

# **PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA**

**Annual Report**  
**(April 1, 2006 - March 31, 2007)**

**New Delhi**

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# Press Council of India

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

Chairman: Mr. Justice G.N. Ray

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

NAME	ORGANIZATION NOMINATED BY	NEWSPAPER
Shri K S Sachidananda Murthy	Editors Guild of India, All India Newspaper Editors' Conference, Hindi Samachar Patra Sammelan	Malayala Manorama Kerala
Shri Kundan R. Vyas	Editors Guild of India, All India Newspaper Editors' Conference, Hindi Samachar Patra Sammelan	Janmbhoomi Gujarat
Shri Jagjit Singh Dardi	Editors Guild of India, All India Newspaper Editors' Conference, Hindi Samachar Patra Sammelan	Chardikala, Punjab
Shri Uttam Chandra Sharma	Editors Guild of India, All India Newspaper Editors' Conference, Hindi Samachar Patra Sammelan	Muzzafarnagar Bulletin, Uttar Pradesh
Shri Rajeeva Kumar Arora	Editors Guild of India, All India Newspaper Editors' Conference, Hindi Samachar Patra Sammelan	Gandiva Uttar Pradesh

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

Shri Hiranmay Karlekar	Editors Guild of India, All India Newspaper Editors' Conference, Hindi Samachar Patra Sammelan	The Pioneer 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, Press Association, Working News Cameramen's Association	Visalaandhra Andhra Pradesh
Shri Geetarth Pathak	Indian Journalists Union, Press Association, Working News Cameramen's Association	Asam Bani, Assam
Shri Anant Bagaitkar	Indian Journalists Union, Press Association, Working News Cameramen's Association	Sakal Maharashtra
Shri Joginder Chawla	Indian Journalists Union, Press Association, Working News Cameramen's Association	Freelancer
Shri Devendra Chintan	Indian Journalists Union, Press Association, Working News Cameramen's Association	Indian Press Agency
Shri Vinay Kumar	Indian Journalists Union, Press Association, Working News Cameramen's Association	The Hindu New Delhi

<b>NAME</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION NOMINATED BY</b>	<b>NEWSPAPER</b>
Shri S.N. Sinha	Indian Journalists Union, Press Association, Working News Cameramen's Association	The Hindustan Times New Delhi

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

Shri Abhay Chhajlani	Indian Newspapers Society, Indian Languages Newspapers Association	Nai Dunia Madhya Pradesh
Shri Hormusji Nusserwanji Cama	Indian Newspapers Society, Indian Languages Newspapers Association	Bombay Samachar Maharashtra
Shri Vijay Kumar Chopra	Indian Newspapers Society, Indian Languages Newspapers Association	Hind Samachar Punjab
Shri Pratap T. Shah	Indian Newspapers Society, Indian Languages Newspapers Association	Saurashtra Samachar, Gujarat
Shri Ramesh Gupta	Indian Newspapers Society, Indian Languages Newspapers Association, Association of Small Newspapers of India	Tej Weekly New Delhi
Shri Keshav Dutt Chandola	Indian Newspapers Society, Indian Languages Newspapers Association, Association of Small Newspapers of India	Nagraj Darpan Uttar Pradesh

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

Shri M. K. Laul	United News of India
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**Nominees of University Grants Commission, Sahitya Academy and Bar Council of India (Clause (D) of Sub-Section (3) of Section 5)**

Shri Partap Pawar	University Grants Commission
Shri K.K. Thomas	Bar Council of India
Dr. Lalit Mangotra	Sahitya Academy

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

Shri Gurudas Kamat	(Lok Sabha)
Dr. Sebastian Paul	(Lok Sabha)
Shri Laxman Singh	(Lok Sabha)
Shri Yashwant Sinha	(Rajya Sabha)
Dr. Prabha Thakur	(Rajya Sabha)

**Secretary : Smt. Vibha Bhargava**

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## Foreword

I have pleasure in placing in the hands of our readers the Annual Report of the Press Council for the year 2006-07. The Annual Report mainly contains the summary of the Council's activities in the previous year, an account of the state of the press in the country and events relating to it both in this country as well as in the world and a statement of the audited accounts. The report is tabled in the Parliament as required by the statute.

The Council strives to bring its forum before the press and the people as an alternative to courts by providing quick and cost free justice at their doorstep. Its object is to set standards in journalism by encouraging self-regulation and at the same time to ensure that its freedom is not trampled upon.

From the information given in this Annual Report it will be seen that the Council has attempted in varied ways to fulfil its objectives. There is, however, yet a long way to traverse.

I hope and trust that the readers will find this report as useful and informative as the earlier ones.

New Delhi  
March 31, 2007

G.N. Ray  
**Chairman**  
**Press Council of India**

## CHAPTER - I

# General Review

Year 2006-07 was in many ways the year of the media. Worldwide the media determined for the countries of their agendas and policies. This speaks volumes about the power of the people to whom the media gives a voice and a platform. In India, the press witnessed the heated debate over the Draft Broadcast Bill, 2006. In an apparent attempt to prevent television channels from airing anti-national and obscene programmes, the government is formulating a mechanism for content regulation that would allow the proposed broadcasting regulatory authority to take punitive measure including cancellation of licence. The Broadcasting Services Regulation Bill, 2006, which is expected to be introduced in Parliament clearly specifies that no television company would be allowed to broadcast content that is not in conformity with the Content Code. The Press Council of India has extended its full support to the principles of self-regulation in the media, be it print or electronic. Reacting to the recent debate over the provisions of the proposed Broadcast Bill, 2006, the Council has stated that the Constitution of the Country provides for unhindered freedom of speech and expression, subject only to reasonable restrictions specified under Article 19(2) thereof. There are also sufficient laws that arm the civil and police authorities to take action against violation of a specific law.

The Indian Post Office (Amendment) Bill 2006, also criticised for its attempt to monopolise the most lucrative segment of handling letters and packets upto 300 grams in favour of the department of post is also aimed at scrapping subsidies to print media house.

The government questioned the role and values of the electronic media in coverage of some sting operations. The centre is considering bringing in a stringent law to deal with sting. This was announced by the government while giving a clean chit to Minister of State for Home Shri Manikrao Gavit accused of having a conversation with a jailed criminal, saying his voice did not match with that of the person in a tape aired by a TV channel.

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

### **Introduction**

The Press Council of India was set up in the year 1966 on the recommendations of the First Press Commission. In the discharge of its two-fold function of preserving

the freedom of press and maintaining and improving standards of press, the Council performs a multifaceted role. On the one hand it acts as a quasi-judicial authority with all the powers of a Civil Court and on the other, in its advisory capacity, it guides the press as well as the authorities on any matter that may have a bearing on the freedom of press and in its preservation. The Press Council is headed by a Chairman who has by convention been a sitting/retired judge of the Supreme Court of India. The Council consists of 28 other members of whom 20 represent the press, five are from the two houses of the Parliament and three represent the cultural, literary and legal fields and are nominated by Sahitya Academy, University Grants Commission and the Bar Council of India. The Council is funded by the revenue collected by it from the fee levied on the registered newspapers of the country on the basis of their circulation, the deficit being made good by way of grant by the Central Government. Though to some extent, the Council is dependent on the government for finances, it has remained completely uninfluenced by any extraneous consideration in discharge of its quasi-judicial functions.

As a quasi-judicial body, the Council is being approached by way of more and more complaints every year. This is not to say that instances of violation of ethics or that of threats to the press freedom are on the increase. In fact, the Council feels that the press as well as those holding the reins of power are by and large acting responsibly. The reason for steady increase in the number of complaints being lodged with it is that the Council's forum is being preferred over courts where the proceedings, by their very nature, are costly and time consuming. The Council strives to provide quick justice at the doorstep and to this end, it regularly meets in different parts of the country to hear cases from that region.

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

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

## **Working of the Council**

### **April 1, 2006-March 31, 2007**

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

The full Council held four sittings during the reviewed year to discuss matters having vital bearing on press freedom and its standards.

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

Generally all Committees i.e. Standing Committees and ad-hoc Committees are headed by the Chairman of the Council. The Committees of the Council especially the Inquiry Committees, bear large quantum of work load. The composition of the two Inquiry Committees of the Council in the year under review is detailed below:-

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

1. Shri Kundan R Vyas
2. Shri Hiranmay Karlekar
3. Shri Anant Bagaitkar
4. Shri Abhay Chhajlani
5. Shri Ramesh Gupta
6. Shri K K Thoma
7. Shri Jagjit Singh Dardi
8. Shri K Sreenivas Reddy
9. Shri Devendra Chantan
10. Shri S N Sinha

11. Shri Vijay Kumar Chopra
12. Dr. Prabha Thakur, M.P.
13. Shri Laxman Singh, M.P.
14. Shri Gurudas Kamat, M.P.

### **Inquiry Committee (II)**

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

The Inquiry Committees, presided over by the Chairman of the Council shouldered the major quantum of the workload of the Council by initiating inquiries in respect of the complaints received by the Council. The Committees held 10 sittings in different parts of the country in the year under review. The proceedings of the Committees were open to the general public. The parties to the cases were allowed to substantiate their stand through relevant evidence, oral or documentary. They were also allowed to be represented by lawyers. The Inquiry Committees at the close of their respective inquiries, considered the records and oral submissions advanced by the parties and submitted their recommendations, with regard to the cases inquired into, to the Council for final decision. In the 10 meetings held during the financial year, the Committees considered a total of 204 matters and made recommendations to the Council for final adjudication of the said matters.

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

- (1) Fact Finding Committee in the complaint of Shri Samiudeen Neelu, Staff Reporter/Correspondent, Amar Ujala, Lakhimpur against the Superintendent of Police, Lakhimpur, Khiri, (U.P).
- (2) Sub-Committee on Formulating Model Press Accreditation Policy.
- (3) Sub-Committee to look into the Problems of Small and Medium Newspapers.
- (4) Assesment Committee to make on the spot study in the matters of threats meted out to the media in Assam by ULFA.

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

1. Human Rights, Freedom of Expression and Terrorism for U.N. sub-committee on Human Rights.
2. Proposed Law for Advertisement Standards Regulatory Commission (ASRC).
3. Short term measures for prevention of misleading advertisement.
4. Indo-Ivorian Joint Agreement.
5. Curbing obscenity in print media.
6. Consultation to UNDP and CMS regarding media coverage of AIDS/HIV.
7. Competition (Amendment) Bill 2006.

### **Complaints before the Council**

During the year under review, a total of 755 complaints were instituted in the Council. Of these 200 complaints were by the Press against authorities of the Government for violation of press freedom and 555 complaints were directed against the press for breach of journalistic ethics. With 760 matters pending from the last year, there were a total of 1515 matters for disposal by the Council. The Council also took suo-motu cognizance of threats to press freedom in four cases, the last being the threat to the media in NE by ULFA.. Of these 850 matters were disposed of during the year, either by way of adjudication or through summary disposal by the Chairman on account of settlement by the mediation of the Chairman or due to lack of sufficient grounds for holding inquiries or non-prosecution, (withdrawal) or on account of matters having become sub-judice. In all 665 matters were being

processed at the close of the year including 37 matters pending before the Inquiry Committee. A detailed statement of the institution and disposal of complaints is at Annexure-A.

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 and can be seen in Annexure H and I.

### **Press & Registration Appellate Board**

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

At the beginning of the period under review two appeals were pending before the board and seven more appeals were preferred. The board held two sittings during the year. Out of these nine appeals, five appeals were disposed of. Four appeals are pending for consideration before the Appellate Board alongwith one more appeal as per orders dated 19.12.2006 of the Hon'ble High Court of Judicature at Bombay, Nagpur.

### **Vigilance Activities**

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

### **Right to Information Act**

The Right to Information Act, 2005 came into existence on the 15th June, 2005 to provide for setting practical regime of right to information for citizens to secure access to information under the control of public authorities, in order to promote transparency and accountability in the working of every public authority. Accordingly, under the provisions of the Act, the Press Council of India has nominated three of its officers as a Public Information Officer and Assistant Public Information Officers respectively.

### **International Interaction**

The Council also initiated a process of consultation and dialogue with press/

media Council 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 world wide. As a part of these efforts, the Chairman of the Council held discussions with Chairman of the British Press Complaints Commission, Sir Meyer in London as also with representatives/Chairpersons of Turkish Press Council, Azerbaijan Press Council's, WAPC General Secretary from U.S. Christopher R Conybeare, Media Council of Kenya, Media Council of Tanzania, Bangladesh Press Council and Media Council of Zambia.

Between June 8-12, 2006, he also represented the Council at Istanbul, Turkey in the Executive Council/General Body meeting of the WAPC, the umbrella organisation of the Press Councils and was elected the Vice President of the body with Prof. Oktay Eksi of Turkey as its President. The WAPC decided at this meeting to set up a permanent Head Quarter at Turkey instead of a floating Head Quarter with the incumbent Chairman.

The Chairman of the Council also addressed the Ethiopian Parliamentary Delegation visiting the country on the invitation of the Lok Sabha Secretariat.

### **Seminars and Workshops**

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

### **National Press Day Celebrations, 2006**

The National Press Day, this year was commemorated by the Press Council of India with an exhibition on photo journalism and a two day International Symposia on November 16-17, 2006 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on Media matters to discuss “**Journalism, Ethics and Society in the Age of Globalization**” with special emphasis on “**Role of Self Regulatory Bodies in Media**” and “**Ethics in Media**”. Hon'ble President of India, H.E. Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam inaugurated the celebrations in the presence of Hon'ble Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Mr. Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi and the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, Smt. Shiela Dixit. A Souvenir released on the occasion carried valuable articles on the subject. Representatives of 11 countries participated in the deliberations while several others made written contributions that greatly enriched the discussion. The Conclusions and Recommendations drawn up have been compiled as Symposia Document and can be perused at (Annexure- C)

The exhibition marked the special acknowledgement of the role of photo journalism as a chronicle of tomorrow's history. The Hon'ble Prime Minister of

India, Dr. Manmohan Singh after inaugurating the exhibition which featured works of photographers of international repute on November 15, 2006 at AIFACS Hall, Rafi Marg, New Delhi on November 15, 2006 recorded his opinion “*These photographs offer a rich visual record of an India on the move. I hope they inspire our photographers and journalists to seek greater glory in their profession*”. The same day the Guest of Honour, Mr. Somnath Chatterjee Hon’ble Speaker of the Lok Sabha, released the Compendium on “**Self-Regulatory Mechanisms for the Media**”, that provides at a glance, information on media regulatory bodies across the world.

The Press Council of India in collaboration with Indian Institute of Mass Communication, Dhenkanal also organised a seminar to commemorate the birth of the first newspaper of India namely, 'Hicky's Gazette' which started publication from January 29 and on "Media Ethics" on January 18, 2007 at Dhenkanal, Bhubneswar.

### **Hindi Diwas-2006**

Like every year, Hindi Fortnight (Pakhwada) was observed in the Secretariat from 14.9.2006 to 28.9.2006. A function commemorating Hindi Diwas was organized on September 14, 2007 in the Secretariat. The employees of the Council were also given awards under ‘Protsahan Yojana’ and Hindi training for their participation/contribution in encouraging the use of language in the office practices and procedures. A workshop was also organized on 14.1.2007 to improve the use of Hindi in the Secretariat.

### **Tributes**

The Council condoled the demise of Shri Harbhajan Singh, former member, Press Council of India, Editor of Indian Observer and President of All India Small & Medium Newspapers Federation and Veteran Journalist who passed away on April 5, 2006. Shri Harbhajan Singh was the member of the Council between 1982-1985 and 1985-1988.

### **Changes in Membership**

During the reviewed year S/Shri Gurudas Kamat (MP) Lok Sabha and Yashwant Sinha (MP) Rajya Sabha were nominated as members of the Press Council for the remaining IXth term w.e.f. May 26, 2006 and August 11, 2006 respectively in accordance with the provisions of Sub Section (3) and Sub Section (5) of Section (6) of the Press Council Act in vacancies caused by resignation of Shri P.K. Bansal on his induction into the Union Cabinet and completion of term of Shri Balbir K. Punj in the Rajya Sabha.

## **Reconstitution of the Press Council**

The Press Council Act, 1978 provides for re-constitution of the Council every three years. The ninth three-year term of the Council is to expire on October 11, 2007.

The process of reconstitution of the Council for its tenth term was set in motion by the Council in its meeting held on October 16, 2006. Thereafter, a press notice was issued inviting claims from association of persons/news agencies of the categories referred to in clauses (a),(b), (c) of sub-section (3) of Section 5 of the Press Council Act, 1978 for recognition by the Council under Section 5(4) of the Act. A sub-committee of the Council has been set up for the purpose of scrutinizing the claims received in response to the notice.

The process is to be completed by middle of next financial year.

### **Amendment of Regulation 3(1)(a) of Press Council (Procedure for Inquiry) Regulations 1979.**

Press Council (Procedure for Inquiry) Regulations, 1979, have been notified under Section 26 (c) prescribing the procedure for processing and conducting enquiries into the complaints filed before the Council under Section 13 of the Press Council Act leading to action under Section 14(1) or 15(4) thereof. The Council amplified these Regulations to provide them more clarity and make their citizen friendly for those who approach the Council with complaints of threats to press freedom or violation of its standards.

Pursuant to the decision of the Council, the Press Council (Procedure for Inquiry) Amendment, Regulations, 2006 were notified on 14.12.06 in Part III Section 4 of Gazette of India Extraordinary.

The Regulations as amended may be seen at Annexures - (E & K)

### **Communication received from Ministry of Information & Broadcasting regarding Ban on Bogus Advertisements Bill, 2006 introduced in Lok Sabha on 8.12.2006 by Smt. Archana Nayak, M.P.**

The Council considered the request of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting dated 18.12.2006 for the comments of the Press Council on the proposed 'Ban on Bogus Advertisements Bill 2006' introduced in the Lok Sabha on 8.12.2006 by Smt. Archana Nayak, M.P.

The Council after detailed deliberation felt that it could not support the proposed "Ban on Bogus Advertisements Bill 2006" as it might endanger the freedom of the Press and could be used to harass the newspaper. The Council held that a newspaper

has responsibility for all contents including advertisements published in the newspapers and these have already been tackled by several legislations in force. The Press Council of India has also issued comprehensive guidelines for the newspapers in respect of advertisements. The publication of unethical advertisements in print media are looked into by the Press Council of India itself and so far as electronic media is concerned, the Council reiterated that the government might consider setting up Media Monitoring Commission.

### **Union Governments stand on Council proposal for establishment of Media Monitoring Commission of India**

The Council noted that in its meeting held on 12.07.2006 at New Delhi it had resolved to reiterate its proposal of establishment of a common authority for content regulation of the media and preservation of its freedom by extending the jurisdiction of Press Council over electronic as well as the print-media and renaming it MEDIA MONITORING COMMISSION OF INDIA in the back drop of proposal to extend the jurisdiction of Working Journalists Act to the journalists of Electronic Media. Opining that the principles of ethics and morality cannot be different for print and electronic media, more so when the personnel of the media is measured by the same yardstick vis-à-vis administrative and working facilities, it had authorised the Hon'ble Chairman to take up the issue with the Government.

In pursuance thereof Hon'ble Chairman wrote to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on 20.9.2006 on the issue.

Responding to the proposal, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting vide letter dated 30.10.2006 has informed the Council that the said proposal was examined by the Consultative Committee and subsequently placed before the Group of Ministers set up on the convergence aspect. It was felt that a Content Bureau under the Convergence Commission should be set up and accordingly it was decided not to establish a Media Council separately for the electronic media. The Ministry further submitted that the regulation of content is an intrinsic part of the envisaged structure in the proposed Broadcasting Services Regulation Bill. The Ministry regretted that it will not be possible to accept the proposal of the Press Council to transform it into a Media Regulator.

The Council discussed the matter at length. It was not in agreement with the stand of the government that regulation of content is an intrinsic part of Broadcasting Services Regulation Bill, because while technological advancements may require that government regulate the modes of transmission, the constitutional freedom of speech and expression enjoyed by the media cannot be subjected to state regulation. Such regulation was acceptable only through the mechanism of self-regulation with statutory backing. Another important aspect of the matter

was the role played by the Press Council of India in promoting and protecting the press from any threats to its free functioning from any quarter, including the authority of the government. It further noted that the Working Journalist Act, 1955, had been enacted in view of the special role and responsibility of the press and fixation of wages served to ensure the free and unbiased functioning of the press. On the same analogy, the government had sought the opinion of the Press Council regarding bringing the working journalists in the electronic media within the fold of the Act. The Press Council had supported the proposal, as the journalists whether working in print or electronic media, needed protection from similar pressures and pulls. Since the working environment of the two was similar despite the difference of technology, they were bound to conform the same ethics and standards insofar the information content was concerned.

The Council, therefore, felt that it found no reason to deviate from its stand that while technological aspects may be handled separately by the Broadcasting Authority/Convergence Commission, freedom and standards of the print and electronic media should only be looked after by an independent peer body of the media, and thus Council with extended jurisdiction over electronic media and 40 years of experience behind it, was the most appropriate institution to do so. The Council, therefore, resolved to reiterate its proposal for conversion of the body into Media Monitoring Commission of India.

**Reference from Shri Taslimuddin, Minister of State for Agriculture, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution addressed to the Prime Minister regarding issue of attacks being carried out on journalists in Bihar**

The Council noted that the Central Government in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting vide letter dated 27.4.2006 has forwarded, for consideration, a copy of the letter from Prime Minister's office dated 18.4.2006, carrying the letter dated 3.4.2006 addressed to Prime Minister by Shri Taslimuddin, Union Minister of State for Agriculture, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution regarding issue of attacks being carried out on journalists in Bihar. He referred to repeated assaults in Bhagalpur, Patna etc. as a threat to democracy.

The Council noted that no specific instance was brought to the notice of the Council and while the Council had initiated an inquiry into an incident in Jehanabad, the matter had since become sub-judice. The Council, therefore, decided that the reference in hand did not warrant any action/comments from the Council.

**Judgement of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Writ Petition (Civil) No.384 of 2005 in the matter of Ajay Goswami Vs. Union of India.**

Hon'ble Supreme Court of India was seized a Public Interest Litigation regarding obscenity in The Times of India and Hindustan Times regarding its effect on minors

and the inadequacy of norms of Press Council in protecting the interest of the minors. The Union of India and Press Council of India were also respondents to the petition.

After filing the counter affidavits by other the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India pronounced its decision on December 12, 2006. Operative portion of the judgement were a landmark in judicial pronouncements.

The Hon'ble Court observed that the respondents are leading newspapers in India and they have to respect the freedom of speech and expression as is guaranteed by our constitution and in fact reaches out to its readers in responsible and decent manner. Any step to ban publishing of certain news pieces or pictures would fetter the independence of free press which is one of the hallmark of our democratic setup. Further, the Hon'ble Court was of the opinion that the submissions and the propositions of law made by the counsel for the respondents clearly established that the present petition is liable to be dismissed as the petitioner has failed to establish the need and requirement to curtail the freedom of speech and expression. The Times of India and Hindustan Times have substantial subscribers from all sections and it has been made clear by learned counsel appearing for the leading newspapers that it is not their intention to publish photographs which cater to the prurient interest. They have an internal regulatory system to ensure no objectionable photographs or matters get published. The both respondents are conscious of their responsibility towards children but at the same time it would be inappropriate to deprive the adult population of the entertainment which is well within the acceptable levels of decency on the ground that it may not be appropriate for the children. An imposition of a blanket ban on the publication of certain photographs and news items etc. will lead to a situation where the newspaper will be publishing material which caters only to children and adolescents and the adults will be deprived of reading their share of their entertainment which can be permissible under the normal norms of decency in any society. The Hon'ble judges were also of the view that a culture of 'responsible reading' should be inculcated among the readers article. No news-item should be viewed or read in isolation. It is necessary that publication must be judged as a whole and news items, advertisements or passages should not be read without the accompanying messages that is purported to be conveyed to the public. Also the members of the public and readers should not look for meanings in a picture or written article, which is not conceived to be conveyed through the picture or the news item. They believe that fertile imagination of anybody especially of minors should not be a matter that should be agitated in the court of law. In addition they also hold that news is not limited to Times of India and Hindustan Times. Any hypersensitive person can subscribe to many other newspaper of their choice, which might not be against the standards of morality of the concerned person.

The Hon'ble Court dismissed the writ petition but however observed that the proposals made by the Press Council of India to amend the Act should be seriously looked into by the Government of India and appropriate amendments be made in public interest. This matter is also under active consideration at appropriate levels and is expected to reach a logical conclusion soon.

**Order of Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in Writ Petition (Civil) No.12402/2006 filed by Shri Har Gobind Arora Vs. Union of India & Ors.**

A copy of an Order dated 21.2.2007 was received in the Secretariat of the Council in Writ Petition (Civil) No.12402/2006 filed by Shri Har Gobind Arora Vs. Union of India & Ors. Wherein the petitioner has prayed for directions to the respondents to issue strict orders to the media to prohibit them from publishing or in any way broadcasting/propagating objectionable advertisements given by the unscrupulous elements, claiming themselves magic healers and tantriks. The petitioner has further informed that notification authorizing officers of Delhi Police to take action under Section 8 of the Drug and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954, was not issued till 27<sup>th</sup> August, 2006.

The Hon'ble Delhi High Court directed the Centre and the Delhi Government to take action against newspapers which are publishing advertisements of magic healers and tantriks. It observed that newspaper and print media should also adhere to the Act. In case there is any lapse or violation of the Act by publishing the advertisements objectionable in nature and which perpetrate the practice of tantrik and magic healers, action should be taken. In this Writ Petition, The Hon'ble High Court of Delhi did not accepted the stand of the Union of India that it was the duty of the Press Council alone to regulate the press for publishing of advertisements violating 'Drug and Magic Remedies Act'.

The Council in its letter dated 4.4.2007 also informed to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in this regard that since the Press Council of India is a statutory authority required to enforce ethics, whose call goes beyond the law, and action under the referred Act needs to be taken by the agencies specified therein. Insofar as the ethics are concerned, the Press Council of India has already built up Norm No. 36(4) on the subject which reads as below:

“Advertisements which offend the provisions of the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954, or any other statute should be rejected.”

The Council will continue its efforts in giving wider publicity to the Norms being built up under Section 13(2) of the Press Council Act, 1978.

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

The Press of today primarily reflects its country's political, economic and social culture. In so far the authorities are concerned during the period under review several policy measures and operational steps to smoothen the flow of information to the media as well as to the public at large were initiated by the Government. Under the new policy provisions, steps were taken to ensure that a large entity does not monopolize the airwaves. Accordingly, no entity can win more than one FM radio station in the same city/town. And no single entity is allowed to own more than 15 percent of the total airwaves frequencies in the country. New Advertisement policy has been announced. Circulation check for small newspapers/journals with circulation upto 6,000 has been waived. More advertisements will now be released to newspapers with special emphasis on North East, Jammu and Kashmir and other remote areas. Specific measures have been prescribed in the new policy to achieve balance between the share of various categories of newspapers like small, medium, big, english and vernacular language. The new advertisement policy states that all central government advertisements will be routed through DAVP.

Continuing technological changes in newspapers were visible during the period. Editors and managements were consciously attempting to brighten up their journals to catch the attention of the readers.

Further in tune with the technological changes, the Registrar of Newspapers for India started a new initiative of providing on line verification letters to the publishers. The move would save time as well as money for the publishers besides making things hassle free and bringing in more transparency.

During the period under review (April 2006 March 2007) the Indian Press generally shouldered its responsibilities satisfactorily. Communal and separatist write-ups with inflammable tendencies were avoided and reasonably high professional standards were maintained by the press.

Given below are a collection of reports that cover important developments in the Indian Press during the year 2006-2007. The opinions expressed therein are not the opinion of the Council.

### **Readership Surveys**

#### **Indian Readership Survey**

Dainik Hindustan has succeeded to step another rung as compared to last year as per the IRS survey, 2006. According to the survey *Dainik Hindustan* has surpassed *Malayala Manorama* and has attained fifth place in the country. Total

number of Readers of *Hindustan* are 97 lakhs 24 thousand. **(Dainik Hindustan, New Delhi dated April 5, 2006)**

Indian Readership Survey has once again found *Dainik Jagran* as No.1 paper of the country. This is continuously sixth time. **(Dainik Jagran, New Delhi dated April 5, 2006)**

The Indian Readership Survey, which tracks the readership of newspapers, has once again ranked *Hindustan Times* as the most widely read newspaper in the Northern region. According to IRS 2006, Round 1 data (for January to December 2005), *Hindustan Times* has a readership of 21.26 lakh in Delhi, which is 4.35 lakh more than 16.91 lakh readers of its nearest competition. *HT* has grown by a huge 17 percent over IRS 2005 Round 1. **(Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated April 5, 2006)**

*Dainik Jagran* has once again earned first position in view of Readership. This success has been possessed by the Hindi Newspaper having 30 editions as per National Readership Survey, 2006. According to this survey this newspaper is being read by more than two crore eleven lakh readers.

As per the statistics released by the readership survey first ten position have been taken by language papers. This is for the first time that English newspaper could not take position in first ten newspapers. **(Dainik Jargan, New Delhi dated August 30, 2006)**

### **National Readership Survey**

The findings of the National Readership Survey 2006 are in. *The Times of India* has emerged as clear No.1 in Delhi, overtaking its traditional rival *Hindustan Times*.

- In Mumbai, *The Times* not only continues to be the undisputed market leader, it has further strengthened its No.1 position despite the high-decibel entry of low-priced newspapers.
- And in, a clean sweep of India's three major markets, *The Times* has gained further ground in Bangalore, where it already enjoys unchallenged leadership status.

According to the just-released NRS, which polled over 2.84 lakh households across 7,000 cities and villages, *The Times of India* is now the capital's No. daily and the newspaper of choice for 20.74 lakh readers.

In Mumbai, *TOI* has added about 80,000 new readers, from 15.92 lakh to 16.70 lakh, which puts it way beyond the reach of any other paper in the city.

Significantly, the No.2 slot is occupied by another *Times Group* publication, *Mumbai Mirror*, with a readership of 8.81 lakh.

In Bangalore, TOI has grown by 14% to 5.86 lakh readers – that’s almost two and a half lakh more than its nearest competitor.

*TOI* also continues to be the most widely read English daily in India by a massive margin – it enjoys the loyalty of over 75 lakh (or 7.5 million) readers – over 35 lakh (or 3.5 million) more than any other paper in India. (**The Times of India, New Delhi dated August 31, 2006**)

The National Readership Survey, 2006, also has some interesting data. The country’s 230 million TV viewers (in 112 million homes) now exceed its 203.6 million newspaper readers. Cinema going has declined from 51 million filmgoers to 39 million filmgoers a month. FM radio listeners now total 119 million.

Indian language newspaper readership is fast growing, especially in the Hindi belt, while the comparable figure for English dailies has been stagnating at around 21 million.

If these figures tell any story, it is that rural India, and disadvantaged “Fourth World” groups among them remain information poor, disempowered and unable to participate effectively in local governance or national affairs.

Radio remains a poor relative of Doordarshan, while most FM radio channels are urban-entertainment oriented. All India Radio’s (AIR) External Services and DD International are sadly in limbo even as the Government is now giving consideration to creating a Global (TV) Presence for Strategic Purposes to portray India’s culture and national interests through a projection of “soft power”.

The content of Prasar Bharati has declined and the guidelines for community radio, which would genuinely reach down to the grassroots, is still too narrowly conceived and hedged around. In the bargain, India is losing a most powerful tool for local governance and empowerment.

However, the print media is thrusting out into the remoter countryside, albeit slowly. Among the many inspiring experiments under way is that of *Janvani*, an interactive Oriya newspaper that has taken on a Fourth World Mission to cater to the State’s many dalits, tribes and OBCs through rural reporters drawn from their ranks and trained for the job.

Following another track, Anupam Srivastava, a communications graduate, kept wondering how he could reach out to the hitherto un-reached rural audiences. He persuaded the Patna Dairy Cooperative that there could be synergy in his publishing

a fortnightly wall newspaper that would carry news and information relevant to a rural readership, including messages about livestock health, animal feed, and other matters that the Dairy wished to propagate. In return, the Dairy should carry the wall newspaper to the 950 villages (with a population of 35,000) in the four districts of Central Bihar falling within its twice-daily milk run and hand it over to the Milk Union Secretary to paste and distribute to potential subscribers at the milk-pouring counters.

A deal was struck and, after some pretesting, *Pratibadh* (“Commitment”) was born in 1996 as a double-broadsheet. The Hindi used was simple and the type size large. Village milk union secretaries took on the role of animators to pass on local news and report on community issues. Publication of these items evoked live interest in the paper while responses to grievances enhanced its credibility as a vehicle for social communication. Subscribers began to write letters, initiating an interactive dialogic process.

Answering a need, *Pratibadh* trained local reporters and today has a band of 350 village reporters, in some 20,000 villages that it now reaches through seven State Milk Unions in Bihar, West Bengal, Uttaranchal, Haryana, Punjab, Maharashtra and Goa. It is currently printed in Hindi, Bengali, Punjabi and Marathi. Given an average of 50-60 members per village milk union, *Pratibadh* has a readership of over half a million. (**The Tribune, Chandigarh dated September 14, 2006**)

## **Press—A Ringside View**

The language newspapers are more likely to shape important economic issues and articulate them in the vernacular media since it is the vernacular media that predominantly represents the rising 200 million middle class. This view was expressed by the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India Y.V. Reddy at the council for foreign relations at New York while sharing his views on India’s economic development in its broader social context.

Referring to the shifting balances, Dr. Reddy pointed out that “so far, the discussions have percolated from the English media to the vernacular with the divide between the English media and the vernacular corresponding roughly to a socio-economic or urban rural divide”.

Dr. Reddy pointed out that 17 leading English newspapers have a combined circulation of 6.3 million and readership of 17.9 million, while 54 leading vernacular newspapers in India have a circulation of 21.4 million and a readership of 197.2 million.

So, important issues are most likely to be articulated and shaped by the vernacular media and distilled up to the English media. (**The Asian Age, New Delhi dated May 15, 2006**)

The Indian Newspaper Society (INS) urged Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to back the newspaper industry's request for rationalisation of customs duties on newsprint and printing machinery and its plea for exemption of newsprint from VAT.

