature of our democracy and it is imperative that the media transmits to the electorate fair and objective reports of the election campaign by the contesting parties. Freedom of the Press depends to a large measure on the Press itself behaving with a sense of responsibility. It is, therefore, necessary to ensure that the media adheres to this principle of fair and objective reporting of the election campaign.

The Press Council has, therefore, formulated the following guidelines to the media for observance during elections:

1. It will be the duty of the Press to give objective reports about elections and the candidates. The newspapers are not expected to indulge in unhealthy election campaigns, exaggerated reports about any candidate/ party or incident during the elections. In practice, two or three closely contesting candidates attract all the media attention. While reporting on the actual campaign, a newspaper may not leave out any important point raised by a candidate and make an attack on his or her opponent.

2. Election campaign along communal or caste lines is banned under the election rules. Hence, the Press should eschew reports which tend to promote feelings of enmity or hatred between people on the ground of religion, race, caste, community or language.

3. *The Press should refrain from publishing false or critical statements in regard to the personal character and conduct of any candidate or in relation to the candidature or withdrawal of any candidate or his candidature, to prejudice the prospects of that candidate in the elections. The Press shall not publish unverified allegations against any candidate/party.*

4. *The Press shall not accept any kind of inducement, financial or otherwise, to project a candidate/party. It shall not accept hospitality or other facilities offered to them by or on behalf of any candidate/party.*

5. *The Press is not expected to indulge in canvassing of a particular candidate/party. If it does, it shall allow the right of reply to the other candidate/party.*

6. *The Press shall not accept/publish any advertisement at the cost of public exchequer regarding achievements of a party/government in power.*

7. *The Press shall observe all the directions/orders/instructions of the Election Commission/Returning Officers or Chief Electoral Officer issued from time to time.*

ii) *Guidelines on 'Pre-poll' and 'Exit-polls' Survey-1996*

The Press Council of India having considered the question of desirability or otherwise of publication of findings of pre-poll surveys and the purpose served by them, is of the view that the newspapers should not allow their forum to be used for distortions and manipulations of the elections and should not allow themselves to be exploited by the interested parties.

1 The Press Council, therefore, advises that in view of the crucial position occupied by the electoral process in a representative democracy like ours, the media should be on guard against their precious forum being used for distortions and manipulations of the elections. This has become necessary to emphasize today since the print media is sought to be increasingly exploited by the interested individuals and groups to misguide and mislead the unwary voters by subtle and not so subtle propaganda on casteist, religious and ethnic basis as well as by the use of sophisticated means like the alleged pre-poll surveys. While the communal and seditious propaganda is not difficult to detect in many cases, the interested use of the pre-poll survey, sometimes deliberately planted is not so easy to uncover. The Press Council therefore, suggests that whenever the newspapers publish pre-poll surveys, they should take care to preface them conspicuously by indicating the institutions which have carried such surveys, the individuals

and organisations which have commissioned the surveys, the size and nature of sample selected, the method of selection of the sample for the findings and the possible margin of error in the findings.

2. Further in the event of staggered poll dates, the media is seen to carry exit-poll surveys of the polls already held. This is likely to influence the voters where the polling is yet to commence. With a view to ensure that the electoral process is kept pure and the voters' minds are not influenced by any external factors, it is necessary that the media does not publish the exit-poll surveys till the last poll is held.

3. The Press Council, therefore, requests the Press to abide by the following guideline in respect of the exit polls:

Guideline:

No newspaper shall publish exit-poll surveys, however, genuine they may be, till the last of the polls is over.

Election Commission of India

The Election Commission of India should set up a special cell to receive complaints about “paid news” in the run-up to the conduct of elections and initiate a process through which expeditious action could be taken on the basis of such complaints. The Election Commission of India should nominate independent journalists/citizens in consultation with the Press Council of India who would accompany the election observers deputed by the Election Commission of India to various states and districts. These nominated journalists/citizens could report on instances of “paid news” to the Press Council of India and the Election Commission of India.

Self-regulation

Self-regulation is the best option to check the “paid news” phenomenon. However, self-regulation only offers partial solutions to the problem since there would always be offenders who would refuse to abide by voluntary codes of conduct and ethical norms that are not legally mandated.

There should be a debate among all concerned stakeholders on whether a directive of the Supreme Court of India that enjoins television channels to stop broadcasting campaign-related information on candidates and political parties 48 hours before elections take place can and should be extended to the print medium since such a restriction does not apply to this section of the media at present.

Education

The Council suggests that efforts should be made to educate the voters to differentiate between the doctored reporting and the balanced and just reporting. This can be done by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting with the help of Press Council of India and various associations of journalists and newspaper owners. Local press clubs should also be associated with the conduct of seminars and workshops in different cities to educate readers and viewers. The Press Council of India, representative of political parties, associations of newspaper owners, television broadcasters and journalists unions and associations can provide resource-persons for such seminars and workshops. The process of educating voters and citizens should begin before elections take place, soon after the dates of elections are announced.

I & B Ministry

The Union Information & Broadcasting Ministry should conduct national conferences, workshops, seminars and awareness-generating campaigns involving, among others, the Press Council of India, the Election Commission of India, representatives of editors, journalists associations and unions, political parties and media owners to deliberate on the issue and arrive at workable solutions to curb the “paid news” phenomenon in particular.

The Union I&B Minister should hold separate meetings with national associations of newspaper owners, editors and journalists to discuss the “paid news” phenomenon and how it should be curbed. A meeting of all political parties should also be organised to make them understand that if the phenomenon of “paid news” is not checked no political party would benefit. Similarly owners of media companies should be made to understand that money illegally obtained for “paid news” is not just myopic but would eventually lead to loss of credibility among readers and viewers and would, hence, be detrimental to the interests of the media.

Parliament

A small Committee of Members of Parliament from both Houses should hold a hearing for suggesting changes in Representation of the People Act, 1951, to prevent the practice of paying for news coverage in newspapers and television channels and declaring it as an “electoral malpractice” or an act of corruption and be made a punishable offence.

All these initiatives, if sincerely implemented, may not entirely stop such malpractices in the Indian media but could reduce their incidence to a considerable extent.

Recommendations

It is recommended that recommendations as under should be implemented by the Government.

- 1) Representation of the People Act 1951 be amended to make incidence of paid news a punishable electoral malpractice
- 2) The Press Council of India must be fully empowered to adjudicate the complaints of “paid news’ and give final judgement in the matter
- 3) Press Council Act be amended to make its recommendations binding and electronic media be brought under its purview, and
- 4) Press Council of India should be reconstituted to include representatives from electronic and other media.

Footnote:-

The Council decided that the report of the Sub-Committee may remain on record of the Council as reference document.

It also decided that the issue of strengthening the Working Journalists Act be taken up separately.



CHAPTER – V

Finances of the Council 2010-2011

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

The Budget Estimates of the Council for the financial year 2010-11, as accepted by the Central Government in 2009-2010, was Rs.421.00 lakhs. Revising the estimates for 2010-11 on March 21, 2011, the Central Government accepted the budget of (489+40.60) Rs.529.60 lakhs with revenue receipts estimated at Rs.40.60 lakhs and the grant-in-aid element of Rs.489.00 lakhs. This was against the Council's Revised Estimates proposal of Rs.1125.88 lakhs. The Government condition also laid down that the Council will make efforts to realize fees at the prescribed rates from of Newspapers for India.

The Council following increased efforts beyond the scope of laid down requirements added to its revenue taking the final receipts to Rs.48.27 lakhs. Accordingly, while Council received grant-in-aid amounting to Rs.489.00 lakhs (Rs.4,86,78,574.00 as Grants-in-aid+Rs.2,21,396.15 unspent balance for previous year) during the financial year 2010-11 from the Central Government, it collected Rs.37.29 lakhs as fees levied upon newspapers/periodicals and news agencies. As a result of efforts 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.9.30 lakhs as outstanding levy of fee from the defaulters. This figure is included in the total figures of Rs.37.29 lakhs mentioned above. Apart from this arrears of Rs.6,300/- were written off after establishing the closure of the concerned publications. Apart from this Rs.10.98 lakhs accounted for other miscellaneous receipts, like interest on bank accounts, interest on F.D.Rs with the Bank, etc. during the year under review. The increased revenue receipts were intimated to the Government.

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 accounts of the Press Council of India for the financial year 2010-11 which were maintained in accordance with the aforesaid provisions, were audited by the Audit party of the office of the Director General of Audit, Central Revenues, New Delhi and certified to be to their satisfaction. The Annual Accounts of the Council are annexed hereto.

BALANCE SHEET

As on 31st March 2011

**PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA
BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31.03.2011**

Amount Rs.

<u>LIABILITIES</u>	Schedule	Current Year	Previous Year
CAPITAL FUND	1	67,013,242	56,085,357
C.P.F. FUND	2	71,059,432	63,509,463
CURRENT LIABILITIES AND PROVISIONS	3	1,104,304	3,076,836
TOTAL		139,176,978	122,671,656
<u>ASSETS</u>			
FIXED ASSETS	4	3,976,015	4,445,234
INVESTMENTS-FROM EARMARKED FUNDS	5	74,160,020	60,202,575
CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS, ADVANCES ETC.	6	61,040,943	58,023,847
TOTAL		139,176,978	122,671,656

SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES 13

CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND
NOTES ON ACCOUNTS 25 14

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

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

PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR
THE YEAR ENDED ON 31.03.2011

Amount Rs.

<u>INCOME</u>	Schedule	Current Year	Previous Year
Income from Levy Fees & Others	7	9,073,730	6,201,618
Grants from Gol	8	43,734,614	40,850,484
Interest Earned	9	6,400,315	5,222,413
TOTAL(A)		59,208,659	52,274,515
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>			
Establishment Expenses	10	38,578,198	38,578,420
Other Administrative Expenses	11	9,296,405	7,603,385
Finance Charges	12	948	661
Depreciation(Corresponding to Schedule 5)		587,749	661,412
TOTAL(B)		48,463,300	46,843,878
Balance being excess of Income over Expenditure (A-B)		10,745,359	5,430,637
- Prior Period Adjustment Cr.(Dr.)		61,555	310,862
- Transfer to/from General Reserve			-
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) CARRIED TO INCOME & EXPENDITURE A/C		10,806,914	5,741,499

SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES 13

CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND
NOTES TO ACCOUNTS 14

Sd/-
(G.N. RAY)
CHAIRMAN
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(VIBHA BHARGAVA)
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PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA
SCHEDULES FORMING PART OF BALANCE SHEET
AS ON 31.03.2011

SCHEDULE 1 - CAPITAL FUND

Amount Rs.

	Current Year		Previous Year	
<i>A. Capital Fund:</i>				
Balance as at the beginning of the year	7,806,529		7,785,611	
Add: Funds Capitalised During the Year	93,964		20,918	
Add: Amount of fixed Assets understated in Previous years	24,822		-	
Add: Excess Amount written off in Previous Years now written Back	2,185		-	
	7,927,500		7,806,529	
Less: Amount of Fixed Assets overstated in Previous Year	-		-	
Less: Amount Written Off on condemned Assets	-	7,927,500	-	7,806,529
<i>B. Income & Expenditure Account:</i>				
Balance as at the beginning of the year	48,278,828		48,278,828	
Add/(Deduct): Balance of net income/ (expenditure) transferred from Income and Expenditure Account	10,806,914		-	
Add/(Deduct): Other adjustment (Please Specify)	-	59,085,742	-	48,278,828
TOTAL		67,013,242		56,085,357

SCHEDULE 2 - C.P.F. FUNDS

Amount Rs.

	Current Year		Previous Year	
a) <u>Opening balance of the funds</u>		63,509,463		57,813,649
b) <u>Addition to the Funds:</u>				
i. Councils' Contr. To C.P.F.	1,753,510		1,641,728	
ii. CPF Advance Recovered	1,447,440		811,600	
iii. Prior period adjustments	–		25,923	
iv. Employees' Contr. To C.P.F.	7,895,954		6,944,845	
v. Interest on C.P.F.Funds from Govt.	5,048,154	16,145,058	4,507,202	13,931,298
TOTAL (a+b)		79,654,521		71,744,947
c) <u>Utilisation/Expenditure towards objectives of funds</u>				
C.P.F. Withdrawals	2,075,565		3,422,895	
Final Payments to Outgoing Employees	2,751,624		4,434,911	
Reversal of excess credit of CPF in pr. Year	–		–	
PF Advances	3,767,900		351,000	
Receivable from Genral Fund A/c.	–	8,595,089	26,678	8,235,484
Net Balance of Fund as at the year end (a+b-c)		71,059,432		63,509,463

SCHEDULE 3 - CURRENT LIABILITIES AND PROVISIONS

Amount Rs.

