

Law of Working Journalists & Press Council

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World Journalist Institute

- ▶ Journalism is a noble calling.
- ▶ The working journalist is to report, write, and explain in accordance with the **highest standards of the profession.**
- ▶ The freedom of the media is recognized not simply as a freedom journalists, editors or proprietors but rather as a **right of all citizens** to be informed on all matters of public interest.
- ▶ The institution of a free media should exercise its powers and duties in a responsible manner. Another major aspect to be noted is that free media must be accountable to the public, but not to the Government.



Wage Board for Working Journalists

- ▶ The Supreme Court on Sept 12, 2012 suggested to newspaper managements to make interim arrangement
- ▶ Managements Challenged the Centre's notification regarding implementation of the recommendations of Justice Majithia Wage Board for journalists and non-journalists are pending.
- ▶ The Confederation of Newspaper and News Agency Employees' Organisations (CNNAEO), that spearheaded the nationwide stir hailed the Union Cabinet decision benefiting more than 40,000 newspaper employees. (ten months after submission of Wage Board Report) 25 Oct 2011.



SC stay the implementation

- ▶ The Supreme Court on Monday asked the central government not to go ahead with the implementation of the recommendations of Justice Majathia Wage Board for working journalists and other newspaper employees, 18th July, 2011.
- ▶ Anandabazar Patrika media group contended that the wage board recommendations were being sought to be implemented without giving copy of the report.



Managements oppose:

- ▶ Ashish Bagga, president of the Indian Newspaper Society (INS), on Tuesday expressed the apprehension that the Union Cabinet's decision to accept the recommendations of the Majithia Wage Boards may lead to the closure of a majority of small and medium newspaper publications, as the proposed wage hikes are very high and beyond the industry's paying capacity. Oct 26, 2011
- ▶ A number of petitions challenging the Working Journalist and Other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1955 and the Majithia Wage Boards recommendations are before SC.



Fourth Estate under threat!

- ▶ Mr. Bagga said the Fourth Estate is under threat of losing its well-nurtured fabric of plurality of ownership, and the situation created by the government's decision would throw up a clear possibility of media power getting consolidated in the hands of a few. This, coupled with the danger of large-scale retrenchments as a consequence of the possible closure of many newspaper establishments, not only pose a threat to the Fourth Estate but could also lead to job losses.
- ▶ The Justice Majathia Wage Board was set up after a gap of over a decade and had made recommendations for all newspaper employees in the country.



Ethics of trust and faith

- ▶ The proprietors, promoters and publishers of India's newspapers and magazines haven't had a word to say on some of the biggest issues confronting Indian media—and directly impacting the trust and faith of the reader—in recent years.
- ▶ Questions raised:
- ▶ Paid news, in which advertisements are couched as news? Silence.
- ▶ Private treaties, in which vested interest is touted as ads? Silence.
- ▶ Medianet, in which anybody can buy his or her way into the paper? Silence.



Questions raised

- ▶ Cross-media ownership, which results in monopolies shutting out choice? Silence.
- ▶ Dubious ownership, in which crooks, criminals and the corrupt become media barons—and underwrite major industry conventions? Silence.
- ▶ Predatory pricing, which strangles small newspapers? Silence.
- ▶ Dumping of copies to pump up circulation numbers? Silence.
- ▶ Complicity of journalists with lobbyists? Silence.
- ▶ The killing of journalists in the line of duty? Silence.



Managements say:

- ▶ The credibility of newspapers is most vital and is the essence of democracy. But the very existence of the industry is under threat. We have apprehensions that a 'divide and destroy' policy is at work. This apprehension is rooted in the recommendations of the wage board for the industry. Perhaps very few people would know that the salary structure for working journalists as well as non-working journalists is decided by the wage board appointed by the government.



Article 14 violated

- ▶ It is only the newspaper industry in India - not TV or radio or cement or sugar or any other industry - which is singled out for this discriminatory treatment. This has imposed a heavy financial burden on the industry for years. It may yet force many newspapers to shut down if the latest astronomical wage rates proposed by the board are implemented. The Press is not - and should not be - immune from general laws relating to industrial relations or laws regulating payment of wages. But if it is singled out for imposition of prohibitive burdens, is it not violating the right to no discrimination guaranteed by Article 14 of our Constitution?
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What is Working Journalists Act?