The Prime Minister, on his part, has assured the INS of support in resolving major issues before the industry.

A delegation of 25 members of the INS executive committee which met Prime Minister at his residence on May 15, 2006, apprised him of the economic challenges the newspaper industry has been facing.

INS President Jacob Mathew spoke of the financial stress that the industry was undergoing on account of rising newsprint prices.

He said that current newsprint prices had touched unprecedented levels, and could rise further. As a result, the economics of producing a newspaper had been greatly strained. (**The Indian Express, New Delhi dated May 17, 2006**)

Information and Broadcasting Minister PR Dasmunsi on May 16, 2006 said that the Government would not bring any law to stop sting operation by television or print journalist. Instead, the complaints against the media could be sent to the Press Council of India.

"There should be no regulation by the I and B ministry on sting operations. There should be self-regulation by the media organisations on this vital issue," said Dasmunsi while informing Rajya Sabha on the working of the Ministry.

The Minister announced that the Government would increase advertisement in rural and regional newspapers because they carry basic news related to people at the grassroots.

Critical of the wrong projection of women and children in print media as well, Dasmunsi said a Task Force would go into the entire issue. The Task Force would be asked to submit its observations within 30 days, he said, adding that it was necessitated by large-scale violation of the code of conduct.

In a relief to small newspapers, Dasmunsi said the DAVP would release advertisements to small newspapers with 6,000 copies without any circulation check.

For newspapers between 25,000-75,000 circulation, the DAVP would release advertisements on the basis of statutory auditing and not on the basis of certification by the Audit Bureau Circulation (ABC).

Beyond 75,000 circulation, the present mechanism of ABC certification would continue, the Minister said. **(The Pioneer, New Delhi dated May 17, 2006)**

This is the first time the Government has intervened in the stalemate since word came about the decision of the UNI's Board of Directors to sell a major stake to the Essel Group. Mr. Dasmunsi said he sought the postponement to secure more time for the Government to study the issue in depth and interact with the employees and present management of UNI, besides the Essel Group. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated September 26, 2006)**

India moved up one place and neighbouring Pakistan went down seven places among 168 nations in the Press Freedom Index compiled by global media watchdog Reporters without Borders.

Though India moved up to the 105<sup>th</sup> position from the 106<sup>th</sup> last year, press freedom was nowhere near the level of 2002 when it was placed 80<sup>th</sup> among 168 countries. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated October 27, 2006)**

In June this year, *Mid Day*, the Mumbai-based tabloid, launched its Bangalore edition. Soon after, the *Times of India* Group, whose flagship *The Times of India* is the largest selling English newspaper in the city, acquired *Vijay Times* – an English daily that occupies the third slot in terms of circulation after *TOI* and *Deccan Herald*. And now *Deccan Chronicle* (DC), which is the top selling English newspaper in Hyderabad, has announced its plans to launch an edition in the city. That means that the Hyderabad heavyweight too will begin to fight tooth and nail for a share of the Bangalore readership.

So what prompted this sudden spike in media interest in Bangalore? After all, with *Deccan Herald* – the number one English paper in Bangalore before *The Times of India* proceeded to wipe the floor with it – struggling to reclaim its space, and *The Hindu* and *The New Indian Express* too hanging in there, maintaining their somewhat marginal presence, the city's English print media league table certainly looks a bit crowded right now. Media experts and industry insiders, however, feel that the interest in Bangalore has come not a day too soon. And the reason for that is two-fold. First, Bangalore's sizeable cosmopolitan, high-earning and high-spending population, and second, the fact that its print advertising market is growing at a fast clip of 6 percent, next only to Delhi (6.9 per cent) and Mumbai (8.9 per cent).

Indeed, one of the biggest reasons for English newspapers to make a foray into Bangalore is the dramatic change in its demographic profile. Thanks to the boom in the information technology (IT) and business process out sourcing (BPOs) industries and the consequent influx of a huge number of non-ethnic, non-local people, the composition of the Bangalore market has become highly cosmopolitan.

The other critical factor that makes Bangalore a promising hunting ground for English print media brands is its burgeoning advertising market. According to Adex data, in terms of value, print advertising in the state of Karnataka as a whole has grown by as much as 123 percent over the last four years as against a national average of about 102 percent. Of course, even now the size of the Bangalore ad market is nowhere near that of Delhi or Mumbai. Spatial Access pegs the figure in the region of Rs.557.2 crore while the size of the Delhi and Mumbai print ad markets are Rs.1,555.2 crore and Rs.1,619.9 crore, respectively. Still, the fact that the Bangalore ad market is growing so rapidly is reason enough for media brands to home in on it. **(The Telegraph, Kolkata dated November 19, 2006)**

### **Broadcast Bill, 2006**

The Government is all set to enjoy absolute power over the television and radio network with the Broadcast Bill, 2006, which is expected to be introduced in the monsoon session of Parliament.

“It will cover all aspects of television and radio,” a senior ministry official said. From mandatory sharing of news with Prasar Bharati to selecting the advertisements that can be shown in pay or free-to-air channels, the government will have a say in everything. Even the pricing module of each channel, the bouquet, the registration clauses for channels, uplinking and downlinking guidelines and the FM channels are included in the draft bill.

Terming the bill as a futuristic law, government sources said it tried to cover the emerging areas of television like digital television, including the conditional access system (CAS), and fastest growing broadcast medium – Direct To Home (DTH) television.

The purpose of the proposed law is more of self-regulation than forceful regulation, sources claimed. However, the bill recommends warnings and penalties in case of violations. “For instance, showing objectionable movies or serials during prime time may just invite a warning at first instance. In subsequent instances, it can invite penal action,” a source said.

To regulate the content of over 200 channels, the bill seeks to constitute a Broadcast Content Regulatory Authority at the national level with members from the government, broadcasters and general public. “The authority will have the power

to penalise a channel for violating the broadcast law. It will also decide on the pricing of both cable and DTH and would give suggestions on improving television viewing,” an official said.

The bill also allows monitoring bodies at state and district level to have a better control over television. “Many channels have no presence at the national level as are local in nature. Their monitoring is required at the level where they are shown”, an official explained.

The Broadcast Bill is being circulated among different government ministries for their suggestions. **(The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated June 1, 2006)**

In an apparent attempt to prevent television channels from airing anti-national and obscene programmes, the government is formulating a mechanism for content regulation that would allow the proposed broadcasting regulatory authority to take punitive measures including cancellation of licence.

The Broadcasting Services Regulation Bill, 2006, which is expected to be introduced in Parliament in the forthcoming monsoon session, clearly specifies that no television company would be allowed to broadcast content that is not in conformity with the Content Code.

Details of the content code are being drafted by a committee headed by the information and broadcasting (I&B) Secretary.

The Bill also proposes to establish a broadcasting regulatory authority of India (BRAI) on the lines of TRAI and would make it mandatory television companies to register with it and obtain a license to offer broadcasting services.

Several options are being considered for creating the system of regulation television content. One of them is to make it mandatory for broadcasting companies to appoint “internal content auditors” on the lines of company secretaries or internal auditors in other companies. They would be largely responsible for ensuring the companies adhere to the content code.

The other model is that of the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) that adjudicates on complaints against contents of advertisements.

A third option is creating a broadcasting industry representative body on lines of the Press Council of India.

Violation of the code may lead to strict punitive measures including cancellation of license, as embodied in Section 4 of the proposed Bill - if it feels that the content is likely to threaten the security and integrity of country, or threaten peace and harmony etc, or if the name or logo or symbol is obscene or vulgar or similar to a terrorist organisation.

Under the existing system, television channels and cable operators are expected to undertake self-regulation. Government sources feel that in absence of any authority, it is difficult to regulate content and more often than not, commercial interests override societal interests.

While granting BRAI the powers to cancel licenses of television channels, the Bill says that aggrieved channels will have the right to appeal against the regulator's orders.

The film Certification Appellate Tribunal would hear appeals, much on the lines it hears appeals against order of Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC). This is being done to bring content violation in the broadcasting sector on par with the films sector. **(The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated June 19, 2006)**

Media companies may be expected to react with horror to provisions of the draft Broadcasting Services Regulation Bill that seeks to regulate cross-media holdings. Legislative intent for the moment appears to be restricted to broadcasting companies, and there is only an expression of desire to curb accumulations of interest in print media. The draft Bill also seeks to set up a content and carriage regulator for the broadcasting industry. Many of the proposals are in line with comments made by this newspaper ten months ago but, as can be expected of government, almost all fall short of the ideal. First, it ought to be abundantly clear to all sensible media practitioners that efforts to make broadcast content accountable are manifestly warranted. Indian TV appears to operate on the premise that news must necessarily have its origins in the garbage bins of society. It results in perversions of the sort that were on display when Rahul Mahajan was in hospital, with TV collectively having hijacked the national agenda on the dubious premise that trivia repeated over and over again would somehow gather sufficient steam to engender popular interest. Newspapers, including this one, fell into the trap of acknowledging that the matter merited front-page interest. Such broadcast journalism deserves to be regulated, as does the prurient interest in the shallowness of so-called celebrities. Any attempts to suggest that the proposed legislation will somehow imperil freedom of speech or expression must, with a rider, be stoutly resisted. And the rider is that those seeking to regulate must possess the qualifications to do so, and the backbone to resist unwarranted intrusions from those in power.

Next, it must be said that the Bill falls woefully short of expectations in prescribing effective curbs on simultaneous management control of televisions and newspapers. Such cross-media holdings have the unfortunate effect of creating a confluence of crassness, and of vested interests. Thus purveyors of the worst professional standards among newspapers – those, for instance, who sell news space at advertising rates – are granted liberty to parade the same glossy indulgences

on television, for similar considerations and for similarly dubious reasons. (**The Statesman, New Delhi dated June 27, 2006**)

### **Trial By Media**

In a bid to restore balance between free speech and fair trial, the Law Commission came up with a set of controversial proposals to rein in what it called “trial by media”.

Reacting to aggressive coverage of crime stories, the commission recommended that the media be barred from reporting anything prejudicial to an accused, right from the time he is arrested in the course of the investigation. This is a far cry from the existing situation in which the contempt law kicks in only after the investigation is completed and the accused chargesheeted.

The recommendations go to the law minister and concerned ministries. The commission report is also tabled in Parliament, but it is not obliged to heed the recommendations.

The commission’s rationale is that competition within the media cannot be allowed to prejudge or prejudice the case against the accused by the time it goes to trial. But then such an amendment could deter the media from performing its watchdog function of exposing real time any collusion between the police and the accused.

In another controversial recommendation, the commission said High Courts should be empowered to pass “postponement” orders against any media organisation set to run a story related to the case in hand. Adding a caveat, it said this sweeping power ordering prior restraint should be exercised only in cases where the accused person could prove “real risk of serious prejudice”.

The commission has also come up with an illustrative list of categories of publications that could be prejudicial to fair trial.

The Commission headed by former Supreme Court Judge M. Jagannadha Rao said that it felt the need to highlight the problem of trial by media as there was growing interference with the administration of justice. (**The Times of India, New Delhi dated September 1, 2006**)

### **Incident of attacks on the Press**

Journalists staged a protest rally against the outlawed Kangleipak Communist Party (KCP) that allegedly took six senior scribes as hostages for not publishing or airing the full text of a press statement issued by the outfit.

KCP also allegedly banned publication of an English daily for three months for misquoting a statement.

The banned outfit took five editors of local dailies and a news editor of a local cable network as hostages. The journalists were freed the next day after the full statement was aired on the TV channel and published in the newspapers.

A spokesman of the All Manipur Working Journalists Union (AMWJU) and Editors Forum Manipur (EFM) which jointly organised the rally said the five editors and the news editor were called by the KCP to a place to discuss the publication and airing of a press statement issued by its “commander” named City Meitei.

The editors in good faith went to the place, the spokesman said, adding they were then taken to a house where they were locked up with “commander” threatening them with dire consequences for not publishing or airing the full text of the press statement.

The ‘commander’ of the militant group also banned publication of an English daily for three months for what he termed as ‘misquoting’ a statement. Sources in the paper however, denied misquoting any statement. **(The Tribune, Chandigarh dated April 19, 2006)**

The recent humiliation of six Imphal-based editors by the Kangleipak Communist Party (City Meitei faction mobile unit) deserves the strongest condemnation. Reportedly invited to a “press conference”, they were forcibly confined for a night and freed only after their respective papers published, without change, a handout, ignored earlier, regarding the outfit’s “raising day” celebrations. What is more, a “death threat” was served on an editor whose paper is known for its fearless comment. This was then said to have been commuted to a ban on his paper for three months but was subsequently withdrawn. Hats off to the journalist fraternity for standing firmly together but for which the militant group would have cashed in on borrowed bravado. The Press is no one’s enemy but there is no denying an editor’s prerogative to publish a handout or a letter after editing without, of course, changing the substance, to conform to a newspaper’s standard and style.

Society at large is silent because it is also passing through trauma. Perhaps the Press might have to decide not to publish any handouts, press releases, or calls for boycott of Republic Day and Independence Day celebrations to rein in militant groups bent on terrorising the Fourth Estate. The Manipur media must continue to uphold freedom of the Press without fear of being alone in this endeavour. **(The Statesman, New Delhi dated August 29, 2006)**

Mediapersons hit out at the ULFA for the recent threats issued to four city based journalists, and asked it to withdraw the same immediately. They were reacting to the threat, issued by ULFA commander-in-chief Paresh Barua at a meeting organised by the Journalists' Union of Assam affiliated to the Indian Journalists' Union at the Guwahati Press Club.

Several journalists and newspaper employees' union leaders spoke on the occasion. D.N. Chakravarti, editor of Dainik Asam the oldest Assamese daily came down heavily on the outfit and said ULFA had lost its ability to identify friends and foes. The ULFA is pursuing a meaningless philosophy which is proving to be self-destructive as well as harmful to the Assamese society," Chakravarti, who had earlier faced a similar threat for his critical remarks against the ULFA following the Dhemaji blasts, said. **(The Indian Express, New Delhi dated June 15, 2006)**

In the fight against Maoist Groups Shri Afzal Khan correspondent in Bhopalpatnam accused of helping the chiefs of the Sarpanch tribe, who had suffered abuses at the hands of pro-govt militia was forced to flee Chhattisgarh because the leaders of the militia had explicitly threatened to kill him.

According to reports three journalists were injured when police resorted to a lathi – charge at Seoraphuli in West Bengal's Hooghly district in a bid to prevent activists of a naxalite outfit from proceeding towards Singur to protest against the alleged forcible acquisition of farmland for the setting up of car manufacturing plant. These attacks on journalists in Seoraphuli in the West Bengal on December 8 were condemned by the journalist fraternity.

The year also saw the detention of Shri Abdul Rouf, editor on *Srinagar News* under the weapons law. The Indian authorities have been urged to provide clear and objective information about his detention. The Indian Journalists Union the press freedom organisation has said that "The rule of law should be guaranteed in Kashmir as elsewhere in India. It is unacceptable that the security forces arrest, detain and charge journalists in the most dubious circumstances. **(Compiled from various reports)**

The Rajasekhara Reddy Government in Andhra Pradesh beat a hasty retreat on February 23 on the controversial order against the print and electronic media by cancelling the GO within 12 hours after it came to light.

Anticipating an attack from the Opposition and the media, Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy summoned Chief Secretary J. Hari Narayan and got him to issue a fresh order before office hours cancelling GO Rt. No.938. The short-lived GO sought to empower the Special Commissioner, Information and Public Relations, to appoint Special Public Prosecutors to file defamation cases against publishers and editors for carrying "baseless and defamatory" reports.

The Chief Minister announced annulment of the order in the Assembly after a united Opposition criticised him for “re-creating the dark days of Emergency in Andhra Pradesh”. Dr. Reddy took the line that he was unaware of the Chief Secretary’s order until Thursday night when he found that it contained “Some embarrassing provisions” and issued immediate instructions to withdraw it.

The controversy helped opposition parties to reinforce their unity. (**The Hindu, New Delhi dated February 24, 2007**)

## **Court Cases**

The Supreme Court dismissed a public interest litigation (PIL) challenging the nomination of Shobhana Bharatia, Vice-Chairperson of HT Media Ltd and Chandan Mitra, Editor of *The Pioneer*, as members of Rajya Sabha.

The petitioner, Centre For Public Interest Litigation, had challenged their nomination to the Upper House on the ground that they did not fall under the four categories literature, science, art and social service mentioned in Article 80 (3) of the Constitution under which the President makes the nomination.

Dismissing the petition, a Bench headed by Justice Ruma Pal said that the expression “Social Service” is wide enough to cover such cases. The petitioner had argued that nomination of journalists to Rajya Sabha was being used to compromise the independence of the media. (**The Pioneer, New Delhi dated April 29, 2006**)

The Supreme Court refused to grant anticipatory bail to Sunil Mehra, editor of the magazine *Maxim*, against whom a case has been registered for publishing indecent, morphed photographs of South Indian film actress Khushboo.

When the issue was taken up for hearing, a division bench comprising Justice Arijit Pasayat and Justice R.V. Raveendran said it was an attempt by the magazine to increase its circulation. (**The Deccan Herald, Bangalore dated May 23, 2006**)

Expressing concern over the government’s failure to control obscenity in newspapers, the Supreme Court on July 7, 2006 said the issue is serious and requires investigation to lay down proper guidelines on the issue.

The apex court made strong observations while hearing a public interest litigation seeking laying down of rules to ensure that minors are not exposed to obscenity in newspapers and “U” and “A” categories to ensure this. A bench comprising Justices A.R. Lakshamanan and P.K. Balasubramanyan said, “The issue is serious and requires investigation”. Expressing dismay at the government’s failure to curb obscenity in the media, the bench said, “The government and the statutory body are not doing anything in the matter”.

Criticising the depiction of erotic and obscene materials in newspapers, the bench said it is so serious that one cannot open these newspapers in front of children.

Reputed newspapers should rise above commercial motives and stop it, observed the bench. Directing an English daily to file counter-affidavit within four weeks, the bench posted the case to August 29 for further hearing. **(The Asian Age, New Delhi dated July 8, 2006)**

Dismissing a PIL, an SC Bench on December 12, 2006 said newspapers are not meant only for children but for a cross-section of people of various age groups. “An imposition of a blanket ban on the publication of certain photographs and news items will lead to a situation where the newspaper will be publishing material which caters only to children and adolescents and adults will be deprived of reading their share of entertainment which can be permissible under the normal norms of decency in any society,” it said.

Terming the grievance of the petitioner, advocate Ajay Goswami, as nothing but hyper-sensitivity, the Bench said if any reader felt offended by the material published in *TOI* or any other newspaper, he can stop reading the newspaper.

“Any hyper-sensitive person can subscribe to many other newspapers of his choice, which might not be against the standards of morality of the concerned person,” Justice Lakshmanan said, scotching the arguments of the self-appointed moral policeman.

No news item or photograph should be viewed or read in isolation, the court advised and said, “It is necessary that publication must be judged as a whole and news items, advertisements or passages should not be read without accompanying message that is purported to be conveyed to the public”.

The court said obscenity can be defined only in the context of contemporary social mores. “While the Supreme Court of India held *Lady Chatterley’s Lover* to be obscene, in England the jury acquitted the publishers finding that the publication did not fall foul of the obscenity test,” the Bench said. **(The Times of India, New Delhi dated December 13, 2006)**

The Delhi High Court on May 22, 2006 rejected a plea made by four lawyers to restrain media from publishing its verdict which asked them not to use the data and confidential information taken away by them from the previous employer law firm Titus & Co. Chief Justice Vijender Jain rejected the plea of the lawyers – Nigerian national Alfred Adebare, Seema Ahluwalia Jhingan, Syed Alishan Naqvee and Dimpy Mohanty – after the law firm’s advocate Rajiv Nayyar said journalists have a fundamental right to freedom of expression.

Mr. Nayyar said journalists have a right to publish a report on the court proceeding as part of freedom of expression under Article 19(1)(a).

Open courts are a public forum and it is only through media coverage people are convinced that the courts render even-handed justice, the counsel said. **(The Deccan Herald, Bangalore dated May 23, 2006)**

Political sycophancy at the cost of taxpayer's money should stop, said Supreme Court on July 28, 2006 taking umbrage at full page advertisements in newspapers inserted by UPA government as well as state government in praise of top political leaders.

Of 20 such advertisements cited in a PIL, 14 related to the 60<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of former PM Rajiv Gandhi, five on Sonia Gandhi and one by Rajasthan government with photos of former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee and BJP leader L.K. Advani.

It is nothing but 'wasteful expenditure', unparalleled in any other country, said a Bench comprising Chief Justice Y.K. Sabharwal and Justices S H Kapadia and C.K. Thakker during the hearing of the PIL. **(The Times of India, New Delhi dated July 29, 2006)**

The Supreme Court said it needs to be examined whether television sting operations are in public interest.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Y.K. Sabharwal questioned the counsel for CNN-IBN editor-in-chief Rajdeep Sardesai on sting operations and surmised that they were often outsourced – people who conducted them went from channel to channel and sold them for lakhs of rupees.

This observations came in the context of a petition filed by Sardesai, who faces the prospect of being arrested and produced before the Uttar Pradesh Assembly in connection with a sting operation aired on his channel months ago.

It showed an Uttar Pradesh minister and two legislators, who appeared to have been caught on hidden camera, accepting bribe or agreeing to accept money. **(The Telegraph, Kolkata dated October 19, 2006)**

A city court has issued notices to the Audit Bureau of Circulation (ABC) and the National Readership Studies Council (NRSC) over the publication of the National Readership Survey Report-2006. Both the organisations have been asked to report to the court of the District and Sessions Magistrate (City) on December 16.

The court directive follows a petition from Jahir Ahmed of the N.M. Advertising Agency here questioning the credibility of the findings of the readership survey in the cases of newspapers in Rajasthan. The petitioner said his business suffered as

he had entered into an agreement with local daily *Rajasthan Patrika* on the basis of figures of the NRS Report - 2005 and the latest survey (NRS Report – 2006) presented a different picture on the readership of the paper.

The petitioner said while the ABC survey findings had said the circulation of *Rajasthan Patrika* was higher than of *Dainik Bhaskar*, its competitor, the NRSC, also associated with ABC, in its survey findings gave just the opposite. The NRSC Survey findings were also at variance with the findings of another study, carried out by the Indian Readership Survey, he pointed out. The court has asked for the stoppage of the implementation of the NRS Survey Report – 2006 and its further publication. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated November 26, 2006)**

The Supreme Court has added a new and significant chapter to the conservative criminal jurisprudence and given a role to media in criminal trials. It has ruled that trial courts could consider as evidence interviews given by an accused to TV channels.

The country's criminal jurisprudence, which presumes innocence in favour of the accused and goes by the principle that a hundred guilty could escape the clutches of law but not a single innocent should be punished, had not recognised the role of media in a trial.

In this light, the apex court's January 22 order that the trial court could consider admissibility of statements given by an accused to the media, is not only a significant leap in law but also a trend-setter.

This has wide implications for sting operations. The recent "entrapment" of MPs seeking bribes for local area development contracts is a case in point, as such interviews may become key evidence in corruption trials. Also, those accused who seek to use these interviews to influence investigation need to watch out. The televised confession of Ravinder Pradhan to the murder of Meerut lecturer Kavita could now have a different connotation.

The process began right at the trial court stage in Gujarat. In a murder incident of 2000, the accused, Sajidbeg Asifbeg Mirza, was allegedly beaten up by police during his custodial interrogation. When Mirza was admitted to a hospital in Surat, a local TV channel interviewed him.

Since what he said in the interview was relevant to prove his guilt, the prosecution moved the trial court requesting it to summon the videographer as witness to verify the contents of the interview.

The accused and his counsel objected, saying extra-judicial confessions before media cannot be cited as evidence during the trial in a criminal case. The trial court

did not agree with this plea and summoned the videographer to depose before it as a witness.

The accused moved the Gujarat High Court to appeal the summoning order and cited the Supreme Court judgment in the Parliament attack case. In that case, Mirza's counsel said, Ram Jethmalani, appearing for SAR Geelani, had cited a TV interview given by Mohammed Afzal to a TV channel purportedly confessing his guilt but absolving Geelani.

The HC said the apex court, in the Parliament attack case, had rejected the admissibility of Afzal's confessional statement to the TV channel as it became apparent that the interview was arranged by the police and recorded in their presence. **(The Times of India, New Delhi dated January 29, 2007)**

The Delhi High Court while appreciating the media's effort in bringing the truth to the fore pulled up police investigation and asked them to be more vigilant in probing criminal cases, while delivering the verdict in the Tandoor murder case.

"We have experienced that these days whenever media highlight some crime, investigating agencies perform their functions with much more diligence and perfection", said the division bench of Justices R S Sodhi and P K Bhasin dismissing the defence plea that the trial judge was influenced by extensive media coverage.

Besides Jessica Lall and Priyadarshini Matto, Tandoor murder case, however, was one of the cases that has closely followed by the media. The same High Court bench had recently convicted the accused in the other two cases as well.

"We find that media publicity is now becoming one of the main ground of challenge whenever some conviction takes place. Media, however, cannot be blamed for highlighting the facts which are spoken to before the cameras by the representatives of the prosecution as well as the accused", said the bench. The trial Judge G P Thareja in his judgement had said that "this case had attracted a lot of media attention, however, his decision is based on a fair, unbiased and unprejudiced analysis and assessment of the evidence before him.

The bench also dismissed the allegation of the accused against the trial Judge of being biased towards the appellant. "It was told to us that the defence at one stage during the trial moved an application to bring the case back to the same judge at Patiala House Courts, when the said judge got transferred to a civil court. Now, that he has been held guilty by the Judge he has restored to levelling of allegations of bias against that very Judge", said the bench. **(The Statesman, New Delhi dated February 20, 2007)**

The Delhi High Court has directed the Centre and the Delhi government to take action against newspapers which are publishing advertisements of magic healers and tantriks.

“Newspaper and print media should also adhere to the Act. In case there is any lapse or violation of the Act by publishing advertisements objectionable in nature and which perpetrate the practice of tantrik and magic healers, then action has to be taken and authorities should take action as provided by the laws a division bench headed by Chief Justice M.K. Sharma said.

The court was passing the order on a PIL seeking direction to the government to take action against newspapers publishing such advertisements. (**The Asian Age, New Delhi dated February 24, 2007**)

### **Press and Legislative Privileges**

The Assam Assembly witnessed a walkout by reporters from the Press Reporters’ Gallery on the last day of the three-day session over a ruling of the Speaker Tanka Bahadur Rai on the authenticity of newspaper reports.

The reporters took strong exception to the ruling of the Speaker, in which, he said, “all newspaper reports are not authentic.”

Trouble began when Bharatiya Janata Party member Ranjit Dutta drew the attention of the Government to a newspaper report regarding the death toll due to malaria in the State.

Mr. Dutta said while the official death toll in malaria in Sonitpur district was started to the eight, the newspaper report stated that the GOC of the Army’s 4 Corp based at Tezpur had claimed that 85 people had died.

The Health Minister, Himanta Biswa Sarma, said the newspaper report had no basis and official death toll was eight and not 85.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Bharat Narah clarified that the ruling party had always considered the Press as the fourth pillar of democracy and had only referred to a particular news item regarding death toll in Sonitpur district and did not say that all newspaper reports are not authentic.

The reporters returned to gallery after the matter was raised by Opposition member. (**The Hindu, New Delhi dated June 2, 2006**)

In an unanimous resolution, the Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha demanded that CNN-IBN Chief Editor Rajdeep Sardesai be brought in police custody before the House on October 27 for breach of privilege over the sting operation – ‘Neta Bikta Hai’ – telecast on February 12.

The House adopted the resolution after a debate on the interim report of the sting operation carried out by the DIG on the then Minister of State for Backward Classes Welfare Mehboob Ali of the Samajwadi Party, BJP member Somaru Ram Saroj and BSP member Anil Kumar Maurya. Ali had allegedly agreed to carry drugs in his official car in lieu of money, Maurya had taken bribe to protect an alleged criminal, Ram accepted money to sanction government funds for an NGO.

The Vidhan Sabha had constituted the Inquiry Committee on February 17 to probe into the corruption charges against the three legislators.

When Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Mohammad Azam Khan expressed fear that seven channels had sent joint teams to carry out sting operations in offices of political parties, Speaker Mata Prasad Pandey said a panel would be constituted to frame rules to check such operations. **(The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated October 2, 2006)**

With the Editor-in-Chief of CNN-IBN, Rajdeep Sardesai, agreeing to appear before the Uttar Pradesh Assembly on October 27 pursuant to a resolution passed by it and the State Government assuring the court that it would not arrest him, the Supreme Court disposed of a petition filed by Mr. Sardesai challenging the resolution.

Mr. Sardesai had sought a stay on the operation of the resolution directing him to appear in person to explain a charge of breach of privilege for telecasting a sting operation involving its MLAs.

When the petition came up for admission before a three judge Bench, comprising Chief Justice Y.K. Sabharwal, Justice C.K. Thakker and Justice R.V. Raveendran, senior counsel Mukul Rohatgi said that Mr. Sardesai would appear in person before the Assembly without any police escort. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated October 20, 2006)**

## **Media Update-India**

### **Awards, Launches, Appointments/etc. etc.**

P.V. Parthasarathy, one of the founders of *Kumudam*, a popular Tamil magazine, died on April 2, 2006. Mr. Parthasarathy was responsible for establishing a sound system of publication and distribution of the magazine, enabling it to become a household name. He relinquished his post as publisher of the *Kumudam Group of publications* in 2001.

He managed the affairs of the magazine successfully for about 60 years. It was through his efforts that *Kumdam* was available in rural areas. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated April 3, 2006)**

Harbhajan Singh, Editor, *Indian Observer* and President of the All-India Small and Medium Newspapers Federation died following a heart attack in the early hours on April 5, 2006. Harbhajan Singh, a popular figure had held important positions in the past, including being the member of the Press Council of India, Secretary General, NRI Welfare Society of India, and other organisations. **(The Tribune, Chandigarh dated April 7, 2006)**

Speaking at the Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards 2005-06 presentation ceremony in the Capital, Dr. Manmohan Singh asked the media to play a constructive role in the process of moderation and consensus building on issues of public and national interest.

The awards recognise different aspects of journalism from environmental reporting business journalism. They also cover urban and rural reporting, the mediums of print and electronic and English and Indian languages.

Deputy Editor and Delhi Chief of Bureau, *Frontline*, Praveen Swami, won the “Journalist of the Year” (Print) award along with Varghese K. George, Special correspondent of *The Indian Express*. Mr. Swami was given the award for his extensive and in-depth reports on terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and his investigations into the merchants of terror.

Mr. George had exposed the Bihar flood relief scam, which saw millions meant for flood victims siphoned off by politicians and bureaucrats.

Popular television anchor and Managing Editor *NDTV 24X7* Barkha Dutt bagged the “Journalist of the Year Award” (Broadcast) for her reports from Nagapattinam.

Swati Thyagarajan and Sutapa Deb from the same channel also won awards for “Environmental Reporting” (Broadcast) and “Regional Award-North-East” (Broadcast) respectively.

Vikaram Choudhary, also from *NDTV 24X7*, won the “Regional Award – Jammu and Kashmir” (Broadcast). Freelance journalist Ramesh Menon received the award for “Environmental Reporting” (Print) for his report on over use of pesticides turning Punjab into a poison field.

Punya Prasun Bajpai of *Aaj Tak* was presented the “Regional Award Hindi” (Broadcast) while Menka Doshi of *CNBC TV 18* received the award for “Business and Economic Journalism” (Broadcast).

*New York Times* correspondent Sommi Sengupta won in the category of “Foreign Correspondent Covering India” (Print).

Mr. Ehasn, of *The Indian Express* received the Regional Award - Jammu and Kashmir (Print) for exposing fake surrenders and how innocent villagers were paraded as militants in the Valley. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated April 13, 2006)**

For the first time in 55 years, the Supreme Court has brought out a newsletter containing a wealth of information on the working of the judiciary in the country as well as a gist of important judgements concerning the welfare of the people.

Releasing this quarterly newsletter Chief Justice of India Y.K. Sabharwal said the newsletter was intended to ensure transparency and openness in the working of the judicial system and would help in better accountability. He handed over the first copy to the Union Law Minister, H.R. Bhardwaj. The Chief Justice also released a book Supreme Court Rules, 1966 as amended up to date, which is priced at Rs.40/-

The journal gives information on appointments and transfers in the superior judiciary; a brief gist of some important judgements delivered in the last quarter and developments in the administration of justice, including improvements in the working of the system. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated April 20, 2006)**

On July 4, 1997, *The Times of India's* Mumbai edition carried its first colour photograph. Since then, the paper has gradually increased its colour pages, all the while balancing the need to look bright with the need to look sober.

This marks the first time an integrated 32-page full-colour paper is being produced in India. (In January 2003, *TOI-Delhi* became the first paper in the country to go all-colour). *Times International*, which has won wide spread appreciation since it was launched as a separate section over a year ago has been integrated with the main section in Mumbai. **(The Times of India, New Delhi dated April 26, 2006)**

The Rajasthan Government banned a controversial Hindi book, “Ve Sharm Se Hindu Kahate Hain Kyon?” (Why do they say with shame they are Hindus?), authored by a Jodhpur-based Dalit educationist, on the ground that the book is “insulting” the religious sentiments of a “particular community”.

A notification issued by the Government declared that each copy of the book, its reprints, translations and all documents containing extracts from the book would stand forfeited. Sohanlal Singaria, retired Additional Director, Education Department, is the author of the book and it has been published by Rajasthani Granthagar, Jodhpur.

According to the notification, the State Government was satisfied that the contents of the book were such that their publication hurts and insults the feelings of a particular community “with deliberate and malicious intention” and was

punishable under Sections 153-A and 295-A of Indian Penal Code. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated April 28, 2006)**

*The Telegraph* has been adjudged the Best Printed Newspaper from Asia and chosen for the Gold Award, the most prestigious prize in Asia in printing quality in newspapers.

The awards are instituted by Ifra (Germany), part of the world's leading organisation of newspaper and media publishing. The winners were picked by experts from around the world. Last year, *The Telegraph* had won the bronze.

The Telegraph has also bagged Ifra's INCQC (International Newspaper Colour Quality Club) Award. The award which has a term of two years is given to the best 50 newspapers, whose quality of printing is considered world class.

