



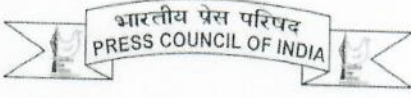
भारतीय प्रेस परिषद्  
**PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA**

सूचना भवन, 8 सी.जी.ओ. कॉम्प्लेक्स,  
लोधी रोड, नई दिल्ली - 110 003  
Soचना Bhawan, 8 - CGO Complex,  
Lodhi Road, New Delhi - 110 003

**Norms approved by the Council in the meeting dated 28.03.2024**

S.No .	Adjudication/Case/File No.	Date	Head	Norm
1.	303/2021-PCI	17.11.2023	Part A (4.) Caste, Religion or Community References.	(xviii) In a multi-religious country like India one has to be careful while opining on religious beliefs and rituals associated with any religion because opinions expressed on half-baked knowledge without studying the tenets of a particular religion may lead to distortion of facts and hurt religious sentiments. Religious issues are sensitive issues and one must not take liberty of dealing with them unless one has the required expertise and thorough knowledge about the concerned religion and its rituals.





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## Proposed Introduction for Trial By Media

### 43.a) Trial By Media

#### Introduction

Media reporting on matters involving the commission of crimes involves several aspects bearing on public interest. At a basic level, the fundamental right to free speech and expression is directly implicated. This engages the right of the media to disseminate news, views and information and the right of the viewing public or readers of printed news. There can be no gainsaying the fact that both the media in pursuance of its fundamental right to the freedom of speech and expression as well as the consumers of news, information and ideas have a right to disseminate and to receive fair and unbiased information. Criminal offences and investigation into them by the law enforcement machinery involves significant elements of public interest bearing upon the right to be informed and the right to know.\*

New Addition

The media and judiciary are two vital pillars of democracy and natural allies, one compliments the other towards the goal of a successful democracy. Measures which are necessary for due process of law need to take precedence over freedom of speech. In a conflict between fair trial and freedom of speech, fair trial has to necessarily prevail because any compromise of fair trial for an accused will cause immense harm and defeat justice delivery system. Thus, media persons should be duly trained and imparted basic knowledge about functioning of courts and processes of law;

i) An accused is entitled to the privilege of presumption of being innocent till guilt is pronounced by the Court. ....

\* Source - Order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the Criminal Appeal No 1255 of 1999 (People's Union for Civil Liberties & Anr Vs The State of Maharashtra & Ors)