- ▶ The Working Journalists and Other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1955.
- ▶ Section 2 defines newspaper, newspaper employee, non journalist newspaper employee, wages, board
- ▶ S 3 provisions of Industrial Dispute Act 1947 applies to working journalists



Noticed of retrenchment

- ▶ Period of notice of retrenchment for editor is six months and for other wj three months (S 4)
- ▶ S 5 Payment of Gratuity for WJ with three years of service on termination (other than by punishment) or retirement, or voluntarily resigns, or dies in service, shall be paid 15 days average pay for every completed year of service or part in excess of 6 months



WJ ACT

- ▶ Hours of work not more than 144 hrs in 4 weeks.
- ▶ Rest day for not less than 24 hours for every seven days of work (S 6)
- ▶ Fixation of wage rates by Center through Wage Boards (s 9)
- ▶ Wage Board with 3 representatives of employers, working journalists, four independent persons under chairmanship of HC or SC former Judge



Wage Board

- ▶ Notice to newspaper establishments, working journalists and other persons to give representations for fixing wages for working journalists, based on cost of living comparable employment etc. (s 10)
- ▶ Wage Board has Powers of Industrial Tribunal under ID Act (S11)
- ▶ On recommendations, Center can make order wage fixation.



Wage Board

- ▶ Center can modify the recommendations without altering character
- ▶ Working Journalists entitled to wages at rates not less than those specified (s 13)
- ▶ Govt can fix interim rates of wages (13A)
- ▶ Govt can constitute Board by notification
- ▶ Revision of wages for non journalist employees by center by wage board.



Application of Other Labour Acts

- ▶ Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946, for newspaper establishment with 20 or more employees
- ▶ Employees provident Fund Act 1952
- ▶ Inconsistent Agreements are not valid (S16)
- ▶ No dismissal by reason of liability for payment of wages (s16A)
- ▶ Recovery of money from employer, through state, Collector, refer to Labour Court



WJ Act

- ▶ 17A maintenance of registers records and muster-rolls
- ▶ 17B State can appoint inspectors for ascertaining compliance of provisions
- ▶ 18 penalty for contravention- Rs 500
- ▶ 19 no suit or prosecution against Chairman or member of board or inspector for acts in good faith



Rules under WJ Act

- ▶ Rules 1957 explaining gratuity, hours of work, holidays, leave and forms for maintenance of registers etc
- ▶ WJ and Other Newspaper Employees Tribunal Rules 1979
- ▶ Working Journalists Wage Board Rules, 1956
- ▶ Working Journalists (Fixation of Rates of Wages) Rules 1958



Case law

- ▶ Whether All India Reporter is a newspaper
- ▶ Not a newspaper 1983
- ▶ It is newspaper 1988 as law report contains news, editorial comment, book review, ads etc which make AIR a newspaper (AIR Karmachari Sangh v AIR Ltd.
- ▶ Newsagent is not wj, principal avocation should be journalism





The Press Council



Accountability of Media

Press should be free and responsible

- ▶ The *raison d'être* of this unique institution is rooted in the concept that in a democratic society the press needs at once to be free and responsible.
- ▶ First Press Council known as the Court of Honour for the Press in Sweden in 1916.
- ▶ Spread to other Scandinavian countries, and other parts of Europe, Canada, Asia, Australia and New Zealand.
- ▶ Today, the Press Councils or similar other media bodies are in place in more than four dozen nations.



World Press Councils Declaration 2006

- ▶ World Association of Press Councils in 2006 declared in Istanbul in its Tenth General Assembly, following objectives:
- ▶ The right of the public to government transparency and accountability;
- ▶ The right of the media profession to self-regulation through independent and preferably voluntarily established media councils;
- ▶ The right of a free media to protection through operation of constitutional and other laws protecting the non-disclosure of sources of information;



Objective of Press Freedom

- ▶ The right of journalists everywhere to freely practice their profession and to be safe from harm;
- ▶ That a free media must exercise its powers and duties in a responsible manner, and must be accountable to the public, but not to any other source of power, including government;
- ▶ That it is the right of all people to benefit from the highest forms of information technology, and that all states must act so as to promote and protect the free flow of information by these means;



Objectives

- ▶ That the media the world over should be diligent in its duty to speak for women, children, the poor, the oppressed, the dispossessed, and minorities;
- ▶ That voluntary and independent **press and media councils** are an important element of civil society and are necessary to protect the media and the public from manipulation and misinformation.