*The Telegraph*, the first Indian newspaper to win the prize in 2004-2006, has now bagged the honour for two terms in a row.

The award is instituted jointly by Ifra (Germany), the Newspaper Association of America (NAA) and the Pacific Area Newspaper Publishers' Association (Panpa Asia). The other winners of Ifra INCQC this year are *Ananda Bazar Patrika* from the ABP Group and *Malayala Manorama*. **(The Telegraph, Kolkata dated May 1, 2006)**

Leading English daily *The Pioneer* celebrated its first anniversary at a gala function that saw illustrious guests like BJP President Rajnath Singh, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik, Editor in Chief of *The Pioneer* Dr Chandan Mitra, MP Pyarimohan Mahapatara and Minister of Law and Industry Bishwa Bhusan Harichandan addressing a distinguished audience.

It was also the second anniversary of its sister publication *Odisha Bhaskar*. Holding the importance of *The Pioneer*, Rajnath Singh said that this is a newspaper that would give a new direction to the thought of the people of Orissa. He also hailed this newspaper as the only one in the country nurturing nationality and national feeling among the people. **(The Pioneer, New Delhi dated June 6, 2006)**

English news channel *NDTV 24X7* on June 13, 2006 announced the launch of a 'Southern Edition' - a daily news programme using the Opt-Out telecast technology - for its viewers in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala.

With the latest technology - a first in India it will be possible for the viewers to see news specific to their region even as the national telecast continues.

There will be no physical intervention for switching over from the national to regional news and then back to the national beam. The changeover will take only

two seconds and it will be done through satellite. (**The Hindu, New Delhi dated June 14, 2006**)

India's largest media house, *The Times of India* Group, on June 15, 2006 signed an agreement to acquire 100% stake in Vijayanand Printers Ltd. (VPL) – which publishes two Kanada newspapers *Vijay Karnataka* and *Usha Kiran* and the English daily *Vijay Times*.

The move is part of *Times Group's* efforts to deepen its local presence and develop a larger regional identity. "This agreement highlights our strong emphasis on the fast-growing regional media markets in India where readers have new aspirations and mindsets," said Vineet Jain, Managing Director of Bennett, Coleman & Co, the parent company of *The Times Group*.

All three VPL publications – *Vijay Karnataka*, *Usha Kiran* and *Vijay Times*– have ten editions. While *Vijay Karnataka* is the leader in the Kannada newspaper segment with circulation in excess of 5.5 lakh (July-Dec.2005, ABC survey), *Vijay Times* enjoys No.1 position outside Bangalore and in all other districts of Karnataka in the English language segment. (**The Times of India, New Delhi dated June 16, 2006**)

After the June 1 cover of *The Economist* featured a 14-page special on India, *Time* magazine and *Foreign Affairs*, the bimonthly publication of the Council on Foreign Affairs, also have India as their cover stories.

The cover of a recent issue of *Time* is titled "*India Inc – Why the world's biggest democracy is the next great economic superpower and what it means for America*". It depicts a classical dancer wearing a telephone operator's headset. The July/August issue of *Foreign Affairs*, which will be out later this month, in turn carries articles about India, India-US relations, civilian nuclear cooperation and Jammu and Kashmir, under the title of *The Rise of India*. (**The Asian Age, New Delhi dated June 20, 2006**)

Veteran journalist and freedom fighter Satish Chandra Kakati, former editor of *The Assam Tribune* and former Vice-President of the Editors' Guide of India, passed away at his residence on June 19, 2006. Born in October 1912 at a remote village in Nalbari district, Kakati was a graduate of the Cotton College, and had served a three-month jail-term for participating in the freedom struggle.

Initially associated with newspapers like *Hindustan Standard* and *Ananda Bazar Patrika* as Assam correspondent, Kakati joined *The Assam Tribune* in 1931 and became its editor in 1963 until he retired in 1976.

Conferred with the Padmashree in 1991 for his contribution to the development of journalism in the North-East, Kakati was a prolific writer, and wrote seven books in English and Assamese. **(The Indian Express, New Delhi dated June 21, 2006)**

Diversified media group *Bhaskar* said it would invest about Rs.90 crores to launch three editions in Punjab and has earmarked Rs. 200 crores for its FM radio segment.

“We are entering the Punjab market with editions at Amritsar, Jalandhar and Ludhiana. We will launch the first two from September while Ludhiana would start late. We expect to invest around Rs.85-90 crores for this,” *Dainik Bhaskar* Director (Marketing) Girish Agarwal said.

*The Bhaskar* group also has presence in the FM radio space with licence to operate 17 stations, for which it has earmarked an investment of Rs.200 crores.

*Bhaskar* recently launched the English daily “DNA” in Mumbai and business daily “DNA Money” in Indore. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated June 22, 2006)**

Maharashtra Chief Minister Vilasrao Deshmukh unveiled the new printing press of *The Indian Express* Group of newspaper in Navi Mumbai on July 31, 2006 morning.

The new facility is a key part of the group’s ongoing Rs.100-core investment exercise which includes a significant upgrade in technology and editorial resources. This will bring to the 74- year –old newspaper more pages, more colour showcasing its distinctive journalism.

In the coming weeks, similar facilities will be launched in New Delhi, Pune, Lucknow and Chandigarh. **(Indian Express, New Delhi dated August 1, 2006)**

*The Tribune* Trust has appointed Mr. G.S. Sidhu Damdami, Editor of *Punjabi Tribune*. He will take over the new charge on August 1. Mr. H.K. Dua, Editor in Chief of *The Tribune* group of newspaper said. **(The Tribune, Chandigarh August 1, 2006)**

R. Lakshmiopathy, publisher of Tamil daily *Dinamalar*, was on August 18 unanimously elected Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Press Trust of India, succeeding Shobhana Bhartia of the *Hindustan Times*.

N Ravi, Editor of *The Hindu*, was unanimously elected Vice-Chairman, in place of Mr. Lakshmiopathy after the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting.

Eminent physicist E.V. Chitnis, the former Chief Justice of India, S.P Bharucha, and eminent jurist Fali S. Nariman represent public interest on the Board. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated August 19, 2006)**

The Rajiv Gandhi Rashtriya Ekta Samman 2006 awards were presented at the National Conference on Communal Harmony held in the Capital.

Among the notable recipients was Devi Cherian, who was awarded the Ekta Sammam award for her outstanding achieving in social service, journalism and contribution to the development of Himachal Pradesh. A multifaceted personality, besides her involvement in social issues, Cherian is a well-regarded writer on social/ political issues and is a widely-read columnist. **(The Pioneer, New Delhi dated August 24, 2006)**

*The Wall Street Journal* – the world’s most respected financial daily-and *HT Media* Ltd., India’s second largest print media company on August 26, 2007 announced an agreement under which *HT’s* soon-to-be launched business newspaper and its website will publish *Wall Street Journal* branded pages that will contain news and information from the Journal, *The Wall Street Journal* Online at WSJ.com and Marketwatch.com. This new agreement will offer global news resources from information giant Dow-Jones. **(The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated August 27, 2006)**

The two day global HR summit ended on a note of motivation and inspiration for young corporate professionals at the Amity Business School situated in Sector-44 of Noida. The HR Excellence awards were given away to various corporate and media institutions for their contribution in efficient utilisation and human capital management.

The HR Excellence awards were given to *The Pioneer*, *Radio Mirchi*, *The Hindustan Times*, *The Tribune*, *Punjab Kesri*, *Veer Arjun*, *Ballarpur Industries* and *Yes Bank* amongst others. **(The Pioneer, New Delhi dated September 1, 2006)**

Chaitanya Kalbag takes over as Editor-in-Chief of all editions of *The Hindustan Times* on August 31. Kalbag brings with him extensive global experience in journalism. His last assignment was Managing Editor and head of editorial operations for Asia since 2000. Kalbag’s arrival at HT Media will further reinforce the leadership of *The Hindustan Times* in giving its readers world-class excellence in journalism as India, with its rapidly changing society, politics and economics takes a position of prominence on the global stage. **(The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated September 1, 2006)**

Shobhana Bhartia, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) and Vice Chairperson and Editorial Director of *HT Media Limited*, New Delhi has been elected the new Chairperson of the Audit Bureau of Circulation (ABC) for the year 2006-2007. She has been a member of the Council of Management of the Audit Bureau of Circulations since 1999 and was Deputy Chairperson for the year 2005-2006. **(The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated September 2, 2006)**

Readers in Delhi will now get their favourite Marathi newspaper in the morning.

*Loksatta*, *The Indian Express* Group's Marathi newspaper, was launched in the capital on September 6, 2006.

The edition available in Delhi will carry all the 12 supplements of the paper and will also feature a local page, *Marathi Vishwa*, covering Maharashtrians in Delhi. **(The Indian Express, New Delhi dated September 7, 2006)**

*The Hindu* will be formally launched in digital form, that is, as an e-paper on the Internet, on Sunday, September 10, 2006. The newspaper can be read at <http://epaper.thehindu.com>

Three digital editions of the newspaper – Chennai, Hyderabad, and Delhi – will be available at this first stage. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated September 8, 2006)**

Hormusji N Cama of *Bombay Samachar Weekly* was on September 18 elected President of *The Indian Newspaper Society* for the year 2006-2007 at its 67<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting.

Deepak S. Raja is the new Secretary General of the Society. **(The Statesman, New Delhi dated September 19, 2006)**

On September 26 Mr. Virbhadra Singh, Chief Minister, presented awards to six journalists for development reporting for years 2002 to 2004.

The national award was conferred on Saurav Sanyal conferred on Saurav Sanyal (*NDTV*) for 2004, the state awards to Shashi Kant Sharma (*Dainik Tribune*) and Vijay Puri (*Divya Himachal*) for 2003 and 2004, respectively. The district-level awards were bagged by Birbal Sharma (*Dainik Bhaskar*), Chanchal Pal Chauhan (*Business Standard*) and Kuldeep Chauhan (*The Tribune*). **(The Tribune, Chandigarh dated September 27, 2006)**

With effect from the issue of October 3, 2006, the format of *The Hindu* will migrate to the National Industry Standard Size. That is to say, as a consequence of web width (physical paper size) reduction, the print area will be reduced from a

width of 36 cm to 33 cm and from a height of 53 cm to 52 cm. Through this change, the newspaper will

- **Join the National Industry Standard Broadsheet Format**
- **Move in line with international trends of newspaper formats getting handier and more sleek**
- **Make more efficient use of newsprint, thereby ‘saving trees’.**

**(The Hindu, New Delhi dated October 1, 2006)**

*The Times of India* Group and *HT Media* Ltd signed a memorandum of understanding (subject to board approval) to establish a 50-50 joint venture on October 3, 2006.

The JV will function as a stand-alone business and has been set up to publish a new newspaper in Delhi that reflects the changing needs of the reader and the emergence of Delhi as an international city. The venture will draw strength from the competencies of both groups, allowing them to work together to efficiently grow an exciting and nascent market. **(The Times of India, New Delhi dated October 4, 2006)**

The birth centenary of R.K. Narayan, one of the literary greats of India, will be celebrated with the launch of a special edition of his autobiography, *My Days*, in Chennai.

The centenary edition of Narayan’s autobiography comes with illustrations by his brother, R.K. Laxman, and rare photographs, including those from his childhood that were taken by close relatives.

The edition, brought out by Chennai based *Indian Thought Publications*, also carries a new introduction by Alexander McCall Smith, which is excerpted from the book, *A novelist of all humanity*.

*My Days* (1974), Narayan’s celebrated autobiography, details the author’s childhood days and captures the growth of a great literary mind from a modest small-town beginning. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated October 10, 2006)**

Riding second quarter revenues of Rs.54.5 crore and post tax profits of Rs.3.7 crore, *NDTV* on October 17 unveiled its plan to touch revenues of \$500 million, in five years. On 2005-06 revenues of Rs.226 crore or \$ 50 million, that translates into an ambitious 10-fold jump.

For this, the Delhi-based company will focus on ‘triple play’. That is, capitalise on synergies between TV, the Internet and the mobile phone, a model that’s gradually becoming an industry standard across the world.

Meanwhile, the company plans to develop into a “bouquet of channels with entertainment and lifestyle”. For this, the *NDTV* board has approved a new model, where a new 100 per cent subsidiary, *NDTV Ventures*, will look beyond news. **(The Indian Express, New Delhi dated October 18, 2006)**

*The Indian Express* Group on November 2 announced a content agreement with *The Economist*, one of the world’s most influential news magazines.

Under the agreement, *The Indian Express*, *The Financial Express* and their websites will publish content from *The Economist* Newspaper within a branded page.

This new agreement will regularly offer leading global content from *The Economist* on an exclusive basis for India readers, including its widely respected Special Reports.

“Today, in an increasingly globalised world, it is not enough for our newspapers to bring our readers the best coverage of what is happening within the country. As the Indian business and entrepreneurial mind becomes more global, it needs wisdom and information on what is happening around the world, and quickly.

*The Economist* is one of the most respected and successful publications in the world, with an unrivaled track record of insightful journalism. This unique agreement between *The Indian Express Group* and *The Economist* emphasises the commitment to providing readers absolutely the best in news and views. **(The Indian Express, New Delhi dated November 3, 2006)**

*The Indian Express* has been awarded the International Press Institute India Award for excellence in journalism during 2005.

The work done by the newspaper to expose the Bihar flood scam as well as the investigation into the missing tiger from Indian wildlife sanctuaries was chosen the best example of furtherance of the public interest by a media organisation during 2005. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated November 19, 2006)**

Two journalists, Shri Sheetla Singh and Shri Vijay Kumar, were among the many other recipients of Yash Bharti Award given by the Government of U.P. **(The Jansatta, New Delhi dated November 20, 2006)**

Last year, we saw and were moved by 2004’s winning photo of a woman in Tamil Nadu mourning the death of a tsunami victim. This year, too, we shall get to

see many such compelling images at the World Press Photo Exhibition to be held in Mumbai from December 16 to December 30.

Brought to India for the fourth time by *The Express Group*, the exhibition – displaying what is arguably one of the most prestigious photojournalism contests in the world – will be on view at *The Express Towers* in Mumbai.

Under the aegis of the World Press Photo Foundation, a Dutch organisation based in Amsterdam that works all the year round to reward the best work in photojournalism, an independent 13-member international jury judges the entries (in 10 different categories) submitted by photojournalists, agencies, newspapers and magazines from all over the world. This year's competition attracted 4,448 photographers from 122 countries.

Founded in 1955, the World Press Photo Foundation is an independent platform for international Press photography which holds the annual World Press Photo contest and the corresponding yearbook and exhibition. Not only does it aim to increase public interest in Press photography, it also stimulates discussions about aspects of photojournalism among professionals.

Worldwide, World Press Photo is sponsored by *Canon* and *TNT*. For *The Express Group*, which presents World Press Photo in India, the association is a matter of great pride as the newspaper has always stood for the best encapsulation of news and Press photography. **(The Indian Express, New Delhi dated November 26, 2006)**

Dainik Jagran received media Excellency Award 2006 at Noida by Federation of Noida Residents. **(Dainik Jagran, New Delhi November 27, 2006)**

A fresh price war among the leading newspapers in the State Capital is proving beneficiary for the readers as they are getting their newspaper at an all-time low of 50 paise per copy.

Last week, the announcement of the launch of a new Hindi daily, *News Today*, in Jaipur added to the price war. A copy of *News Today* will have an introductory price of Re.1 per copy.

*The Rajasthan Patrika*, *Bhaskar* and *Dainik Navjoyti*, the three leading newspapers of the State, having multiple editions in all the major towns of the State, immediately announced the slashing of price of their publications. But this price war, had benefited no one but the readers who can now keep themselves updated with as low a price of just 50 paise. **(The Pioneer, New Delhi dated November 30, 2006)**

The Delhi Media Centre for Research and Development was inaugurated by Centre for Indian Trade Unions President M.K. Pandhe on December 3, 2006. An initiative of the Delhi Union of Journalists launched in collaboration with the Printers Service Corporation, the Centre is the first-of-its kind facility for journalists that comprises a rooftop amphitheatre. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated December 4, 2006)**

*Indian Express* reporters Varghese K. George and Jay Mazoomdaar were awarded the International Press Institute-India Award for Excellence in Journalism, 2006 for their reports on the Bihar flood scam and the missing tigers of Sariska respectively. **(The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated December 9, 2006)**

The Editor-in-Chief and Group CEO, *The Indian Express*, Shekhar Gupta described the philosophy behind the Ramnath Goenka India Press Photo Awards, 2006 – that even in the time of the moving image, press photography is a special skill to be treasured and paid tribute to. In its second edition, the Awards ceremony on December 15, 2006 evening honoured 13 photo journalists from across the country, who won awards in several categories.

Ramnath Goenka IPP Picture of The Year Award 2006: Vipin Pawar (DNA)

Spot News (Single) Amit Dave (*Reuters*)

General News (Single) Aziz Bhutta ( *Rajasthan Patrika*)

General News (Picture Story) Rafiq Maqbool (*Associated Press*)

Sports Action Feature (Single) Altaf Qadri (*European Press Photo Agency*)

People in the News (Single) Prashant Nadkar (*The Indian-Express*)

People in the News (Story) Yasin Dar (*Freelancer*)

Nature and Environment, (Single) Ashima Narain, Freelancer

Daily Life (Single) Manish Swarup, (*Associated Press*)

Daily Life (Story) Sohrab Hura, (*Freelancer*)

Arts and Entertainment (Single) Mahendra Parikh, (*The Indian Express*)

Contemporary Issue (Single) Arvind Jain (*The Week*)

Contemporary Issue (Story) Samkit Shah (Freelancer)

**(The Indian Express, New Delhi dated December 16 , 2006)**

An interview with Aniel Matherani, former Indian Ambassador to Croatia, on the Iraqi oil scam that cost Natwar Singh his job as External Affairs Minister, has earned Saurabh Shukla of *India Today* the first-ever M.S. Oberoi Media Award.

Five other journalists, including Verghese K George of *Indian Express* and Rohit Khanna of *CNN-IBN*, have been honoured with the awards, instituted by Transparency International for excellence in exposing corruption through media.

While George and Khanna got Gold awards, the Silver awards were shared by Shukla for his interview in *Aaj Tak*, M.L. Narasimha Reddy of Telugu daily *Eenadu* and Samudhragupta Kashyap of *Indian Express* in the print category and Siddharatha Gautam of *CNN-IBN* in the electronic category. (**The Tribune, Chandigarh dated December 29, 2006**)

*The Times of India* has been adjudged the most exciting media brand of 2006 by India's marketing community. In a survey of all brands that generated the most excitement or buzz in 2006, marketing professionals ranked *TOI* at No.7 making it the only media brand in the Top 25. (**The Times of India, New Delhi dated January 12, 2007**)

Bangalore has just got a brand new newspaper – the Kannada edition of the buzziest media brand, *The Times of India. TOI Kannada*, which hit the stands on January 16, 2007 brings to Kannadigas *TOI's* vivaciousness and professionalism packaged in all colour with a touch of class. *TOI*, the world's No.1 English broadsheet daily, has already made a huge impact with its English edition in Bangalore where it's the market leader for several years. (**The Times of India, New Delhi dated January 17, 2007**)

Raju Narisetti, the Chief Managing Editor of the soon-to-be launched business newspaper from the *Hindustan Times* group, is among 250 people named by the Geneva-based World Economic Forum (WEF) as the Young Global Leaders for 2007. (**The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated January 17, 2007**)

Mr. H.K. Dua, Editor-in-Chief of *The Tribune* Group of Newspapers, was conferred the honour of Professor Emeritus of Symbiosis Institute of Mass Communication at a function on January 19, 2007. Symbiosis, which has promoting quality education for over 30 years in business management, law, mass communication and many other disciplines, has been made a full-flaged university from this year. (**The Tribune, Chandigarh dated January 20, 2007**)

From January 26 *The Times of India*, Delhi, will an Integrated 32-page all colour paper-a first for any paper in the city.

Recent surveys told that while readers love the spread of foreign news in *Times of India's* separate section-*Times International*-launched over a year ago, they find it a little difficult to navigate so many sections in the paper. Therefore, *Times of India* has integrated its international news section, along with the Editorial Opinion page and Times Trends, back into the main section.....to give 32 pages in a single bunch, in vibrant all colour.(**The Times of India, New Delhi dated January 26, 2007**)

The first ever South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) editors' conference, organised by the External Affairs Ministry and the Media Development Foundation (MDF), a not-for-profit public trust that runs the prestigious Asian College of Journalism (ACJ) in Chennai, will be held here on February 9 and 10.

It was, possibly, the first time in the media field that such a public-private venture was being organised.

A concept note on the conference said the purpose behind the conference was to have "free and open discussion" and frame media-related issues that can help initiate a wider public and civil society debate in South Asia.

It was expected that the conference would promote a common understanding on core media values, directions and orientations in SAARC nations.

Growth trends and quality issues in the regional news media; convergence and the challenge of the Internet; freedom, accountability, and social responsibility; State market and the media as well as media and foreign policy are some of the key issues which will be addressed by the participants. (**The Hindu, New Delhi dated February 1, 2007**)

S. Rangarajan, Chairman of Kasturi and Sons Limited, proprietors of The Hindu group of publications passed away on February 8.

Mr. Rangarajan, known as "Rangappa" to his large circle of friends, was a congenial personality with varied interests, including sport.

Mr. Rangarajan presided over the company during a significant phase of its growth and expansion. He had a sharp eye for proof and grammatical errors on the newspaper page. He took a keen interest in the coverage of sport in *The Hindu* and other publications of the group. (**The Hindu, New Delhi dated February 9, 2007**)

Veteran journalist and literary critic Sham Lal died on February 23.

Mr. Sham Lal began his career with *The Hindustan Times* and, after 12 years with that paper, he moved on to *The Times of India*. He served as the Editor of *The Times of India* from 1967 to 1978.

He earned great journalistic reputation with his column, "Life and Letters." In this column, he discussed and dissected modern thinkers, poets, playwrights and novelists. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated February 24, 2007)**

Keshub Mahindra, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Population First, presented the "Laadli" Media award for gender sensitivity to Kalpana Sharma, Mumbai Chief of Bureau of *The Hindu* for her writings that were "prolific and committed in analysing social, economic, and political developments from the gender perspective." *The Week*, Shyamlal Yadav of *India Today* (Hindi) and Atul Kulkarni of *Dainik Lokmat* were presented the award for features. Mamta Kandpal of Zee News, CNN-IBN and Priya Jadhav of Doordarshan Sahyadri were given the award for in-depth coverage of crime and pre-birth selection. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated March 7, 2007)**

The Tribune launched its Himachal Pradesh edition on March 15 to help provide wider coverage to the hill State.

The edition was formally launched by Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh at a function. **(The Tribune, Chandigarh dated March 16, 2007)**

The Editor of *Outlook* (Hindi), Alok Mehta, has been selected for the Ganesh Shankar Vidyarathi Award instituted by the Makhnallal Chaturvedi National University of Journalism and Communication.

Mr. Mehta, who would be the first recipient of this prestigious award, was being honoured for his "notable contribution to language journalism". **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated March 18, 2007)**

*The Times of India* has once again emerged as No.1 in Delhi, the city with the largest number of English newspaper readers in India. According to the first round of the Indian Readership Survey (IRS) for 2007, *The Times of India* now has 20.51 lakh readers in Delhi, up by a strong 13% from the figure of 18.16 lakh recorded in the last IRS round (IRS 2006, Round 2).

This surge has helped *TOI* take a lead of 1.70 lakh over its nearest rival, *The Hindustan Times*, which suffered a 6% decline in readership, from 19.93 lakh to 18.81 lakh, in the same period. Incidentally, *TOI* is also the No.1 in Delhi according to the other major index, the National Readership Survey (NRS). Having swept both major readership surveys, *TOI* is now clearly the undisputed champ in the Capital.

Other Times Group publications too put up a strong showing in Delhi. *The Economic Times* posted an 11% surge in readership from 1.51 lakh to 1.68 lakh, while *Navbharat Times* increased its readership by 4% from 16.35 lakh to 17.03 lakh – the largest growth in the Hindi language market. *Navbharat Times* is now ahead of its closest competitor, *Punjab Kesari*, by almost 7 lakh readers in Delhi.

Despite the entry of several new papers, *The Times of India* has not only maintained its market share nationally, it has managed to consolidate it. It has retained its strong leadership position in metros such as Mumbai and Bangalore.

In Mumbai, it is still the overwhelming No.1 with a readership of 15.24 lakh, more than double the No.2 *Mumbai Mirror* – which is also published by the *Times Group*. In Bangalore it expanded its lead over *Deccan Herald* to almost 2.25 lakh readers. **(The Times of India, New Delhi dated March 22, 2007)**

*Deccan Chronicle*, India's fourth largest English newspaper, does it again! Your favourite newspaper is the only Top 5 English newspaper in the country to register a growth in readership, according to figures released by The Indian Readership Survey.

The IRS 2007 Round 1 survey reports that in Hyderabad, *Deccan Chronicle* has almost 90 percent more readers than the combined total of *The Hindu* and *The Times of India*

In Chennai, *Deccan Chronicle* readership grew by 37 percent over Round 2 of 2007. **(The Deccan Chronicle, Hyderabad dated March 22, 2007)**

*Jansatta*, the Hindi daily brought out by *The Indian Express Group*, was launched in Lucknow on April, 1. It is the fifth edition of the daily after Delhi, Kolkata, Raipur and Chandigarh. The Lucknow edition will focus on news from UP apart from national and international news. **(The Indian Express, New Delhi dated March 26, 2007)**

At the Ifra Asia Media Awards 2007 in Manila on March 28, 2007 *The Hindustan Times* bagged six prizes, the most by any media house.

Vikas Khot, chief photojournalist with *The Hindustan Times* in Mumbai, won the Gold Award for general news photography for a shot that caught four public figures in animated discussion.

His colleague Tunali Mukherjee won the Silver Award for spot news photography for her picture of an elderly pro-reservation demonstrator being dragged off the street by police in Mumbai.

Ritesh Uttamchandani, photojournalist with *HT* in Mumbai, won the Bronze Award for best newspaper photographer for his portfolio. Ritesh's stunning shots

of the July 11, 2006, Mumbai train bombings were picked up by wire services and publications across the world.

Rajanish Kakade, senior photojournalist with *HT* in Mumbai, won the Judges' Special Recognition Award for general news photography for a picture that told the story of malnutrition in Mumbai's slums better than a thousand words could.

It's not just our photojournalists, either.

*The Hindustan Times*, Mumbai's budget 2006 edition was given the Silver Award for newspaper design.

And the newspaper's great printing fetched its publisher *HT Media* Ltd. the Gold Award for Best in Print among publications with a week day circulation of over 200,000 copies. (**The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated March 29, 2007**)

CNN-IBN's Nilanjana Bose and B Sreelekha of Manorama's Woman's magazine *Vanita* have bagged the Chameli Devi Jain award instituted by Media Foundation for the year 2006-2007.

While Bose received the award for her extensive coverage on AIDS and other social issues in Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat, and for her coverage on "Simple people living simple lives" and "Holding a mirror to the collective truth of these lives", Sreelekha received the award for her coverage of stories of "Triumphs over disabilities of ordinary people with extraordinary courage". (**The Indian Express, New Delhi dated March 30, 2007**)

## **World Media in Indian Press**

### **United States of America**

Journalists over the years have assumed they were writing their headlines and articles for two audiences-fickle readers and nitpicking editors. Today, there is a third important arbiter of their work: The software programs that scour the Web, analysing and ranking online news articles on behalf of Internet search engines like Goggle, Yahoo and MSN.

The search engine "bots" that crawl the web are increasingly influential, delivering 30% or more of the traffic on some newspaper, magazine or television news websites. And traffic means readers and advertisers, at a time when the mainstream media is desperately trying to make a living on the web.

So news organisations large and small have begun experimenting with tweaking their web sites for better search engine results.

In newspapers and magazines, for example, section titles and headlines are distilled nuggets of human brainwork, tapping context and culture.

Moves to accommodate the technology are tricky. How far can a news organisation go without undercutting its editorial judgement concerning the presentation, tone and content of news?

So far, the news media are gingerly stepping into the field of “search engine optimisation.” It is a booming business, estimated at \$1.25 billion in revenue worldwide last year, and projected to more than double this year.

A syndication service that delivers commentary from 600 bloggers for use by newspaper publishers is set to launch, further blurring the lines that divide blogs and mainstream media. **(The Times of India, New Delhi dated April 11, 2006)**

*The Times-Picayune* of New Orleans and the much smaller *Sun Herald* of Gulfport, Mississippi, were each awarded Pulitzer Prizes for public service for their coverage under trying circumstances of the same catastrophic event, Hurricane Katrina, which devastated their home regions along the Gulf Coast.

*The Times-Picayune*, which had to evacuate its building as flood waters rose, also won the Pulitzer for breaking news for its coverage of the storm.

The Pulitzer board also gave *The Washington Post* four awards and *The New York Times* three, many of those prizes affirming what the winners said was the watchdog role of journalism.

*The New York Times* and the *San Diego Union-Tribune* both won in the national reporting category. James Risen and Eric Lichtblau of *The New York Times* were recognised for their series of articles exposing a secret domestic wiretapping programme. The staffs of the *Union-Tribune* and the *Copley News Service* won for disclosing that Randy Cunningham, a former congressman from California, had taken bribes, which ultimately led to his being sent to prison.

*The New York Times* also won for international reporting, for articles by Joseph Kahn and Jim Yardley on the rough justice often meted out by China’s legal system. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated April 19, 2006)**

Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates had announced an “onscreen reader” software that would make reading news digitally a lot more like flipping through a paper.

It was well-timed pitch capping the American Society of Newspaper Editors’ annual meeting much of which focussed on winning back the growing number of people who no longer subscribe to newspapers.

Mr. Gates brought Arthur Sulzberger, Jr., Chairman of *The New York Times Co.*, on stage to spill a few details about a service Microsoft and *The Times* aim to unveil next year.

Mr. Gates said stories and pictures would look much like pages of a newspaper when loaded onto onscreen readers. Instead of scrolling down the length of a page, users would be able to flip from one page to another.

Tom Bodkin, assistant managing editor and design director at the *New York Times*, showed off a prototype, demonstrating how it reflows type and images to fit any screen. The stories were in newspaper-like columns, on some pages with interactive ads in the corner of the screen. "It melds the high impact of print with the interactivity of the Web."

Once users download the content, they would be able to flip through the newspaper digitally wherever they take it, Mr. Gates said.

Users will be able to scroll through every photo, highlight text and take notes within stories.

Mr. Gates said Microsoft would make developer kits available to other newspapers and magazines that want to work up their own onscreen reader editions. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated April 30, 2006)**

The U.S. Government has warned that the six month-old downlinking guidelines issued by the Information & Broadcasting (I & B) Ministry for channels uplinking from overseas and broadcast in India would deter U.S. investments in the Indian broadcast media. However, with most U.S. based channels already adhering to the new guidelines, the Ministry is unwilling to modify them.

According to a paper brought out by the office of the U.S. Trade Representative, these guidelines, "if left unchanged, will deter future investment by non-Indian broadcasters by imposing new, onerous bureaucratic processes, fees and litigation expenses; extracting new taxes; threatening revenues from and protection of purchased rights for broadcasting programmes; and restricting India-directed content, news and advertising".

Media companies eager to downlink their channels into India have to be registered in the country under the Indian Companies Act, 1956, irrespective of their equity structure, foreign ownership or management control. Also, companies must have a minimum net worth of Rs.1.5 crore in case of a single channel and Rs.1 crore for every additional channel.

The policy also mandates that news and current affairs channels downlinking into India cannot carry advertisements aimed at Indian viewers. All channels

downlinking into India must subscribe to the Programme and Advertising Code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995. Also, the guidelines mandate that channels having the television rights of designated sports events must share signals with Doordahshan on a revenue sharing basis. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated June 15, 2006)**

*The New York Times* plans to shrink the size of its pages in 2008, making them one and half inches narrower, the newspaper reported on July 19. The newspaper also plans to cut 1,050 jobs. **(The Statesman, New Delhi dated July 19, 2006)**

The American media is in decline worldwide and India is one of the countries where this decline is the most visible, according to reputed British media expert Jeremy Tunstall.

Tunstall has been a key figure in media research for more than three decades and is mainly known for his seminal book, *The Media Are American*, published in 1977.

Tunstall highlighted the growing strengths of the media in India to substantiate his thesis that the American media were now in a “50-year decline”.

According to Tunstall, “The US mass media peaked on the world scene during 1944-58. The last five decades have seen a big decline in the share of total world audience time achieved by the American media.

“The US media now reach a small percentage slice of a rapidly growing world audience cake”, Tunstall said. The decline of the American media, he added, was most visible in the 11 nations (six of them Asian) where 60.9 per cent of the world’s people live. India, China, Brazil and Japan had media exports that equal, or exceed, their media imports, he noted.

The American media now-probably has their strongest share of audience hours in Africa, but here too they face stiff competition from Indian, French and UK media exports. **(Delhi Special, New Delhi dated October 8, 2006)**

*Reader’s Digest* Association Inc., publisher of one of the most widely-read US magazines, has agreed to be acquired by an investor group for \$1.6 billion, the two sides said on November 16.

The investor group is led by buyout firm Ripplewood Holdings, which agreed to pay \$17 per share for *Reader’s Digest*. With the deal, Ripplewood adds to its investments in media where buyout firms are increasingly active. Ripplewood said the price represents a premium of 23 percent over the average closing price of *Reader’s Digest* shares in the 45 trading days leading up to Wednesday.

Including assumed debt, the deal is worth \$2.4 billion.

*Reader's Digest* is best known for its flagship publication, *Reader's Digest* magazine, which is published in 21 languages, has a monthly circulation of about 18 million, and is read by an estimated 80 million people worldwide. The company posted revenue of \$2.4 billion in the fiscal year ended June 30.

The deal is expected to close in the first quarter of 2007. **(The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated November 17, 2006)**

Yahoo INC will work with seven U.S. newspaper groups to share online advertising in a deal that could help newspapers tap into the lucrative online ad market. A total of 176 newspapers in 38 states will participate in the deal.

Among the newspapers that will participate are the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*; *The San Jose Mercury News*; *The Dallas Morning News* and *The Austin American-Statesman*.