	Current Year		Previous Year	
A. Current Liabilities:				
1 <u>Advances Received</u>				
- Advance Levy of Fee	276,437		239,051	
- Levy Fee Suspense	30,785	307,222	85,151	324,202
2 Security Deposits		31,000		31,000
3 Unspent Grant		23,238		221,396
4 Other current Liabilities		404,293		1,223,976
5 Payable to heir of Ex employee		338,551		1,276,262
TOTAL (A)		1,104,304		3,076,836
B. PROVISIONS		–		–
TOTAL (A+B)		1,104,304		3,076,836

SCHEDULE 4**SCHEDULE FORMING PART OF**

PARTICULARS	GROSS BLOCK			
	Cost As on 1.4.2010	Addition During the Year	Sale/Trf. During the Year	Cost As on 31.3.2011
Air conditioners & Coolers	911,209.00	58,500.00	31,624.00	938,085.00
Attendance Recording System	82,000.00	–	–	82,000.00
Cars & Bicycle	745,737.00	–	–	745,737.00
Computer/Peripherals	3,549,145.00	23,940.00	–	3,573,085.00
Conference System	27,820.00	–	–	27,820.00
EPABX System	258,800.00	–	–	258,800.00
Furniture & Fixture	4,171,889.00	6,872.00	–	4,178,761.00
Heat Convector & Heaters	35,764.00	–	–	35,764.00
Library Books	718,292.00	29,473.80	–	747,765.80
Mobile Phones	11,300.00	–	–	11,300.00
Refrigerator	52,535.00	–	–	52,535.00
Solar Water Heating System	110,227.00	–	–	110,227.00
Stabilisers	71,434.00	–	–	71,434.00
Tape Recorders	6,618.00	–	–	6,618.00
Television	78,190.00	–	–	78,190.00
Typewriter & Duplicator	133,029.00	–	–	133,029.00
Water Dispenser	28,800.00	–	–	28,800.00
Total	10,992,789.00	118,785.80	31,624.00	11,079,950.80

SCHEDULE 4**BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31.03.2011**

DEPRECIATION			NET BLOCK		
Upto 31.3.2010	For the year	Written Back	Total	W.D.V. 31.3.2011	W.D.V. 31.3.2010
582,806.00	58,035.00	31,369.00	609,472.00	328,613.00	328,403.00
35,418.00	6,987.00	–	42,405.00	39,595.00	46,582.00
527,014.00	32,808.00	–	559,822.00	185,915.00	218,723.00
2,280,449.00	192,100.00	–	2,472,549.00	1,100,536.00	1,268,696.00
26,552.00	190.00	–	26,742.00	1,078.00	1,268.00
157,126.00	15,251.00	–	172,377.00	86,423.00	101,674.00
2,289,349.00	188,705.00	–	2,478,054.00	1,700,707.00	1,882,540.00
18,902.00	2,529.00	–	21,431.00	14,333.00	16,862.00
321,110.70	63,649.00	–	384,759.70	363,006.10	397,181.30
4,361.00	1,041.00	–	5,402.00	5,898.00	6,939.00
27,279.00	3,788.00	–	31,067.00	21,468.00	25,256.00
47,611.00	9,392.00	–	57,003.00	53,224.00	62,616.00
41,696.00	4,461.00	–	46,157.00	25,277.00	29,738.00
3,789.00	424.00	–	4,213.00	2,405.00	2,829.00
50,675.00	4,127.00	–	54,802.00	23,388.00	27,515.00
120,977.00	1,808.00	–	122,785.00	10,244.00	12,052.00
12,440.00	2,454.00	–	14,894.00	13,906.00	16,360.00
6,547,554.70	587,749.00	31,369.00	7,103,934.70	3,976,016.10	4,445,234.30

SCHEDULE 5 - INVESTMENTS FROM EARMARKED FUNDS

Amount Rs.

	Current Year		Previous Year	
1. Fixed Deposits with Schedule Banks				
- Against C.P.F. Fund	63,416,775		54,642,325	
- FDR Interest Accrued thereon	<u>10,743,245</u>	74,160,020	<u>5,560,250</u>	60,202,575
TOTAL		74,160,020		60,202,575

SCHEDULE 6 - CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS, ADVANCES ETC.

Amount Rs.

	Current Year		Previous Year	
A. CURRENT ASSETS:				
1. Sundry Debtors:				
- On Account of Levy Fees				
Debts Outstanding for a period exceeding six months	41,350,936		37,557,311	
Others	<u>5,266,554</u>	46,617,490	<u>3,793,625</u>	41,350,936
2. Cash balances in hand (including Postage in Hands and imprest)				
Imprest Account Balance	10,000		5,932	
Postage Stamps in Hands	<u>1,366</u>	11,366	<u>4,441</u>	10,373
3. Bank Balances:				
- With Scheduled Banks:				
Saving Accounts				
- State Bank of Hyderabad - General Account	6,523		190,309	
- State Bank of Hyderabad - Revolving Account	451,987		479,634	
- State Bank of Hyderabad - Levy Fee Account	5,349		20,714	
- State Bank of Hyderabad - C.P.F. Account	<u>7,513,754</u>	7,977,613	<u>8,917,565</u>	9,608,222
Deposit Accounts				
- State Bank of Hyderabad - Revolving Account	2,422,410	-	2,347,331	-
- State Bank of Hyderabad - Gopa Mitra	-		643,899	
- State Bank of Hyderabad - Rajesh Kaur	-		160,408	
- State Bank of Hyderabad - Sushila Devi	<u>165,881</u>	2,588,291	<u>165,881</u>	3,317,519
TOTAL (A)		57,194,760		54,287,050

SCHEDULE 6 - (continued)

Amount Rs.

	Current Year		Previous Year	
<u>B. LOANS, ADVANCES AND OTHER ASSETS</u>				
1 <u>Loans to Staff:</u>				
- Fan Advance	-		-	
- Car Advance	278,946		184,282	
- Festival Advance	60,000		51,000	
- Housing Building Advance	40,803		54,039	
- Scooter Advance	5,400	385,149	33,400	322,721
2 <u>Advances and other amounts recoverable in cash or in kind/or for value to be received:</u>				
- On Capital Account	-		-	
- Prepayments				
- Advance for Books Periodicals	10,625		10,917	
- Advance to Parties	2,043,518		2,043,518	
- TA Advance	61,662		245,925	
- Tax Deducted at Source	690,858		675,208	
- Others Advances	10,000		-	
- LTC Advances	37,228		-	
- C.P.F. Suspense	-	2,853,891	-	2,975,568
3 <u>Income Accrued</u>				
a) On Deposits of Revolving Account		581,381		419,034
b) On Deposits of Sushila Devi (Ex Employee) (includes income due unrealised-Rs.....)		6,288		
4 <u>Deposits with Different Departments</u>		19,474		19,474
TOTAL (B)		3,846,183		3,736,797
TOTAL (A +B)		61,040,943		58,023,847

SCHEDULE 7 - INCOME FROM LEVY FEES & OTHERS

Amount Rs.

	Current Year		Previous Year	
1 Levy fees received from Newspapers/ Periodicals/News Agencies	3,729,442		3,427,128	
Add:Demand raised for previous year	–		–	
Add:Advance of Previous Years adjusted	116,315		–	
Add:Fees outstanding for current Year	6,203,019		3,793,625	
Less: Fees received for previous Years	930,175		1,005,900	
Less: Fees received in advance / suspense	156,676	8,961,925	115,753	6,099,100
2 Others(Specify)				
- Sale of Waste Papers	4,724		8,412	
- Profit on Sale of Assets	8,745			
- Fee for Information under Right to Information Act	3,599		774	
- Other	94,737	111,805	93,332	102,518
TOTAL		9,073,730		6,201,618

SCHEDULE 8 - GRANTS

Amount Rs.

	Current Year		Previous Year	
(Irrevocable Grants & Subsidies Received)				
- Central Government (Ministry of I & B)				
- Grant Received During the Year	48,678,574		45,560,707	
- Add: Unspent Grant for the Previous Year	221,396		39,293	
	48,899,970		45,600,000	
- Less: Grant Utilised for Interest on C.P.F. Funds	5,048,154		4,507,202	
- Less: Grant Utilised for Fixed Assets	93,964		20,918	
- Less: Unspent Grant for the Current Year	23,238	43,734,614	221,396	40,850,484
TOTAL		43,734,614		40,850,484

SCHEDULE 9 - INTEREST EARNED

Amount Rs.

	Current Year		Previous Year	
1 On Term Deposits:				
a) With Scheduled Banks				
- CPF Account (trf to General Fund)				
Interest Received During the Year			1,018,420	
Add: Tax Deducted at Source				
Less: Related to Previous Years	4,588			
Less: Interest excess booked reversed in Pr. Year				
Add: Interest Accrued for the Year	5,707,594	5,703,006	3,832,847	4,851,267
- Revolving Fund Account				
Interest Received During the Year			159,852	
Add: Tax Deducted at Source			2,714	
Add: Interest Accrued for the Year	237,426		215,448	
Less: Related to Previous Years		237,426	159,852	218,162
- General Fund Account				
Interest Received During the Year	58,972		17,106	
Add: Tax Deducted at Source				
Add: Interest Accrued for the Year				
Less: Related to Previous Years		58,972		17,106
2 On Savings Accounts:				
a) With Scheduled Banks				
- General Fund Account	109,989		11,449	
- CPF Account (Trf. To General Fund)	108,643		72,846	
- Levy Fees Account	10,249		17,240	
- Revolving Fund (Loans & Advances)	15,960	244,841	12,141	113,676
3 On Loans:				
a) Employees/Staff				
- Scooter Advance	8,301			
- Cycle Advance				
- Housing Building Advance	2,892		482	
- Fan Advance			25	
- Motor Car Advance		11,193	21,695	22,202
4 Interest on FDR (Ex Employees)		144,877		
TOTAL		6,400,315	5,222,413	

SCHEDULE 10 - ESTABLISHMENT EXPENSES

Amount Rs.

	Current Year	Previous Year
a) Salaries and Wages	30,436,870	27,106,720
b) Arrear of Salaries	2,562,223	5,528,915
c) OTA	14,975	19,741
d) Tution Fees Reimbursement	396,639	262,194
e) Medical Reimbursement	928,477	513,553
f) Bonus	206,956	209,858
g) L.T.C.	503,121	501,980
h) Encashment of E.L.	705,808	1,043,898
i) Contribution to Provident Fund	1,753,510	1,641,728
j) Expenses on Employees' Retirement and Terminal Benefits	1,050,919	1,741,433
k) Traning to Staff (Hindi Karyashala)	18,700	8,400
Total	38,578,198	38,578,420

SCHEDULE 11 - OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Amount Rs.

	Current Year	Previous Year
1 Electricity and Water	682,271	1,609,286
2 Office Expense	262,292	232,213
3 Insurance	–	11,305
4 Repairs and maintenance	2,041,735	1,180,108
5 Vehicles Repairs and Maintenance	270,154	258,883
6 Travelling and conveyance Expenses	2,944,566	1,797,591
7 Rent, Rates and Taxes	268,976	242,508
8 Postage, Telephone and Communication Charges	909,117	802,509
9 Printing and Stationary	1,100,480	1,024,799
10 Newspapers & Periodicals	113,393	96,221
11 Liveries to Class IV Staff	7,205	21,200
12 Hindi Protsahan Award	7,280	9,710
13 Subscription Expenses	–	5,677
14 Legal & Professional Charges	231,985	194,456
15 Entertainment	85,043	49,619
16 Exhibition & Seminar	301,925	
17 Others(specify)- Sundries	63,683	4,450
18 Provision for Bad and Doubtful IDEbts/ Advances	6,300	62,850
19 Tax Deducted	–	–
TOTAL	9,296,405	7,603,385

Note:

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

SCHEDULE 12 - FINANCE CHARGES

Amount Rs.