Troubles of the Press

- ▶ Delegates of WAPC acknowledged that the world faces:
- ▶ a rising tide of hostility toward journalists and media workers in virtually all members countries.
- ▶ The repeated jailing of journalists and media workers in Azerbaijan and Zimbabwe,
- ▶ imposition of harsh media laws such a Kenya' s Communications Bill 2008, use of tax laws in Turkey to silence media critics, closure of broadcast stations and intimidation of journalists in Malawi, and
- ▶ use of contempt of court powers to threaten journalists with jail for refusing to divulge their sources in the US



Mahatma Gandhi

- ▶ The sole aim of journalist should be service. The newspaper press is a great power, but just as 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.
- ▶ This is the basis of self-regulation of the media.



First Press Commission

- ▶ The First Press Commission (1954) came across in some section of the Press, instances of yellow journalism of one type or another, scurrilous writing-often directed against communities or groups, sensationalism, bias in presentation of news and lack of responsibility in comment, indecency and vulgarity and personal attacks on individuals.
- ▶ PC remarked “whatever the law relating to the Press may be, there would still be a large quantum of objectionable journalism which, though not falling within the purview of the law, would still require to be checked”



Why Press Council

- ▶ Among the objectives visualised for the Council were:
“**to safeguard the freedom of the press**”,
 - ▶ “ to ensure on the part of the Press the maintenance of **High standards of public taste** and to foster due sense of both the **rights and responsibilities of citizenship**” and
 - ▶ “ to encourage the growth of **sense of responsibility and public service** among all those engaged in the profession of journalism.”
 - ▶ “to help newspapers to maintain their independence”;
 - ▶ “to build up a code of conduct for newspapers and journalists in accordance with high professional standards;
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Press Council Act

- ▶ Press Council of India was first constituted on 4th July, 1966 as an autonomous, statutory, quasijudicial body, with Shri Justice J R Mudholkar as chairman.
- ▶ Chairman and 25 other members.
- ▶ Of the 25 members, 3 were to represent the two houses of Parliament, 13 were to be from amongst the working journalists, of which not less than 6 were to be editors who did not own or carry on the business of management of newspapers and the rest were to be the persons having special knowledge or practical experience in respect of education and science, law, literature and culture.
- ▶ By an amendment of the Act in 1970, the membership of the Council was raised by one to provide a seat for persons managing the news agencies.
- ▶ During the Internal
- ▶ Emergency, the Act was repealed and the Council abolished w.e.f. 1/1/1976. It functioned for ten years since 1965.



Re-established in 1979

- ▶ Press Council of India was re-established in the year 1979 by under the Press Council Act, 1978,
- ▶ The Council consists of a Chairman and twenty-eight other members.
- ▶ The Chairman is a person nominated by a Committee consisting of the Chairman of the Council of States (Rajya Sabha), the Speaker of the House of the People (Lok Sabha), and a person elected from amongst themselves by the members of the Press Council.



Members of the council

- ▶ Of the other members, thirteen are working journalists, of whom six are editors of newspapers and remaining seven are working journalists other than editors.
- ▶ Six members are those who own or carry on the business of management of newspapers. One member is a person who manages a news agency.
- ▶ Three members are persons having special knowledge or practical experience in respect of education and science, law and literature and culture, of whom respectively one is nominated by the University Grants Commission, one by the Bar Council of India and one by Sahitya Academy.
- ▶ The remaining five members of the Council are Members of Parliament, of whom three are from the Lok Sabha and two from the Rajya Sabha.



Press Council Act 1978

- ▶ Revived during Janata Government
- ▶ Sweden, UK(Press Complaints Commission), US (National News Council)
- ▶ It is a body corporate, juristic personality, one chairman of legal background, 28 members, quasi judicial functions.
- ▶ 13 working journalists, (6 editors+ 7 wj)
- ▶ 6 from management of newspapers (big-75000+, medium-25-75 and small less than 25 each 2)



Press Council Act

- ▶ One member from news agency management
- ▶ 3 special knowledge on educn, science, law and literature from UGC, Bar Council, Sahitya Academy
- ▶ 5 MPs (3 LS 2 RS)
- ▶ Term 3 years,
- ▶ Inquiry Committee with 11 members, quasi judicial body to hear complaints



Objects and Functions

- ▶ To maintain independence and freedom of press,
- ▶ to build up code of conduct,
- ▶ ensure maintenance of high standards of public taste,
- ▶ foster due sense of rights and responsibilities
- ▶ watch developments restricting dissemination of news,
study of newspapers



Powers of the Press Council

- ▶ Complaint against newspaper or agency for offending standards of journalistic ethics or public taste or for committing any professional misconduct
- ▶ Can hold inquiry after giving due opportunity
- ▶ Power to censure, with power of civil court
- ▶ It can take issues suo moto
- ▶ Council can hear complaints by press against Govt or other individuals



Hearings by Council

- ▶ From 1966 to 1981 800 complaints, 214 complaints involving freedom of press against state and central govts, alleging discrimination in ads, denial of facilities, harassment
- ▶ 566 complaints against newspapers by individuals and Govt officers.
- ▶ Tremendous increase in complaints.