The deal could help the struggling newspaper industry increase lagging ad revenues. **(The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated November 21, 2006)**

Big US media executives give themselves low marks on reaching consumers in new ways, but will experiment furiously in 2007 to find out what works.

From developing new business models with old partners to challenging the status quo outright, top media and entertainment executives told the Reuters Media Summit in New York this week that they plan to do a better job finding out how people want to get news and entertainment.

At risk for traditional media companies is a \$960 billion global market for entertainment and advertising, and the threat of losing their grip on new generations of viewers growing up with the Internet, where movies, music and news are just a few clicks away.

For months, discussions about the future of media have been dominated by talk about YouTube, the popular online video sharing site that was formed less than two years ago and bought by Google Inc. last month for \$1.65 billion.

YouTube is the latest example of a new way of delivering entertainment that is shaking up industry players, following News Corp.'s social networking site MySpace and the entry of Apple Computer Inc.'s i-Pod music player.

Critics said traditional media has failed over the years to adapt to the changes brought by the Internet, relying instead on protecting existing business practices at their own peril.

At the same time, media companies' stature as publicly traded companies without strong growth prospects in the immediate term makes it hard to take such

daring steps as Web search leader Google's \$1.65 billion purchase of YouTube. **(The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated December 4, 2006)**

Legendary U.S. newspaper columnist Art Buchwald, whose biting humour appeared in newspapers around the world for more than 50 years, died at the age of 81 on January 18, 2007.

Mr. Buchwald, started his career in journalism as a stringer for Variety magazine in Paris and wrote more than 30 books, including "I'll Always Have Paris". **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated January 19, 2007)**

The Committee to Protect Journalists painted a bleak image of press freedom in its annual report on February 5 accusing governments and rebels alike of controlling, intimidating and censoring the media.

From tightening controls on the press in Russia to Internet restrictions in China, the New York based watchdog said governments were increasingly shifting from overt repression to more subtle ways to muzzle their critics in the media.

The "Attacks on the Press" report said that while journalists were protected by international law, "in an era in which even US officials describe the Geneva Conventions as 'quaint', these protections increasingly exist in name only."

"Events in Iraq and Lebanon reflect the erosion in war correspondents' traditional status as neutral observers," the group's executive director Joel Simon said in the introduction to the more than 300-page report.

"In Iraq, the most dangerous conflict in CPJ's history, insurgents so routinely target reporters that more than two-thirds of media deaths are murders, not acts of war," he added. The report said that while there was no evidence to suggest that the 14 journalists killed by US forces in Iraq were deliberately targeted, none of the killings had been adequately investigated by the military.

"Journalists traditionally rely more on savvy than international law to stay alive in war zones, often promising insurgent and rebel groups an opportunity to get their message out to the world."

It said that many insurgents, however, preferred to use the Internet to disseminate their message.

"Among these groups, journalists are dispensable."

"The state of affairs is deeply disturbing because it means that the public knows little about vital issues," it added.

The report identified Venezuelan President Mr Hugo Chavez and his Russian counterpart Mr Vladimir Putin as among the worst offenders. "Presidents Chavez

and Putin represent a generation of sophisticated, elected leaders who have created a legal framework to control, intimidate, and censor the news media,” the report said.

“The rise of ‘democratators’ – popularly elected autocrats – is alarming because it represents a new model for government control,” it said, accusing the leaders of tolerating the façade of democracy while gutting it from within. **(The Deccan Herald, Bangalore dated February 6, 2007)**

### **United Kingdom**

One of Britain’s most respected literary journals finds itself at the centre of a heated trans-Atlantic debate after it published an essay by two American academics in which they claim that their country’s foreign policy, especially in West Asia, is heavily influenced by a powerful Israeli “lobby” with access to the highest levels of the U.S. administration.

Most controversially, John Mearsheimer of Chicago University and Stephen Walt of Harvard, argue that sometimes America ends up acting against its own national interest in the process of appeasing this “lobby” to win Jewish votes.

*The London Review of Books*, which published the article in a recent issue after it was turned down by the *Atlantic Monthly*, has provoked angry protests from Jewish commentators on both sides of the “pond”. The journal has been accused of giving legitimacy to “anti-semitic” views and causing deliberate provocation by printing an article that, it knew, had already caused a row in America and prompted Harvard University to dissociate itself from Prof. Walt’s opinion. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated April 11, 2006)**

This year’s most compulsive television viewing came on BBC News, 24, when they interviewed the wrong man. They were doing a story about the legal battle over registered trademarks between the computer company Apple and the Beatles’ record label, Apple Corps. They intended to speak to an acclaimed information technology expert, Guy Kewney, but some hapless researcher went to the wrong reception area and somehow brought into the studio Guy Goma, a Congolese business graduate with an extremely limited grasp of the English language. One of those identikit, bloodless and chirpy News 24 anchor babes carried out the interview regardless: Mr. Goma’s answers were wonderfully uninformed and, because of his accent, almost unintelligible. The chap had been waiting down in the reception area for a job interview at the BBC (presumably as a newsreader, diversity is strength, remember) when summoned to the studio. **(The Asian Age, New Delhi dated June 4, 2006)**

Britain's notoriously strict, famously technical and chillingly complex libel laws were all but set free with the highest court in the land ruling that journalists had the freedom to publish allegations about public figures without being able to prove them.

But the ruling, which will bring Britain's libel laws closer to America's more unbuttoned posture, specified that the media must not abuse the privilege of free expression and must only publish allegations in the public interest and ascertained through neutral reporting.

Commentators said the ruling delivered by the House of Lords in response to an appeal by the *Wall Street Journal Europe* as it was sued for defamation by a Saudi businessman, was bound to usher in an era of bold new British journalism.

Britain's libel laws, which have often been criticised as too heavily weighted in favour of claimants, have provoked a doubling of defamation cases brought by celebrities against newspapers.

According to a recent survey by legal information provider Sweet & Maxwell, celebrities bought 20 defamation cases against newspapers in the past year, up from nine.

The threat of a libel suit often looms large in the minds of editors and publishers and British newsrooms routinely employ round-the-clock duty lawyers to vet copy against the possibility of being taken to court or the cleaners. Britain's Law Lords said it was important to remove the Damocles Sword of libel from investigative journalism.

The ruling, which was cheered by Britain's leading newspapers as the upholding of "a vital principle of press freedom", said that the media were entitled to publish defamatory allegations as part of its duty of neutral reporting, or if it believed them to be of substance, and to raise matters of public interest. It upheld the *Wall Street Journal Europe's* right to report that Saudi car dealer Mohammed Jameel's family and businesses had been monitored by the Saudi government at the request of the American authorities to ensure no funds were funnelled through to terrorist organisations. **(The Times of India, New Delhi dated October 13, 2006)**

A recent ruling by the highest court of the United Kingdom has given a lot of joy to journalists in Britain by allowing publication of allegations in public interest. But their Indian counterparts have enjoyed the same or similar rights for the last 12 years.

The British court said that journalists have freedom to publish allegations about public figures without being able to prove them. This will take the sting out of a large number of defamation suits filed by celebrities against media publications.

However, there are some important riders attached to this freedom-one, the media must not abuse the privilege of free expression; second, it must only publish allegations in the public interest; and third, the facts must be ascertained through neutral reporting.

The Indian Press is far more privileged than its British counterparts as the Supreme Court in 1994 in the case of *R. Rajagopala vs. State of Tamil Nadu* had laid down the guidelines for reporting.

The Press in India has been enjoying the freedom notwithstanding the large number of defamation cases filed against it. The only aberration in the long-standing freedom of press was the two-year Emergency period.

The freedom of press does not enjoy any special mention in the Constitution. **(The Times of India, New Delhi dated October 16, 2006)**

Britain's first Readers' Editor, Ian Mayes, is set to hand over charge as the independent internal ombudsman of *The Guardian*, a post he has held for nearly a decade. Taking over from him in March will be Siobhain Butterworth, now the newspaper's legal director. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated February 3, 2007)**

One thousand journalists and other media personnel have been killed around the world over the past ten years, including 45 in India, a majority of them from gunfire, according to a survey.

Iraq was the bloodiest country with a death toll of 138, followed by Russia (88) and Colombia (72). India came in sixth with 45. The statistics, almost two deaths every week, also threw up a surprising finding, only one in four journalists was killed in war and other armed conflicts.

At least 657 men and women were murdered in peacetime. The survey was conducted between January 1996 and June 2006 by the International News Safety Institute (INS), a coalition of media organisations, press freedom groups, unions and humanitarian campaigners dedicated to the safety of journalists and media staff.

The news media death toll has increased steadily since 2000, with 2006 being the worst with 167 fatalities. Shooting was by far the greatest cause of death, accounting for almost half of the total. Bombing, stabbing, beating, torture, strangulation and decapitation were also used to silence reporting.

Some men and women disappeared, their fate unknown. In war, it was much safer to be embedded with an army than not-independent news reporters, so-called unilateral, accounted for 92 per cent of the dead. The death toll was evenly split between press and broadcast media. Most of those who died were on staff – 91

percent against 9 percent freelance – and one-third fell near their home, office or hotel, according to the survey, the most comprehensive probe ever into media deaths. **(The Asian Age, New Delhi dated March 8, 2007)**

## **Denmark**

Denmark's government acted to limit the damage caused by "smouldering" anger over a video showing Danish youth mocking the Prophet Muhammad.

The foreign ministry in Copenhagen called an extraordinary meeting to discuss strategies to defuse brewing tensions with Muslim countries and avoid a repeat of the fiery protests that swept the Islamic world earlier this year after a Danish newspaper published cartoons depicting the prophet.

The video, excerpts of which were aired on Danish TV last week, shows members of the youth wing of the anti-immigration Danish People's Party making drawings of the prophet. It was shot by an artist who said he infiltrated the group to expose the group's harsh tone in discussing immigrants. "We knew it was an explosive situation," said Martin Rosengaard Knudsen, who shot the video. "The purpose was not to insult anyone but to initiate a debate on the tone in Danish politics."

The video was condemned by Muslim leaders in Egypt, and Jordan, who saw it as another Danish insult to Islam. The Danish government also condemned the video, which was promptly removed from two Danish websites. **(The Statesman, New Delhi dated October 12, 2006)**

A Danish court dismissed a lawsuit filed by seven Muslim organisations against the newspaper that first published a dozen cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad that triggered massive protests in the Islamic world earlier this year. The City Court in Aarhus said it could not be ruled out that some Muslims had been offended by the 12 drawings printed in *Jyllands Posten*, but said there was no reason to assume that the cartoons were meant to "belittle Muslims".

The newspaper published the cartoons on September 30, 2005 with an accompanying text saying it was challenging a perceived self-censorship among artists afraid to offend Islam. The caricatures were reprinted in European papers in January and February, fuelling a fury of protests in the Islamic world. Some turned violent, with protesters killed in Libya and Afghanistan and several European embassies attacked.

Islamic law forbids any depiction of the prophet, even positive ones, to prevent idolatry.

"It cannot be ruled out that the drawings have offended some Muslims' honour, but there is no basis to assume that the drawings are, or were conceived as, insulting

or that the purpose of the drawings was to present opinions that can belittle Muslims,” the court said in its ruling.

The newspaper’s editor-in-chief, Carsten Juste, welcomed the ruling in a statement, saying it confirmed the newspaper’s “incontestable right” to print the drawings. “Every-thing but a pure acquittal would have been a disaster for the press freedom and the media’s possibility to fulfil its duties in a democratic society,” Juste said. **(The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated October 27, 2006)**

A Year after cartoons of the Prophet Mohammad sparked violent protests, Danish Muslims say some good has come of the row-dialogue has improved with their fellow Danes, who now understand Islam much better.

“The debate is broader and more pluralistic. More people and different kinds of people are active and the level is more sober and nuanced.”

Danish daily-Jyllands-Posten published the 12 cartoons in September 2005 about Prophet Mohammad, saying it did so in defence of free expression. Protests in the Middle East and elsewhere flared in early 2006.

Abu Hassan, an imam in the Danish city of Odense, was insulted by the cartoons but now says he is glad the row gave him the chance to educate Danes on the Prophet. “We have had much positive dialogue with Danish people,” he said. “They now know more about the Koran and about the Prophet.”

Most Muslims consider depictions of Prophet Mohammad blasphemous, and the link some of the cartoons seemed to imply between Islam and terrorism was especially insulting to many. **(The Indian Express, New Delhi dated February 5, 2007)**

## **Egypt**

International Journalist Union has said that new media law in Egypt does not protect the journalists interests. Mr. Aidan White, Secretary General of the organisation said that inspite of last minute changes made by President Mubarak the journalists have not been guaranteed full protection. The law was passed by the Egyptian Parliament. Though the President deleted some reasons to initiate case against journalists, but even though media law still contain some conditions in which there have been provision and send the journalists to jail which includes critical news pertaining to higher officials and foreign dignitaries. **(The Hindustan, New Delhi dated July 13, 2006)**

Egypt’s news photographers staged a protest here against their exclusion from Parliament following the snapping of an unflattering picture of the Prime Minister eating watermelon seeds.

Some 30 photographers from Egyptian newspapers and international wire agencies laid their cameras out on the steps of the Journalists' Syndicate and carried banners reading, "We are your lens, don't shut us out" and, "Our cameras reveal your violations." They were also protesting against what they describe as persistent police attacks on them while carrying out their job, with many having their cameras taken away or smashed. They described their exclusion from Parliament as only the latest assault on their profession. (**The Hindu, New Delhi dated February 4, 2007**)

## **France**

This month, *De Tijd*, a Belgian financial newspaper, started testing versions of electronic paper, a device with low-power digital screens embedded with digital ink millions of microscopic capsules the width of a human hair made with organic material that display light or dark images in response to electrical charges.

This is only one test of new-e-paper devices competing to become the iPod of the newspaper business.

Other e-paper trials are being undertaken by the paper *Les Echos*, which is based here, by the newspaper trade group IFRA in Germany and, in the US, by *The New York Times*. *The International Herald Tribune* is also in discussions to make subscriptions available later this year for the same e-paper devices used by *De Tijd*, according to Michael Golden, *The International Herald Tribune's* publisher. (**The Indian Express, New Delhi dated April 25, 2006**)

A French court case shining light on the grey area where free speech and religious sensitivities overlap opens on February 7 when Muslim groups sue a satirical magazine that published cartoons of the Prophet Mohammad.

The Grand Mosque of Paris and the Union of French Islamic Organizations accuse Charlie Hebdo of inciting racial hatred by reprinting the Danish caricatures that sparked violence in the Muslim world last year.

"I just cannot imagine the consequences not only for France but for Denmark and Europe if they lose the case," Fleming Rose, the Danish editor who first published the cartoons, said with Charlie Hebdo publisher Philippe Val. "It would turn back the clock decades, ages."

However, an opinion poll on February 6 by Catholic weekly *Pelerin* showed 79% thought it unacceptable to ridicule a religion publicly and 78% ruled out parodies of Jesus Christ, Mohammad or Buddha. The Paris court will hear the case on February 7+8 and issue its ruling at a later date.

The cartoons, originally published in 2005 in the Danish daily *Jyllens-Posten*, provoked protests in the Muslim world that left 50 people dead. In an act of solidarity

with Charlie Hebdo, French newspaper *Liberation* printed the contested cartoons once more on February 7. “It is not words which wound, or pictures that kill. It is bombs,” the daily said, calling the trial “idiotic”. (**The Times of India, New Delhi dated February 8, 2007**)

A new law in France makes it a crime-punishable by up to five years in prison-for anyone who is not a professional journalist to film real-world violence and distribute the images on the Internet.

Critics call it a clumsy, near-totalitarian effort by authorities to battle “happy slapping” – the youth fad of filming violent acts-which most often they have provoked themselves- and spreading the images on the Internet or between mobile phones.

The measure, tucked deep into a vast anti-crime law that took effect on March 7 took media advocates by surprise with what they say is an undesirable side effect: trampling on freedom of expression.

Experts said the law is the first of its kind in Europe. France made headlines years ago by ordering US-based online company Yahoo to pay a fine of about \$15 million for displaying Nazi memorabilia for sale – in violation of French law.

The new provision takes on “happy slapping”, a phenomenon whose name belies the gravity of the attacks. It mostly involves youths, and the victims often are strangers. Violators of the law, passed in parliament in February, will be subject to up to five years in prison and euro75,000 (\$98,600) in fines. (**The Times of India, New Delhi dated March 9, 2007**)

## **Russia**

Freedom of the media in Russia dominated the opening day of a global newspaper conference in Moscow, with clashing views on the issue presented by the head of the World Association of Newspapers (WAN) and the Russian President.

Opening the 59<sup>th</sup> World Newspaper Congress and 13<sup>th</sup> World Editors Forum WAN President Gaivin O’Reilly said control of the media by the state in Russia was hindering the ability of a free press to contribute to national development.

Mr. O’Reilly noted “widespread scepticism, both inside and outside your country, about whether there exists any real willingness to see the media become a financially-strong, influential and independent participant in Russian society today.”

Mr. Putin, who addressed the conference after Mr. O’Reilly, defended press freedom in Russia. He said the reforms “would have been impossible without free press”, and insisted that “press freedom remains the main guarantee that (Russia’s democratic choice) is irreversible”. He said independent press had been growing by leaps and bounds in Russia. (**The Hindu, New Delhi dated June 6, 2006**)

Newspaper circulations worldwide rose slightly in 2005 while newspaper-advertising revenues showed the largest increase in four years, according to a press release from the World Association of Newspapers (WAN). WAN said global newspaper sales were up 0.56 percent over the year, and had increased 6 per cent over the past five years. Much of the sales growth last year was again in Asia.

When free dailies are added to the paid newspaper circulation, global circulation increased 1.21 per cent last year, and 7.8 percent over the past five years. Free dailies now account for 6 percent of all global newspaper circulation and 17 percent in Europe alone.

Advertising revenues in paid dailies were up 5.7 percent last year from a year earlier, and up 11.7 percent over five years, WAN reported. No figures were available for free daily advertising revenues.

A highlight of WAN's latest survey of world press trends: 70 of the world's 100 best selling dailies are now published in Asia with China; Japan and India accounting for 62 of them. Other highlights: the Japanese have surpassed the Norwegians as the world's greatest newspaper buyers, with 634 daily sales per thousand adults in Japan.

More than 439 million people buy a newspaper every day, up from 414 million in 2001. Average readership is estimated to be more than one billion people each day. The five largest markets for newspapers are: China, with 96.6 million copies sold daily; India, with 78.7 million copies. Japan, with 69.7 million copies; the United States, with 53.3 million; and Germany, 21.5 million. Sales increased in China and India and declined in Japan, the United States, and Germany in 2005.

Circulation sales were up 1.7 percent in Asia in 2005 over the previous year; up 3.7 percent in South America; up 0.2 percent in Africa; down 0.24 per cent in Europe; down 2.5 per cent in North America; and down 2 percent in Australia and Oceania. The North American declines were primarily in evening newspapers.

In Japan, newspaper sales fell by 0.97 percent in 2005. Over five years, sales were down 2.81 percent. In China, newspaper sales continue to perform well, up 8.9. and 18 percent over one and five years. Indian newspaper sales increased 7 percent in 2005 and 33 percent in the five year period. Elsewhere in Asia, sales in Singapore were down 0.2 percent last year and down 3.9 percent over five years, and Malaysian sales were up 5.44 percent year-on-year and 14.63 percent over five years. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated June 8, 2006)**

### **Australia**

An Australian newspaper published a cartoon depicting Indonesia's President

as a copulating dog, after a Jakarta paper portrayed the Australian leader in a similar manner this week.

The Australian government condemned the cartoon in The Australian newspaper but said it was powerless to interfere in editorial decisions made by the country's free press. **(The Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated April 2, 2006)**

## **Asia**

### **China**

The Chinese authorities, who last month unexpectedly dropped a state secrets case against a jailed researcher for *The New York Times* have started an investigation period that could lead to reinstating the charges against him by early May, his lawyer said on April 17, 2006.

The possibility of resuming the cases undercuts speculation that withdrawal of the case last month was intended as a prelude to releasing the researcher, Zaho Yan. The timing also means that a final decision on how to proceed with the politically delicate case will be delayed until weeks after President Hu Jintao has returned from his visit this week to the United States.

At the end of the period in early May, investigators will decide whether to reinstate the charges. Technically there is still a chance that Zhao will be freed. But Mo Shaoping, the lead defense lawyer, said he also spoke to a person in a higher office who indicated that the prosecution against Zhao would probably be "resumed". Zhao, 44, has been jailed for 19 months on charges of fraud and disclosure of state secrets to *The Times*. He has denied the charges, and *The Times* has said Zhao did not provide the newspaper with any state secrets. On March 17 a Beijing court granted a prosecution request to withdraw the case. The move prompted speculation that Zhao might be released, possibly in a good-will gesture in advance of President Hu's trip.

Instead, Zhao, an employee of the Beijing office of *The Times*, remained in jail even though there no longer were any charges against him.

Zhao's case has brought widespread criticism on China from international human rights groups at a time when China is emphasising the development of its legal system. The United States, arguing that the case lacks merit, has called on China to release Zhao. President Bush has twice made a personal appeal on his behalf. **(The Statesman, New Delhi dated April 19, 2006)**

China defended its latest rules controlling foreign content in domestic media and on television saying the government was simply protecting intellectual property rights but was still committed to an open market.

Senior officials also said Chinese people preferred reading foreign magazines on science and technology, which are permitted by the government and that sensitive topics of religion and politics were unsuitable for local readers.

The defence has come at a time when Chinese President Hu Jintao is on a trip to the United States where he is likely to face issues related to human rights and individual freedom in China.

This month, the country's media regulators have issued a series of notices aimed at regulating media content in an attempt to control an increasingly free-wheeling news environment. **(The Statesman, New Delhi dated April 20, 2006)**

Chinese office goers who often spend hours caught up in traffic jams have a new way to utilise their time-reading mobile phone editions of their newspapers.

Two newspaper groups in China's eastern metropolis, Shanghai, launched their own "*Mobile Newspaper*" services in the past months.

The mobile news services may be the next hot spot in the thumb economy in China, following short text messages and customized ringtone services, "*Shanghai Daily*" reported.

Two types of mobile news exist in China now. Under the first type, operators regularly send edited and shortened news through multimedia messages every day.

Subscribers, who pay 3 yuan to 8 yuan (approximately Rs 18 to Rs 64) every month, can read the mobile news offline.

The second type of service allows users to read complete news content (compared with print media) through WAP (wireless application protocol) technology and people have to pay for network access fees. **(The Statesman, New Delhi dated April 26, 2006)**

China imposed broad new restrictions on the distribution of foreign news in the country, beefing up state regulations on the news media.

Under new rules that were said to take effect immediately, the state-run New China News Agency said it would become the *de facto* gatekeeper for foreign news reports, photographs and graphics entering China. The agency announced in its own dispatch that it would censor content that "endangers national security."

If enforced as drafted, the regulations could have a major impact on news agencies like *The Associated Press*, *Reuters* and *Bloomberg News* that sell news-related products to a wide range of Chinese clients.

President Hu Jintao has intensified a crackdown on all kinds of news media in recent months, arresting and harassing journalists, tightening regulation of websites and online forums, hiring tens of thousands of people to screen and block Web content deemed offensive, and firing editors of state-run publications that resist official controls.

*The New China News Agency* has long played a dual role in China's media world. It acts both as the official distributor of state news and information, selling its products much as any Western news agencies would do. But it also regulates outside news agencies, a power that Western news providers say it seeks to use to enhance its own bottom line. **(The Indian Express, New Delhi dated September 12, 2006)**

Twelve journalists from five Asian countries have been awarded fellowships by the Konrad Adenauer Asian Center for Journalism at the Ateneo de Manila University (ACFJ) to pursue a master's degree in journalism beginning June 2006.

Among the 12 are two journalists from Malaysia, one each from India, Thailand, Indonesia and Myanmar and six from the Philippines. **(The Statesman, New Delhi dated May 30, 2006)**

## **Bangkok**

The credibility of the interim government of Prime Minister Surayud Chulanont, and the Council for National Security (CNS), as self-appointed restorers of democracy, took another severe beating when the offices of the mass-circulation newspaper the *Daily News* in Bangkok came under a grenade attack early yesterday by unidentified assailants.

It appears the latest blasts, involving two anti-personnel bombs fired from M-79 grenade launchers – commonly used by the military – caused no human casualties or property damage.

The attack comes 30 days after the capital was rocked by a series of explosions that killed three people and injured nearly 40 others on New Year's Eve – bombings that remain unsolved.

All 19 suspects, most of them military officers, summoned by police investigators for questioning in connection with those attacks have already been released because of insufficient evidence.

This time, because the target of the attack is a newspaper, investigators will also try to determine whether the motive behind the blasts was an attempt to intimidate *Daily News* because of its editorial stance or whether the perpetrators randomly selected the newspaper's offices. **(The Statesman, New Delhi dated February 1, 2007)**

## **Singapore**

Singapore's Prime Minister and his father, who founded the modern city-state and holds a Cabinet position, have filed a defamation suit against the publisher and editor of the *Far Eastern Economic Review*.

Citing court documents, Dow Jones newswires, reported that Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and his father, Lee Kuan Yew, filed the suit on August 22 against Hong Kong-based Review Publishing Company Limited and *FEER* editor Hugo Restall. *FEER* is owned by Dow Jones & Company Inc. The lawsuit centres on an article published in July about Chee Soon Juan, an Opposition politician in Singapore. Restall wrote about Mr. Chee's campaign for more democratic freedoms in the tightly controlled city-state and how the ruling People's Action Party has sued a number of Opposition politicians. The article also criticised the government's handling of a corruption scandal at a charity, the National Kidney Foundation. Mr Chee, an outspoken critic of Singapore's government, was bankrupted in February and barred from standing in elections after failing to pay former Prime Ministers Lee Kuan Yew and Goh Chok Tong some 500,000 Singapore dollars in libel damages for comments he made during the 2001 elections. (**The Asian Age, New Delhi dated September 15, 2006**)

## **Sri Lanka**

An international mission to Sri Lanka has expressed concern over the threats, abductions and attacks the media received from all parties to the conflict, particularly paramilitary and militia groups.

In a report after a three-day visit from October 9, a five-member delegation representing the International Mission in Sri Lanka called for free flow of information.

"While the International Mission examined the current situation of the *Sinhala*-, Tamil-and English-language media in Sri Lanka, it paid particular attention to the repression of the Tamil-language media, which has come under heavy and sustained attack, especially in areas affected by the fighting. This situation has restricted the free flow of information in the North and East, hindering public awareness throughout the country of events in these areas," it said.

It said eight media workers had been killed since August 2005 and there had been numerous death threats and incidents of harassment, including violent attempts, to stop the distribution of newspapers. Even in cases where evidence exists of the identity of the alleged killers, authorities have apparently taken little or no action.

The mission found that censorship existed though it was applied largely through indirect means. The Government in June approved, but has not yet enforced, the reintroduction of state-controlled regulation of the media through the Sri Lanka Press Council, and in August, the President reportedly told Editors that the military was keen to censor the media. **(The Hindu, New Delhi dated October 14, 2006)**

Deep concern was expressed by the Indian Journalists Union over the introduction of new public security and anti terrorism measures in Sri Lanka by which the Sri Lankan authority wants to chain the press. It is also a further indication that the country is heading towards autocracy.

According to Free Media Movement (FMM) the new measures, which build on those already in operation and were enacted on December 6 under the Emergency (Prevention and Prohibition of Terrorism and Specified Terrorist Activities) Regulations, have the potential to compromise freedom of expression as well as fundamental human rights.

An Iranian who has been identified, as the anonymous Pulitzer prize-winning photographer of a mass execution is to receive his \$10,000 award more than a quarter of a century after the picture was taken. *Times International* carried the award-winning photo on its front page.

The photograph has been described as “the most famous and revealing picture of the Iranian revolution”. **(The Times of India, New Delhi dated December 11, 2006)**

## **Indonesia**

A toned-down edition of *Playboy* will go on sale in mostly Muslim Indonesia, defying protests from Islamic leaders who have called on the government to ban the magazine, publishers said.

The magazine does not feature nude women, and its photos of female models are no more risqué than those in other magazines already for sale in the country, according to an Associated Press photographer who saw an advance copy.

The Indonesia Council of Clerics, the country’s highest Islamic body, said that it disagreed with the publication of the magazine, regardless of its content.

“We reject *Playboy* magazine because it is an icon of pornography,” said Maruf Amin, the head of the council’s fatwa, or religious edict, section. **(The Asian Age, New Delhi dated April 7, 2006)**

## **Nepal**

At least 12 journalists were injured, six of them seriously, and four others arrested after police baton-charged scores of scribes who held a rally demanding press freedom and democracy in Nepal.

Police indiscriminately baton-charged about 300 journalists including Federation of Nepalese Journalists (FNJ) General Secretary Mahendra Bista, Former Press Council Chairman Harihar Birahi and Former FNJ President Taranath Dahal at the rally organised by the FNJ at the Gaushala area in the capital, FNJ sources said. **(The Indian Express, New Delhi dated April 16, 2006)**

Though King Gyanendra, regarded as Nepal's worst suppressor of the media, was ousted from power last year, his role is now being taken over by Maoist guerrillas, Reporters Without Borders (RSF) said in its annual report on media freedom worldwide.

In its annual press freedom report, RSF looked at the media situation last year in 98 countries, tabling the worst violations in repressive countries like North Korea, Cuba and Turkmenistan as well as taking a critical look at democratic countries, which too needed to make progress.

The 15-month absolute rule by King Gyanendra since he seized power through a bloodless coup in February 2005 was the worst period for Nepal's press, with more than a thousand journalists sacked and the media hit by the economic crisis provoked by the royal regime.

The report called the King "a predator of press freedom" who "operated strict censorship throughout the country" and "wiped out almost all the constitutional and legal protection acquired by the independent press since 1990."

During the pro-democracy protests in February 2006, one year after the King's power grab, more than 50 journalists were arrested while either taking part in or covering demonstrations. Some were held for several months under radical security laws and often in inhuman conditions. **(The Statesman, New Delhi dated February 3, 2007)**

## **Pakistan**

The government on February 6 imposed unprecedented curbs on the media in Parliament House during the National Assembly and Senate sessions, barring journalists from the parliament cafeteria and ministers' chambers.

The move sparked protests from journalists, who termed it a ploy to deny them access to information, although the government said the action was necessitated by security concerns.

Reporters covering parliament were shocked to find a sergeant standing at the cafeteria entrance at the start of a National Assembly session, who had been posted there to tell them about the ban on their entry to what had been the usual hangout for them and parliamentarians since the parliament building was inaugurated 20 years ago. No such restrictions were imposed in previous parliament buildings in Karachi, Rawalpindi and Islamabad. The decision was taken in a meeting that was held to review security arrangements for the lower house session, which began on February 6. **(The Tribune, Chandigarh, dated February 8, 2007)**

### **Gulf Countries**

Saudi ruler Abdullah told Saudi editors to stop publishing pictures of women as they could make young men go astray, newspapers reported.

The Abdullah's directive, made in a meeting with local editors, caused surprise as the monarch has been regarded a quiet reformer since he took office in the ultra-conservative country last August.

In recent months, newspapers have published pictures of women-always wearing the traditional Muslim headscarf-to illustrate stories with increasing regularity. Usually the stories have had to do with women's issues.

The papers have also started publishing a range of views on causes that are not generally accepted in Saudi Arabia-such as women having the right to drive and vote.

Abdullah told editors that publishing a woman's picture for the world to see was inappropriate. "One must think, do they want their daughter, their sister, or their wife to appear in this way. Of course, no one would accept this", the newspaper *Okaz* quoted Abdullah as saying. **(The Times of India, New Delhi dated May 18, 2006)**

### **Iran**

Iran has suspended publication of its official state newspaper after it published a cartoon that sparked violent ethnic protests in the northwestern city of Tabriz, a senior judiciary official said.

The cartoonist and the editor-in-chief of the Iran newspaper were arrested over the lampoon that was deemed to insult Iran's Azeri minority, Tehran's chief Prosecutor Saed Mortazavi said.

Furious members of the Azeri minority pelted government buildings and banks with stones in Tabriz. The cartoon, which appeared in May 19 edition of

*Iran*, showed a boy repeating the Persian word for cockroach in different ways while the uncomprehending bug in front of him says “What?” in Azeri. (**The Indian Express, New Delhi dated May 24 , 2006**)

### **Kuwait**

The Arab Journalists Association (AJA) felicitated the State of Kuwait for the great accomplishment Kuwait journalism has achieved in the Arab World by securing the first place in the freedom of press among all Arab states for the second year in a row, according to the results of survey conducted by the organisation of “Journalists Without Boundaries.”

## **State of Press-A Global View**

### **Bangladesh**

Seven journalists from Bangladesh have been honoured with the United Nations’ World Food Programme (WFP) Media Award 2006.

The journalists, from print and electronic media, were honoured for their contributions to raising awareness about food security, hunger and nutrition issues.

The print winners included: Khwaza Main Uddin of the *New Age*, who won first prize in the print media category, Ashraf Ali of the *Naya Diganta*, Rafique Sarker of the *Daily Star* and F. Shahjahan of the *Daily Satmatha*.

The electronic media category winners were: Talat Mamun of NTV, Shykh Seraj of Channel i, and Keramot Ullah Biplob of Channel One.

Journalists in Bangladesh say they are still facing pressure not to be critical of the interim government after it cancelled elections scheduled for Jan. 22.

Media in the politically troubled country rode out a brief period of censorship after the former head of the caretaker government, President Iajuddin Ahmed declared a state of emergency and a curfew before resigning on Jan. 11.

The country’s information ministry verbally ordered many private broadcast outlets suspend their news programmes and that newspapers and magazines halt critical news coverage.

Although the ban and curfew were lifted a day later, many journalists in Bangladesh are still worried about the effects of the turbulent political situation on freedom of the press.

Writing in the Jan. 15 edition of *The Daily Star*, editor Mahfuz Anam, said the new caretaker government under Dr. Fakruddin Ahmed seems to be “heading in the direction of a confrontation with the independent media, both electronic and print.” (CPQ News)

### **New Zealand**

Pioneering newspaper industry leader and CPU supporter Ray Smith died June 25 in Rotorua, New Zealand.