	Current Year	Previous Year
a) On Fixed Loans		
b) On Other Loans (including Bank Charges)	948	661
c) Other (specify)		
TOTAL	948	661

PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA
SCHEDULE FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED ON 31.03.2011

SCHEDULE 13 - SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1. Accounting Convention

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

2. Method of Accounting

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

3. Investments

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

4. Fixed Assets

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

5. Depreciation

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

6. Government Grant

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

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

7. Retirement Benefits

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

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

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

PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA
SCHEDULE FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2011

SCHEDULE 14 - CONTINGENT LIABILITIES & NOTES OF THE ACCOUNTS

A. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

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

B. NOTES OF THE ACCOUNTS

1. Current Assets, Loan & Advances

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

2. Provision for Taxation

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

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

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

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

PRESS COUNCIL RECEIPT AND PAYMENTS FOR

Receipts	Current Year	Previous Year
I. Opening Balance		
(a) Cash in hand (Imprest Account)	5,932	6,958
(b) Bank Balances		
– General Fund	190,309	1,253
– Levy of Fees Account	479,634	31,066
– Revolving Fund (Loan & Advance)	20,714	291,087
– C.P.F. Account	<u>8,917,565</u>	<u>5,744,528</u>
(c) Postage Stamps in Hand	4,441	16
II. Grants Received		
(a) From Government of India (Ministry of I & B)	48,678,574	45,560,707
III. Interest Received		
a) On Bank deposits		
– Term Deposits	203,849	1,195,378
– Saving Accounts	<u>244,841</u>	<u>113,676</u>
(b) Loans, Advances etc.	11,193	22,202
IV. Other Income (specify)		
Levy fees received from Newspapers/ Periodicals/News Agencies	3,729,442	3,427,128
Others except Profit on Sale of Asset	103,060	102,518
Arrears of Sixth Pay Commission Recovered	–	475,260
Sale of Asset	9,000	
V. Receipts from Matured Investments		
Encashment of FDRs		
– Revolving Fund Account	1,077,413	842,482
– C.P.F. Account	7,189,072	10,430,352
General Fund	7,500,000	4,000,000
Towards Employee	<u>804,307</u>	<u>649,313</u>
	16,570,792	15,922,147
VI. Any Other Receipts		
(a) Refund of Securities		
Deposit with Department	–	–
– Computer Maintenance	<u>–</u>	<u>–</u>

OF INDIA
THE YEAR ENDED ON 31.03.2011

Payments	Current Year		Previous Year	
I. Expenses				
(a) Establishment Expenses (Corresponding to Schedule 20)	38,426,712		38,073,772	
(b) Administrative Expenses (Correspondent to Schedule 21)	9,876,838		7,523,196	
II. Payments made against funds				
Against Revolving Fund (Loans & Advances)				
– Disbursements of Loans				
– Festival Advance	105,000		93,300	
– Scooter Advance	–		24,000	
– Moter Car Advance	160,000		–	
– Table Fan Advance	–	265,000	–	117,300
Against C.P.F. Fund				
– Advance / Withdrawal to Staff	5,843,465		3,773,895	
– Final Payments to Outgoing Employees	2,751,624	8,595,089	4,434,911	8,208,806
III. Investments and deposits made				
(a) Out Earmarked/Endowment funds				
– Against Revolving Fund (Loans & Advances)	1,077,413		1,002,334	
– Against C.P.F. Fund	15,443,511	16,520,924	12,966,775	13,969,109
(b) Out of own funds (Investments-Others)				
Towards Employee	1,089,197	8,589,197	809,721	4,809,721
IV. Expenditure on Fixed Assets & Capital work-in-progress				
(a) Purchase of Fixed Assets				
– Library Books	4,651		20,918	
– Furniture & Others	89,313		–	
– Telephone Instruments	–	93,964	–	20,918

Receipts	Current Year		Previous Year	
(b) Recovery of Advances				
– Housing Building Advance	13,236		15,646	
– Festival Advances	96,000		89,700	
– Scooter Advances	28,000		31,000	
– Motor Car Advance	65,336		136,136	
– Cycle Advance	–		–	
– Table Fan Advance	–	202,572	300	272,782
– From Parties	–	–	–	22,229
(c) Recovery from Employee	76,580		–	
TDS Payable	–		–	
C.P.F. Contribution and refund loan	9,270,728	9,347,308	7,756,445	7,756,445
(d) Amount trf from General Fund to C.P.F. Fund on account of:				
– Council's Contribution to PF	1,753,510		1,641,728	
– Interest on Employees' Contribution	3,443,152		3,074,614	
– Interest on Council's Contribution	1,605,002		1,432,588	
– Others	–	6,801,664	–	6,148,930
TOTAL		95,520,890		87,094,310

Payments	Current Year		Previous Year	
(b) Expenditure on Capital				
V. Refund of surplus money/loans				
(a) To the Government of India	-		-	
(b) Excess of Levy fee Refunded	-		-	
(c) Excess Recovery Loan Refunded	-	-	-	-
VI. Finance Charges (Interest)		948		661
VII. Other Payments (Specify)				
(a) Amount trf from General Fund to C.P.F. Fund on account of:				
- Interest on Employees' Contribution	3,443,152		3,074,614	
- Interest on Council's Contribution	1,605,002		1,432,588	
- Others	-	5,048,154	-	4,507,202
(b) Advance				
- for Books & Periodicals	10,625		10,815	
- for Capital Assets	-		-	
- for Others	104,460	115,085	234,215	245,030
(d) Salary Excess paid to Staff		-		-
(e) Excess trf from C.P.F. Fund to General Fund		-		-
VIII. Closing Balances				
(a) Cash in hand (Imprest Account)		10,000		5,932
(b) Bank Balances				
- General Fund	6,523		190,309	
- Levy of Fees Account	451,987		479,634	
- Revolving Fund (Loan & Advance)	5,349		20,714	
- C.P.F. Account	7,513,754	7,977,613	8,917,565	9,608,222
(c) Postage Stamps in Hand		1,366		4,441
TOTAL		95,520,890		87,094,310

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

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

Statement of Cases
(April 1, 2010 - March 31, 2011)

S.No.	Particulars	Section-13	Section-14	Total
1.	Cases pending as on 31.3.2010	247	926	1173
2.	Cases filed between 1.4.2010 to 31.3.2011	187	713	900
3.	Cases adjudicated between April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011	40	183	223
4.	Cases directly reported to the Council	2	—	2
5.	Cases decided under the proviso to Regulation 5(1) of Inquiry Regulations, 1979 between April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011	165	636	801
6.	Cases under process as on 31.3.2011	227	820	1047*

*Foot Note : 20 cases are at advanced stage of hearing.

The Gazette of India

EXTRAORDINARY

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

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

[No. 1493] NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 2010/ASADHA 30, 1932

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 21st July, 2010

S.O. 1758(E).– In pursuance of sub-section (3) of Section 5 read with sub-section (6) of Section 6 of the Press Council Act, 1978 (37 of 1978), the Central Government hereby notifies the name of Shri A. Krishna Murthy, Secretary, Sahitya Academy, nominated as member to the Press Council of India, and for the said purpose makes the following amendment in the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, number S.O. 39(E), dated the 7th January, 2008, namely :—

In the said notification, under the heading “Persons having special knowledge or practical experience in respect of Education and Science, Law and Literature and Culture [nominated under clause (d) of sub-section (3) of Section 5],” for serial number 23 and the entries relating thereto, the following serial number and entries shall be substituted, namely :—

“23. Shri A. Krishna Murthy,

Present Address:

208, Amrapali Apartments,
I.P. Extension,
New Delhi-110092.

Nominated
by Sahitya
Academy”

Permanent Address:

S-4, A-Block,
Shantiniketan Apartments,
Arakere,
Bangalore-560076.

[F.No.4/8/2007-PRESS]
V.B. PYARELAL, Jt. Secy.

The Gazette of India

EXTRAORDINARY

PART III – Section 4

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY

No. 313] NEW DELHI, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2010/AGRAHAYANA 18, 1932

PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 19th November, 2010

No. 19/5/2010-PCI.—In pursuance of sub-section (4) of Section 5 of the Press Council Act, 1978 (37 of 1978), the Press Council of India hereby notifies, for the purposes of the XIth three year term of Council, the following associations of persons of the categories referred to in clause (a) and clause (b) and news agencies for the purpose of clause (c) of sub-section (3) of that Section, namely :—

(I) Associations of persons of category referred to in clause (a) of sub-section (3) of Section 5 :

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| (1) Editor's Guild of India, New Delhi | } | As representative bodies of Working Journalists who are Editors |
| (2) All India Newspaper Editors' Conference, New Delhi | | |
| (3) Hindi Samachar Patra Sammelan, Lucknow | | |
| (4) National Union of Journalists (India), New Delhi | } | As representative bodies of Working Journalists other than Editors |
| (5) Indian Federation of Working Journalists, New Delhi | | |
| (6) Indian Journalists Union, New Delhi | | |
| (7) The Press Association, New Delhi | | |
| (8) Working News Cameramen's Association, Delhi | | |

(II) Associations of persons of category referred to in clause (b) of sub-section (3) of Section 5 :

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| (1) The Indian Newspaper Society,
New Delhi | } | As representative
body of Owners
and Managers of
Big, Medium and
Small Newspapers |
| (2) All India Small and Medium
Newspapers Federation, New Delhi | } | As representative
bodies of Owners
and Managers of
Medium and Small
Newspapers |
| (3) Indian Federation of Small and Medium
Newspapers, New Delhi | | |
| (4) Association of Small and Medium
Newspapers of India, Kanpur | | |

(III) News agencies for the purpose of nominating a person from the category of persons referred to in clause (c) of sub-section (3) of Section 5 :

- (1) United News of India, New Delhi

VIBHA BHARGAVA, Secy.
[ADVT III/4/Exty./49/10]

Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation between the Press Council of India and the Press Council of Indonesia

The Press Council of India and Press Council of Indonesia entered into a Memorandum of Understanding on the historic occasion of the visit of the Hon'ble President of Indonesia as Chief Guest on the Indian Republic Day this year. Reproduced herein below is the text of the MoU.

This Memorandum of Understanding is made at New Delhi on January 25th, 2011 between:

Press Council of India, based in New Delhi, India, represented by Justice Ganendra Narayan Ray, Chairman of the Press Council of India,

Press Council of Indonesia, based in Jakarta, Indonesia, represented by Prof. Dr. Bagir Manan, SH., MCL., Chairman of the Press Council of Indonesia, Hereinafter referred to as Parties,

WHEREAS

- A. The Parties confirm their commitment to exchanging information, experience and knowledge pertaining to a Non-Violent Peaceful Journalism Coverage;
- B. The Parties commit themselves to creating conditions within which the Indian and Indonesian journalists can be manifested through a competitive and professional process within the Journalism Code of Ethics and Press Freedom;
- C. The Parties commit themselves to building mutual confidence and trust;
- D. The Parties commit themselves for promoting an enabling environment for free and responsible access to correct and unbiased information in public interest and to aid good governance;
- E. The Parties commit themselves to building capabilities of media professionals by promoting qualitative media education and training facilities under the exchange programme;

F. The Parties commit themselves to strengthening the implementation of journalistic ethics in the interest of society and brotherhood across borders.

In accordance therewith the Parties decided to conclude this Memorandum of Understanding in order to establish the basis for their collaboration and for their future activities within the framework of PRESS FREEDOM.

To this end the Parties have agreed on the following:

- 1) to cooperate in activities promoting peace journalism;
- 2) to organize a seminar on journalism in conflict area and covering terrorism activities;
- 3) to carry out a journalism exchange program.

Any dispute arising out of the interpretation and/or implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding shall be settled amicably through negotiation or consultation.

This Memorandum of Understanding may be reviewed and amended at any time, by mutual written consent of the Parties. Such revisions or amendments shall come into effect on such date as may be determined by the Parties and shall form an integral part of this Memorandum of Understanding.

This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force on the date of its signing.

This Memorandum of Understanding would coincide' with the grant period, anticipated to be January 25th, 2011 through January 25th, 2013.

This Memorandum of Understanding shall remain in force for a period of two (2) years unless either party notifies in writing of its intention to terminate this Memorandum of Understanding three (3) months in advance.

In witness whereof, the undersigned, have signed this Memorandum of Understanding.

Done at New Delhi on 25th January, 2011 in English.