Complaint

- ▶ complaint must be specific and
- ▶ in writing and
- ▶ should be filed/lodged within two months of the publication of the impugned news item in case of dailies and weeklies and four months in all other cases,
- ▶ along with the original/photostat copy of the impugned clipping
- ▶ (an English translation if the matter is in a South Asian language).
- ▶ complainant must state in what manner the publication/nonpublication of the matter is objectionable.
- ▶ A declaration regarding the non-pendency of the matter in any court of law is also necessary.



Complaints Procedure

- ▶ A complaint against a newspaper for any publication the complainant finds objectionable and affecting him personally, or for non-publication of any material, should first be taken up with the editor or other representative of the publication concerned.
 - ▶ If the complaint is not resolved satisfactorily, it may be referred to the Press Council of India. The complaint must be specific and in writing and should be filed/lodged within two months of the publication of the impugned news item in case of dailies and weeklies and four months in all other cases, along with the original/photostat copy of the impugned clipping (an English translation if the matter is in a South Asian language).
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Explain the objectionable matter

- ▶ The complainant must state in what manner the publication/non-publication of the matter is objectionable within the meaning of the Press Council Act, 1978, and enclose a copy of the letter to the editor, pointing out why the matter is considered objectionable.
- ▶ The editor's reply thereto or published rejoinder, if any, may also be attached to it.
- ▶ If a newspaper or journalist is aggrieved by any action of any authority that may impinge on the freedom of the press, he can also file a complaint with the Council.



Process

- ▶ The aggrieved newspaper or journalist may inform the Council about the possible reason for the action of the authorities against him i.e. if it is as a reprisal measure taken by the authorities due to critical writings or as a result of the policy that may affect the freedom of the press.
- ▶ If the Council is prima facie satisfied that the matter discloses sufficient ground for inquiry, it issues a show cause notice to the respondents and then considers the matter through its Inquiry Committee on the basis of written and oral evidence tendered before it.



Sanctions by Council

- ▶ The Council keeping in view the gravity of the misconduct committed by the newspaper, warns, admonishes or censures the newspaper or disapproves of the conduct of the editor or the journalist as the case may be. It may also direct the respondent newspaper to publish the contradiction of the complainant or a gist of the Council's decision in its forthcoming issue.
- ▶ When the Council upholds the complaint of the aggrieved newspaper/journalist the Council directs the concerned government to take appropriate steps to redress the grievance of the complainant.



Norms of Journalistic Conduct

- ▶ The Document “Norms of Journalistic Conduct” updates the norms evolved since 1996 on the basis of adjudications and other pronouncements and covers to a large extent almost every aspect of compulsions and compunctions in journalistic practice.
- ▶ Accuracy and Fairness: The Press shall eschew publication of inaccurate, baseless, graceless, misleading or distorted material. All sides of the core issue or subject should be reported. Unjustified rumours and surmises should not be set forth as facts. It is incumbent for newspapers to play a positive role in response to rumours affecting the credibility of financial institutions having public interface.



Pre-Publication Verification

- ▶ i) On receipt of a report or article of public interest and benefit containing imputations or comments against a citizen, the editor should check with due care and attention its factual accuracy apart from other authentic sources- with the person or the organisation concerned to elicit his/her or its version, comments or reaction and publish the same alongside with due correction in the report where necessary. In the event of lack or absence of response, a footnote to that effect may be appended to the report.
- ▶ ii) Publication of news such as those pertaining to cancellation of examinations or withdrawal of candidates from election should be avoided without proper verification and cross checking.
- ▶ iii) A document, which forms a basis of a news report, should be preserved at least for six months.



Caution against defamatory writings

- ▶ i) Newspaper should not publish anything which is manifestly defamatory or libellous against any individual/organisation unless after due care and verification, there is sufficient reason/evidence to believe that it is true and its publication will be for public good.
- ▶ ii) Truth is no defence for publishing derogatory, scurrilous and defamatory material against a private citizen where no public interest is involved.