Smith was President of the Newspaper Publishers’ Association (NPA) for 11 years and served on the board of the New Zealand Press Association (NZPA) for 15 years, in latter years as its Chairman.

He was at the forefront of introducing new technology to the newspaper industry. (CPQ News)

### **Sri Lanka**

World Press Freedom Day was observed on May 3 at an official UNESCO conference and ceremony in Colombo, Sri Lanka, with the Guillermo Cano Press Freedom Prize 2006 going to Lebanese journalist May Chidiac.

Chidiac is a television presenter whose news bulletins and Sunday programmes on the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation are among the most widely followed in Lebanon.

Created in 1997, the prize honours the work of an individual or an organisation defending or promoting freedom of expression anywhere in the world, especially if this action puts the individual’s life at risk.

The prize is named after Colombian journalist Guillermo Cano, who was assassinated in 1987 after denouncing the activities of powerful drug barons in his country. (CPQ News)

The Bank accounts of the Sinhala-Language weekly *Mawbima* were sealed on March 13 by the Sri Lankan government.

According to a *Mawbima* editorial, sealing the accounts by the government will effectively stop the newspaper from being published. Bank accounts of all other business establishments partly or fully owned by *Mawbima*’s parent company, Standard Newspaper Private Ltd. and its owner Tiran Alles, have also been sealed.

The move is the latest blow to the critical newspaper, which has a wide circulation among the Sinhala population.

On February 26, the paper's publisher, Dushyantha Basnayake, was arrested under the recently re-activated Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA), which allows for lengthy detention without charge or trial. (CPQ News)

## **Uganda**

A story highlighting the plight of former members of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) has won a Ugandan journalist his country's investigative journalism award for 2005.

*The Daily Monitor's* Frank Nyakairu won the award for best human rights and rule of law story for his March 31 piece headlined 'From Captivity to Slavery'.

The story focused on former LRA members who, after being freed from enforced fighting, became slaves on a farm that had been set up to help them reintegrate into society. (CPQ News)

Ugandan media have moved a step closer to self-regulation after setting up a board to prepare for the formation of an independent Media Council by July 2006.

"We have agreed to set up a media organisation that is self regulatory for purposes of ensuring media freedom and high standards," Chairman of the advisory board and former Prime Minister Kintu Musoke said.

"This way, we shall make a difference in the media in terms of professionalism and the products that we offer to the public," he said.

The Council will be controlled by journalists and media stakeholders and will be independent of government control, the Monitor report said.

The Media Council, a semi-independent government body established by the 1995 Press and Journalists Statute, currently gives powers to the Minister of Information to regulate the media. (CPQ News)

## **Caribbean**

Two media companies in Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago will merge to form one of the larger media outlets in the Caribbean, AP reports.

The merger of the Nation Corporation of Barbados and the Caribbean Communications Network (CCN) of Trinidad and Tobago will take effect January 1.

The new company will be called One Caribbean Media Ltd. It will combine the Nation's newspapers and Starcom Network's radio stations with CNN's Trinidad Express newspaper and TV6. **(CPQ News)**

### **South Africa**

"Forthright, fearless, courageous and committed" were the words used to describe this year's Nat Nakasa Award winner, Professor Guy Berger of Rhodes University in South Africa.

Usually at the forefront of controversy, the amiable professor was the unanimous choice of judges, who he was the 2006 recipient of the award.

Sponsored jointly by Print Media South Africa, the South African National Editors' Forum and the Nieman Foundation, the Nat Nakasa is South Africa's pre-eminent award for courage in journalism.

Former winners include photographers Alf Kumalo and Debbie Yazbek, reporters Buks Viljoen and Justin Arenstein, and editors Mathatha Tsedu and Jon Qwelane.

Prof Berger is the ninth winner of the award, and the first academic. **(CPQ News)**

Media 24, one of Africa's biggest publishing groups, is launching a new compact tabloid called *Nova*.

The newspaper, which débuts on Sept. 19, will publish Monday to Friday and is aimed at an under-40 market who do not read daily papers on a regular basis, said a Media 24 press release.

The target audience enjoy a "high educational standard, a high income and are heavily brand-conscious", said the release.

Deon du Plessis, who remains publisher of the *Daily Sun* will be the launch editor of the new title and the publisher. **(CPQ News)**

One of the oldest papers in Southern Africa is now accessible on-line. *Malawi's Daily Times* can be read at [www.dailytimes.bppmw.com](http://www.dailytimes.bppmw.com). Its sister papers, *The Malawi News* and *The Sunday Times* will launch their websites later in November as part of *The Daily Times'* 110-year anniversary celebration.

The paper started as *The Nyasaland Planter* before becoming *The Nyasaland Times*. It then became *The Times* before changing again to its current title. **(CPQ News)**

## **Nigeria**

Two Nigerian newspapers in Abuja have been raided after publishing stories that appear to have angered President Olusegun Obasanjo's government.

A report in *This Day* newspaper said 16 security operatives stormed the headquarters of the Abuja Enquirer and arrested publisher Dan Akpovwa and an undetermined number of his staff.

The report said the arrests had been made after the paper published a Jan. 8 story entitled 'OBJ-Atiku Face-Off: Coup Fear Grips Nigeria'. It detailed an ongoing feud between Obasanjo and Vice President Atiku Abubakar. **(CPQ News)**

## **Australia**

Alan Oakley has been named as the new editor of *The Sydney Morning Herald*.

Oakley, 49, is making the move to the paper after two years in the same position at Melbourne's *Sunday Age*, where he was credited with reviving the Fairfax paper's flagging circulation.

He will replace Robert Whitehead, who resigned in early August after five years at the helm of the Herald, on November 7. Whitehead will become the paper's director of marketing and sales. **(CPQ News)**

## **Singapore**

Singapore *Straits Times* senior political correspondent Murugaian Nirmala has been named as the new editor of *Tamil Murasu*, Singapore's Tamil daily.

A report in *The Straits Times* said Nirmala will take over from Chitra Rajaram on Sept. 18. Rajaram is leaving after seven years as editor of the newspaper.

Nirmala, 52, joined *The Straits Times* in 1989 and has broad experience in the newsroom. Prior to her latest post, she served on the paper's political, home and foreign desks. **(CPQ News)**

## **Pakistan**

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

Launched with the assistance of UNESCO and the *Nawa-i-Ahmedur Sharqia* newspaper, *The Sadiq News* will inform rural journalists about their democratic

rights, enhance their networking capabilities, and fight threats against freedom of expression.

“Due to the non-experience of working in news organisations, the majority of the rural correspondents have been victims of many forms of attacks, including violence, raids on homes, legal actions and assaults on family.”

Information about violations in remote areas will be gathered and documented using the National Press Union and Rural Media network and Nawa-i-Ahmedur Sharqia correspondents. (CPQ News)

## **Burma**

Approximately 100 journalists and journalism students came together at Burma Media Association's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Burma Media Conference held at Changmai, Thailand November 21-22, 2006 to share information and examine ways to increase safety for journalists from Burma, living in exile and continuing to report on the situation in Burma, a country that has been under martial law for 44 years.

Exiled journalists, many who have been imprisoned, by the Myanmar Military Junta, return each year for this annual gathering now held in Thailand. The majority live in Thailand. They continue to report on conditions inside Burma via a variety of contacts, many face harassment as refugees in host countries that remain friendly to the military rulers of Burma. In addition to papers and strategy sessions, an opportunity was given to view documentary films, often made at great risk, from inside Burma.

There is no freedom of expression and journalists, writers, and media workers are jailed. The most notable of these is Mr. U Win Tin. He is the former editor-in-chief of *Hanthawaddy News* and is also a member of Burma's National League for Democracy's executive council.

He could earn his release by simply signing a paper renouncing his views. As a person of high principles and astounding courage he refuses this offer.

## **Malaysia**

Government officials in Malaysia have censored copies of *The Economist* magazine after alleging the publication-included content that contravened Islamic teachings.

Officials in Malaysia tore out pages of an article entitled 'Born of fire', about Muslims in Afghanistan and Somalia believing in the existence of jinns (genies), and blacked out a paragraph in another article, about Muslim women visiting an ancient

shrine to the Virgin Mary to pray for fertility, from the Dec. 23 edition of the international weekly, said a Centre for Independent Journalism (CIJ) report.

A spokesperson from Malaysia's Internal Security Ministry told the CIJ the practices in the articles contravened Islamic teachings because "Muslims cannot believe in Jinns as this goes against Islam." (CPQ News)

## CHAPTER-II

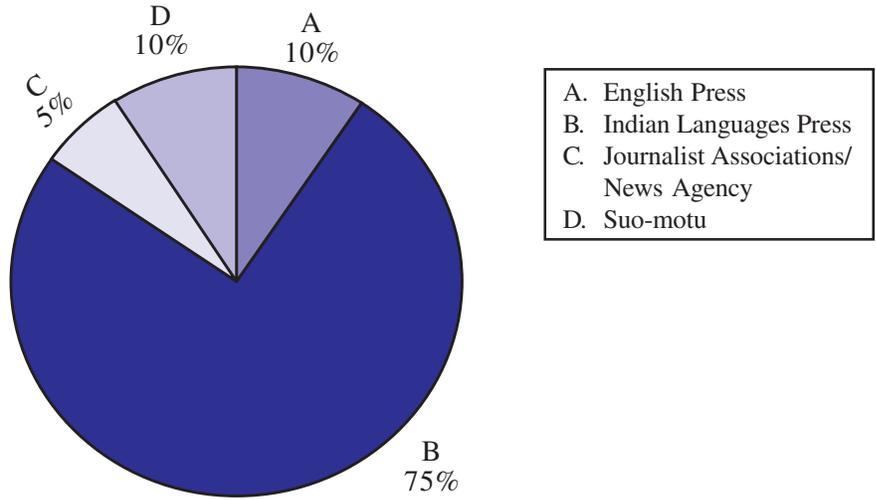
# **Adjudications in Complaints Regarding Threats to Press Freedom**

Section 13 of the Press Council Act, 1978 sets out the basic objects of the Press Council of India. The Council under the provisions of the Act is required not only to maintain and improve upon the high standards of journalistic ethics, but also to keep under review any development likely to impede the free functioning of the press. The Council thus makes such observations in the context of the functioning of the press as it may think fit, in any of its decisions or reports, covering the conduct of any authority, including government. It is in exercise of this power that the Council considers and pronounces on complaints filed against the authorities. The adjudications detailed in this chapter cover the observations of the Council in fulfilment of its objects.

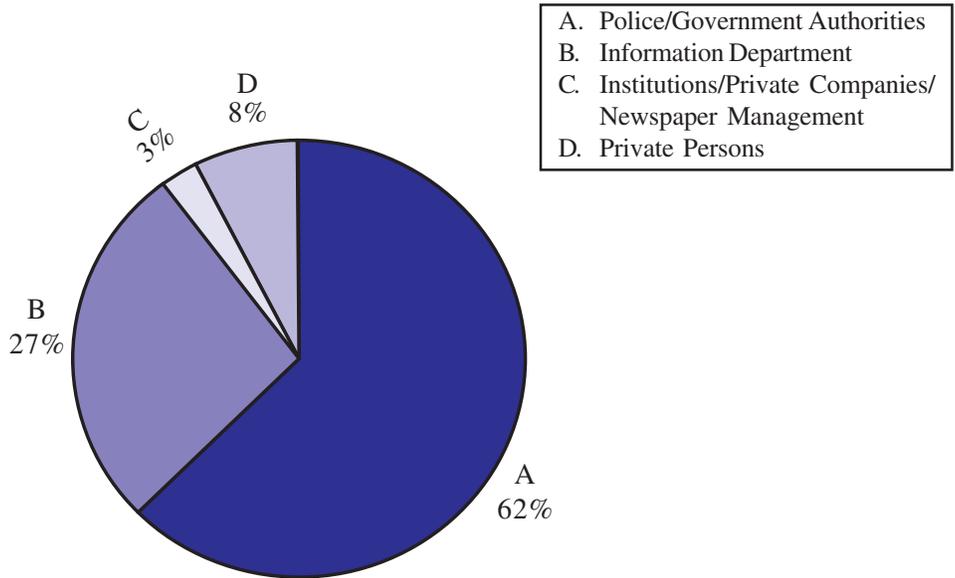
During the period under review the Council received 200 complaints, charging the governmental or other authorities with attempts at abridging the free functioning of the print media. Besides 94 matters were pending consideration from the previous year. Of the 294 matters requiring the Council's attention, 32 were disposed of by way of adjudication, while 98 were rejected at the preliminary stage for lack of substantive grounds for inquiry, the said matters being outside the Councils' charter or having gone to a court of law. 13 matters are pending before the Inquiry Committee. The remaining 151 matters were under process at the end of the period under review.

Adjudications on complaints under this chapter have been analysed graphically while detailed adjudications have been carried in the Council's quarterly journals, viz. 'The Press Council of India Review' in English, 'Press Parishad Samiksha' in Hindi and Compendium of Adjudications 2006-2007.

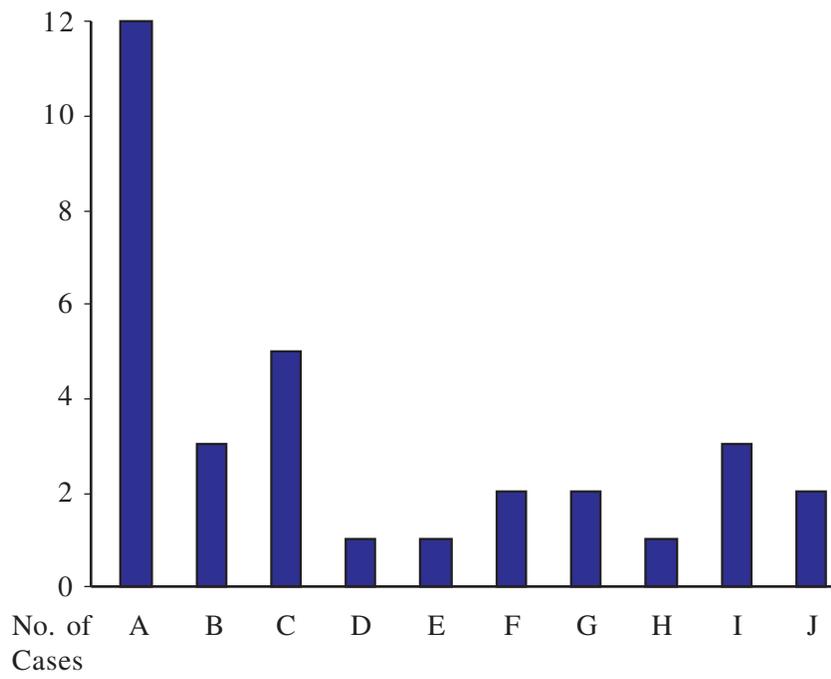
### Categories of Complainants



### Categories of Respondents



## Statewise Distribution of the Complainant Publications



## Key to Abbreviation

Total No. of Cases : 32

A. Uttar Pradesh	12
B. Bihar	3
C. Delhi	5
D. Assam	1
E. Maharashtra	1
F. Andhra Pradesh	2
G. Gujarat	2
H. Chhattisgarh	1
I. Tripura	3
J. Madhya Pradesh	2

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## **Harassment of Newsmen**

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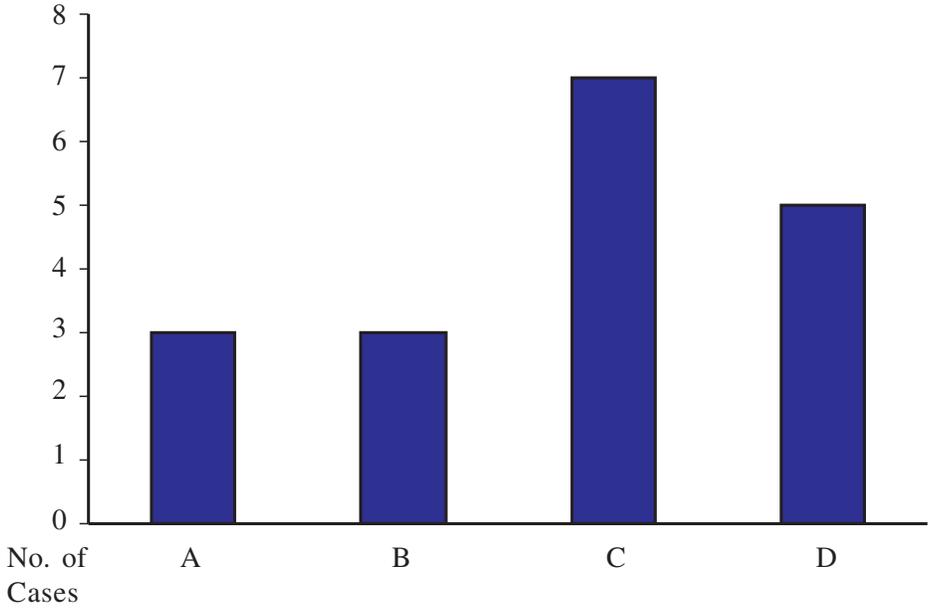
For bringing to the fore the unsavoury conduct of the authorities by way of articles/news in discharge of their professional duties, the journalists have to often bear the brunt. Manhandling, implication in criminal cases, etc. are some of the methods adopted by the authorities to compel pressmen to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

The Council adjudicated a total of 18 such matters in the present year. Of these, the charges were found to be substantiated in three matters, while three stood dismissed on merits. In seven others, the Council dropped inquiry when the respondents concerned made or assured adequate amends. Five complaints were disposed off for non-prosecution or for the matters having become *sub-judice* or when no action by the Council was found to be warranted after hearing the parties. The chart that follows makes the position more clear.

# Harassment of Newsmen

Total No. of Cases : 18

A. Upheld	3
B. Rejected	3
C. Assurance/Settled/Amends	7
D. Dropped for non-prosecution/withdrawal/sub-judice/lack of substance	5



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## **Facilities to the Press**

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The fourth estate i.e. the Press requires some facilities from the authorities for the efficient discharge of its functions and this is where the authorities come to play an important role. Though these facilities cannot be claimed as a right, yet, in granting or distributing the same the authorities as custodians of public funds, have to ensure equality of treatment and fairness amongst similarly situated claimants. The facilities cover a wide range of subjects such as release of advertisements, grant of accreditation, and concession in the purchase of machinery and of other paraphernalia. Misuse of power in granting these facilities or a *malafide* denial with a view to pressurize the journalists to compromise their independence, is to be viewed with concern.

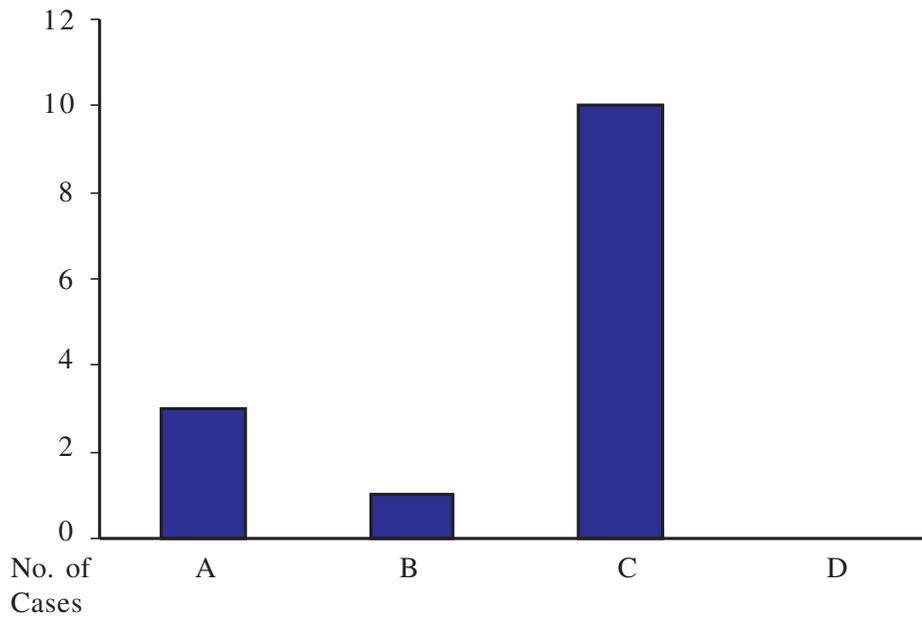
The authorities are expected to extend these facilities to the press under well-defined policies and rules. However at times they are seen to arbitrarily exert direct or indirect pressure on the press by withdrawing the facilities if the writings in the newspaper is not in conformity with the ideas of the authorities. In such situation the small and medium newspapers are worst affected.

Complaints to the Council regarding such motivated denial of facilities have been many. However, of the 14 adjudications that fall under this category only three were upheld, while one was rejected on merits. In 10 matters the authorities concerned redressed the grievance of the complaining parties. Graphics below clarify the position further.

## Facilities to the Press

Total No. of Cases : 14

A. Upheld	3
B. Rejected	1
C. Assurance/Settled/Amends	10
D. Dropped for non-prosecution/ withdrawal/sub-judice/lack substance	–



## CHAPTER - III

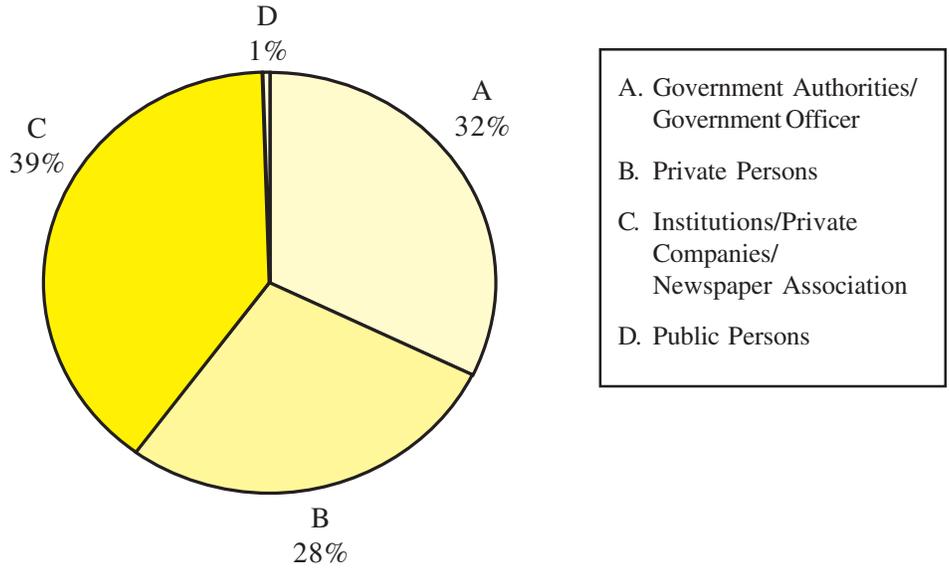
### **Adjudications Rendered by the Council in Complaints Filed Against the Press**

In the preceeding chapter we have observed the various pressure tactics adopted by the authorities and others to make the newsmen toe their line. This is, however, one part of the picture. The other side of it is that the print media itself often adopts some malpractices which are quite contrary to the healthy journalistic path. These malpractices are used for selfish motives by the print media to achieve its own ends.

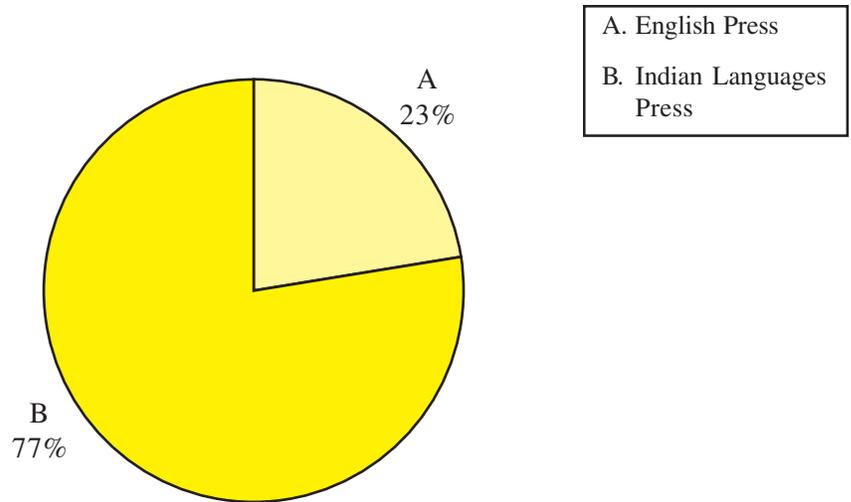
The prime function of the Press Council of India is to check any downward slide in the standards of the Press and to encourage the growth and maintenance of the ethical canons of journalism. In furtherance of this objective, the Council has developed norms through the medium of adjudications to guide the press on complaints entertained. An analysis of the complaints received in the Council shows that the complaints filed against the press account for almost 60% of the total complaints.

During the course of the year under review, the Council received 555 new complaints against the press. Besides, there were 666 matters pending from the previous year. Thus, the Council was to consider in all 1221 complaints against the press during the year under review. Of these, 172 matters were disposed of through adjudications, 546 matters were disposed off at the preliminary stage, either by settling these to the satisfaction of the parties or dismissing the complaints due to lack of sufficient grounds for action under the Act or on account of non-prosecution, etc. while two matters were directly disposed off by the Council. 24 matters are pending before the Inquiry Committee. Thus 477 matters were pending in this category at the close of the 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 2006-2007.

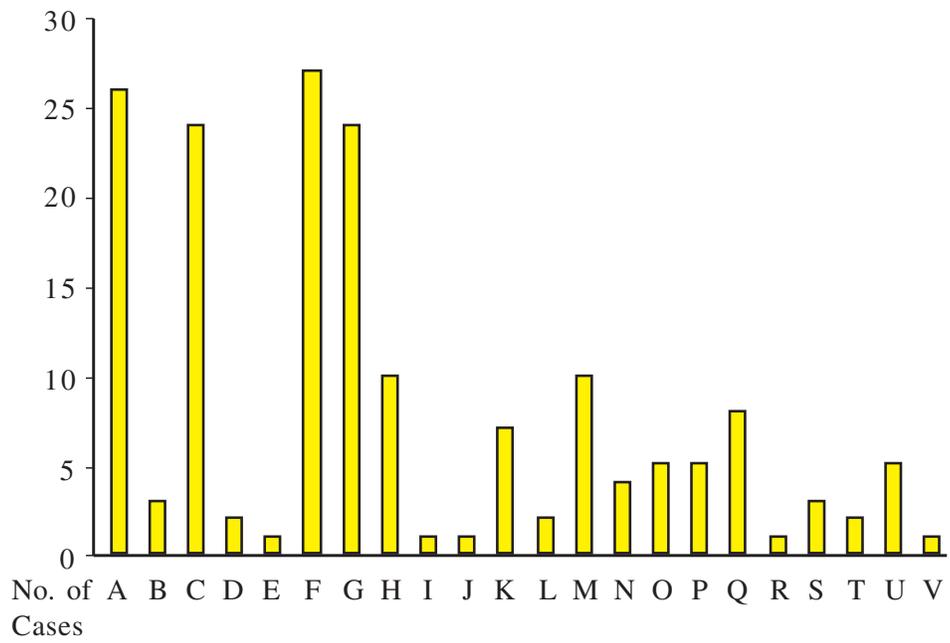
### Categories of Complainants



### Categories of Respondents



## Statewise Distribution of the Respondent Publications



## Key to Abbreviation

Total No. of Cases : 172

A.	Uttar Pradesh	26
B.	Bihar	3
C.	Delhi	24
D.	Assam	2
E.	Chandigarh	1
F.	Maharashtra	27
G.	Andhra Pradesh	24
H.	Rajasthan	10
I.	Tripura	1
J.	Kerala	1
K.	Madhya Pradesh	7
L.	Punjab	2
M.	Karnataka	10
N.	Haryana	4
O.	Gujarat	5
P.	West Bengal	5
Q.	Tamil Nadu	8
R.	Jammu & Kashmir	1
S.	Uttrakhand	3
T.	Orissa	2
U.	Jharkhand	5
V.	Nagaland	1

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## **Principles and Publication**

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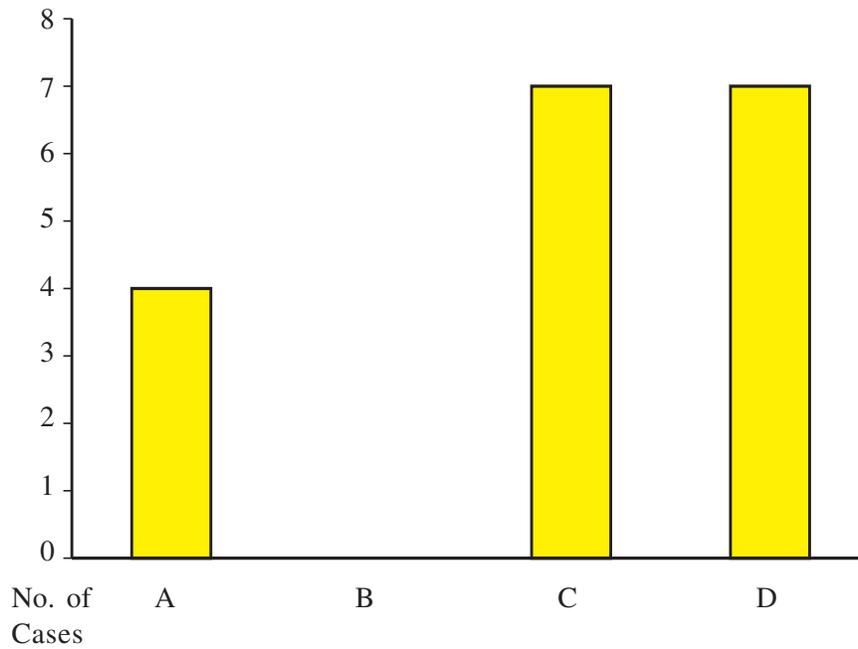
Often newspapers publish inaccurate reports or writeups harmful to the reputation of individuals or public officials and institutions. When the person aggrieved sends a contradiction or rejoinder giving his side of the case, generally there is reluctance on the part of the editor to publish the same with due promptitude and prominence.

Ignoring the salutary principles of right of reply, there are several other general principles which guide the press in its actions and attitude towards the readers. The alleged violation of these prompt the readers to seek the redress with the Council. In furtherance of its statutory responsibility, the Press Council has over the years evolved principles of journalistic conduct on case to case basis through its adjudications and guidelines. The endeavour of the Council has been, through these adjudications, to help the press maintain respect and dignity which the fourth estate deserves. The complaints before the Council were essentially brought against newspapers for violation of the generally accepted norms and guidelines. 18 adjudications delivered this year contained allegations of violations of general principles but in most of them the complainants claimed the right to have their rejoinders/replies/contradictions published in the columns of the respondent newspapers. Of these, four complaints were upheld with appropriate directions. Settlement was brought about in seven matters and the remaining seven were dropped for non-prosecution, withdrawal etc. The chart that follows makes the position more clear.

## Principles and Publication

Total No. of Cases : 18

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



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## **Press and Defamation**

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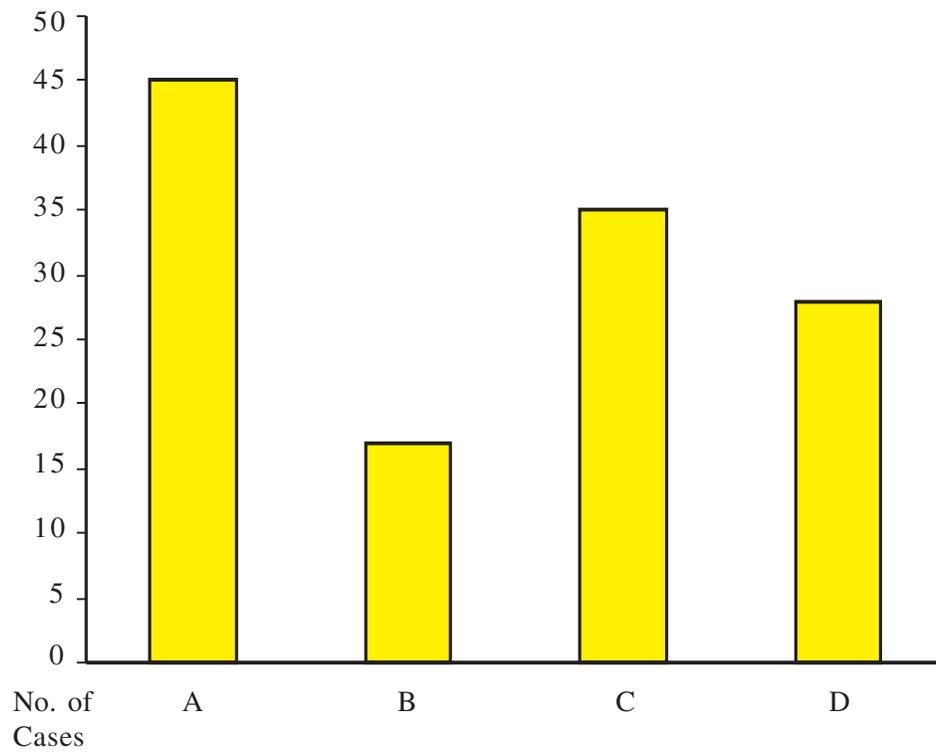
Eminent persons holding responsible and important office including even eminent judicial personalities have complained to the Press Council about the wrong reports and or false, incorrect statements attributed to them causing a lot of mischief and very great embarrassment. The reputation of any person is a priceless gem which one has to earn and acquire with hard, honest and sincere work and efforts over a long time and in many cases, it may be one's life-long achievement. When the reputation is sought to be tarnished and damaged by foul and unfair means, the person aggrieved may indeed be doomed for life and he has to suffer mental agony and torture beyond description. A contradiction or any apology or even a proper punishment by law may not prove sufficient restorative. The press is expected normally not to intrude into the privacy of the life of any individual and to disturb the peace, happiness and tranquility of the personal life and the home of an individual. The privacy of the life of an individual has to be respected. It is no doubt, open to the press and indeed, in appropriate cases, it may be considered the duty of the press, to expose any kind of corruption in public places. In public interest, the press may be justified in exposing the misdeeds of any person holding any high office, if any such person misuses his high office and seeks to exploit his position for any personal gain.