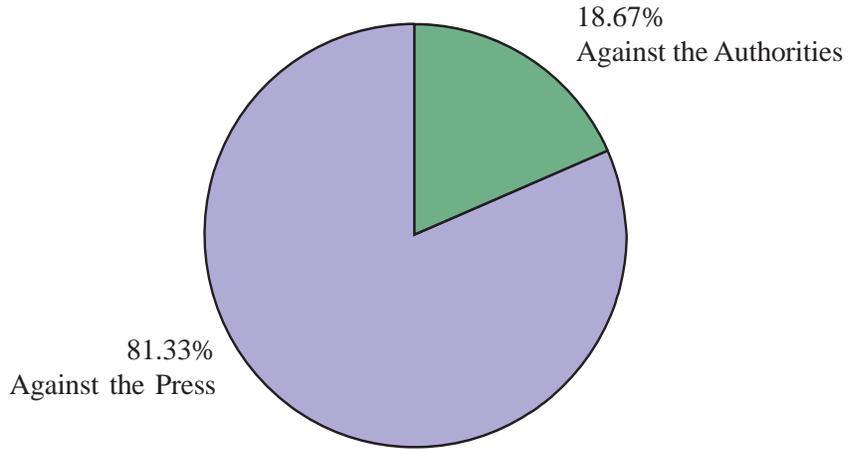
Sd/-

Justice Ganendra Narayan Ray
Chairman, Press Council of India

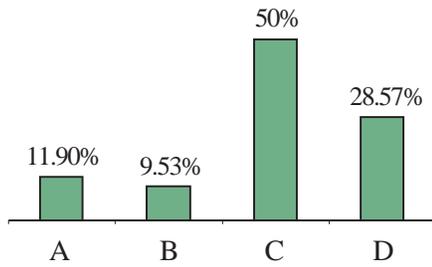
Sd/-

Prof. Dr. Bagir Manan, SH., MCL.
Chairman, Press Council of Indonesia

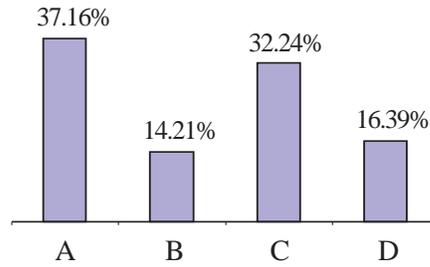
Graph of Adjudications 2010-2011



*Against the Authorities



Against the Press



Foot Note :-

A: Upheld

B: Rejected

C: Assurance/Settled/Amends

D: Dropped for Non-Pursuance/Withdrawal/*Sub-judice*/Lack of Substance

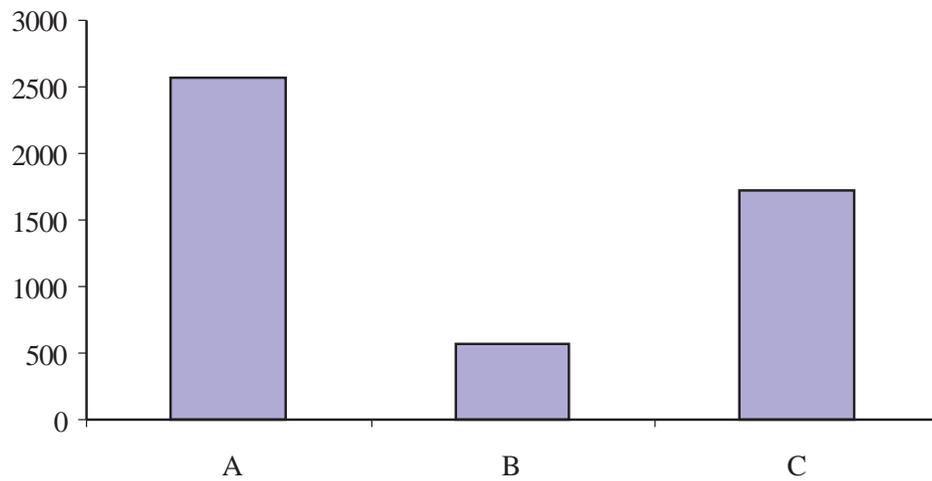
* Including two matter directly placed before the Council

Statement of Cases for the Xth Term
(April 1, 2008 - March 31, 2011)

	By the Press	Against the Press	Total
Cases Filed			
April 1,2008-March 31, 2009	185	541	726
April 1, 2009-March 31, 2010	180	770	950
April 1, 2010-March 31, 2011	187	713	900
Total	552	2024	2576
Adjudications			
April 1,2008-March 31, 2009	30	108	138
April 1, 2009-March 31, 2010	36	164	200
April 1, 2010-March 31, 2011	42	183	225
Total	108	455	563
Cases dismissed at preliminary stage between			
April 1,2008-March 31, 2009	71	372	443
April 1, 2009-March 31, 2010	107	374	481
April 1, 2010-March 31, 2011	165	636	801
Total	343	1382	1725

Graph of Statement of Cases for the Period
April 1, 2008 - March 31, 2011

A. No. of cases filed	2576
B. No. of cases adjudicated	563
C. No. of cases dismissed at preliminary stage	1725



**Statement of Attendance at Council Meetings
(7.1.2008 - 6.1.2011) Xth Term**

S. No.	Name of the Members	Total Number of Meetings	Total Number of Meetings Attended	Dates of Meetings
1.	Shri Vishnu Nagar	14	8	8.2.2008
2.	Shri Uttam Chandra Sharma	14	9	8.2.2008
3.	Shri Vijay Kumar Chopra	14	9	12.6.2008
4.	Shri Sheetla Singh	14	11	13-14.10.2008
5.	Ms. Suman Gupta	14	11	2.3.2009
6.	Shri Yogesh Chandra Halan	14	10	9.6.2009
7.	Shri K. Sreenivas Reddy	14	9	7.9.2009
8.	Shri Mihir Gangopadhyay (Ganguly)	14	12	22.2.2010
9.	Shri M.K. Ajith Kumar	14	8	31.3.2010
10.	Shri Joginder Chawla	14	10	26.4.2010
11.	Shri G. Prabhakaran	14	12	30.7.2010
12.	Shri Kalyan Barooah	14	12	29.10.2010
13.	Shri S.N. Sinha	14	12	16.11.2010
14.	Shri Hormusji N. Cama	14	10	3-4.1.2011
15.	Shri T.V.Reddy	14	6	
16.	Shri Anil Jugal K. Agrawal	14	10	
17.	Shri Kundan R. Vyas	14	10	
18.	Shri Ramesh Gupta	14	4	
19.	Shri Sushil Jhalani	14	12	

S. No.	Name of the Members	Total Number of Meetings	Total Number of Meetings Attended	Dates of Meetings
20.	Shri V.S. Chandrasekar	14	5	
21.	Shri Pranjoy Guha Thakurta	14	8	
22.	Shri Milan Kumar Dey	14	6	
23.	Dr. Lalit Mangotra	11	3	
24.	Shri A. Krishna Murthy	3	1	
25.	Dr. Sebastian Paul, M.P.	4	2	
26.	Shri Ananth Kumar, M.P.	7	1	
27.	Shri B.M. Solanki, M.P.	4	2	
28.	Shri Vilas Muttemwar, M.P.	7	1	
29.	Shri M.A. Kharbela Swain, M.P.	4	2	
30.	Shri Sanjay Dina Patil, M.P.	7	2	
31.	Shri Yashwant Sinha, M.P.	4	1	
32.	Shri Prakash Javadekar, M.P.	7	2	
33.	Dr. Prabha Thakur, M.P.	1	0	
34.	Dr. K. Keshava Rao, M.P.	11	5	

**Statement of Attendance at Inquiry Committee Meetings
(7.1.2008 - 6.1.2011) Xth Term**

S. No.	Name of the Members	Total Number of Meetings	Total Number of Meetings Attended
1.	Shri Vishnu Nagar	15	9
2.	Shri Uttam Chandra Sharma	13	10
3.	Shri Vijay Kumar Chopra	13	8
4.	Shri Sheetla Singh	13	12
5.	Ms. Suman Gupta	15	14
6.	Shri Yogesh Chandra Halan	13	6
7.	Shri K. Sreenivas Reddy	15	8
8.	Shri Mihir Gangopadhyay (Ganguly)	13	11
9.	Shri M.K. Ajith Kumar	15	8
10.	Shri Joginder Chawla	13	12
11.	Shri G. Prabhakaran	15	14
12.	Shri Kalyan Barooah	13	12
13.	Shri S.N. Sinha	15	13
14.	Shri Hormusji N. Cama	13	6
15.	Shri T.V.Reddy	15	4
16.	Shri Anil Jugal K. Agrawal	13	9
17.	Shri Kundan R. Vyas	15	13
18.	Shri Ramesh Gupta	15	6
19.	Shri Sushil Jhalani	15	15
20.	Shri V.S. Chandrasekar	13	2

S. No.	Name of the Members	Total Number of Meetings	Total Number of Meetings Attended
21.	Shri Pranjoy Guha Thakurta	13	9
22.	Shri Milan Kumar Dey	15	5
23.	Dr. Lalit Mangotra	13	4
24.	Shri A. Krishna Murthy	0	0
25.	Dr. Sebastian Paul, M.P.	7	2
26.	Shri Ananth Kumar, M.P.	6	0
27.	Shri B.M. Solanki, M.P.	7	0
28.	Shri Vilas Muttemwar, M.P.	6	1
29.	Shri M.A. Kharbela Swain, M.P.	6	0
30.	Shri Sanjay Dina Patil, M.P.	6	4
31.	Shri Yashwant Sinha, M.P.	6	1
32.	Shri Prakash Javadekar, M.P.	6	1
33.	Dr. Prabha Thakur, M.P.	3	0
34.	Dr. K. Keshava Rao, M.P.	12	1

**Subject Index of Adjudications in Complaints Regarding
Threats to Press Freedom (2010-2011)**

S. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
Harassment of Newsmen			
1	Complaint of Shri Vakil Ahmed, Freelancer, Ghaziabad, U.P. against the Anti-social Elements and Police Authorities	July 30, 2010	Lack of substance-closed
2	Complaint of Shri Anil Kumar Bhardwaj, Journalist, Dainik Vikasheel Bharat, Mathura, U.P. against Police Authorities	''	Assurance
3	Complaint of Shri Uttam Chand, District Incharge, Dainik Voice of Lucknow, Mathura, Uttar Pradesh against the Local Police Authorities	''	Rejected
4	Complaint of Shri Nanhelal Chandravanshi, Regional Representative, Rashtriya Hindi Mail, Baitul, M.P. against the Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDOP), Thana-Sarni, Baitul, M.P.	''	Matter allowed to rest
5	Complaint of Shri Akhilesh Kumar, Editor, Tarun Mitra, Patna, Bihar against the I&PRD, Government of Bihar, Patna, Bihar	''	Advise
6	Complaint of Shri Bishanpal Singh Chauhan, Journalist, Etah, U.P. and others against District Administration, Etah, U.P.	''	Closed
7	Complaint of Shri Manoj Kumar, Journalist, Editor, Rashtriya Vishal Times, Delhi against the Directorate of Press & Information, MCD, Delhi	''	Directions

M-Adjudications Merged

S. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
8	Complaint of Shri Shivnath Harish Chander Davkhar, Editor, Igatpuri Times, Maharashtra against the Local Police Authorities, Mumbai, Maharashtra	July 30, 2010	Sub-judice
9	Complaint of Shri H.H. Mazid Hussain, Chief Editor, Daily Urdu Action and Dainik Hindi Action, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh against the Police and Anti-social Elements, Bhopal, M.P.	”	Grievance Redressed
10	Complaint of Shri Deepak Bahl, Journalist, Dainik Jagran, Ambala Cantt., Haryana against Shri Sanjay Kumar, Inspector, State Railway Police (G.R.P.), Ambala Cantt., Haryana	October 29, 2010	Closed
11	Complaint of Shri Sarvanan Karuppswamy, Publisher/Editor/Reporter, World Human Rights Commission & Rescue Centre Report, (daily) Chennai against Police Authorities, Tamil Nadu	”	Closed
12	Complaint of Shri Anis Siddiqui, Press Photographer, Hindustan Dainik, Bahraich, U.P. against Shri Rajesh Singh, Circle Officer (City), Baharaich, U.P.	”	Directions
13	Complaint of Shri Rajender Yadav, Representative, Aaj, Kanpur, U.P. against Shri Satyaveer Singh, SHO, Jalaun, U.P.	”	Disposed off with directions
14	Complaint of Shri Brijraj Chaurasia, Correspondent, Amar Ujala, U.P. against the Local Police Authorities, U.P.	”	Matter allowed to rest
15	Complaint of Shri Kailash Nath Verma, District President, Shramjivi Patrakar Union and Correspondent, Aj, Gonda, U.P. against the Northern Eastern Railway Authorities, U.P.	”	Disposed off

S. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
16	Complaint of Shri Ajay Kumar Pathak, Correspondent, Rahat Times, Sultanpur, U.P. against Local Police Authorities, U.P.	October 29, 2010	Closed
17	Complaint of Shri Sageer Ahmed, Correspondent, Dainik Prashasan Prakash, Badaun, U.P. against the Police Authorities, U.P.	”	Sub-judice
18	Complaint of Shri Dharmendra Rastogi, Correspondent, Dainik Aaj, and Shri Harnandan Rastogi, Correspondent, Rashtriya Sahara, Bareilly, U.P. against the Local Police Authorities, U.P.	”	Sub-judice
19	Complaint of Shri Shardendu Trivedi, Advocate and District Representative, Swatantra Bharat, Banda, U.P. against the District Administration and Police Authorities, Banda, U.P.	”	Sub-judice
20	Complaint of Shri Mohmad Rashid, Journalist, Waris - e - Avadh, and Shri Jubber, Journalist, Janmukh, Chandoli, Uttar Pradesh against Dr. Rajiv, J.J. Nursing Home, Chandoli, Uttar Pradesh and Local Police Authorities, U.P.	”	Sub-judice
21	Complaint of Mohd. Rafi Khan & Other Journalists, Lucknow, U.P. against the Employees of District Hospital and Police Administration, U.P.	”	Sub-judice
22	Complaint of Shri Lakshmikant Pathak, District Correspondent, Jantantrik Prahari, Hardoi, U.P. against Shri Akhilesh Singh, SHO, Pali, U.P.	”	Sub-judice

S. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
23	Complaint of Shri Jagat Narayan Sharma, Journalist, Dainik Janmorcha, Gonda, U.P. against Shri Indrabahadur Singh and others	January 3-4, 2011	Sub-judice
24	Complaint of Shri Amjad Khan, Sub-Editor, Crime Line, Kannoj, U.P. against the Local Police and Anti Social Elements	”	Assurance
25	Complaint of Dr. A.K. Gupta, Chief Editor, Wah Kya Baat Hai, Sonebhadra, U.P. against the District Administration and Local Police Authorities	”	Settled
Facilities to the Press			
26	Complaint of Shri Khaliq Mansuri, Publisher, Quami Inquilab, Ujjain, M.P. against the DAVP, New Delhi	July 30, 2010	Grievance redressed
27	Complaint of Shri Suresh Verma, Publisher/Editor, Kranti Kathan, Indore against the DAVP, New Delhi	”	Disposed off with directions
28	Complaint of Shri Kaushal Kishore Mishra, Publisher, Tarun Chhattisgarh, Hindi Dainik, Raipur, Chhattisgarh against the Directorate of Public Relations, Raipur, Chhattisgarh	”	Closed
29	Complaint of Shri Jitender Kumar, Correspondent, Dixit Times, Agra, U.P. against the District Information Officer, Agra	”	Settled
30	Complaint of Shri Jaiprakash Tamkoriya, Publisher/Editor, Dainik Chattisgarh Vaibhav, Korba, Chhattisgarh against the Directorate, Information and Public Relations Department, Government of Chhattisgarh, Raipur	”	Directions

S. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
31	Complaint of Shri Z.A. Ansari, Editor, Indian Prashasan, Delhi against the Information & Publicity, Delhi	October 29, 2010	Closed-grievance redressed
32	Complaint of Shri K.D. Chandola, Editor, Weekly Nagraj Darpan, Kanpur against Postal Authorities, Kanpur, U.P.	''	Closed-grievance redressed
33	Complaint of the Publisher, Gramanchal Shilpanchaler Khabar, West Bengal against the Chairman, SAIL & Indian Iron & Steel Co. Ltd.	''	Disposed off with observations
34	Complaint of the Publisher, Gramanchal Shilpanchaler Khabar, West Bengal against the Postal Authorities, West Bengal	''	Conduct of respondent deprecated
35	Complaint of the Publisher, Gramanchal Shilpanchaler Khabar, West Bengal against the Eastern Railway, Kolkata	''	Directions
36	Complaint of the Publisher, Gramanchal Shilpanchaler Khabar, East-Central Railways, Bihar	''	Directions
	M		
37	Complaint of Shri Uttam Chandra Sharma, Editor, Muzaffarnagar Bulletin, Muzaffarnagar, U.P. against the Director, Information and Public Relations Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh	January 3-4, 2011	Upheld
38	Complaint of Shri Vijay Jaiswal, Editor, News Tender Bharat, Dehradun against the DAVP, New Delhi	''	Withdrawn

S. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
Curtailement of Press Freedom			
39	<i>Suo-motu</i> inquiry on the reported attack on the office of Hamro Prajashakti, Gangtok, Sikkim, Press Release of the Sikkim Pradesh Congress Committee	October 29, 2010	Directions
40	Complaint of opposition political parties in Sikkim against Government of Sikkim regarding suppression of press freedom	”	Directions

**Subject Index of Adjudications in
Complaints Against the Press (2010-2011)**

S. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
Principles and Publication			
1	Complaint of Shri Ashutosh Mishra, Dhanwantri Pharmaceutical, Chandausi, U.P. against the Editor, Lok Sewa, Ludhiana, Punjab	July 30, 2010	Upheld
2	Complaint of Smt. Pooja Saxena, District Horticulture Officer, Bijnor, U.P. against the Editor, Shah Times, Moradabad, U.P	”	Dismissed for lack of substance
3	Complaint of Shri Ved Prakash Pandey, Reporter, Samajwadi Pariwar, Shahjahanpur, U.P. against the Editor, Swatantra Bharat, Lucknow, U.P	”	Assurance
4	Complaint of the Commissioner, Municipal Council, Alwar against the Editor, Dainik Bhaskar, Alwar, Rajasthan	”	Not pursued
5	Complaint of Shri Dilip T. Mehta, Vadodara, Gujarat against the Editor, Sandesh, Vadodara, Gujarat	”	Settled
6	Complaint of Smt. Taralakshmi Joshi, Jodhpur against Shri Rajesh Trivedi, Correspondent, Dainik Bhaskar, Alwar, Rajasthan	”	Dismissed - devoid of merit
7	Complaint of Syed Mushtaq Hussain Rizvi, Baitul, M.P. against the Editor, Humse Kuch Chhupaya Nahin Ja Sakta, M.P.	”	Warned

M-Adjudications Merged

S. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
8	Complaint of Shri D.P. Singh, National Spokesman/Vice President, Janhit Jagran, Meerut, U.P. against the Editor, Amar Ujala, Meerut, U.P.	July 30, 2010	Dismissed
9	Complaint of Shri S.C. Kapoor, Wing Commander (Retd.) Noida against the Editor, The Times of India, New Delhi	”	Advise
10	Complaint of Dr. Jasbir Arya, Director/Chief Editor, Crime Free India Bureau, New Delhi against the Editor, Mail Today, New Delhi	October 29, 2010	Devoid of merit
11	Complaint of Shri Praful Meghji Joshi, Thane, Maharashtra against the Editor, Divya Bhaskar, Gujarat	”	Cautioned
12	Complaint of Ms. Smita Patwardhan, Sangli, Maharashtra against the Editor, Maharashtra Times, Mumbai	”	Cautioned
13	Complaint of Shri Arun Mahadeo Joshi, Mumbai against the Editor, The Times of India, Mumbai	”	Closed
14	Complaint of Smt. B. Malini Mallya, Udupi District, Karnataka against the Editor, Udayavani, Karnataka	”	Directions
15	Complaint of Smt. B. Malini Mallya, Udupi District, Karnataka against the Editor, Deccan Herald, Karnataka	”	Directions
16	Complaint of Shri Syed Ali Hashmi, Hyderabad against the Editor, The Hindu, Hyderabad	”	Disposed off
17	Complaint of Shri Shreerama Diwana, Udupi against the editor, Udayavani, Manipal, Karnatka	”	Warned

S. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
18	Complaint of Shri Rigziyan Samphle, District Magistrate and Shri Pramod Kumar, Superintendent of Police, Jalaun, U.P. against the Editor, Amar Ujala, Kanpur, U.P.	October 29, 2010	Warned
19	Complaint of Shri V.K. Goyal, IPS, Deputy Commissioner of Police, Kolkata against the Editor, Telegraph, Kolkata	”	Dismissed
20	Complaint of Ms. Sunita Goswami & Shri Uday Sankar Goswami, Silchar, Assam against the Editor, Dainik Jugasankha, Silchar, Assam	”	Disposed off with observations
21	Complaint of Ms. Sunita Goswami & Shri Uday Sankar Goswami, Silchar, Assam against the Editor, Samayik Prasanga, Silchar, Assam	” M	Disposed off with observations
22.	Complaint of Ms. Sunita Goswami & Shri Uday Sankar Goswami, Silchar, Assam against the Editor Dainik Nababarta Prasanga, Silchar, Assam	”	Disposed off with observations
23	Complaint of Shri Raj Kishor Sahu, Advocate, Sambalpur, Orissa against the Editor, The New Indian Express, Orissa	”	Directions
24	Complaint of Smt. Smitarani Mohanty, Puri, Orissa against the Editor, Dharitri, Oriya Daily, Orissa	”	Sub-judice
25	Complaint of the Project Director, Orissa State AIDS Control Society (OSACS), Bhubaneshwar against the Editor, Samaya, Orissa	” M	Charge not made out

S. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
26	Complaint of the Project Director, Orissa State AIDS Control Society (OSACS), Bhubaneswar against the Editor, The Hindustan Times, New Delhi	October 29, 2010	Charge not made out
27	Complaint of the Project Director, Orissa State AIDS Control Society (OSACS), Bhubaneswar against the Editor, The Asian Age, Kolkata	” M	Charge not made out
28	Complaint of the Project Director, Orissa State AIDS Control Society (OSACS), Bhubaneswar against the Editor, Indo Asian News Service, New Delhi	”	Charge not made out
29	Complaint of Shri Binod Kumar Sinha, Dhanbad, Jharkhand against the Editor, Awaz, Jharkhand	” M	Censured
30	Complaint of Shri Binod Kumar Sinha, Dhanbad, Jharkhand against the Editor, Bihar Observer, Jharkhand	”	Censured
31	Complaint of Shri Prakash Panjuml Kukreja, Ulhasnagar, against the Editor, Sindhi Maharaan, Maharashtra	January 3-4, 2011	Upheld
32	Complaint of Shri Benjamin G. Macwan, Vapi, Gujarat against the Editor, Gujarat Samachar, Gujarat	”	Upheld
33	Complaint of the Centre for Environment and Agrochemicals, Mumbai against the Editor, The Hindustan Times, New Delhi	”	Upheld
34	Complaint of Shri S.V. Mani, Journalist, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu against the Editor, Kumudam, Tamil Nadu	”	Censured

S. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
35	Complaint of Shri K. Ramasubramanian, State Secretary, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu against the Editor, Dinakaran, Tamil Nadu	January 3-4, 2011	Dismissed
36	Complaint of Shri K. Ramasubramanian, State Secretary, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu against the Editor, Tamizh Murasu, Tamil Nadu	” M	Dismissed
37	Complaint of Shri K. Ramasubramanian, State Secretary, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu against the Editor, Daily Thanthi, Tamil Nadu	”	Dismissed
38	Complaint of Shri K. Ramasubramanian, State Secretary, Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu against the Editor, Maalai Malar, Tamil Nadu	”	Dismissed
39	Complaint of Shri S.S. Chamak, New Delhi against the Editor, The Times of India, New Delhi	”	Closed
40	Complaint received from the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs/Pravasi Bhartiya Karya Mantralaya, New Delhi against the editor, Mid-Day	”	Censured
41	Complaint of Shri R.S. Paliwal, C.A., Nagpur, Maharashtra against the Editor, Sales Tax Review, Mumbai, Maharashtra	”	Disposed off
42	Complaint of Shri Ramnath G. Naik, Chairman, Gomantak Marathi Bhasha Parishad, Goa against the Editor, Gomantak, Marathi Daily, Goa	”	Closed

S. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
43	Complaint of Shri Prafulla Samantara, President Lok Shakti Abhiyan, Orissa against the Editor, The Samaj, Cuttack, Orissa	January 3-4, 2011	Disposed off
44	Complaint of Shri Binod Kumar Sinha, Dhanbad, against the Editor, Dainik Jagran, Ranchi, Jharkhand	”	Closed
45	Complaint of Dr. Shamala Reddy, Chairperson, SGR Technical & Educational Society, Bangalore against the Editor, Malayala Manorama, Kottayam, Kerala	”	Disposed off with directions
Press and Defamation			
46	Complaint of Dr. M. Vijaykumar, Andhra Pradesh against Eenadu, Andhra Pradesh] M July 30, 2010	Disposed off with directions
47	Complaint of Dr. M. Vijaykumar, Andhra Pradesh against Vaartha, Andhra Pradesh		”
48	Complaint of Shri Inderjeet S. Khanna, General Manager, Telecom, BSNL, Ratlam, Madhya Pradesh against the Editor, Sabhar Darshan, Ratlam, Madhya Pradesh	”	Dismissed
49	Complaint of Shri Inderjeet S. Khanna, General Manager, Telecom, BSNL, Ratlam, Madhya Pradesh against the Editor, Raj Express, Ratlam, Madhya Pradesh	”	Not Pursued
50	Complaint of Shri B.L. Chauhan, Principal, Shri Surender Suri Government College, Sardarpur, Madhya Pradesh against the Editor, Raj Express, Indore, M.P.	”	Upheld

S. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
51	Complaint of Dr. P.S. Ajmani, Ratlam, Madhya Pradesh against the Editor, Dainik Bhaskar, Ratlam, M.P.	July 30, 2010	Warned
52	Complaint of Shri D.K. Patel, Jabalpur, M.P. against the Editor, Navbharat, Jabalpur, M.P.	”	Devoid of merit
53	Complaint of Mohd. Karim, Chhattarpur, M.P. against the Editor, Chhattarpur Bhraman, M.P.	”	Directions
54	Complaint of Shri Sunil Kumar Hirani, Chartered Accountant, Betul, M.P. against the Editor, Aaj Ki Halchal, Betul, M.P.	”	Not pursued
55	Complaint of Shri M.L. Jain, Councillor and Chairman, Legal and General Administration, Municipal Corporation and Other Councillors, Neemuch, M.P. against the Editor, Dainik Neemuch Prahari, M.P.	”	Not pursued
56	Complaint of Shri Ashok Dongre, President, East Neemad District Co-operative Employees Union, Khandwa, M.P. against the Editor, Nirantar Chakra, Hindi Daily, Khandwa, M.P.	”	No action
57	Complaint of Shri Sukhdev Sharma, State President, Akhil Bhartiya Jangid Brahman Mahasabha Jangid, Indore, M.P. against the Editor, Vishwakarma Sansar, M.P.	”	Upheld
58	Complaint of Smt. Vimla Sanadaya, Principal, Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Jalore against the Editor, Marwar Tehalka, Jalore, Rajasthan	”	Censured

S. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
59	Complaint of Shri Lokesh Gupta, District Manager, Telecommunication, BSNL, Bazaria, Swaimadhopur, Rajasthan against the Editor, Sajag Pratinidhi, Rajasthan	July 30, 2010	Directions
60	Complaint of Shri A.K. Pathak, Director, Takshila Business School, Jaipur against the Editor, Samajvaad Prahari, Jaipur, Rajasthan	”	Censured
61	Complaint of Shri Govind Ram Gahlot, Labour Inspector, Labour Department, Ajmer, Rajasthan against the Editor, Dainik Bhaskar, Jaipur, Rajasthan	”	Disposed off with directions
62	Complaint of Shri Kanubhai J. Desai, Editor/Publisher/Owner, Hello Khelaru, Gujarat against the Editor, Divya Bhaskar, Ahmedabad, Gujarat	”	Censured
63	Complaint of Smt. Devi Ahuja, Office Incharge and Others, Gandhidham Cancer Society, Gandhidham, Gujarat, against the Editor, Kutch Uday, Gandhidham, Kutch, Gujarat	”	Censured
64	Complaint of the Director, Padma Pulse Processors (P) Ltd., Surat, Gujarat against the Editor, Gujarat Mitra, Gujarat	”	Warned
65	Complaint of Shri Suprabhat Das, Public Relations Officer, Chhattisgarh Telecommunication Division, BSNL, Chhattisgarh against the Editor, Navbharat, Raipur, Chhattisgarh	”	Complainant's version published

S. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
66	Complaint of Prof. Dr. Mridula Shukl, Indira Kala Sangeet Vishwavidhayala, Chhattisgarh against the Editor, Chhattisgarh, Raipur, Chhattisgarh	July 30, 2010	Warned
67	Complaint of Prof. Dr. Mridula Shukl, Indira Kala Sangeet Vishwavidhayala, Chhattisgarh against the Editor, Navbharat, Raipur, Chhattisgarh	"	Warned
68	Complaint of Dr. R.N. Das, Additional Director, Press & Public Relations Wing, Parliament House, New Delhi against the Editor, The Times of India, New Delhi	"	Withdrawn
69	Complaint of Shri Khuman Singh, Agra, U.P. against the Editor, Amar Ujala, Agra, U.P.	"	Cautioned
70	Complaint of Smt. Rashida Begum, Rampur, U.P. against the Editor, Amar Ujala, Moradabad, U.P.	"	Upheld
71	Complaint of Shri Balraj Singh, Gautambudh Nagar, U.P. against the Editor, Hindustan, Lucknow	"	Directions
72	Complaint of Shri Riyazuddin, Students Print Media Agency, U.P. against the Editor, Dainik Jagran, U.P.	"	Rejected
73	Complaint of Shri Kunwarpal, Bureau Chief, Dainik CNN-cum-News Network, Meerut, U.P. against the Editor, Dainik Jagran, Meerut, U.P.	"	Settled
74	Complaint of Shri Santosh Kumar Sharma, Meerut, U.P. against the Editor, Pratigya, Meerut, U.P.	"	Censured

S. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
75	Complaint of Shri Rakesh Kumar Arya, IPS, Deputy Commissioner of Police (West), Gurgaon, Haryana against the Editor, New Bright Star Patrike, Palwal, Haryana	July 30, 2010	Devoid of merit
76	Complaint of Shri Y. Naveen, Tumkur, Karnataka against the Editor, Gouri Lankesh, Karnataka	”	Not pursued
77	Complaint of Surender @ Sweta, President, Eunuch Community, District Mau, U.P. against the Editor, Amar Ujala	”	Corrigendum published
78	Complaint of Surender @ Sweta, President, Eunuch Community, District Mau, U.P. against the Editor, Aaj	”	Closed
79	Complaint of Shri Ramshankar Gupta, Agra, U.P. against the Editor, Akinchan Bharat, Agra, U.P.	”	Censured
80	Complaint of the Forest Conservator and the Manager, Van Vihar Rashtriya Udhyan, Bhopal, M.P. against Shri Manoj Tiwari, Correspondent, Raj Express, Bhopal, M.P.	”	Reprimanded
81	Complaint of Shri Jogesh Dhanda, Indore, M.P. (through advocate) against the Editor, Dainik Bhaskar, Indore, M.P.	”	Upheld
82	Complaint of Shri Mahavir Prasad Mansinghka, Chairman, Murlidharkirpa Hospital & Research Centre, Maksi, M.P. against the Editor, Dainik Pratahkaal, Mumbai	”	Censured

S. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
83	Complaint of Shri Sandeep Godika, Jaipur, Rajasthan against the Editor, Current Jwala, Sodala, Jaipur	July 30, 2010	Dismissed for lack of substance
84	Complaint of the Commissioner, Municipal Council, Alwar against the Editor, Rajasthan Patrika, Alwar, Rajasthan	”	Closed for not being pursued
85	Complaint of Smt. & Shri Vijay Rawat, Dehradun & Smt. Anuradha Bhattacharya, Noida against the Editor, The Hindu	”	Apology published
86	Complaint of Smt. & Shri Vijay Rawat, Dehradun & Smt. Anuradha Bhattacharya, Noida against the Editor, The Times of India	”	Apology published
87.	Complaint of Smt. & Shri Vijay Rawat, Dehradun & Smt. Anuradha Bhattacharya, Noida against the Editor, The Hindustan Times	”	Apology published
88	Complaint of Smt. & Shri Vijay Rawat, Dehradun & Smt. Anuradha Bhattacharya, Noida against the Editor, The Indian Express	”	Apology published
89	Complaint of Smt. & Shri Vijay Rawat, Dehradun & Smt. Anuradha Bhattacharya, Noida against the Editor, Dainik Jagran,	”	Apology published
90	Complaint of Smt. & Shri Vijay Rawat, Dehradun & Smt. Anuradha Bhattacharya, Noida against the Editor, Navbharat Times	”	Apology published
91	Complaint of Smt. & Shri Vijay Rawat, Dehradun & Smt. Anuradha Bhattacharya, Noida against the Editor, The Mid-Day	”	Apology published

S. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
92	Complaint of Shri Yash Paul Vedhara, United Kingdom Against the Editor, The Times of India, Mumbai	July 30, 2010	Clarification published
93	Complaint of Shri Rajpal Malik, Assistant Commissioner of Municipal Corporation, (through his advocate) Ghaziabad, U.P. against the Editor, News Prahari, Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh	October 29, 2010	Closed
94	Complaint of Shri Sudeep Garg, Tapan Milk Products, Agra, U.P. against the Editor, Amar Ujala, Agra, U.P.	”	Rejected
95	Complaint of the District Magistrate, Mirzapur, U.P. against the Editor, Amar Ujala, Varanasi, U.P.	”	Closed
96	Complaint of the District Magistrate, Mirzapur, U.P. against the Editor, Dainik Hindustan, Varanasi, U.P.	”	Closed
97	Complaint of Shri Prem Kumar Agarwal, Founder, Prem Courier Service, Muradabad, U.P. against the Editor, Aaj, Bareilly, U.P.	”	Censured
98	Complaint of Shri Shailender Kumar, General Manager, Prathama, Bank, Muradabad, U.P. against the Editor, Aaj, Bareilly, U.P.	”	Dismissed for lack of substance
99	Complaint of Shri Hari Kishan Verma, Meerut, U.P. against the Editor, Majmoon, Meerut, U.P.	”	Directions
100	Complaint of Shri Pramod Pachouri, Former District President, Rashtravadi Congress Party, Mathura against the Editor, Aakinchan Bharat, Agra, U.P.	”	Closed for non pursuance

S. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
101	Complaint of Shri Ravinder Dwivedi, National President, Anti-Corruption Committee, Thane, Maharashtra against the Editor, San Marg, Kolkata, West Bengal	October 29, 2010	Closed
102	Complaint of Shri Shambhu Sharan Saxena, Editor, Mumbai Sathi against the Editor, Dophar Ka Samna, Mumbai, Maharashtra	”	Warned
103	Complaint of Shri Shekhar Narayan Gaikwad, Additional Collector, Nashik, Maharashtra against the Editor, Lokmat, Nashik, Maharashtra	”	Warned
104	Complaint of Mohd. Nadeem, Aurangabad, Maharashtra against the Editor, Aurangabad Times, Aurangabad, Maharashtra	”	Warned
105	Complaint of Shri S. Ramanathan, Bangalore, Karnatka against the Editor, The Times of India, Bangalore, Karnatka	”	Case not made out
106	Complaint of Shri Pradeep Kumar, C.M., Assistant Commissioner of Police (North), Kozhikode City, Kerala against the Editor, Malayala Manorama, Khozhikode, Kerala	”	Matter allowed to rest
107	Complaint of Shri Vinod Pratap Singh, District Sant Kabir Nagar, Uttar Pradesh against Shri Pawan Kumar Srivastav, District Correspondent, Rashtriya Sahara, Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh	”	Upheld

S. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
108	Complaint of Shri Santosh Kumar, Advocate, Allahabad, U.P. against the Editor, Jansansad, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.	October 29, 2010	Closed
109	Complaint of Shri Nand Gopal Gupta (Nandi), Cabinet Minister, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Allahabad against the Editor, Daily News Activist, Allahabad, U.P.	”	Sub-judice
110	Complaint of Shri Bhaskar Ghosh, Library & Information Assistant, National Library, Kolkata against the Editor, The Telegraph, Kolkata, West Bengal	”	Disposed off with directions
111	Complaint of Shri Shantanu Bhowmick, Secretary, National Library Employees’ Association, Kolkata against the Editor, The Indian Express, Kolkata, West Bengal	”	Warned
112	Complaint of Dr. N.C. Das, Principal, Rabindra Sadan Girls' College, Assam against the Editor, Nababarta Prasanga, Assam	”	Censured
113	Complaint of Dr. Ramen Talukdar, Principal, Suren Das College, Hajo, District Kamrup, Assam against the Editor, Dainik Agradoot, Dispur, Assam	”	Disposed off with directions
114	Complaint of Smt. Atashi Dutta, Assam against the Editor, Dainik Nababarta Prasanga, Assam	”	Censured

S. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
115	Complaint of Mr. Abu Sadeque Ishtiaque Ahmed Choudhary, Managing Director, Daffodils Insurance Agency Private Limited, Guwahati, Assam against the Editor, Samayik Prasanga, Guwahati, Assam	October 29, 2010	Sub-judice
116	Complaint of Shri Atoorva Sinha, Deputy Director (Admn.), Office of the Principal Director of Audit, (Central), Kolkata against the Editor, The Voice of Andaman	”	Upheld
117	Complaint of Prof. Dr. Gandharba Ray, Department of Medicine, SSB Medical College and Hospital, Cuttack, Orissa against the Editor, Samaj Aina, Oriya Fortnightly	”	Censured
118	Complaint of Shri Pradeep Kumar Singh, Bokaro against the Editor, Hindustan, Jharkhand	”	Warned
119	Complaint of Shri Pradeep Kumar Singh, Bokaro against the Editor, Dainik Jagran, Jharkhand		
120	Complaint of Shri Arvind Chandra, Managing Director, M/s Vanachal Builders Pvt. Ltd., Ranchi against the Editor, Hindustan, Ranchi	”	Dismissed being withdrawn
121	Complaint of Shri K.P. Singh, IPS (Retd.), Ex-Inspector General of Police, Patna against the Editor, Rashtriya Sahara, Patna	”	Warned
122	Complaint of Shri Saifuddin Choudhary, President, Party for Democratic Socialism, Kolkata against the Editor, Sambad Pratidin, Kolkata, West Bengal	”	Cautioned

S. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
123	Complaint of Ms. Smitarani Samal, Secretary, Beauticians' Association, Soundarya Beauty Parlour, Dhenkanal against the Editor, Dharitri, Bhubaneshwar, Orissa	October 29, 2010	Warned
124	Complaint of Shri Deepak Raghunath Dhere, Ichalkaranji, Kolhapur, Maharashtra against the Editor, Dainik Pudhari, Kolhapur, Maharashtra	January 3-4, 2011	Upheld
125	Complaint of Smt. Mamta Ramesh Dubey, Correspondent, Subah Samna Crime Times, Mumbai against the Editor, Khaber Dar Khaber, Thane, Maharashtra	''	Dismissed
126	Complaint of Shri M.B. Thakur, Senior Journalist, Do Baje Dopahar, Thane, Maharashtra against the Editor, Sachcha Vijay, Maharashtra	''	Closed for non pursuance
127	Complaint of Shri Mahavir Prasad Mansinghka, Chairman, Murlidhar Kripa Hospital & Research Centre, Maksi, M.P. against the Editor, Kranti Bharat Samachar, Lucknow, U.P.	''	Censured
128	Complaint of Shri Alibhai Nathani, Chairman, M/s Ruby Macons Limited, Vapi, Gujarat against the Editor, Sansani Samachar, Sahai Alam, Ahmedabad, Gujarat	''	Dismissed
129	Complaint of the Director, Padma Pulse Processors (P) Ltd., Surat, Gujarat against the Editor, Gujarat Samachar, Gujarat	''	Dismissed

S. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
130	Complaint of Mohd. Zenul Abdeen, Secretary, Roshni National Gramodhyog Sansthan, Sitapur, U.P. against the Editor, Dainik Jagran, U.P.	January 3-4, 2011	Disposed off
131	Complaint of Mohd. Zenul Abdeen, Secretary, Roshni National Gramodhyog Sansthan, Sitapur, U.P. against the Editor, Hindustan, U.P.	”	Disposed off
132	Complaint of Mohd. Zenul Abdeen, Secretary, Roshni National Gramodhyog Sansthan, Sitapur, U.P. against the Editor, Pratipal Sanwad, U.P.	”	Warned
133	Complaint of Mohd. Zenul Abdeen, Secretary, Roshni National Gramodhyog Sansthan, Sitapur, U.P. against the Editor, Satta Swarajya, U.P.	”	Warned
134	Complaint of Shri Lallan Prasad, Allahabad, U.P. against the Editor, Aaj, U.P.	”	No action
135	Complaint of Shri Lallan Prasad, Allahabad, U.P. against the Editor, Amar Ujala, U.P.	”	No action
136	Complaint of Shri Lallan Prasad, Allahabad, U.P. against the Editor, Northern India Patrika, U.P.	”	Censured
137	Complaint of Shri Lallan Prasad, Allahabad, U.P. against the Editor, Dainik Jagran, U.P.	”	No action

S. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
138	Complaint of Shri Shaham Siddiqui, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh against the Editor, Hindustan, Kanpur, U.P.	January 3-4, 2011	Dismissed
139	Complaint of Shri Mohd. Taiyab Palki, Chairman, Nagar Palika Parishad, Mau, Uttar Pradesh against the Editor, Dainik Hindustan, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh	”	Directions
140	Complaint of Shri Khuda Baksh, Safai Nayak, Nagar Palika Parishad, Basti, Uttar Pradesh & others against the Editor, Hindustan, U.P.	”	Closed for non-pursuance
141	Complaint of Shri Khuda Baksh, Safai Nayak, Nagar Palika Parishad, Basti, Uttar Pradesh & others against the Editor, Dainik Bhartiya Basti, U.P.	”	Closed for non-pursuance
142	Complaint of Shri Devendra Prasad Joshi, Sub-Divisional Officer, Electricity Department, Hardoi (through advocate) against the Editor, Dainik Jagran, Kanpur, U.P	”	Cautioned
143	Complaint of Shri Devendra Prasad Joshi, Sub-Divisional Officer, Electricity Department, Hardoi (through advocate) against the Editor, Amar Ujala, Kanpur, U.P	”	Cautioned
144	Complaints of Shri Ashok Kumar Goyal, Lucknow, U.P. against the Editor, Daily News Activist, Lucknow, U.P.	”	Dismissed for non-pursuance
145	Complaints of Shri Ashok Kumar Goyal, Lucknow, U.P. against the Editor, Hindustan, Lucknow, U.P.	”	Dismissed for non-pursuance

S. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
146	Complaint of Dr. A.N. Singh, Proctor, University of Lucknow, Lucknow against the Editor, Daily News Activist, Lucknow, U.P.	January 3-4, 2011	Closed for non-pursuance
147	Complaint of Dr. A.N. Singh, Proctor, Lucknow University, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh against the Editor, The Times of India, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh	”	Dismissed for non-pursuance
148	Complaint of Shri Atul Kapur, District President, Gramin Patrakar Association, Hardoi, U.P. against the Editor, Nispaksh Pratidin, Evening Daily, U.P.	”	Advised
149	Complaint of Dr. R.L. Singh, (Retd.), Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Lucknow, U.P. against the Editor, Hitavada, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh	”	Settled
150	Complaint of Shri Desh Deepak Verma, IAS, Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Distribution, Government of India, New Delhi against the Editor, Nav Ratri, Lucknow, U.P.	”	Upheld
151	Complaint of Shri D.K. Bose, Hony. General Secretary, Hindustan Football Club, New Delhi against the Editor, The Times of India, New Delhi	”	Censured
152	Complaint of Shri Naresh Kumar, Meerut, U.P. against the Editor, Dainik Hindustan, Meerut, U.P.	”	Directions
153	Complaint of Shri Hariom Anand, Managing Director, Anand Hospital, Meerut, U.P. against the Editor, Bhoodev, Meerut Cant, U.P.	”	Disposed off with directions

S. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
154	Complaint of Shri Jai Bhagwan Agarwal, MLA, Delhi against the Editor, Jan Pratibimb, Delhi	January 3-4, 2011	Reprimanded
155	Complaint of Shri Vishwas Garg, Bathinda against the Editor, Dainik Pilot, Bathinda, Punjab	”	Disposed off with directions
156	Complaint of Dr. Ashok Madhavdas Parwani, Medical Practitioner, Village Goveli, Thane, Maharashtra against the Editor, Hindu Hit, Thane, Maharashtra	”	Cautioned
157	Complaint of Shri Chhabbil N. Sangani, Jamnagar, Gujarat against the Editor, Nobat, Jamnagar, Gujarat	”	Withdrawn
158	Complaint of Ms. Ekta Thakur, Mumbai against the Editor, Mumbai Mirror, Mumbai, Maharashtra	”	Reprimanded
159	Complaint of Smt. Bhanu and Shri Sreechandra, Bangalore against the Editor, Ranjane/Bodhane/Prochodhane Lankesh weekly, Bangalore, Karnatka	”	Censured
160	Complaint of Shri Pramod Kumar, IPS, Inspector General of Police, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu against the Editor, Naveena Netrikkan, Chennai, Tamil Nadu	”	Censured
161	Complaint of Shri Kishori Mohan Paul, Headmaster, Member Secretary, Kamalbari Girls' M.E. School, Jorhat, Assam against the Editor, Asomiya Pratidin, Guwahati, Assam	”	Assurance

S. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
162	Complaint of Shri Kishore Mohan Paul, Headmaster, Member Secretary, Kamlabari Girls' M.E. School, Jorhat, Assam against the Editor, Amar Asom, Guwahati, Assam	January 3-4, 2011	Directions
163	Complaint of Shri K. Hujuri, Secretary, Pub-Rupnagar Ganesh Mandir Committee, Guwahati against the Editor, Amar Asom, Guwahati, Assam	”	Closed
164	Complaint of Shri Goodnight Langrin Syemlieh, West Khasi Hills, Meghalaya against the Editor, Mawphor, Shillong, Meghalaya	”	Closed for non pursuance
165	Complaint of Shri Ajay Kumar Pandey @ Sidhi Pandey, Deputy Chief Councillor, Nagar Panchyat, Daudnagar, Aurangabad against the Editor, Dainik Jagran, Patna	”	Upheld
166	Complaint of Miss Surekha Sama, Faridabad against the Editor, Dainik Jagran, New Delhi	”	Warned
167	Complaint of Shri Lokeshwra, Sub-Inspector, Karnataka Police, Bangalore, Karnataka against the Editor/Publisher, Veera Sindoor Lakshmana, Bangalore, Karnataka	”	Matter allowed to rest
Press and Morality			
168	Complaint of Shri R.V. Sharada, State President, Working Journalist Union, M.P., Bhopal against the Editor, Dainik Navbharat, Bhopal	July 30, 2010	Advise

S. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
169	Complaint of Shri Sanjay Bansal, Advocate/President, Desh Kalyan Samiti, Moradabad, U.P. against the Editor, Dainik Jagran, Kanpur, U.P.	July 30, 2010	Closed with observations
170	Complaint of President, Pragatisheel Patrakar Association, Agra, U.P. against the Editor, I-Next, Kanpur, U.P.	”	Reprimanded
171	Complaint of Shri Sukh Deo Singh, Sikar against the Editor, Rajasthan Patrika, Jaipur, Rajasthan	”	Closed
172	Complaint of Shri Edara Gopi Chand, State General Secretary, Anti- Obscenity Forum, Guntur, A.P. against the Editor, Andhra Jyothi Andhra Pradesh	”	Guidelines reiterated
173	Complaint of Shri Edara Gopi Chand, State General Secretary, Anti- Obscenity Forum, Guntur, A.P. against the Editor, Eenadu, A.P.	”	Guidelines reiterated
174	Complaint of Shri R.S. Saxena, Retired Senior Commercial Officer, Central Railways, Mumbai against the Editor, The Times of India, Mumbai	October 29, 2010	Cautioned
175	Complaint of Shri N.V. Ramakrishna, Kottayam, Kerala against the Editor, Fire Magazine, Kerala	”	Censured
176	Complaint of Shri Sidheswar Acharyya, West Bengal against the Editor, Calcutta Times	”	Advise

S. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
177	Complaint of Shri Sidheswar Acharyya, West Bengal against the Editor, Boier Desh, Kolkata	October 29, 2010	Advise
178	Complaint of Shri Sidheswar Acharyya, West Bengal against the Editor, The Sunday Indian, New Delhi	”	Advise

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Communal, Casteist, Anti National and Anti Religious Writings

179	Complaint of Choudhary Nafees Ahmed and others, Chhattarpur, M.P. against the Editor, Dainik Chhattarpur Bhraman, M.P	July 30, 2010	Cautioned
180	Complaint of Md. Adil Jhadodiya, Vice President, Masjid Committee, Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh against the Editor, Nandgaon Times, Chhattisgarh	”	Censured
181	Complaint of Shri S.C. Kapoor, Wing Commander (Retd.) Noida against the Editor, The Times of India, New Delhi	”	Upheld
182	Complaint of Shri Farid-ul-Hassan, Managing Trustee, Active Intelligent Movement, Mumbai against the Editor, The Hindustan Times, Mumbai	”	Reprimanded
183	Complaint of Shri Iswar Tudu, Secretary, All India Scheduled Caste/ Tribes Council, Kolkata against the Editor, Bartaman, West Bengal	October 29, 2010	Disposed off

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

Harassment of Newsmen

One cannot be permitted to take refuge under rights of a journalist for protection from other laws of the land. **(Shri Sarvanan Karuppswamy, Publisher/Editor/Reporter, World Human Rights Commission & Rescue Centre Report, (daily) Chennai against Police Authorities, Tamil Nadu, Complaint No. 2, PCI Review, October 2010)**

Police authorities should create a balance between media's duty to cover events and its own law and order management. **(Shri Anis Siddiqui, Press Photographer, Hindustan Dainik, Baharaich, U.P. against Shri Rajesh Singh, Circle Officer (City), Baharaich, U.P., Complaint No. 3, PCI Review, October 2010)**

Facilities to the Press

Issuance of government advertisement is not a largesse or bounty in the hands of the authorities and its utilization has to be ensured in a judicious manner within the frame work of clearly laid down policies. **(Shri Kaushal Kishore Mishra, Publisher, Tarun Chhatisgarh, Hindi Dainik, Raipur, Chhatisgarh, against The Director, Directorate of Public Relations, Government of Chhatisgarh, Raipur, Chhatisgarh, Complaint No. 12, PCI Review, July 2010)**

Even in the matter of granting largesse, a public authority is expected to function under a fair and balanced policy and the constitutional commitment as a socialist democratic republic. **(The Publisher, Gramanchal Shilpanchaler Khabar, West Bengal against the Chairman, SAIL & Indian Iron & Steel Co. Ltd., Complaint No. 16, PCI Review, October 2010)**

Advertisements are the life line of the small newspapers and it is essential to maintain their economic viability, unbiased and independent press. Local newspapers cater to a vital section of the public thus the advertisements released to them not only promote the State's responsibility towards the small and medium newspapers but also helps it connect with the public. **(Shri Uttam Chandra Sharma, Editor, Muzaffarnagar Bulletin, Muzaffarnagar, U.P. against the Director, Information and Public Relations Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Complaint No. 4, PCI Review, January 2011)**

Index of Principles Recorded in Adjudications in Complaints Against the Press

Principles and Publication

Editorial staff should carefully weigh its words, particularly those used in the captions for their impact on the readers. **(Shri S.C. Kapoor, Wing Commander (Retd.) Noida against the Editor, The Times of India, New Delhi, Complaint No. 23, PCI Review, July 2010)**

Newspapers should keep in sight the social sensibilities while publishing reports. 'Dignity in death' is a principle widely observed in civil society and unless the photographic depiction of such event directly impacts the public interest or purpose, the media would be well advised to avoid it. **(Shri Praful Meghji Joshi, Thane, Maharashtra against the Editor, Divya Bhaskar, Gujarat, Complaint No. 21, PCI Review, October 2010)**

Press should play a vital role in removing the age-old gender biases and even unilateral description as the news item could contribute to continuation of such bias to retard social balances and development. **(Ms. Smita Patwardhan, Sangli, Maharashtra against the Editor, Maharashtra Times, Mumbai, Complaint No. 22, PCI Review, October 2010)**

In the matter of interpretation of a judgment, a newspaper is expected to act reasonably and not quote selectively. They are also expected to clearly identify the selections so made. **(Smt. B. Malini Mallya, Udupi District, Karnataka against the Editors (i) Udayavani and (ii) Deccan Herald, Karnataka, Complaint No. 24, PCI Review, October 2010)**

While every journalist has a duty and freedom of critical evaluation of the functioning of public department/personnel, such evaluation has to be based on proper documents and verification. **(Shri Prakash Panjuml Kukreja, Ulhasnagar, against the Editor, Sindhi Maharaan, Maharashtra, Complaint No. 6, PCI Review, January, 2011)**

Press and Defamation

The Press has a right to comment upon the functioning of an institution in public interest. **(Shri Ashok Dongre, President, East Neemad District Co-operative Employees Union, Khandwa, M.P. against the Editor,**

Nirantar Chakra, Hindi Daily, Khandwa, M.P., Complaint No. 33, PCI Review, July 2010)

The Court may make some observations but these are often an attempt to solicit information, and not a part of records. Thus, there is need for a reporter to understand the difference and report correctly. **(Shri Balraj Singh, Gautambudh Nagar, U.P. against the Editor, Hindustan, Lucknow, Complaint No. 47, PCI Review, July 2010)**

It is obligatory on the part of an institution rendering public service to be open to bonafide critical examination of its functioning. **(Shri Shailender Kumar, General Manager, Prathama Bank, Moradabad, U.P. against the Editor, Aaj, Bareilly, U.P., Complaint No. 38, PCI Review, October 2010)**

It is the duty of the press to report matters of public importance and comment there on and the newspaper should draw a distinction between news, views and comments. **(Shri Atoorva Sinha, Deputy Director (Admn.), Office of the Principal Director of Audit, (Central), Kolkata against the Editor, The Voice of Andaman, Complaint No. 56, PCI Review, October 2010)**

Gossip reaches a localized few, a newspaper report reaches lakhs and therefore a more onerous responsibility devolves on the Press towards the society. **(Shri Pradeep Kumar Singh, Bokaro against the Editors, (i) Hindustan and (ii) Dainik Jagran, Jharkhand Complaint No. 58, PCI Review, October 2010)**

Media must overcome the tendency of trivialization of information and build credibility in the society so as to win the confidence of the readers. **(Shri Saifuddin Choudhary, President, Party for Democratic Socialism, Kolkata against the Editor, Sambad Pratidin, Kolkata, West Bengal, Complaint No. 61, PCI Review, October 2010)**

While it is the duty of the press to bring all deeds to light, reports must be based on impeccable evidence and established through proper verification from all sources. This includes affording the affected person the right to place his version before the public at pre as well as post publication stage. **(Shri Mahavir Prasad Mansinghka, Chairman, Murlidhar Kripa Hospital & Research Centre, Maksi, M.P. against the Editor, Kranti Bharat Samachar, Lucknow, U.P., Complaint No. 21, PCI Review, January 2011)**

A newspaper's prime function is to report and analyse events and happenings. However, it is expected that in such reporting it will be guided by a fair and

balanced assessment and bonafide. **(Shri D.K. Bose, Hony. General Secretary, Hindustan Football Club, New Delhi against the Editor, The Times of India, New Delhi. Complaint No. 36, PCI Review, January 2011)**

The character of a person is a precious treasure and the press has no right to damage the reputation of a person in the garb of reporting. The ethics demand that the press should eschew publication of baseless and graceless material. **(Smt. Bhanu and Shri Sreechandra, Bangalore against the Editor, Ranjane/Bodhane/ Prochodhane Lankesh weekly, Bangalore, Karnataka, Complaint No. 44, PCI Review, January 2011)**

Though satire is an original form of literary writing, defamatory statements should not be carried in this guise. **(Shri Ajay Kumar Pandey @ Sidhi Pandey, Deputy Chief Councillor, Nagar Panchayat, Daudnagar, Aurangabad against the Editor, Dainik Jagran, Patna, Complaint No. 50, PCI Review, January 2011)**

Communal, Casteist, Anti National and Anti Religious Writings

The press is expected to use its power to promote and contribute in maintaining communal harmony. **(Choudhary Nafees Ahmed and others, Chhattarpur, M.P. against the Editor, Dainik Chhattarpur Bhraman, M.P., Complaint No. 67, PCI Review, July, 2010)**

An editor of a newspaper enjoys great deal of liberty in penning his opinion/analysis in an editorial. However, he has the simultaneous responsibility to ensure that he does not violate any laws of the land nor transgress the ethical bounds and obligations towards the society and the nation while writing against any institutionalized threat to the country's integrity and sovereignty. Indeed in larger interest, it is essential to ensure factual accuracy of the incidents being commented on and then comment in a way that would cause an awakening rather than provoke animosity. An editor has to bear in mind that the discretion he enjoys for effective discharge of his duties must be exercised in public interest and for promoting public good must not under any circumstances encourage division along communal or casteist lines. **(Md. Adil Jhadodiya, Vice President, Masjid Committee, Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh against the Editor, Nandgaon Times, Chhattisgarh, Complaint No. 68, PCI Review, July 2010)**

The fabric of a community is very delicate. The newspapers and periodicals should be sensitive in use of words with different connotation at different places and in different languages. **(Shri Iswar Tudu, Secretary, All India Scheduled Caste/Tribes Council, Kolkata against The Editor, Bartaman, Kolkata, West Bengal, Complaint No. 66, PCI Review, October 2010)**

**Subject Index of Orders Passed by the Press and
Registration Appellate Board (2010-2011)**

S. No.	Name of Parties	Date of Order	Order Passed
1.	Appeal of Shri V Thambumalla, Editor, Idimurasu, Tamil Monthly against order dated 13.7.2009 passed by District Revenue Officer, Villupuram, Tamil Nadu.	21.5.2010	The Board decided that without interfering with the impugned order, the appellant may file a fresh declaration complying with all the requirements, before District Revenue Officer, Villupuram, Tamil Nadu
2.	Appeal of Shri Khusalbhai Rambhai Verma, Owner and Publisher, Untold Truth Magazine, Ahmedabad against order dated 7.7.2005 passed by Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Ahmedabad.	21.5.2010	The Board directed the RNI to renew the same title existing prior to the cancellation of the declaration, to the appellant and gave the appellant the liberty to file a fresh declaration

S. No.	Name of Parties	Date of Order	Order Passed
3.	Appeal of Shri A Basha, Editor, Neethi Tharasu, Tamil fortnightly, Chennai against order dated 4.7.2008 passed by Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Egmore, Chennai.	21.5.2010	Dismissed for non-pursuance
4.	Appeal of Mrs. Latha Rangaswamy, owner/printer/publisher, Navika, Kannada daily against order dated 30.11.2009 passed by Deputy Commissioner & District Magistrate, Shimoga, Karnataka.	21.5.2010	Disposed of as settled and withdrawn
5.	Appeal of Appeal of Shri Jaipal Singh, Editor, Hindustan Bol Raha Hai, Hindi Monthly, Dehradun, Uttarakhand against order dated 13.4.2010 passed by Press Registrar/City Magistrate, Dehradun, Uttarakhand regarding cancellation of declaration.	14.9.2010	The Board directed the respondent to conduct fresh inquiry duly affording the appellant an opportunity of hearing and the operation of the order dated 13.4.2010 stayed
6.	Appeal of Shri T.J. Anil, Shimoga, Karnataka vs. order dated 19.11.2009 passed by Deputy Commissioner and District Magistrate, Shimoga, Karnataka.	14.9.2010	Dismissed
7.	Appeal of Shri Akhil Singh, Editor, Sting Operation Vigilance, Hindi fortnightly, Bulandshahar, U.P. against (i) an order dated 15.12.2008 passed by the Registrar of Newspapers for India, New Delhi and letter No. 78/ID/Title/208-09 dated June 6, 2008 of District Magistrate, Bulandshahar, U.P.	20.12.2010	Disposed off

S. No.	Name of Parties	Date of Order	Order Passed
8.	Appeal of Mrs. Latha Rangaswamy, Owner, Printer and Publisher, Navika, Kannada daily, Shimoga vs. Deputy Commissioner and District Magistrate, Shimoga, Karnataka order dated 14.1.2009 and Shri Gopal S Yadagere, Shimoga.	20.12.2010	Closed as withdrawn