No personal remarks

- ▶ iii) No personal remarks which may be considered or construed to be derogatory in nature against a dead person should be published except in rare cases of public interest, as the dead person cannot possibly contradict or deny those remarks.
 - ▶ iv) The Press has a duty, discretion and right to serve the public interest by drawing reader's attention to citizens of doubtful antecedents and of questionable character but as responsible journalists they should observe due restraint and caution in hazarding their own opinion or conclusion in branding these persons as 'cheats' or 'killers' etc. The cardinal principle being that the guilt of a person should be established by proof of facts alleged and not by proof of the bad character of the accused. In the zest to expose, the Press should not exceed the limits of ethical caution and fair comment.
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Gossip and Pardody

- ▶ Newspapers cannot claim privilege or licence to malign a person or body claiming special protection or immunity on the plea of having published the item as a satire under special columns such as ‘gossip’, ‘parody’, etc.
- ▶ **6. Right to Privacy**
- ▶ i) The Press shall not intrude or invade the privacy of an individual, unless outweighed by genuine overriding public interest, not being a prurient or morbid curiosity.



Caution against Identification

- ▶ While reporting crime involving rape, abduction or kidnap of women/females or sexual assault on children, or raising doubts and questions touching the chastity, personal character and privacy of women, the names, photographs of the victims or other particulars leading to their identity shall not be published.
 - ▶ iii) Minor children and infants who are the offspring of sexual abuse or 'forcible marriage' or illicit sexual union shall not be identified or photographed.
 - ▶ iv) Intrusion through photography into moments of personal grief shall be avoided. However, photography of victims of accidents or natural calamity may be in larger public interest.
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Recording interviews and phone conversation

- ▶ i) The Press shall not tape-record anyone's conversation without that person's knowledge or consent, except where the recording is necessary to protect the journalist in a legal action, or for other compelling good reason.
- ▶ ii) The Press shall, prior to publication, delete offensive epithets used during such conversation.



Newspapers to eschew suggestive guilt

- ▶ i) Newspapers should eschew suggestive guilt by association. They should not name or identify the family or relatives or associates of a person convicted or accused of a crime, when they are totally innocent and a reference to them is not relevant to the matter being reported.
- ▶ ii) It is contrary to the norms of journalism for a paper to identify itself with and project or promote the case of any one party in the case of any controversy/dispute.



Right of Reply

- ▶ The newspaper should promptly and with due prominence, publish either in full or with due editing, free of cost, at the instance of the person affected or feeling aggrieved/or concerned by the impugned publication, a contradiction/reply/ clarification or rejoinder sent to the editor in the form of a letter or note.
- ▶ **Obscenity and vulgarity to be eschewed**
- ▶ **Glorification/encouragement of social evils to be eschewed**
- ▶ **Violence not to be glorified**
- ▶ **Covering communal disputes/clashes**



Plagiarism

- ▶ i) Using or passing off the writings or ideas of another as one's own, without crediting the source, is an offence against ethics of journalism.
 - ▶ ii) Violation of copyright also constitutes violation of journalistic norms.
 - ▶ **Unauthorised lifting of news**
 - ▶ i) The practice of lifting news from other newspapers publishing them subsequently as their own, ill comports the high standards of journalism. To remove its unethically the 'lifting' newspaper must duly acknowledge the source of the report.
 - ▶ ii) The position of features articles is different from 'news': Feature articles shall not be lifted without permission/ proper acknowledgement.
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Astrological prediction

- ▶ The promotion of astrological prediction and superstitious practices is likely to produce an unsettling effect on the minds of the readers, and is thus undesirable.
- ▶ The editors of general interest dailies and periodicals who believe in promoting a scientific temper and in combating superstition and fatalism, should avoid publication of astrological predictions. Readers who are interested in the subject of astrology can turn to specialized publications on the subject.