The right that the press enjoys in publishing comments and criticism of any individual, organization or institution which may have the effect of bringing the individual, organization or institution into disrepute, must be exercised in public interest on proper material and must not be otherwise motivated. Out of 125 decisions in this section of the report, 45 complaints were upheld, while charges were rejected in 17. In 35 complaints the parties arrived at amicable settlement. The Council dropped inquiry in 28 complaints holding that no further action was warranted or for the matters having become *sub-judice* or for not being pressed by the parties concerned. The following chart makes the position more clear.

## Press and Defamation

Total No. of Cases : 125

A. Upheld	45
B. Rejected	17
C. Assurance/Settled/Amends	35
D. Dropped for non-prosecution/ withdrawal/sub-judice/lack of substance	28



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## **Press and Morality**

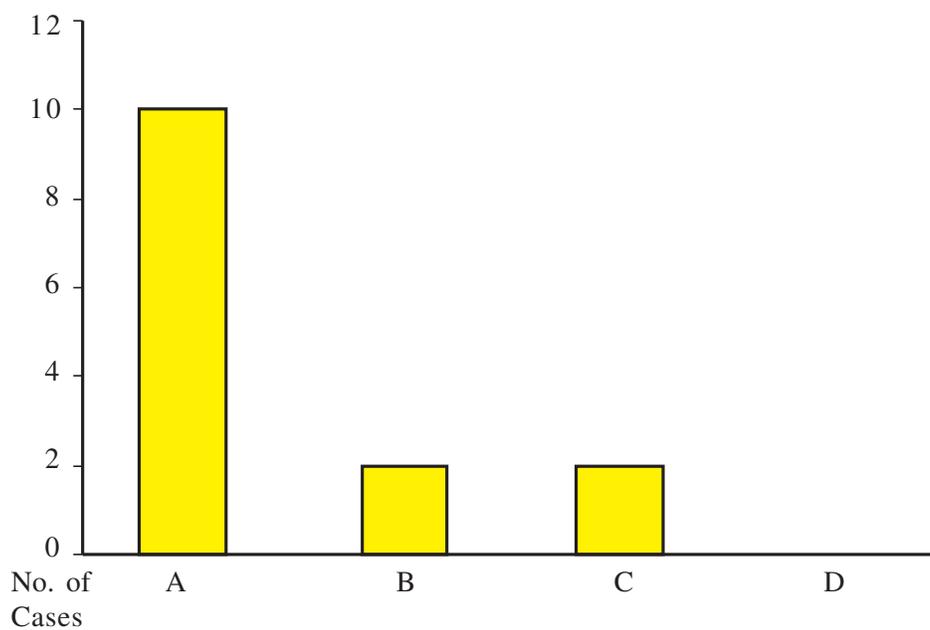
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Decency and morality occupy an important place in a society. The press is often accused of going beyond the permissible limits. The Indian Penal Code incorporates offences relating to public decency and morals, the relevant Sections being 292 to 292A. These provisions make it punishable to sell or distribute obscene literature and objects, or to commit obscene acts etc. However self-regulations scores over punitive action. The Press Council has had to deal quite frequently with charges of obscene writings in newspapers. In cases where the Council finds that the purpose of publishing the impugned writing or publication was pornographic and meant for arousing prurient interest in young minds and where there was no interest relating to science or art or any attempt to make some research with a view to suggesting some reform and where it would be said that the case was merely a mix of dirt for money's sake, there would be clear violation of public taste even if it was not punishable under law. In 14 matters the question of obscenity was adjudicated upon by the Council this year. The charges of offence against public taste and morality against the newspapers were upheld in 10 matters. The Council rejected two complaints while two matters were settled upon assurances. The following chart makes the position more clear.

## Press and Morality

Total No. of Cases : 14

A. Upheld	10
B. Rejected	2
C. Assurance/Settled/Amends	2
D. Dropped for non-prosecution/ withdrawal/sub-judice/lack of substance	–



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

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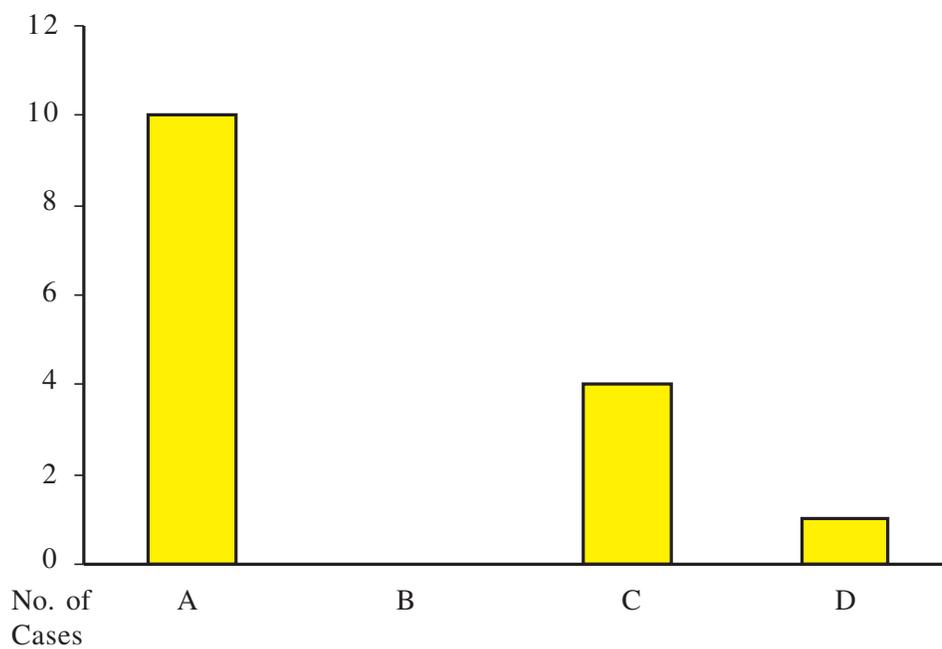
A special responsibility is cast on the press media, with its far-reaching impact on the public mind, especially in view of the turbulent situation prevalent in some parts of the country. Being a powerful medium it is vested with the calibre of influencing and to moulding public opinion and as such it is always expected to concentrate on curbing and controlling all divisive forces and promoting communal unity and national integration through its reporting of views, events and comments. By and large the press, even under trying circumstances, has been discharging its duties creditably. Unfortunately, the Council does receive some complaints with regard to communal writings.

During the period under review, the Council adjudicated 15 complaints under this category. Of these 10 matters were upheld and action was dropped in one matter on account of the complaints being without substance or the matter being *sub-judice* or where the complainant failed to pursue his grievance. The remaining four matters were settled upon assurance. Graphic presentation follows.

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

Total No. of Cases : 15

A. Upheld	10
B. Rejected	–
C. Assurance/Settled/Amends	4
D. Dropped for non-prosecution/ withdrawal/sub-judice/lack of substance	1



## CHAPTER – IV

### Finances of the Council 2006-2007

The Budget Estimates of the Council for the financial year 2006-07, as accepted by the Central Government, were Rs.269.03 lakhs. The funds of the Council were primarily made up of (i) levy of fee collected by the Council from newspapers/periodicals registered with the Registrar of Newspapers for India and from the news-agencies and other miscellaneous receipts, like interest on bank account etc., estimated at Rs.37.50 lakhs and (ii) Grant-in-aid from the Central Government in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting estimated to be Rs.231.53 lakhs. Revising the estimates for 2006-07 in March, 2007 the Central Government approved a scaled down sanction Budget grant to Rs.230.50 lakhs without reference to Gross estimate.

As the Final Grant for 2006-07 the Government released the following after the Council had intimated the following figures to the Government :

	(in lakhs of rupees)
Gross Expenditure	Rs. 280.44
Revenue Receipts	Rs. 50.26
Net Expenditure	Rs. 230.18
Unspent balance of Previous year i.e. 2005-2006	Rs. 16.22
Grant-in-aid from Central Government	Rs. 214.28

Accordingly, while Council received grant-in-aid amounting to Rs.214.28 lakhs during the financial year 2006-07 from the Central Government, it collected Rs.30.73 lakhs as fees levied upon newspapers/periodicals and news agencies. Apart from this Rs.19.53 lakhs accounted for other miscellaneous receipts, like interest on bank accounts, interest on F.D.Rs with the Bank, etc. during the year under report.

As a result of vigorous effort under way to realise as much revenue as possible from newspapers/periodicals defaulting in payment of the fee levied on them under the mandate of the Act, during the year the Council recovered Rs.6.18 lakhs as outstanding levy of fee from the defaulters. This figure is included in the total figures of Rs.30.73 lakhs mentioned above. Apart from this arrears of Rs.2.35 lakhs were written off after establishing the closure of the concerned publication.

Section 22 of the Press Council Act, 1978 provides that the accounts of Press Council of India shall be maintained and audited in such manner as may, in consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, be prescribed. The Annual account of the Press Council of India for the financial year 2006-07 which were maintained in accordance with the aforesaid provisions, were audited by the Audit party of the office of the Director General of Audit, Central Revenues, New Delhi and certified to be to their satisfaction. The Annual Accounts of the Council are annexed hereto.

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# **BALANCE SHEET**

**As on 31st March 2007**

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**PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA  
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31.03.2007**

Amount Rs.

<b>LIABILITIES</b>	<b>Schedule</b>	<b>Current Year</b>	<b>Previous Year</b>
CAPITAL FUND	1	10,244,740	9,631,707
RESERVES AND SURPLUS	2	42,890,242	43,600,493
C.P.F. FUND	3	39,316,331	34,557,970
CURRENT LIABILITIES AND PROVISIONS	4	279,812	229,495
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>92,731,125</b>	<b>88,019,665</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>			
FIXED ASSETS	5	9,142,369	9,631,707
INVESTMENTS-FROM EARMARKED FUNDS	6	39,104,971	32,739,756
CURRENT ASSETS, LOANS, ADVANCES ETC.	7	44,483,785	45,648,202
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>92,731,125</b>	<b>88,019,665</b>

SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES	14
CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND NOTES ON ACCOUNTS	15

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

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

**PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA  
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR  
THE YEAR ENDED ON 31.03.2007**

<b>INCOME</b>	<b>Schedule</b>	<b>Current Year</b>	<b>Previous Year</b>
Income from Levy Fees & Others	8	5,238,454	4,571,355
Grants from GOI	9	18,928,014	16,669,183
Interest Earned	10	2,404,418	2,284,797
<b>TOTAL (A)</b>		<b>26,570,886</b>	<b>23,525,335</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Establishment Expenses	11	16,495,922	16,369,883
Other Administrative Expenses	12	8,104,945	6,580,232
Finance Charges	13	2,515	4,045
Depreciation(Corresponding to Schedule 5)		1,102,372	-
<b>TOTAL (B)</b>		<b>25,705,754</b>	<b>22,954,160</b>
Balance being excess of Income over Expenditure (A-B)		865,132	571,175
- Prior Period Adjustment Cr.		28,801	
- Transfer to Special reserve (Specify each)			
- Transfer to /from General Reserve			
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) CARRIED TO INCOME &amp; EXPENDITURE A/C</b>		<b>893,933</b>	<b>571,175</b>

SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES 14

CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND NOTES ON ACCOUNTS 15

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

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

**PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA**  
**SCHEDULES FORMING PART OF BALANCE SHEET**  
**AS AT 31.03.2007**

**SCHEDULE 1 - CAPITAL FUND**

Amount Rs.

	<b>Current Year</b>	<b>Previous Year</b>
Balance as at the beginning of the year	9,631,707	8,704,118
Add: Funds Capitalised During the Year	1,327,363	1,047,386
Add: Excess Amount written off in Previous Years now written Back	10,256	14,258
	10,969,326	9,765,762
Less: Amount of Fixed Assets overstated in Previous Year	720,353	134,055
Less: Amount Written Off on condemned Assets	4,233	
<b>BALANCE AS AT THE YEAR END</b>	<b>10,244,740</b>	<b>9,631,707</b>

**SCHEDULE 2- RESERVES AND SURPLUS**

Amount Rs.

	<b>Current Year</b>	<b>Previous Year</b>
<b>A. Income &amp; Expenditure Account:</b>		
Balance as at the beginning of the year	41,978,616	41,407,441
Add/(Deduct): Balance of net income/(expenditure) transferred from Income and Expenditure Account	893,933	571,175
Add/(Deduct): Other adjustment (Please Specify)		
Excess Interest booked in Previous Year written back		
<b>B. Unspent Grant</b>	17,693	1,621,877
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>42,890,242</b>	<b>43,600,493</b>

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

Amount Rs.

	<b>Current Year</b>		<b>Previous Year</b>	
a) <u>Opening balance of the funds</u>		34,557,970		29,783,114
b) <u>Addition to the Funds:</u>				
I. Councils' Contr. To C.P.F.	928,279		908,098	
ii. Employees' Contr. To C.P.F.	3,006,070		2,928,638	
iii. Interest on C.P.F. Funds from Govt.	2,776,930	6,711,279	2,392,447	6,229,183
<u>TOTAL (a+b)</u>		41,269,249		36,012,297
c) <u>Utilisation/Expenditure towards objectives of funds</u>				
C.P.F. Withdrawals	1,444,236		1,374,500	
Final Payments to Outgoing Employees	—		—	
Reversal of excess credit of CPF in pr. Year	—		—	
PF Advances	508,682		79,827	
Other	—	1,952,918	—	1,454,327
<b>Net Balance of Fund as at the year end (a+b-c)</b>		<b>39,316,331</b>		<b>34,557,970</b>

**SCHEDULE 4- CURRENT LIABILITIES AND PROVISIONS**

Amount Rs.

	<b>Current Year</b>		<b>Previous Year</b>	
<b>A. CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>				
1 Advances Received				
- Advance Levy of Fee	105,000		76,924	
- Levy Fee Suspense	86,851	191,851	78,701	155,625
2 Security Deposits		31,000		35,500
3 Statutory Liabilities (TDS)				
- Overdue	—			
- Others	—	—	30,449	30,449
4 Other current Liabilities		56,961		7,921
<b>TOTAL (A)</b>		<b>279,812</b>		<b>229,495</b>
<b>B. PROVISIONS</b>		—		—
<b>TOTAL (A+B)</b>		<b>279,812</b>		<b>229,495</b>

**SCHEDULE 5 - FIXED ASSETS**

DESCRIPTION	GROSS BLOCK			
	Cost As at 01.04.06	Additions during year	Ded./Adjustt during year	Cost As at 31.03.07
<u>A. Fixed Assets:</u>				
Furniture & Fixtures	6,847,674	269,862	481,366	6,636,171
Air Conditioners & Coolers	230,772	—	—	230,772
Computer/Peripharals	422,600	778,659	—	1,201,259
EPABX System	28,080	—	—	28,080
Conference System	97,770	—	—	97,770
Library Books	576,149	28,515	4,233	600,431
Heat Convector & Heaters	37,230	—	—	37,230
Tape Recorders	5,304	—	—	5,304
Mobile Phones	8,800	11,300	—	20,100
Stabelisers	26,551	—	—	26,551
Cars & Bicycle	956,693	—	228,731	727,962
Television	11,000	—	—	11,000
Typewriter & Duplicator	383,084	—	—	383,084
Atendance Recording Systems	—	82,000	—	82,000
Refrigerator	—	18,000	—	18,000
Solar Water Heating System	—	110,227	—	110,227
Water Dispencer	—	28,800	—	28,800
<b>TOTAL OF CURRENT YEAR</b>	<b>9,631,707</b>	<b>1,327,363</b>	<b>714,330</b>	<b>10,244,741</b>
<b><u>B. CAPITAL, WORK-IN-PROGRESS</u></b>	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,631,707</b>	<b>1,327,363</b>	<b>714,330</b>	<b>10,244,741</b>

**SCHEDULE 5 - FIXED ASSETS**

Depreciation As at 01.04.06	DEPRECIATION			NET BLOCK	
	On Additions during year	On Deductions during year	Depreciation As at 31.03.07	As at the 31.03.07	As at the 31.03.06
—	684,767	—	684,767	5,951,403	6,847,674
—	34,616	—	34,616	196,156	230,772
—	63,390	—	63,390	1,137,869	422,600
—	4,212	—	4,212	23,868	28,080
—	14,666	—	14,666	83,105	97,770
—	86,422	—	86,422	514,009	576,149
—	5,585	—	5,585	31,646	37,230
—	796	—	796	4,508	5,304
—	1,320	—	1,320	18,780	8,800
—	3,983	—	3,983	22,568	26,551
—	143,504	—	143,504	584,458	956,693
—	1,650	—	1,650	9,350	11,000
—	57,463	—	57,463	325,621	383,084
—	—	—	—	82,000	—
—	—	—	—	18,000	—
—	—	—	—	110,227	—
—	—	—	—	28,800	—
—	<b>1,102,372</b>	—	<b>1,102,372</b>	<b>9,142,369</b>	<b>9,631,707</b>
—	—	—	—	—	—
—	<b>1,102,372</b>	—	<b>1,102,372</b>	<b>9,142,369</b>	<b>9,631,707</b>

**SCHEDULE 6- INVESTMENTS FROM EARMARKED FUNDS**

Amount Rs.

	<b>Current Year</b>		<b>Previous Year</b>	
1. Fixed Deposits with Schedule Banks				
- Against C.P.F. Fund	35,876,269		30,160,646	
- FDR Interest Accrued thereon	<u>3,228,702</u>	39,104,971	<u>2,579,110</u>	32,739,756
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>39,104,971</b>		<b>32,739,756</b>

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

Amount Rs.

	<b>Current Year</b>		<b>Previous Year</b>	
<b>A. CURRENT ASSETS:</b>				
<b>1. Sundry Debtors:</b>				
- On Account of Levy Fees				
Debts Outstanding for a period exceeding six months	32,896,397		31,480,161	
Others	<u>2,581,875</u>	35,478,272	<u>2,270,251</u>	33,750,412
<b>2. Cash balances in hand</b> (including Postage in Hands and imprest)				
Cash in Hand	90,903		3,250	
Imprest Account Balance	736		10,000	
Postage Stamps in Hands	<u>8,380</u>	100,019	<u>16,465</u>	29,715
<b>3. Bank Balances:</b>				
- With Scheduled Banks:				
Saving Accounts				
- State Bank of Hyderabad - General Account	(85,397)		1,588,428	
- State Bank of Hyderabad - Levy Fee Account	3,071		6,960	
- State Bank of Hyderabad - Revolving Account	209,256		475,433	
- State Bank of Hyderabad - C.P.F. Account	<u>3,476,740</u>	3,603,670	<u>4,424,002</u>	6,494,823
Deposit Accounts				
- State Bank of Hyderabad - Revolving Account		2,327,286		1,743,116
<b>TOTAL (A)</b>		<b>41,509,247</b>		<b>42,018,066</b>

**SCHEDULE 7- (continued)**

Amount Rs.

	<b>Current Year</b>		<b>Previous Year</b>	
<b>B. <u>LOANS,ADVANCES AND OTHER ASSETS</u></b>				
1 <u>Loans to Staff:</u>				
- Cycle Advance	—		3,750	
- Fan Advance	—		200	
- Festival Advance	22,800		28,350	
- Housing Building Advance	149,301		179,637	
- Scooter Advance	27,574	199,675	37,202	249,139
2 <u>Advances and other amounts recoverable in cash or in kind or for value to be received:</u>				
- On Capital Account	—		233,280	
- Prepayments				
- Advance for Books Periodicals	8,691		3,352	
- Advance to Parties	2,511,957		2,738,064	
- TA Advance	9,024		95,400	
- Tax Deducted at Source	45,331		45,331	
- Others				
- Salary Recoverable	—		9,538	
- MCA Suspense	1,000		1,000	
- Scooter Suspense	—		1,340	
- C.P.F. Suspense	6,673	2,582,676	6,673	3,133,978
3 <u>Income Accrued</u>				
a) On Deposits of Revolving Account (includes income due unrealised- Rs.....)		135,856		190,688
4 Deposits with Different Departments		56,331		56,331
<b>TOTAL (B)</b>		<b>2,974,538</b>		<b>3,630,136</b>
<b>TOTAL (A+B)</b>		<b>44,483,785</b>		<b>45,648,202</b>

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

Amount Rs.

	<b>Current Year</b>		<b>Previous Year</b>	
1 Levy fees received from Newspapers/ Periodicals/News Agencies	3,073,436		2,841,872	
Add: Demand raised for previous year	650		4,250	
Add: Advance of Previous Years adjusted	21,900		23,751	
Add: Fees outstanding for current Year	2,581,875		2,242,250	
Less: Fees received for previous Years	618,110		515,950	
Less: Fees received in advance /suspense	59,876	4,999,875	26,923	4,569,250
2 Others(Specify)				
- Income Tax Refund	233,970		—	
- Sale of Waste Paper	3,881		2,105	
- Fee for Information under Right to Information Act	698		—	
- Other	30	238,579	—	2,105
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>5,238,454</b>		<b>4,571,355</b>

**SCHEDULE 9- GRANTS**

Amount Rs.

	<b>Current Year</b>		<b>Previous Year</b>	
(Irrevocable Grants & Subsidies Received)				
- Central Government (Ministry of I & B)				
- Grant Received During the Year	21,428,123		21,448,000	
- Add: Unspent Grant for the Previous Year	1,621,877		282,893	
	23,050,000		21,730,893	
- Less: Grant Utilised for Interest on C.P.F. Funds	2,776,930		2,392,447	
- Less: Grant Utilised for Fixed Assets	1,327,363		1,047,386	
- Less: Unspent Grant for the Current Year	17,693	18,928,014	1,621,877	16,669,183
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>18,928,014</b>		<b>16,669,183</b>

**SCHEDULE 10- INTEREST EARNED**

Amount Rs.

	<b>Current Year</b>		<b>Previous Year</b>	
1 On Term Deposits:				
a) With Scheduled Banks				
- CPF Account (trf to General Fund)				
Interest Received During the Year	1,415,623		2,470,458	
Add: Tax Deducted at Source	—		39,335	
Less: Related to Previous Years	1,174,508		2,110,253	
Less: Interest excess booked reversed in Pr. Year	—		26,678	
Add: Interest Accrued for the Year	1,824,100	2,065,215	1,632,269	2,005,131
- Revolving Fund Account				
Interest Received During the Year	184,170		295,431	
Add: Tax Deducted at Source	—		5,996	
Less: Related to Previous Years	143,258		241,548	
Add: Interest Accrued for the Year	88,426	129,338	106,685	166,564
2 On Savings Accounts:				
a) With Scheduled Banks				
- General Fund Account	73,245		1,829	
- CPF Account (Trf. To General Fund)	40,468		39,202	
- Levy Fees Account	28,312		9,597	
- Revolving Fund (Loans & Advances)	13,515	155,540	12,929	63,557
3 On Loans:				
a) Employees/Staff				
- Housing Building Advance	29,671		15,552	
- Scooter Advance	17,955		19,930	
- Cycle Advance	228			
- Fan Advance	50			
- Motor Car Advance	6,421	54,325	14,063	49,545
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2,404,418</b>		<b>2,284,797</b>

**SCHEDULE 11 - ESTABLISHMENT EXPENSES**

Amount Rs.

	<b>Current Year</b>	<b>Previous Year</b>
a) Salaries and Wages	14,518,516	14,373,913
b) Sumptuary Allowances (incl. arrears)	218,252	133,706
c) OTA	24,358	13,279
d) Tution Fees Reimbursement	52,985	15,190
e) Medical Reimbursement	371,492	436,263
f) Bonus	153,039	149,713
g) L.T.C.	145,888	331,413
h) Encashment of E.L.	2,055	2,352
i) Contribution to Provident Fund	928,279	908,098
j) Leave Salary & Pension Contr. To deputationists	—	—
k) Expenses on Employees' Retirement and Terminal Benefits	73,638	—
l) Others (Honorarium Awards)	7,420	5,956
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,495,922</b>	<b>16,369,883</b>

**SCHEDULE 12 - OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES**

Amount Rs.

	<b>Current Year</b>	<b>Previous Year</b>
1 Electricity and Water	455,712	217,081
2 Office Expense & Security Expense	218,243	463,526
3 Insurance	23,111	1,155
4 Repairs and Maintenance	777,190	604,258
5 Vehicles Repairs and Maintenance	249,761	177,617
6 Travelling and conveyance Expenses	2,318,117	2,205,508
7 Rent, Rates and Taxes	201,165	14,624
8 Postage, Telephone and Communication Charges	682,701	482,140
9 Printing and Stationary	1,083,123	749,872
10 Newspapers & Periodicals	72,962	77,019
11 Liveries to Class IV Staff	2,200	44,773
12 Hospitality Expenses	828,225	143,471
13 Subscription Expenses	18,378	22,598
14 Professional Charges	128,344	46,390
15 Exhibition & Seminar	521,592	—
16 Advertisement and Publicity	289,316	100,000
17 Others(specify)- Sundries	—	—
18 Provision for Bad and Doubtful/Debts/Advances	234,805	1,230,200
19 Tax Deducted	—	—
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,104,945</b>	<b>6,580,232</b>

**Note:**

- 1 Electricity & Water Expenses are incurred towards chairman's residence.
- 2 Out of the total administrative Expenses, Rs. 16,16,829/- incurred towards seminar after adjusting receipt of Rs. 1,12,000/- for advertisement in seminar.

**SCHEDULE 13 - FINANCE CHARGES**

Amount Rs.

	<b>Current Year</b>	<b>Previous Year</b>
a) On Fixed Loans		
b) On Other Loans (including Bank Charges)	2,515	4,045
c) Other (specify)		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,515</b>	<b>4,045</b>

**PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA**  
**SCHEDULE FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2007**

**SCHEDULE 14 - SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**1. Accounting Convention**

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

**2. Method of Accounting**

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

**3. Investments**

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

**4. Fixed Assets**

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

**5. Depreciation**

The Council 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 at the rates specified under Income Tax Act, 1961.

**6. Government Grant**

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

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

**7. Retirement Benefits**

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

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

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

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

**PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA**  
**SCHEDULE FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.03.2007**

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

**A. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES**

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

**B. NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

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

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

**2. Provision for Taxation**

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

**3. Depreciation on Fixed Assets**

Depreciation on fixed assets has been charged for the current financial year i.e. 2006-07. No depreciation was being provided for the earlier years. Depreciation is charged at the rates prescribed on the opening book value brought forward from the previous year.

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

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

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

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

## PRESS COUNCIL RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR

Receipt	Current Year		Previous Year	
<b>I. Opening Balance</b>				
(a) Cash in hand (Imprest Account)		13,250		2000
(b) Bank Balances				
– General Fund	1,588,428		265,467	
– Levy of Fees Account	6,960		5,491	
– Revolving Fund (Loan & Advance)	475,433		337,075	
– C.P.F. Account	4,424,002	6,494,823	2,871,838	3,479,871
(c) Postage Stamps in Hand		16,465		9,935
<b>II. Grants Received</b>				
(a) From Government of India (Ministry of I & B)		21,428,123		21,448,000
<b>III. Interest Received</b>				
(a) On Bank deposits				
– Term Deposits	1,599,793		2,765,889	
– Saving Accounts	155,540	1,755,333	63,557	2,829,446
(b) Loans, Advances etc.		54,325		49,545
<b>IV. Other Income (specify)</b>				
Levy fees received from Newspapers/ Periodicals/News Agencies		3,073,436		2,841,872
Others		238,579		2,105
<b>V. Receipts from Matured Investments</b>				
Encashment of FDRs				
– Revolving Fund Account	975,685		472,000	
– C.P. F. Account	7,236,664	8,212,349	10,445,923	10,917,923
<b>VI. Any Other receipts</b>				
(a) <u>Securities</u>				
– Refund from Car Care Centre	—		12,000	
Receipt for Waste Paper	500	500	—	12,000

**OF INDIA**  
**THE YEAR ENDED ON 31.03.2007**

Payments	Current Year		Previous Year	
<b>I. Expenses</b>				
(a) Establishment expenses (Corresponding to Schedule 11)	16,495,922		16,369,883	
(b) Administrative Expenses (Corresponding to Schedule 12) (net of previous year advances adjusted)	7,525,527		4,593,428	
<b>II. Payments made against funds</b>				
Agt. Revolving Fund (Loans & Advances)				
– Disbursements of Loans				
– Festival Advance	46,500		49,500	
– Scooter Advance	24,000		—	
– Cycle Advance	—		9,000	
– Table Fan Advance	—	70,500	2,000	60,500
Agt. C.P.F. Fund				
– Advance/Withdrawal to Staff	2,283,326		1,954,219	
– Final Payments to Outgoing Employees	255,600	2,538,926	—	1,954,219
<b>III. Investments and deposits made</b>				
(a) Out Earmarked/Endowment funds				
– Agt. Revolving Fund (Loans & Advances)	1,559,855		773,427	
– Agt. C.P.F. Fund	12,952,287	14,512,142	13,695,293	14,468,720
(b) Out of own funds (Investments-Others)				
<b>IV. Expenditure on Fixed Assets &amp; Capital work-in-progress</b>				
(a) Purchase of Fixed Assets				
– Library Books	28,515		36,142	
– Furniture & Others	1,036,768	1,065,283	1,011,244	1,047,386

<b>Receipt</b>	<b>Current Year</b>		<b>Previous Year</b>	
b) Recovery of Advances				
– Housing Building Advance	30,336		30,336	
– Festival Advances	52,050		49,500	
– Scooter Advances	34,968		51,168	
– Motor Car Advance	—		—	
– Cycle Advance	3,750		5,250	
– Table Fan Advance	200	121,304	1,800	138,054
(c) Recovery from Employee	9,538		3,226	
TDS Payable	—		30,449	
C.P.F. Contr. and refund loan	3,644,344	3,653,882	3,428,530	3,462,205
(d) Amount trf. from General Fund to C.P.F. Fund on account of:				
– Council's Contribution to PF	928,279		908,098	
– Interest on Employees' Cont.	1,841,204		1,579,938	
– Interest on Council's Cont.	935,726		812,509	
– Others	10,000	3,715,209	26,678	3,327,223
(e) Amount Excess trf. to General Fund from C.P.F. Fund				
– On a/c of rec. of PCI Contr. to	—		—	
– Others	—	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>		<b>48,777,578</b>		<b>48,520,179</b>

Payments	Current Year		Previous Year	
(b) Expenditure on Capital Work-in-progress				
<b>V. Refund of surplus money/Loans/ Security</b>				
(a) To the Government of India (TDS)	30,449		—	
(b) Refund of Security	5,000		—	
(c) Excess Recovery Loan Refunded	—	35,449	670	670
<b>VI. Finance Charges (Interest)</b>		2,515		4,045
<b>VII. Other Payments (Specify)</b>				
(a) Amount trf. from General Fund to C.P.F. Fund on account of:				
– Interest on Employees' Cont.	1,841,204		1,579,938	
– Interest on Concil's Cont.	935,726		812,509	
– Others	10,000	2,786,930	26,678	2,419,125
(b) Advance				
– for Books & Periodicals	8,567		2,732	
– for Capital Assets	—		233,280	
– for Others	28,902	37,469	832,115	1,068,127
(d) Salary paid to Staff		3,226		9,538
(e) Excess trf. from C.P.F. Fund to General Fund		—		—
<b>VIII. Closing Balances</b>				
(a) Cash in hand (Imprest Account)		91,639		13,250
(b) Bank Balances				
– General Fund	(85,397)		1,588,428	
– Levy of Fees Account	3,071		6,960	
– Revolving Fund (Loan & Advance)	209,256		475,433	
– C.P.F. Account	3,476,740	3,603,670	4,424,002	6,494,823
(c) Postage Stamps in Hand		8,380		16,465
<b>Total</b>		<b>48,777,578</b>		<b>48,520,179</b>

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

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

**Statement of Cases**  
(April 1, 2006 — March 31, 2007)

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Particulars</b>	<b>Section-13</b>	<b>Section-14</b>	<b>Total</b>
1.	Cases pending as on 31.3.2006	94	666	760
2.	Cases filed between 01.04.2006 to 31.03.2007	200	555	755
3.	Cases adjudicated between 1.4.2006 to 31.3.2007	32	172	204
4.	Cases directly reported to the Council	-	2	2
5.	Cases decided under the proviso to Regulation 5(1) of Inquiry Regulation 1979 between 1.4.2006 to 31.3.2007	98	546	644
6.	Matters pending before the Inquiry Committee	13	24	37
7.	Cases under process as on 31.03.2007	151	477	628

**The Gazette of India**  
**EXTRAORDINARY**  
PART II-Section3-Sub-section (ii)  
**PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY**

[No.897] NEW DELHI, FRIDAY, AUGUST 11, 2006/SRAVANA 20, 1928

**MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING**  
**NOTIFICATION**

**New Delhi, the 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2006**

S.O.1298(E).\_\_\_In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (5) of Section 5 read with sub-section (6) of Section 6 of the Press Council Act, 1978 (37 of 1978), the Central Government hereby makes the following amendment in the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, number S.O. 1108 (E), dated the 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2004, namely:—

In the said notification, under the heading “Members of Parliament {nominated under clause (e) of sub-section 3 of section 5}”, for serial number 27 and the entries relating thereto, the following serial number and entries shall be substituted, namely:-

“27.	Shri Yashwant Sinha, Present Address: 6, Kushak Road, New Delhi.	Nominated by the Chairman of the Council of States
------	---	--

Permanent Address: Vill.:Hupad,  
Post: Morangi, Distt.: Hazaribagh,  
Jharkhand.”

(F. No.4/31/2003-PRESS)  
STUTI KACKER, Jt Secy.

Note: The principal notification was published in the Gazette of India, Part II, Section 3, sub-section (ii) vide number S.O. 1108 (E), dated the 12<sup>th</sup> October, 2004, and subsequently amended by S.O. 819(E), dated the 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2006.

## Symposia Document

**“The sole aim of journalism should be service. The newspaper press is a great power, but just as an unchained torrent of water submerges the whole country-side and devastates crops, even so an uncontrolled pen serves but to destroy. If the control is from without, it proves more poisonous than want of control. It can be profitable only when exercised from within.”**

*- MAHATAMA GANDHI -*

The two-day International Symposia held at New Delhi, India, by the Press Council of India on the occasion of the National Press Day and its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, focused on globalization, media and ethics and role of self-regulatory bodies of the media. Discussion followed two clear streams – the first was about the globalization, its history, nature and implications for media worldwide and India. The symposia felt that globalization was not merely an economic phenomenon, being an off-shoot market-dominated corporate capitalism, but also a very powerful cultural content, shaped by the marriage between advertising and television. The second was the role of the media in terms of ethics in the context of globalization. The second stream as a natural corollary deliberated the issue of regulating media conduct and the role of regulatory authorities. The media laws and the role of the Press Councils/ Media Council in encouraging the media to follow ethics specific to respective countries, the nature of their regulatory functions and their success were also discussed. The general consensus was that while it was important to maintain ethical standards, compulsion could well be counter productive. The Press Councils rely on the strength of their moral authority, expressing it in extreme cases in the form of censure of the errant media to ensure conformity with the values and moral code of an ethical democracy. In the process, they took cognizance of both reportage and comments by media, as well as, in the case of India, infringement of media freedom by authority which made it difficult for media units to discharge their responsibilities. The host Council stressed on its dual role comprising the maintenance of ethical values and protection of journalistic freedom and encouraged other countries to devise mechanism whereby the Councils would play an active role in promoting freedom of the press.

The Symposia appreciated the guidance of H.E. The President of India, Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam in setting out the following eight- point action plan for the media:-

1. A media movement for development.
2. Media becoming a development partner in the programme of PURA (Providing Urban amenities in Rural Area) – connectivity being the focus.
3. Celebrating every aspect of the success of the people of the State and the Nation particularly in rural areas.
4. Evolution of corruption free country.
5. Promoting an enlightened society, which means education with value system, transforming religion into a spiritual force and building economic prosperity of the nations based on their core competence. For this mission, a unique world body is essential.
6. Print media and electronic media contribution in bringing honour to the womanhood.
7. Scanning and digitizing all old issues of the print media since its establishment and store in a digital library to preserve national heritage and make it available for research.
8. Evolving a media code of conduct among themselves for ensuring that all reporting is analysed, evaluated, and researched prior to publication. This is essential for peace, prosperity and safety of the nation.

Based upon the deliberations, the conclusions and recommendations of the Symposia were drawn up.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

1. While media should play a participatory role in national development, it should take a lead in highlighting the core competencies rather than only highlighting sensationalism. The core competencies of the common man and their role in development should figure prominently in the media.
2. While the need for constant introspection of the functioning of media by journalists themselves cannot be underestimated, the importance of an independent regulatory mechanism of media and for the media with due public participation is an accepted perception in all countries.
3. In media scenario, by and large, entertainment has become sovereign and serious issues are trivialized.
4. Media is shifting gradually out of a government hands into private hands and conglomerisation is taking roots, resulting into citizen centric to consumer centric media.

5. Advertisements are important constituent in impacting societal attitudes and opinions
6. Irresponsible advertising in electronic media has done away with socially responsible marketing in the environment of globalization and instead racism, sex, violence and superstitions are being encouraged.
7. It is not sufficient only to criticize the publication of vulgar and consumeristic advertisements but also to create awareness against them to empower the people.
8. Organisation of orientation workshops for owners and managers of the media companies for enlightening them on relevance of socially responsible marketing are the need of the hour. This could be done through assistance from Academic Institutions and NGOs, which would also enable media companies to evolve their own code of conduct. Press Councils can play a facilitating role.
9. Citizens' participation and participation of other citizens' interest protection institutions are essential to fortify the efforts of the Press Councils.
10. Entry of inexperienced and untrained young journalists in ever expanding world of media at low salaries has resulted in the deterioration of quality of journalism, thereby affecting its ethics. Therefore, it is essential to monitor the quality of training being imparted to young journalists at the threshold of their careers. For this, a core curriculum needs to be drawn up and the instructions imparted should be monitored and regulated to ensure uniform quality of education.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The basic values of journalism which are accepted and respected all over the world must be followed in all countries.
2. The globalization warrants that an effective code of ethics be evolved, followed and observed by the media internationally for presentation of news, views and advertisements.
3. In the fast changing scenario of media reporting in the context of globalization, it is imperative that there be proper training of the media persons, which should focus on creating an appreciation of ethical conduct of journalists and to give effect to this, the quality of media teaching and training need to be improved, monitored and regulated under the guidance of Press/Media Councils.

4. The Press Councils and similar bodies may take steps to facilitate research on the societal impacts of media globalization.
5. Without underestimating the importance of self-introspection, there is need for self-regulatory bodies, either voluntary or statutory, to provide a supportive role to promote the independence of the media and also prompt and encourage them towards responsible journalistic practices.
6. For the wholesome improvement of media conduct, the regulatory bodies should have jurisdiction in respect of all media.
7. Closer and regular interaction is imperative amongst the media regulatory bodies operating in different countries so as to draw on each others experience to evolve more effective mechanism for the regulation of the media without intervention of any vested interest.

The Symposia at its close:

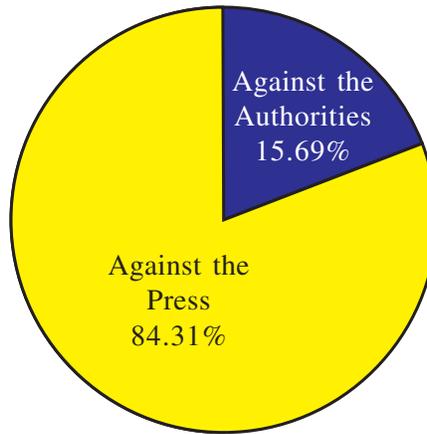
**Recorded** its appreciation of the efforts and hospitality offered by the Press Council of India in facilitating exchange of views and information amongst media persons, academicians, Press/Media Councils of different countries;

**Noted** its appreciation of the inspiring guidance received from the President of India, Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam, while inaugurating the Symposia;

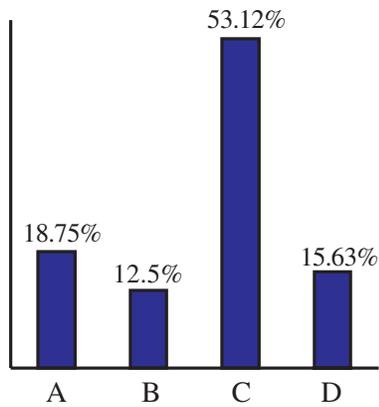
**Expressed** confidence that similar meets in future will provide a platform for promotion of self-regulation in the media; and

**Reaffirmed** adherence to the concept of free and responsible media world over.

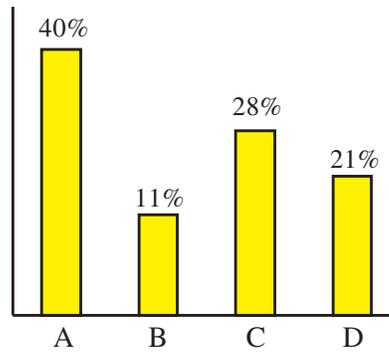
### Graph of Adjudications 2006-2007



Against the Authorities



Against the Press



**Foot Note :-**

- A: Upheld
- B: Rejected
- C: Assurance/Settled/amends
- D: Dropped for non-prosecution/withdrawal/sub-judice/lack of substance

**The Gazette of India**  
**EXTRAORDINARY**  
PART III-Section4  
**PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY**

[No.9] NEW DELHI, FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 2007/PAUSA 15, 1928

**PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA**  
**NOTIFICATION**

**New Delhi, the 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2006**

**F-17/4/06-07.**\_\_\_In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (c ) of Section 26 of the Press Council Act, 1978 (37 of 1978), the Press Council of India hereby makes the following amendments to the Press Council (Procedure for Inquiry) Regulations, 1979:

- 1. Short Title and Commencement:** (1) These Regulations may be called the Press Council (Procedure for Inquiry) (Amendment) Regulations, 2006.  
  
(2) They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.
2. In the Press Council (Procedure for Inquiry) Regulations, 1979, Regulation 2 (e) shall be substituted as:  
  
(e) “Matter” in the case of complaints under Section 14(1) means an article, news-item, news-report, or any other matter which is published by a newspaper or transmitted by a news agency by any means whatsoever and includes a cartoon, picture, photograph strip or advertisement which is published in a newspaper; and in the case of complaints relating to other matters, ‘matter’ relates to an action or inaction said to impinge upon the freedom of the press.
3. For Regulation 3(1) and 3(1) (a) the following shall be substituted, as:  
  
(1) where a person makes a complaint to the Council in respect of the publication or non-publication of any matter in any newspaper or news agency, under Section 14(1) of the Act he shall file the complaint in duplicate with sufficient copies for the respondents listed and shall -

- (a) furnish the name and address of the newspaper; news agency, editor or other working journalist against which or whom the complaint is preferred and in cases where the complaint relates to the publication of matter in a newspaper or to the transmission by a news agency, forward along with the complaint a cutting of the matter complained of in original or a self attested copy thereof and such other particulars as are relevant to the subject-matter of the complaint; and where the complaint is in respect of non-publication of matter, the original or a self attested copy of the matter, non-publication of which is complained of; (English translation of the matter if it is in vernacular).

4. Proviso to Regulations 3(1)(f)(ii) shall be substituted as:

Provided that the Chairman may, if satisfied that the complainant has acted promptly, but that the delay in filing the complaint within the period prescribed under sub-clause (i) or sub-clause (ii) of Regulation (3)1(f) has been caused by reason of the time taken to comply with the condition laid down in sub-clause (c) supra or on account of other sufficient cause condone the delay and entertain the complaint.

5. Regulations 4(1) and 4(2) shall be substituted as:

- (1) Where a complainant does not comply with the requirements of regulation 3, the Chairman may return the complaint under registered post acknowledgement due asking the complainant to bring it in conformity with such requirements and represent it within such time as he may deem fit in that behalf.
- (2) Where a complainant fails to comply with the requirements within four weeks of service thereof, the Chairman may decide to close action in the matter. The Council shall, at its next meeting, be apprised of such decision.

6. Regulation 5 shall be substituted as:

**Issue of Notice:** (1) As soon as possible, and in any case not later than forty five days from the date of receipt of a complaint complete in all respects, under the direction of the Chairman, a copy therefore shall be sent to the newspaper, news agency, editor or other working journalist against which or whom the complaint has been made, under regulation 3 alongwith a notice requiring the newspaper, news agency, editor or other working journalist, as the case may be, to show cause why action should not be taken under Section 14 of the Act. Provided that inappropriate cases the Chairman shall have the discretion to extend time for the issuance of the notice.

7. Proviso to Regulation 14 shall be inserted, as:

Provided that a person making such a complaint shall make the complaint in duplicate with sufficient copies for the respondents listed and shall:-

- (a) Give complete particulars of the respondent(s) viz., name, designation and complete address.
- (b) State how the action/inaction of the respondent authorities amounts to curtailment of the freedom of the press. Mention the possible reason for the action/inaction of the respondent(s)/authorities duly supported by documentary evidence.

—In case the action of the respondent(s)/authorities is a reprisal measure for writings in the newspaper, critical of the respondent(s), the cuttings of such reports be furnished in original or as self attested copies. (English translation, if the news item(s) is in vernacular).

- (c) Draw the attention of the respondent(s)/authorities towards the grievance and furnish a copy of the letter written to the respondent(s)/authorities.

Furnish a copy of the reply, if any, received from the respondent(s)/authorities. Provided that the Chairman may waive this requirement in his discretion.

- (d) Place before the Council all relevant facts alongwith the supporting documents.
- (e) (i) Time for filing complaint: 4 months from the date of cause of action.  
(ii) Provided that the Chairman may condone the delay if he is satisfied that there exist sufficient reasons for such condonation.
- (f) Make and subscribe to the declaration prescribed in Regulation 3(2) supra.

Further provided that on receipt of such complaint, complete in all respects, under the direction of the Chairman, a copy thereof shall be sent to the authority against whom the complaint has been made along with a notice for statement in reply as to why the matter does not warrant observation under Section 15(4) of the Act. That the procedure specified in Regulation 7-12 above shall thereafter be adopted.

VIBHA BHARGAVA, Secy.  
(ADVT.III/IV/149/2006/Exty.)

**Foot Note:** The Principal Regulations were notified on November 14, 1979.

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

S. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
<b>Harassment of Newsmen</b>			
1.	Complaint of Shri Ravinder Panchal, District Correspondent, Swatantra Bharat, Jalaun, U.P. against Police authorities of Jalaun, U.P.	July 12, 2006	Directions
2.	Suo-motu action w.r.t. lathi charge on journalists at Jehanabad (Bihar).	”	Sub-judice
3.	Complaint of Shri A.S. Thakur, Editor, Akhand Jot, Delhi against Kumari Kusum, Municipal Councillor, Mukherjee Nagar, New Delhi.	”	Dismissed devoid of merits
4.	Complaint of Shri Madhuram Bodo, Editor, Asomiya Janamat, Guwahati against Shri Mehdi Alam Bora, Congress Spokesman, Guwahati.	”	Sub-judice
5.	Complaint of Shri Mukesh Bhardwaj, Sonebhadra, U.P. against M.P. Police and Coal Mafia.	”	Sub-judice
6.	Complaint of Shri Devendra Tripathi against Shri Brijlal Khabari, Ex-MP and Smt. Urmila Sonkar Khabari, PCS U.P.	”	Withdrawn
7.	Complaint of Shri Shadab Hussain, Correspondent Jadid Markaz, Behraich, U.P. against police authorities of Behraich, U.P.	October 16, 2006	Proceedings Dropped
M-Adjudications Merged			

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Parties</b>	<b>Date of Decision</b>	<b>Category</b>
8.	Complaint of Shri Junaid Taimuri, Journalist, Etawah against police authorities of Etawah, Uttar Pradesh.	October 16, 2006	Matter closed
9.	Complaint of Shri Sudama Prasad Dubey, District President, Grameen Patrakar Association Lalitpur, U.P. against Police Authorities of Lalitpur, U.P.	”	Disposed of with observations
10.	Complaint of Shri Dinesh Pankaj, Editor, Kamgaron Ki Duniya, Mathura against Labour Department.	”	Upheld
11.	Complaint of Shri Harshwardhan Arya, Editor, Lokmat Samachar, Nagpur against Chief Conservator of Forests, Amravati, Maharashtra.	”	Dismissed
12.	Suo-motu action w.r.t issuance of an interim order/notice under Section 144 Cr.P.C. dated 7.12.2005 directing the Editor of Andhra Jyoti to appear before the Revenue Divisional Officer, Vishakhapatnam.	”	Directions
13.	Complaint of Shri Jaleel Khan, Editor, Voice of Minority, Guntur against Shri S.M. Shabbir Basha, Former Executive Director, A.P. Minorities Finance Corporation, Guntur.	”	Matter closed
14.	Complaint of Chief Editor, Koot Chakra, Sonbhadra, U.P. against Government of Uttar Pradesh.	March 30, 2007	Closed
15.	Complaint of Shri Ram Kumar Vaishya, Publisher, Vaishya Lahar, U.P. against Administrator, ISCKON Mandir, Lucknow.	”	Disposed of with directions

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Parties</b>	<b>Date of Decision</b>	<b>Category</b>
16.	Complaint of Shri Satbir Singh, Editor, Dabar Westend, New Delhi against SDM, Najafgarh, Delhi.	March 30, 2007	Dismissed– Devoid of Merit
17.	Complaint of Shri Arun Kumar, Editor, Sarhad Prahari, Madhepura, Bihar against anti - social elements.	”	Closed
18.	Suo-motu action w.r.t. persistent threats on professional journalists from Militant organisation in Manipur.	”	Proceedings dropped
<b>Facilities to the Press</b>			
19.	Complaint of Shri Digant Oza, Editor, Jal Seva, Ahmedabad, Gujarat against Government of Gujarat.	July 12, 2006	Directions
20.	Complaint of M/s Lok Prakashan Ltd., Ahmedabad, Gujarat against Government of Gujarat.	”	Matter allowed to rest on merit
21.	Complaint of Shri Manoj Sharma, District Correspondent, Dainik Hawk, Bareilly against Assistant Information Director, Bareilly, U.P.	”	Directions
22.	Complaint of Shri Suresh Chandra Rohra, Correspondent, Nai Dunia, Korba against (i) Chhatisgarh Samvad Jansampark Sanchnalaya, Raipur, (ii) Chief Minister, Chhatisgarh and (iii) Municipal Corporation, Korba.	October 16, 2006	Matter allowed to rest
23.	Complaint of Editor, Bahar-e-Hardoi, Hardoi against District Information Officer, Government of U.P.	March 30, 2007	Disposed of with directions
24.	Complaint of Smt. Saroj Verma, Rani Jhansi Times, Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh against DAVP.	”	Directions

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Parties</b>	<b>Date of Decision</b>	<b>Category</b>
25.	Complaint of Editor, Lamba Safar, Delhi against Directorate of Information & Publicity, Government of NCT of Delhi.	March 30, 2007	Directions
26.	Complaint of Shri Ram Shankar Prasad, Correspondent, PTI, Nalanda, Bihar against Director, Public Relations Department, Government of Bihar.	”	Directions
27.	Complaint of Shri Mitthu Prasad, Correspondent, Dainik Sanmarg, Suppol against Public Relations Officer, Suppol, Bihar.	”	Directions
28.	Complaint of Editor, Tripura Observer, Tripura against Information, Cultural Affairs & Tourism Department, Government of Tripura, Agartala.	”	Upheld
29.	Complaint of Editor, Hachukni Kok, Agartala against Director, Information, Cultural Affairs & Tourism, Government of Tripura, Agartala.	”	Disposed of with directions
30.	Complaint of Editor Nabapanji, Bengali weekly, Agartala against Information, Cultural Affairs & Tourism Department, Government of Tripura, Agartala.	”	Disposed of with directions
31.	Complaint of Dr. H.H. Majid Hussain, Editor, Daily Hindi Action and Daily Urdu Action, Bhopal against Divisional Railway Manager, West Central Railway, Bhopal Division.	”	Settled
32.	Complaint of Dr. H.H. Majid Hussain, Editor, Daily Hindi Action and Daily Urdu Action, Bhopal against Divisional Railway Manager, West Central Railway, Bhopal Division.	”	Settled

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**Subject Index of Adjudications in  
Complaints Against the Press**

S. No.	Parties	Date of Decision	Category
<b>Principles and Publication</b>			
1.	Complaint of Shaikh Nisarahmad Shermohammed, Maharashtra against Daily Aple Maharashtra.	July 12, 2006	Withdrawn
2.	Complaint of Shri Deepak Chabria, Chairman, Employment Promotion Council of Indian Personnel, Mumbai against Mid Day and Times of India.	”	Advise
3.	Complaint of Shri Deepak Chabria, Chairman, Employment Promotion Council of Indian Personnel, Mumbai against Mid Day and Times of India.	”	Advise
4.	Complaint of Ms. K.R. Moghe, Stree Mukti Andolan Sampark Samiti, Pune against Times of India (Pune Times) Pune.	”	Censured
5.	Complaint of Shri Sanjay Bhusreddy, IAS, Special Secretary, Housing, Government of U.P., Lucknow against Hindustan, Lucknow.	”	Advise
6.	Complaint of Shri Ravi Kumar, Chairman, Calcutta Motor Sports Club, Kolkata against Autocar India, Mumbai.	”	Directions
7.	Complaint of Dr. O.P. Agnihotri, Joint Managing Director, U.P. Bhoomi Sudhar Nigam, Lucknow against the Editor, Rozgar Sangrah, Agra.	October 16, 2006	Warned

M-Adjudications Merged

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Parties</b>	<b>Date of Decision</b>	<b>Category</b>
8.	Complaint of Shri T.T. Adhikari, New Delhi against The Hindustan Times, New Delhi.	October 16, 2007	Disposed of with advise
9.	Complaints of Shri C. Satish, Hyderabad against The Hindu, Hyderabad.	M	Closed with observations
10.	Complaints of Shri C. Satish, Hyderabad against The Hindu, Hyderabad.		Closed with observations
11.	Complaint of Shri Kulamarva Balakrishna Padubidru, Karnataka against Prajavani, Kannada daily, Mangalore, Karnataka.		Withdrawn
12.	Complaint of Shri Baldev Singh, Punjab against the Editor, The Tribune, Chandigarh.	March 30, 2007	Closed
13.	Complaint of Shri Ramesh Lalwani, Delhi against the Editor, Times of India and Economic Times, New Delhi.	''	Withdrawn
14.	Complaint of Shri Hiranmay Karlekar, New Delhi against Editor, Economic & Political Weekly, Mumbai.	''	Withdrawn
15.	Complaint of Shri Sate Singh Rana, Member, BJP, Dehradun, Utrakhand against Maidani Awaz, Dehradun, Utrakhand.	''	Proceedings dropped
16.	Complaint of Shri Sandeep Jena, Editor, Delta Square against the Samaj, Oriya daily, Cuttack, Orissa.	''	Dismissed
17.	Complaint of Shri Rajendra Kumar Jain, Bureau Chief, Rozgar Evam Parinam, Sarguja, Chhattisgarh against the editor, Employment News, New Delhi.	''	Disposed of

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Parties</b>	<b>Date of Decision</b>	<b>Category</b>
18.	Complaint of Pt. S.L. Vyas, Pt. S.L. Vyas Sansthan, Phalodi, Rajasthan against the editors, Rajasthan Patrika, Jaipur, Dainik Navjyoti, Ajmer and Dainik Bhaskar, Jodhpur.	March 30, 2007	Dismissed for Lack of substance
<b>Press and Defamation</b>			
19.	Complaint of Shri M.M. Mittal, Mumbai against Nav Bharat, Mumbai.	July 12, 2006	Censured
20.	Complaint of Hon. Secretary, Sahyagiri Co-operative Housing Society, Mumbai against Confidence, Bi-Monthly, Mumbai.	”	Directions
21.	Complaint of Smt. Deenaben Dhandhukiya, Proprietor, Sai Pooja Enterprise, Gujarat against Junagarh Samachar, Junagarh, Gujarat.	”	Directions
22.	Complaint of Shri Dilip Kumar Ramlal Shah, Ahmedabad against Khadayata Jyoti.	”	Directions
23.	Complaint of Shri Pradyumna Sahastabhojane, Architect-Urban Designer, Nagpur against The Hitavada, Nagpur.	”	Admonished
24.	Complaint of Shri Meghraj Hajarimal Jain, President, Rashtriya Samaj Sewa Bahu Udeshiya Sanstha against Dainik Bhaskar, Nagpur.	”	Withdrawn
25.	Complaint of Shri Meghraj Hajarimal Jain, President, Rashtriya Samaj Sewa Bahu Udeshiya Sanstha against Daily Deshonnati, Nagpur.	”	Dismissed with observations
26.	Complaint of Shri Bharat B. Jain, Mumbai against Mid Day, Gujarati Daily, Mumbai.	”	Censured

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Parties</b>	<b>Date of Decision</b>	<b>Category</b>
27.	Complaint of Shri Ravinder Diwedi, Bhrastachar Nirmulan Samiti, Thane, Maharashtra against Loksatta, Mumbai.	July 12, 2006	Closed
28.	Complaint of Dr. Ram Lakhan Singh, Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, Lucknow, U.P. against Hindustan, Lucknow.	”	Reprimanded
29.	Complaint of Shri Shailander Yadav "Lalai", Minister of State, Social Welfare, Government of Uttar Pradesh against Dainik Hindustan, Varanasi.	”	Dismissed being devoid of merit
30.	Complaint of Shri Shailander Yadav "Lalai", Minister of State, Social Welfare, Government of Uttar Pradesh against Amar Ujala, Varanasi.	”	Dismissed being devoid of merit
31.	Complaint of Shri Ashok Kumar Tomar, Principal, Rashtriya Inter College, Shahpur, U.P. against Amar Ujala, Meerut.	”	Reprimanded
32.	Complaint of Shri B.B. Jindal, Lucknow against Swatantra Bharat, Lucknow.	”	Reprimanded
33.	Complaint of Shri Murari Lal Goyal, Kanpur Dehat against Swatantra Bharat, Lucknow.	”	Reprimanded
34.	Complaint of Shri Shatrughan Singh Chauhan, Journalist and former General Secretary, Samajwadi Party, U.P. against Aaj, Kanpur.	”	Dismissed
35.	Complaint of Shri Surender Sharma, Bijnor against Dainik Shah Times, Muzaffarnagar.	”	Withdrawn
36.	Complaint of Dr. S.R. Niranjan, Managing Director, Sun India Pharmacy Pvt. Ltd., Orai, U.P. against Dainik Bundelkhand Kranti, Orai, U.P.	”	Dismissed

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Parties</b>	<b>Date of Decision</b>	<b>Category</b>
37.	Complaint of Regional Manager, (PR & Publicity) LIC of India, Kanpur, U.P. against Saral Sahara, Unnao, U.P.	July 12, 2007	Warned
38.	Complaint of Shri Kishore Virwani, M/s Laxmi Water Industries, Indore, M.P. against Jan Inqulab, Indore, M.P.	”	Reprimanded
39.	Complaint of Shri T. Pitchandi, IAS, Secretary to the Government of Tamil Nadu, Chennai against Dinakaran, Chennai.	”	Dismissed
40.	Complaint of Ms. R. Chandra, Vice-President, All India Democratic Women Association against Dinamalar, Tiruchirapalli.	”	Disposed of with directions
41.	Complaint of Dr. M.L. Khanna, General Secretary, DAV College Trust and Management Society, New Delhi against Punjab Kesari, New Delhi.	”	Censured
42.	Complaint of Chief Administrative Officer, Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izzatnagar, Bareilly, U.P. against Amar Ujala, Bareilly, U.P.	”	Disposed of with directions
43.	Complaint of Shri Manibhushan Tiwari, Inspector, Food and Supply, Yamuna Vihar, New Delhi against Nazar-Ki-Nazar, Delhi.	”	Sub-judice
44.	Complaint of Shri Jagdish Deol, General Secretary, DAV College Managing Committee Employee, New Delhi against Punjab Kesari, New Delhi.	”	Censured
45.	Complaint of Shri Y. Anil Kumar, IPS, Deputy Inspector General of Police, (Administration) Thiruvananthapuram against Janamabhoomi, Malayalam Daily.	”	Reprimanded

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Parties</b>	<b>Date of Decision</b>	<b>Category</b>
46.	Complaint of Shri S.S. Sharma against Dainik Pudhari, Mumbai.	July 12, 2007	Closed
47.	Complaint of Shri Murlidhar Melwani, Ulhasnagar, Maharashtra against the Editor, Ulhas Champion, Ulhasnagar, Maharashtra.	October 16, 2006	Dismissed-not pursued
48.	Complaint of Shri Nanikram Sidhwani, Ulhasnagar, Maharashtra against the Editor, Ulhas Champion, Ulhasnagar, Maharashtra.	”	Dismissed-not pursued
49.	Complaint of Vivekanand Education Society, Mumbai against the Editor, The Times of India, Mumbai.	”	Closed
50.	Complaints of Vivekanand Education Society, Mumbai against the Editor, Loksatta, Mumbai.	M	Dismissed being without substance
51.	Complaints of Vivekanand Education Society, Mumbai against the Editor, Metro Chembur - Mid Day, Mumbai.		Dismissed being without substance
52.	Complaint of Shri Madhusudan, Dehradun against the Editor, Ghati Ka Bharat, Dehradun.	”	Censured
53.	Complaint of Shri Rajender Singh, Secretary, District Redcross Society, Rewari, Haryana against the Editor, Punjab Kesari, Ambala Edition.	”	Disposed of with observations
54.	Complaint of Shri Vijay Kumar Khetrpal, Secretary, U.P. Advertisers Association, Meerut, U.P. against the Editor, Hira Times, Meerut, U.P.	”	Dismissed not pursued
55.	Complaint of Shri Sandeep Gupta, Delhi against the Editors, (i) Public News, Delhi, (ii) Indo Europe News, Delhi, (iii) Fashion India, Delhi, (iv) Krishna Avtar, Delhi and (v) Rashtriya Hindi Samachar Patra, Delhi.	”	Dismissed

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Parties</b>	<b>Date of Decision</b>	<b>Category</b>
56.	Complaint of Principal, Government Women College, Gurgaon, Haryana against Mahamedha, Delhi.	October 16, 2006	Disposed of
57.	Complaint of Principal, Government College, Gurgaon against the Editor, Dainik Bhaskar, Gurgaon.	”	Warned
58.	Complaint of Dr. T.B. Singh, Joint Director (Admn.), Institute of Human Behaviour & Allied Science, Delhi against Rashtriya Sahara, New Delhi.	”	Dismissed
59.	Complaint of Director, Indian Institute of Aircraft Engineering, Mahipalpur Extension, New Delhi against The Times of India, New Delhi.	”	Dismissed not pursued
60.	Complaint of the Editor, Brij Vimla Vani, Pratapgarh, Uttar Pradesh against Dainik Lok Mitra, Pratapgarh U.P. and D.I.O., Pratapgarh, U.P.	”	Disposed of with directions
61.	Complaint of Shri Dharambir Singh, Bijnore, U.P. against Amar Ujala, Meerut.	”	Dismissed
62.	Complaint of Superintendent of Police, Pithoragarh, Uttaranchal against Amar Ujala, Bareilly.	”	Dismissed not pursued
63.	Complaint of Shri Ganesh Singh, M.P. New Delhi against Samaria Express, Samaria.	”	Closed with advise
64.	Complaint of Principal, S.D. College against Din Pratidin, Haryana.	”	No further action
65.	Complaint of Shri Ashok Khemka against The Hindustan Times, New Delhi.	”	Dismissed being devoid of merit

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Parties</b>	<b>Date of Decision</b>	<b>Category</b>
66.	Complaint of Shri Tasneem Ahmed, Chief Conservator of Forests, Amravati, Maharashtra against the Editor, Lokmat, Nagpur.	October 16, 2006 M	Dismissed not pursued
67.	Complaint of Shri Tasneem Ahmed, Chief Conservator of Forests, Amravati, Maharashtra against the Editor, Lokmat, Nagpur.	”	Dismissed not pursued
68.	Complaint of Shri Tasneem Ahmed, Chief Conservator of Forests, Amravati, Maharashtra against the Editor, Lokmat, Nagpur.	”	Dismissed not pursued
69.	Complaint of Shri Shaifur Rahman, Proprietor, Asha Arts, Hyderabad against The Times of India, Hyderabad.	”	Admonished
70.	Complaint of Shri J.V. Chalapathirao, District Public Relations Officer, East Godavari District, Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh against Yadhardha Godhala Sanjeeva Rupam Vaarathi, Telugu Evening daily, Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh.	”	Withdrawn
71.	Complaint of Smt. Qamar Jehan Kausar, Owner of Metro Lodge, Hyderabad against The Eenadu, Telugu daily, Hyderabad.	”	Dismissed
72.	Complaint of Shri M.A. Basith, IPS, D.G. and I.G. of Prisons and Correctional Services, Hyderabad against The Eenadu, Nellore edition, A.P.	”	Disposed of with directions
73.	Complaint of Shri Narsimha Reddy, D.G. and I.G. of Prisons and Correctional Services, Hyderabad against The Eenadu, Nellore edition, A.P.	”	Disposed of with directions

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Parties</b>	<b>Date of Decision</b>	<b>Category</b>
74.	Complaint of Shri M.A. Basith, IPS, D.G. and I.G. of Prisons and Correctional Services, Hyderabad against The Eenadu, Nellore edition, A.P.	October 16, 2006	No further action
75.	Complaint of Shri M.A. Basith, IPS, D.G. and I.G. of Prisons and Correctional Services, Hyderabad against The Eenadu, Nellore edition, A.P.	”	Closed
76.	Complaint of Shri M.A. Basith, IPS, D.G. and I.G. of Prisons and Correctional Services, Hyderabad against The Eenadu, Nellore edition, A.P.	”	Disposed of with observations
77.	Complaint of Shri M.A. Basith, IPS, D.G. and I.G. of Prisons and Correctional Services, Hyderabad against The Andhra Jyoti, Telugu daily, Hyderabad.	”	Disposed of with observations
78.	Complaint of Shri Narsimha Reddy, D.G. and I.G. of Prisons and Correctional Services, Hyderabad against The Andhra Jyoti, Telugu daily, Hyderabad.	”	Disposed of with directions
79.	Complaint of Shri M.A. Basith, IPS, D.G. and I.G. of Prisons and Correctional Services, Hyderabad against The Vartha, Hyderabad.	”	Disposed of with directions
80.	Complaint of Shri M.A. Basith, IPS, D.G. and I.G. of Prisons and Correctional Services, Hyderabad against The Vartha, Hyderabad.	”	Directions
81.	Complaint of Shri Narsimha Reddy, D.G. and I.G. of Prisons and Correctional Services, Hyderabad against The Vaatha, Hyderabad.	”	Directions
82.	Complaint of Shri M.A. Basith, IPS, D.G. and I.G. of Prisons and Correctional Services, Hyderabad against The Vartha, Hyderabad.	”	Disposed of with directions

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Parties</b>	<b>Date of Decision</b>	<b>Category</b>
83.	Complaint of Shri M.A. Basith, IPS, D.G. and I.G. of Prisons and Correctional Services, Hyderabad against The Vartha, Hyderabad.	October 16, 2006	Directions
84.	Complaint of Shri M.A. Basith, IPS, D.G. and I.G. of Prisons and Correctional Services, Hyderabad against The Vartha, Hyderabad.	”	Directions
85.	Complaint of Principal, Chirec Public School, Hyderabad against Deccan Chronicle, Secunderabad.	”	Disposed of with directions
86.	Complaint of Secretary, Ootcamund Club, Ootcamund, Tamil Nadu against New Indian Express, Coimbatore.	”	Matter allowed to rest with observations
87.	Complaint of Shri Srikantadatta Narasimharaja Wadiyar, Bangalore against Lankesh Patrika, Bangalore.	”	Censured
88.	Complaint of Shri Sandeep Rai Rathore, IPS, Superintendent of Police, Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu against Naveena Netrikan, Chennai.	”	Censured
89.	Complaint of Shri S.M. Pasha, Convenor, Shariath Protection Council, Chennai, Tamil Nadu against Deccan Chronicle, Chennai.	”	Closed
90.	Complaint of Father Paul G.D. Cunha, Parish Priest, Our Lady of Victories Church, Shimoga, Karnataka against Mathukathe, Bangalore.	”	Admonished
91.	Complaint of Dr. V.B. Tharakeshwar, Lecturer, Department of Translation Studies, Kannada University, Hampi and others, Karnataka against Hai Bangalore, Karnataka.	”	Censured

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<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Parties</b>	<b>Date of Decision</b>	<b>Category</b>
92.	Complaint of Dr. V.B. Tharakeshwar, Lecturer, Department of Translation Studies, Kannada University, Hampi and others, Karnataka against Hai Bangalore, Karnataka.	October 16, 2006	Censured
93.	Complaint of Dr. V.B. Tharakeshwar, Lecturer, Department of Translation Studies, Kannada University, Hampi and others, Karnataka against Hai Bangalore, Karnataka.	M	Censured
94.	Complaint of Shri Om Prakash, Inspector General of Police, Northern Range Belgaum against Hai Bangalore, Karnataka.	”	Censured
95.	Complaint of Shri S. Puttaswamy Kas, Bangalore against Lankesh Patrike, Kannad Weekly, Bangalore.	”	Dismissed not pursued
96.	Complaint of Shri Amrender Kumar Singh, Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh against Amar Ujala, Bareilly.	March 30, 2007	Disposed of with observations
97.	Complaint of Secretary, Krishi Utpadan Mandi Samiti, Pilibhit, U.P. against Amar Ujala, Bareilly.	”	Closed
98.	Complaint of Shri Hari Shankar Shukla, Commercial Superintendent, Eastern Railway, Basti, U.P. against Paripuram Railway Samachar, Kalyan, Mumbai.	”	Dismissed
99.	Complaint of Shri Vir Bahadur Singh, Superintendent of Police, District Baghpat, U.P. against Amar Ujala, Meerut.	”	Upheld
100.	Complaint of M/s ICICI Bank Ltd., Mumbai against the Editor, Gujarat Mitra, Gujarat.	”	Closed with Advise

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Parties</b>	<b>Date of Decision</b>	<b>Category</b>
101.	Complaint of Smt. Atul Sharma, Secretary, Sankalp Shiksha Prasar Samiti, Meerut, U.P. against the editor, Dainik Aaj, Bareilly.	March 30, 2007	Censured
102.	Complaint of Smt. Atul Sharma, Secretary, Sankalp Shiksha Prasar Samiti, Meerut, U.P. against the Editor, Punjab Kesari, Delhi.	”	Withdrawn (Not Printed)
103.	Complaint of Deputy Director, I & P R Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow against the editor, Sahara Samaya.	”	Closed
104.	Complaint of Shri Vishwas Kumar Pro. U&H Polio Hospital, Bhatinda, Punjab against Daily Pilot, Bhatinda.	”	Admonished
105.	Complaint of Smt. V. Usha Rani, IAS, Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Vijayavada against the editor, Vijayavada.	”	Closed for not being pursued
106.	Complaint of Shri D.S. Murthy, former Commissioner & Director of Marketing, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad against Andhra Jyoti, Hyderabad.	”	Closed
107.	Complaint of Shri D.S. Murthy, former Commissioner & Director of Marketing, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad against Andhra Jyoti, Hyderabad.	”	Closed
108.	Complaint of Shri D.S. Murthy, former Commissioner & Director of Marketing, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad against Andhra Jyoti, Hyderabad.	”	Closed

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Parties</b>	<b>Date of Decision</b>	<b>Category</b>
109.	Complaint of Shri D.S. Murthy, former Commissioner & Director of Marketing, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad against Andhra Jyoti, Hyderabad.	March 30, 2007	Closed
110.	Complaint of Shri Rakesh, S/o Shri Siddaramaih, Deputy Chief Minister, Karnataka, Bangalore against Lankesh Patrike.	”	Closed for not being pursued
111.	Complaint of Shri Rajendra P. Chitale, Managing Partners, M.P. Chitale & Co., Mumbai against Indian Express, Mumbai.	”	Upheld
112.	Complaint of Ms. Sheela Patel, Director, Society for Promotion of Area Resources Centre, Mumbai against The Asian Age, Mumbai.	”	Upheld
113.	Complaint of Deputy General Manager (Legal), South Eastern Coal Fields Ltd., Bilaspur against Chhattisgarh Reporter, Bilaspur.	”	Sub-judice
114.	Complaint of Shri Ravi Kumar Sharma, Partner, M/s Adhunik Alankar Bankers & Jewellers, Moradabad, U.P. against editor, Dainik Jagran, Bareilly.	”	Withdrawn
115.	Complaint of Md. Shafi Quadri, Pilibhit, U.P. against the editor, Dainik Jagran, Bareilly.	”	Upheld
116.	Complaint of Shri D.C. Pandey, District Information Officer, Haridwar against the editor, Apne Log, Hindi Dainik, Haridwar, Utrkhand.	”	Rejected
117.	Complaint of Shri S. Krishnananda Chatra, Partner, Durgamba Motors, Udupi, Karnataka against the editor, Vidhatha, Kannada Weekly, Shimoga, Karnataka.	”	Dropped for not being pursued

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Parties</b>	<b>Date of Decision</b>	<b>Category</b>
118.	Complaint of Shri Karsan Bhai Babu Bhai and others, Janjaria, Una, Gujarat against the editor, Gujarat Samachar, Rajkot, Gujarat.	March 30, 2007	Disposed of
119.	Complaint of Shri Arun Chandra Bhaumik, Agartala against Dainik Ganadoot, Bengali Daily, Tripura.	”	Reprimanded
120.	Complaint of Shri Prafulla Kumar Mahanta, Ex-Chief Minister, Assam against Asomiya Pratidin, Guwahati, Asam.	”	Reprimanded
121.	Complaint of Smt. Purnima Das Baishya, editor, Hajor Batori, Kamrup, Assam against Dainik Asom, Guwahati, Assam.	”	Closed for not being pursuant
122.	Complaint of Shri Jagannath Singh, Advocate, Anisabad, Patna, Bihar against Dainik Hindustan, Patna, Bihar.	”	Closed
123.	Complaint of Shri J. N. Singh, Bhagalpur, Bihar against Dainik Hindustan, Bhagalpur, Bihar.	”	Disposed of with observations
124.	Complaint of Shri Kumod Kumar, Police Sub Inspector, Ranchi, Jharkhand against Dainik Hindustan, Ranchi, Jharkhand.	”	Proceedings dropped
125.	Complaint of Shri B.S.P. Roy, Jt. Commissioner of Commercial Taxes (Adv.&TC), Dhanbad, Jharkhand against Hindustan Times, Dhanbad, Jharkhand.	”	Reprimanded
126.	Complaint of Shri J.C. Mohapatra, Chief of Communication, SAIL, Rourkela Steel Plant, Orissa against Shramika Mallika, Rourkela, Orissa.	”	Directions
127.	Complaint of Shri U.K. Thakur, Manager, Bihar State Hydroelectric Power Corporation, Patna, Bihar against Dainik Jagran, Patna, Bihar.	”	Closed

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Parties</b>	<b>Date of Decision</b>	<b>Category</b>
128.	Complaint of Shri B.K. Sinha Income Tax Officer, Ramgarh, Jharkhand against Dainik Jagran, Ranchi, Jharkhand.	March 30, 2007	Reprimanded
129.	Complaint of Shri Ram Dev Prasad, District Hazaribagh, Jharkhand against Dainik Jagran, Ranchi, Jharkhand.	”	Admonished
130.	Complaint of Prof. D.K. Ray, Kolkata against Ananda Bazar Patrika, Kolkata.	”	Upheld
131.	Complaint of Shri Ramesh Chandra Baleshwar, Lecturer (English), Govt. College, Khairwada, Udaipur against the editor, Dainik Bhaskar, Udaipur.	”	Censured
132.	Complaint of Shri Hari Mohan Sharma, Dy. Director, Bhilwara Khadi Gramodyog Board, Bhilwara, against the editor, Mewar Krantikar, Chittaurgarh.	”	Directions
133.	Complaint of Shri Hari Mohan Sharma, Dy. Director, Bhilwara Khadi Gramodyog Board, Bhilwara, against the editor, Inside Report, Chittaurgarh.	”	Directions
134.	Complaint of Shri Hari Singh Rathore, Jodhpur against the editor, Rajasthan Kesari, Sandhya Dainik, Jodhpur.	”	Warned
135.	Complaint of Shri Hari Singh Rathore, Jodhpur against the editor, Dainik Bhaskar, Jaipur.	”	Warned
136.	Complaint of Shri Hari Singh Rathore, Jodhpur against the editor, Dainik Bhaskar, Jaipur.	”	Warned
137.	Complaint of Shri Manoj Kumar Kamra, Engineering Consultants, Bikaner, Rajasthan against the editor, Rajasthan Patrika, Jaipur.	”	Dismissed

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Parties</b>	<b>Date of Decision</b>	<b>Category</b>
138.	Complaint of Shri C.M. Sharma, Neemuch, Madhya Pradesh against the editor, Dashpur Express, Nemuch, Madhya Pradesh.	March 30, 2007	Warned
139.	Complaint of Dr. Smt. Chandra Saita, Assistant Director (Rajbhasha), Employees Provident Fund Organisation, Indore against Chambal Chetna, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.	”	Admonished
140.	Complaint of Shri S.K. Taran, Manager, Jila Sahakari Kendriya Bank Maryadit, Hoshangabad, Madhya Pradesh against the editor, Khoji Lahar, Hoshangabad, Madhya Pradesh.	”	Censured
141.	Complaint of Shri Anand Goenka, Katni, Madhya Pradesh against the editor, Rashtriya Hindi Mail, Bhopal.	”	Disposed of with directions
142.	Complaint of Shri Mahesh Babu Saxena, Programme Officer, Akashvani, Reva, Madhya Pradesh against the editor, Dainik Bhaskar, Satna.	”	Warned
143.	Complaint of Shri Lallan Ram, Chief Booking Supervisor, N.R. Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh against the editor, Jansatta Express, Lucknow.	”	Withdrawn
<b>Press and Morality</b>			
144.	Complaint of Shri M.S. Kilpady, Mumbai against Afternoon Dispatch & Courier.	July 12, 2006	Warned
145.	Complaint of Dr. Rajiv Kumar Gupta, Sr. Lecturer (Commerce), Government P.G. College, NOIDA against Hindustan Times, New Delhi.	” M	Assurance

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Parties</b>	<b>Date of Decision</b>	<b>Category</b>
146.	Complaint of Dr. Rajiv Kumar Gupta, Sr. Lecturer (Commerce), Government P.G. College, NOIDA against Times of India New Delhi.	July 12, 2006	Censured
147.	Complaint of Dr. C.D. Narshimha Reddy, Editor, Public Relations Voice, Hyderabad against the Editor, Economic Times, Mumbai.	October 16, 2006	Displeasure
148.	Complaint of Shri Sanjay Kumar Bansal, Advocate/Chairman, Desh Kalyan Samiti, Muradabad, U.P. against Cricket Samrat.	March 30, 2007	Closed
149.	Complaint of Shri Sanjay Kumar Bansal, Advocate/Chairman, Desh Kalyan Samiti, Muradabad, U.P. against Dainik Jagran.	”	Disposed of with observation
150.	Complaint of Shri Sanjay Kumar Bansal, Advocate/Chairman, Desh Kalyan Samiti, Muradabad, U.P. against Romantic Duniya.	”	Matter Allowed to rest
151.	Complaint of Prof. D.P.S. Verma, Former Professor, Faculty of Commerce and Business Studies, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, Delhi against The Pioneer.	”	Dismissed
152.	Complaint of Shri Shiv Ranjan Singh, President, Aasra Samajik Seva Sanstha, Dhanbad, Jharkhand against Dainik Jagran, Ranchi, Jharkhand.	”	Reprimanded
153.	Complaint of Editor, Arthik Prasanga, Kolkata against Ananda Bazar Patrika, Kolkata.	”	Advise
154.	Complaint of Editor, Arthik Prasanga, Kolkata against Desh, Kolkata.	”	Advise

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Parties</b>	<b>Date of Decision</b>	<b>Category</b>
155.	Complaint of President, Bhartiya Sanskriti Vikas Sanstha, Hanumangarh against the editor, Rajasthan Patrika, Jaipur.	March 30, 2007	Warned
156.	Complaint of President, Bhartiya Sanskriti Vikas Sanstha, Hanumangarh against the editor, Dainik Bhaskar, Jaipur.	”	Warned
157.	Complaint of President, Bhartiya Sanskriti Vikas Sanstha, Hanumangarh against the editor, Punjab Kesari, Jalandhar.	”	Warned

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

158.	Complaint of Shri Sunil G. Godbole, Mumbai against Times of India, Mumbai.	July 12, 2006	Warned disposed of with observations
159.	Complaint of Shri Tarlochan Singh, Chairman, National Commission for Minorities, New Delhi against Hindustan Times, New Delhi.	”	Withdrawn
160.	Complaint of Shri Rajesh Dutt, Haryana against Anand Bazar Patrika, Kolkata.	”	Censured
161.	Complaint of Shri Manmohan Bhalla, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi against Hindustan Times, New Delhi.	”	Matter allowed to rest with observations
162.	Complaint of Major Ashish Nangia against Alsafa, Jammu.	”	Censured
163.	Complaint of Shri Abdul Rahim Quraishi, Assistant General Secretary, All India Muslim Personal Law Board, New Delhi against The Pioneer, New Delhi.	”	Cautioned

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Parties</b>	<b>Date of Decision</b>	<b>Category</b>
164.	Complaint of Dr. Krishen Kak, IAS (Retd.) New Delhi against The Hindu, Chennai.	October 16, 2006	Disposed of with observations
165.	Complaint of Dr. Krishen Kak, IAS (Retd.) New Delhi against The Hindu, Chennai.	”	Disposed of with observations
166.	Complaint of Shri V.H. Dalmia, President, Vishva Hindu Parishad, New Delhi against The Economic Times, New Delhi.	”	Upheld
167.	Complaint of Shri V.H. Dalmia, President, Vishva Hindu Parishad, New Delhi against The Delhi Times, New Delhi.	”	Closed
168.	Complaint of Shri V. Krishnan against The Telegraph, Kolkata.	”	Proceedings dropped with observations
169.	Complaint of Shri S. Abuthalha, Madurai, Tamil Nadu against Tamilian Express, Chennai, Tamil Nadu.	”	Disposed of with directions
170.	Complaint of Shri Mongwati Aier, Deputy Resident Commissioner, Nagaland House, New Delhi against the editor, North East Herald, Nagaland.	March 30, 2007	Warned
171.	Complaint of Shri G.S. Hiranyappa, Bangalore against the editor, The Asian Age, New Delhi.	”	Closed with observation
172.	Complaint of Dr. Dharmvir, Secretary, Paropkarini Sabha, Kesarganj, Ajmer against editor, Dainik Jagran, Panipat, Harayana.	”	Censured

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

### **Harassment of Newsmen**

The media is an integral part of any democratic form of the government and functions as the eyes, ears and voice of the public. In case the press deviates from its assigned duties and responsibilities, there are sufficient well defined laws to bring them back on the correct path, but Section 144 Cr. P.C. is not one of them. **(Suo-motu action with reference to issuance of an interim order/notice under Section 144 Cr. P.C. dated 7.12.2005 directing the Editor of Andhra Jyothi to appear before the Revenue Divisional Officer, Visakhapatnam, Complaint No.6 P.C.I. Review, October 2006)**

### **Facilities to the Press**

As custodian of the public money, the authorities are duty bound to ensure its use and distribution equitably and without discrimination. **(Smt. Saroj Verma, Editor, Rani Jhansi Times, Jhansi Vs. Directorate of Advertisement and Visual Publicity, New Delhi, Complaint No.6 P.C.I. Review, April 2007)**

The government is duty bound to extend the facilities for coverage of news to bonafide journalists within the parameter of a fair and non-discriminatory policy. **(Shri Rama Shankar Prasad, Correspondent, PTI, Nalanda, Bihar against The Chief Secretary, Government of Bihar, Patna and Director, Information and Public Relations Department, Government of Bihar, Patna, Complaint No.8 P.C.I. Review, April 2007)**

## **Index of Principles Recorded in Adjudications in Complaints Against the Press**

### **Principles and Publication**

The media shouldered a heavy responsibility in protecting the gullible job seekers from falling prey to unscrupulous elements that exploited persons after clandestinely sending them abroad. Therefore, rejecting the illegal advertisements would be positive contribution by the media to a social cause espoused by it, by not lending credence to the unauthorised recruiters. **(Shri Deepak Chhabria, Chairman, Employment Promotion Council of Indian Personnel, Mumbai Vs. The Editor, Times of India, Mumbai and The Editor, Mid-Day, Mumbai, Complaint No.11 P.C.I. Review, July 2006)**

The newspaper has the right to report matters as per its own perception but at the same time it is necessary to abide by the universally accepted canon of journalistic conduct that news and views should not be mixed. **(Shri Sanjay Bhusreddy, IAS, Special Secretary, Town & Country Planning Department and Executive Director of Awas Bandhu, Lucknow Vs. The Editor, Dainik Hindustan, Lucknow, U.P.Complaint No.13 P.C.I. Review, July 2006)**

### **Press and Defamation**

While it is the duty of the press to expose the wrong doings that come to their notice, such reports need to be backed by irrefutable facts and evidences. **(Shri Murari Lal Goel, Kanpur Dehat, U.P. Vs. The Editor, Swantantra Bharat, Hindi Daily, Lucknow, U.P. Complaint No.29 P.C.I. Review, July 2006)**

The press has the right to comment on the working of public institutions and highlight their short-comings but these should be fair and *bonafide* and supported by tangible evidence. Further the attempt of the press should be to so shake up the institutions as to improve their working, not to destroy them or the public confidence in their working. **(The General Secretary, Dayanand Anglo Vedic College Trust and Management Society, New Delhi Vs. The Editor, Punjab Kesari, Delhi, Complaint No.37 P.C.I. Review, July 2006)**

The media and the authorities are two very important pillars of our democracy and for the government to function successfully in public interest a press as responsible as watchful is an essential pre-requisite. **(Shri M.A. Basith, IPS, DG**

**& Inspector General of Prisons and Correctional Services (I/C), Andhra Pradesh, Chanchalguda, Hyderabad Vs. The Editor, Andhra Jyothi, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, Complaint No. 41 P.C.I. Review, October 2006)**

While the press as a representative of public interest, has an obligation to bring to light the malpractices in public offices, the reports should not be such as would shake the faith of the public in the system itself and demoralize the workforce. **(Shri Vir Bahadur Singh, Superintendent of Police, Baghat, U.P. Vs. The Editor, Amar Ujala, Hindi Daily, Meerut, U.P. Complaint No. 24 P.C.I. Review, April 2007)**

It is incumbent for newspapers to play a positive role during crisis faced by banks of credible status, and so focus the report as to lay stress on the lack of basis for the rumours. **(Shri V.K. Sahasrabudhhe, Deputy General Manager, ICICI Bank Ltd., Mumbai Vs. The Editor, Gujarat Mitra, Surat, Gujarat, Complaint No.25 P.C.I. Review, April 2007)**

The newspaper as a watchdog of the society must ensure that its reports are properly verified from the person concerned and in even of rejoinder or clarification from the person concerned, the newspaper as a principal should give due space to the views of the other side. **(Shri Vishwas Kumar Garg, Bhatinda, Punjab Vs. The Editor, Dainik Pilot, Bhatinda, Punjab, Complaint No.28 P.C.I. Review, April 2007)**

It must be remembered by the Press that the freedom of speech and expression enshrined in the democratic set up and enjoyed by the fourth estate also casts on it a responsibility. The newspapers are not expected to use it as a tool by itself creating evidence and later using the evidence to make false propaganda in its own journal. **(Shri Arun Chandra Bhaumik, Agartala, West Tripura Vs. The Editor, Dainik Ganadoot, Agartala Complaint No.40 P.C.I. Review, April 2007)**

## **Press and Morality**

It is the duty of the writer to ensure that strong views are also couched in a socially acceptable language. The use of an abusive address in a newspaper is not proper and is in violation of nationally and internationally accepted norms as well as journalistic norms. As regards photograph, the photograph is a work of art and the artist enjoys artistic liberty in the portrayal. However, it is to be understood that a work of art is enjoyed, judged and appreciated by the connoisseurs. The pages of a newspaper may not be the most appropriate place for the impugned painting. **(Shri M.S. Kilpady, Mumbai Maharashtra Vs. The Editor, Afternoon Despatch & Courier, Mumbai, Complaint No.43 P.C.I. Review, July 2006)**

The attempt of the press should be to ensure coverage that is in keeping with the norms of the society at large and not merely a few. It is also our duty to prevent the degeneration of culture and standards and press with its reach and impact carries on immense potential in moulding the psyche and thought process of a society. **(The President, Bharatiya Sanskriti Vikas Sansthan, Hanumangarh, Rajasthan Vs. The Editors, Rajasthan Patrika, Jaipur, Dainik Bhaskar, Jaipur and Punjab Kesari, Jalandhar, Complaint No.72 P.C.I. Review, April 2007)**

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

While the role and responsibility of the media in breaking down communal fences and promoting harmony and national interest should not be undermined it was also essential to allow the citizens their freedom of speech. The press of India has necessarily to judge and decide by balancing both. **(Shri G.S. Hiranyappa, Bangalore Vs. The Editor, The Asian Age, New Delhi, Complaint No.64 P.C.I. Review, April 2007)**

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

S. No.	Name of Parties	Date of Order	Order Passed
1.	Appeal under Section 8-C of Press & Registration of Books Act, 1867 in the matter of Editor, Challenge (Gujrati) Weekly, Ahmedabad Vs. Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.	24.7.06	Upheld the impugned order dated 28/2/06 with directions to SDM, Ahmedabad to consider the fresh declaration
2.	Appeal under Section 8-C of Press & Registration of Books Act, 1867 in the matter of Printer and Publisher, Senior India, New Delhi Vs. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Licensing), New Delhi.	24.7.06	No reason to interfere with the order dated 30/3/06 appealed against
3.	Appeal of Shri Subban Khan, Editor, Vajravani, Kannada Weekly, Davanagere, Karnataka Vs. the order dated 16.7.2001 passed by the Deputy Commissioner, Davanagere, Karnataka and Shri S.S. Saleem, Advocate.	4.1.2007	Sets aside the impugned order dated 16/7/2001
4.	Appeal of Shri Ramesh Sharma, Editor, Anokhi Madhur Gathayein, Hindi monthly magazine, Delhi Vs. an order dated 2.8.06 of DCP (Licensing), Delhi.	4.1.2007	No cause to interfere with the order of DCP

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Name of Parties</b>	<b>Date of Order</b>	<b>Order Passed</b>
5.	Communication received from Shri Milap Choraria, Delhi Vs. Registrar of Newspapers for India, Delhi for non-verification/ delay in verification of the title.	4.1.2007	Beyond jurisdiction of the Appellate Board

**PRESS COUNCIL (PROCEDURE FOR INQUIRY)  
REGULATIONS, 1979**

(As on 14.12.2006)

**Published in the Gazette of India**

**Part III Section 4**

**Gazette Extraordinary**

**Press Council of India**

**NOTIFICATION**

**New Delhi dated Nov. 14, 1979**

In exercise of powers conferred by clause (c) of Section 26 of the Press Council Act, 1978 (37 of 1978), and all other powers "hereunto enabling, the Press Council of India hereby makes the following Regulations, namely:

***1. Short Title and Commencement:***

- (1) These Regulations, may be called the Press Council (Procedure for Inquiry) Regulations, 1979.\*
- (2) They shall come into force on the date of their publication in the official Gazette.

***2. Definitions: Unless the context otherwise requires:***

- (a) "Act" means the Press Council Act, 1978 (37 of 1978).
- (b) "Committee" means the Inquiry Committee constituted by the Council under Section 8(1) of the Act for the purpose of inquiry into complaints under Sections 13(2) and 14 (1) of the Act:
- (c) "Council" means the Press Council of India constituted under the Act;

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\* amended vide Gazette Notification 9 dated 14.12.2006

- (d) "Complainant" means a person or authority making a complaint to the Council regarding a newspaper, news agency, editor or other working journalist, in the case of complaints under Section 14(1) of the Act, and with regard to complaints relating to other matters, means a person making a complaint to the Council in respect of any matter which the Council has jurisdiction to entertain, examine and pronounce its views upon, and
- (e) "Matter" in the case of complaints under Section 14(1) means an article, news-item, news-report, or any other matter which is published by a newspaper or transmitted by a news agency by any means whatsoever and includes a cartoon, picture, photograph, strip or advertisement which is published in a newspaper and in the case of complaints relating to other matters, 'matter' relates to an action or inaction said to impinge upon the freedom of the press.

***3. Contents of complaint in respect of a newspaper, news agency, editor or other working journalist under Section 14(1) of the Act:***

- (1) where a person makes a complaint to the Council in respect of the publication or non-publication of any matter in any newspaper or news agency, under Section 14(1) of the Act he shall file the complaint in duplicate with sufficient copies for the respondents listed and shall -
  - (a) furnish the name and address of the newspaper, news agency, editor or other working journalist against which or whom the complaint is preferred and in cases where the complaint relates to the publication of matter in a newspaper or to the transmission by a news agency, forward along with the complaint a cutting of the matter complained of in original or a self attested copy thereof and such other particulars as are relevant to the subject-matter of the complaint; and where the complaint is in respect of non-publication of matter, the original or a self attested copy of the matter, non-publication of which is complained of; (English translation of the matter if it is in vernacular)
  - (b) state in what manner the publication or non-publication of the matter complained of is objectionable within the meaning of Section 14(1) of the Act;
  - (c) before filing the complaint before the Council, draw the attention of the newspaper, news agency, editor or other working journalist concerned, to the matter appearing in the newspaper etc. or to the non-publication thereof which, in the opinion of the complainant, is objectionable and he shall also furnish to the newspaper, news

agency, editor or the working journalist, as the case may be, the grounds for holding such opinion. The complainant shall, along with the complaint, enclose a copy of the letter written by him to the newspaper, news agency, editor or other working journalist together with a copy of the reply, if any received by him, provided that the Chairman may in his discretion waive this condition;

- (d) In case where the complaint is that an editor or a working journalist has committed any professional misconduct, other than the way of the publication or non-publication of any matter in a newspaper, the complainant shall set out clearly in detail the facts which according to him justify the complaint and the provisions of clause (c) above shall also apply to such complaints.
- (e) In every case place all other relevant facts before the Council; and
- (f) (i) In the case of a complaint relating to the publication or non-publication of any matter in respect of newspaper or news agency the same shall be lodged with the Council within the following periods of its publication or non-publication:

A. Dailies, News agencies and Weeklies .. within 2 months

B. In all other cases .. within 4 months

Provided that a relevant publication of an earlier date may be referred to in the complaint.

(ii) In the case of a complaint against an editor or working journalist under clause (d) above the same shall be lodged within 4 months of the misconduct complained of:

Provided that the Chairman may, if satisfied that the complainant has acted promptly, but that the delay in filing the complaint within the period prescribed under sub clause (i) or sub-clause (ii) of Regulation (3)1(f) has been caused by reason of the time taken to comply with the condition laid down in sub clause (c) supra or on account of other sufficient cause condone the delay and entertain the complaint.

- (2) The complainant while presenting the complaint shall at the foot thereof make and subscribe to a declaration to the effect:
  - (i) that to the best of his knowledge and belief he has placed all the relevant facts before the Council and that no proceedings are

pending in any Court of Law in respect of any matter alleged in the complaint.

(ii) that he shall inform the Council forthwith if during the pendency of the of the inquiry before the Council any matter alleged in the complaint becomes the subject-matter of any proceeding in a Court of Law.

**4. Return of Complaint :**

- (1) Where a complainant does not comply with the requirements of regulation 3, the Chairman may return the complaint under registered post acknowledgement due asking the complainant to bring it in conformity with such requirements and represent it within such time as he may deem fit in that behalf.
- (2) Where a complainant fails to comply with the requirements within four weeks of service thereof, the Chairman may decide to close action in the matter. The Council shall, at its next meeting, be apprised of such decision.

**5. Issue of notice:**

- (1) As soon as possible, and in any case not later than forty five days from the date of receipt of a complaint complete in all respects, under the direction of the Chairman, a copy thereof shall be sent to the newspaper, news agency, editor or other working journalist against which or whom the complaint has been made, under regulation 3 along with a notice requiring the newspaper, news agency, editor or other working journalist, as the case may be, to show cause why action should not be taken under Section 14 of the act. Provided that in appropriate cases the Chairman shall have the discretion to extend time for the issuance of the notice.

Provided further that the Chairman may decide not to issue a notice to show cause to the newspaper, news agency, editor or working journalist where, in his opinion, there is no sufficient ground for holding an inquiry. The Council at its next meeting shall be apprised by the Chairman of the reasons for his decision not to issue a "Show Cause" notice and it may pass such orders as it deems fit.

- (2) The notice issued under sub-regulation (I) above shall be sent to the newspaper, news agency, editor or other working journalist concerned by registered post, acknowledgement due, at the address furnished in the complaint.

**6. Filing of written statement:**

- (1) The newspaper, news agency, editor or other working journalist against which or whom the complaint is made may, within fourteen days from the

date of service of the copy of the complaint and notice under regulation 5 or within such further time as may be granted by the Chairman in this behalf, submit a written statement in reply to the complaint.

- (2) A copy of the written statement when received shall be forwarded to the complainant for his information.
- (3) After receipt of the complaint or written statement, the Chairman may, if he considers necessary, call for any further information either from the complainant or the respondent newspaper, news agency, editor or working journalist, as the case may be, in order to clarify matters appearing in the complaint or written statement and in doing so, may call for such documents or further statements as he might consider necessary. All the document and statements called for by him shall form part of the record and shall be placed before the Committee at the time of the inquiry.

**7. Power to call for additional particulars etc.** The Committee may after considering the complaint and the written statement, call for such additional particulars or documents or relevant to the subject-matter of the case as it may consider necessary from both the parties or either of them.

**8. Rejection of complaint of the same nature previously inquired into:**

- (I) Where at any time in the course of the inquiry into the complaint it appears to the Committee that the subject-matter of the complaint is substantially the same as, or has been covered by any former complaint dealt with by the Council under these regulations, the Committee shall hear the complainant, if he desires to be heard' and also if the Committee considers it necessary, the newspaper, news agency, editor or other working journalist, as the case may be, and make its recommendation to the Council which may pass such order as may be considered necessary and the same shall be duly communicated to the parties.

**9. Inquiry by the Committee:** Notice of the time, date and place of hearing shall be served on the complainant as well as on the newspaper, news agency, editor and working journalist, as the case may be, and shall be sent by registered post, acknowledgement due. In the inquiry before the Committee the parties shall be entitled to adduce relevant evidence, oral or documentary, and make submissions in support of their contentions.

- (2) At the close of the Inquiry the Committee shall make a report of its findings on the allegations contained in the complaint together with its reasons and submit the record of the case to the Council.

**10. Decision by the Council:**

- (1) The Council shall after perusing the record of the case, pass orders giving its decision or it may remit the case to the Committee for such further inquiry as the Council may deem necessary and after receipt of its report dispose of the case -
- (2) Every case shall be determined by a majority of votes of the members of the Council present and voting, and in the event of the votes being equal, the Chairman shall have a casting vote and shall exercise the same.
- (3) The order of the Council shall be communicated in writing to the parties to the case.

**11. Appearance of parties etc. :** In any inquiry under these regulations, the editor, news agency or other working journalist, or any authority including government, or the newspaper through its editor, against which or whom a complaint has been made may appear in person, or with the permission of the Committee or Council as the case may be, by a Counsellor or a duly authorised representative.

**12. Restrictions on power of members to discuss and vote in certain cases:** No members of the Committee shall vote or take part in the discussion of, and no member of the Council shall vote or take part in the discussion of any complaint coming up for consideration at a meeting of the Committee or the Council if the case is one in which he is personally involved or has any direct or indirect interest by himself or his partner, or in which he is interested professionally on behalf of a client or as an agent or representative for any newspaper, news agency, editor or other working journalist as the case may be.

**13. Power to take suo motu action:** The Chairman may suo motu issue notice or, as the case may be, take action in respect of any matter which falls within the mischief of Section 14(1) of the Act or in respect of or relating to any matter falling under Section 13(2) thereof and thereupon the procedure prescribed by these regulations from regulation 5 onwards shall be followed as if it were a complaint under regulation 3.

**14. Procedure in respect of complaints etc. under Section 13:** The procedure prescribed by these regulations in respect of complaints under section 14(1) of the Act shall apply, as far as may be, to complaints or representations received by the Council with regard to any subject falling within the provisions of Section 13.

Provided that a person making such a complaint shall make the complaint in duplicate with sufficient copies for the respondents listed and shall:-

- (a) Give complete particulars of the respondent(s) viz Name, Designation and complete address.

- (b) State how the action/inaction of the respondent authorities amounts to curtailment of the freedom of the press. Mention the possible reason for the action/inaction of the respondent(s)/authorities duly supported by documentary evidence.
- In case the action of the respondent(s)/authorities is a reprisal measure for writings in the newspaper, critical of the respondent's, the cuttings of such reports be furnished in original or as self attested copies. (English translation, if the news item(s) is in vernacular).
- (c) Draw the attention of the respondent(s)/authorities towards the grievance and furnish a copy of the letter written to the respondent(s)/authorities.
- - Furnish a copy of the reply, if any, received from the respondent(s)/authorities. Provided that the Chairman may waive this requirement in his discretion.
- (d) Place before the Council all relevant facts along with the supporting documents.
- (e) (i) Time for filing complaint: 4 months from the date of cause of action.
- (ii) Provided that the Chairman may condone the delay if he is satisfied that there exist sufficient reasons for such condonation.
- (f) Make and subscribe to the declaration prescribed in Regulation 3(2) supra.

Further provided that on receipt of such complaint, complete in all respects, under the direction of the Chairman, a copy thereof shall be sent to the authority against whom the complaint has been made along with a notice for statement in reply as to why the matter does not warrant observation under Section 15(4) of the Act. That the procedure specified in Regulation 7-12 above shall thereafter be adopted.

**15. Procedure in matters not provided for in these Regulations:** The Council as also the Committee shall have the power to regulate their own procedure in respect of any matter for which no provision or inadequate provision is made in these regulations and shall also have the power in appropriate cases to hold inquiries in camera.

Sd/-  
(Vibha Bhargava)  
**Secretary to the  
Press Council of India**