Guidelines

- ▶ **Press Council of India has also issued Guidelines on specific issues like**
 - ▶ a) Norms for observance by the Press in the wake of communal disturbances
 - ▶ b) Coverage of handouts of Militants/Terrorists-Guiding Principles 1991-1992
 - ▶ c) HIV/AIDS and the Media
 - ▶ d) Financial Journalism
 - ▶ e) Election Reporting
 - ▶ f) Allotment of Houses to Journalists
 - ▶ g) Undue Favours to Journalists
 - ▶ h) Right to Privacy-- Public Figures and the Press
 - ▶ i) Model Guidelines for Publishing Overseas Advertisement In Accordance With Emigration Act 1983
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Code of Conduct

- ▶ Important duty of Council is to frame a code of conduct to protect ethics
- ▶ If code is framed it would be another restriction on FoSE or FoP
- ▶ Code has to be build case by case
- ▶ Code has to be prepared voluntarily by professional bodies to be enforced by PC
- ▶ Demand for Regional Press Council, Media Council, More powers, Training activity



Justice Katju's criticism



- ▶ Justice Markandeya Katju, President of PCI, criticised media for giving more importance to Bollywood and cricket than vital national issues. "promoting" superstition and "backward ideas" through their shows on issues like astrology.
- ▶ If freedom of press lowers the standard of living of people, makes people poorer, then we must crush freedom of press,"
- ▶ "Sachin Tendulkar has scored his hundredth century, now rivers of milk and honey would flow in the country. Cricket is the opium of the masses. People are drugged with cricket. The Roman emperors used to say that if you cannot give people bread, give them circuses" Katju said. (Nov 17, 2012)



Jindal's allegation against zee news



- ▶ "On the basis of the material placed before it and considering the seriousness of the complaint, the NBSA has taken suo motu cognizance of the matter."

- ▶ The News Broadcasting Standards Authority (NBSA) took up Jindal Steel's complaint against Zee News.
- ▶ Jindal Steel had filed an extortion case against the television news channel with the Press Council of India.
- ▶ Forwarded by PCI to NBSA



Allegations

- ▶ Naveen Jindal had filed a police complaint against Zee News charging that its senior journalists had demanded "advertisement commitments" worth crores of rupees to block airing a negative story about the company's alleged involvement in the scam-tainted coal block allocations.
- ▶ Subsequently, Zee News also alleged that Jindal misbehaved with a team of its reporters after they sought clarifications from him on the allegations levelled against his company for alleged irregularities in allocation of coal blocks. Zee Group Chairman Subhash Chandra had also said his journalists were not involved in any wrongdoing and asserted that the accusations were false.



Comments against Rushdie

- ▶ Markandey Katju today said the "sensationalism" depicted by his book 'Satanic Verses' has deeply hurt Muslim sensitivities
- ▶ an individual's freedom of speech has to be harmonized with the public interest.
- ▶ Termed Rushdie as a "sub-standard and poor writer", also questioned the Booker Prize awarded to the author saying it was "mystery" why he got it. (Jan 30, 2012)
- ▶ Literature prizes are often a mystery. Out of the approximately 100 Nobel Prizes given for literature till today, nobody even remembers the name of 80 or more winners.





Complaints before PCI

Complaints by the press

- ▶ Harassment of newsmen 12
- ▶ Facilities to the press 11

Complaints against the press

- ▶ Principles and Publication 14
- ▶ Press and Defamation 49
- ▶ Press and Morality 2
- ▶ Anti national writings 2
- ▶ Between Nov 2011 to March 2012, PCI adjudicated 90, of which 40 filed four years ago. 54 cases were disposed of, dismissed, closed, withdrawn or no action were taken.



Mere advise to Police

- ▶ When complaint involves a dispute between a journalist and police authorities, PCI simply advised authority to refrain from threatening or harassing the press.
 - ▶ Four cases by the press against police authorities. *Rashtriya Sahara*(Sonebhadra, Uttar Pradesh), *Amar Ujala*(Banda, UP), *Savera India Times* (Daman) and *Swatantra Bharat* (Kanpur, UP).
 - ▶ *The Times of India* and *Deccan Chronicle* published photo of a boy consuming liquor, and his name The two newspapers had also published the name of the boy. A complaint was filed by the South India Cell for Human Rights Education and Monitoring, Bangalore.
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Compliance

- ▶ PCI directed the two newspapers to publish an apology acknowledging their error of judgement. Not known if directions were actually followed.
- ▶ Its directions against authorities lead to filing of action taken reports; If directions are against press, no compliance reports are insisted.
- ▶ thehoot.org said: A body that demands more responsibility should perhaps first demonstrate that its labours in recent times have had some impact.



Paid News complaint

- ▶ Paid news complaint against *Abhi Abhi*, Hisar (Haryana) by an election agent in 2011- 2012 was filed on 5th October 2009. Editor demanded Rs 5 lakh, when refused, the newspaper started publishing a spate of motivated and false news article against J P Dalal.
- ▶ The matter was dismissed as both the parties did not appear for the hearing.
- ▶ A complaint by a journalist alleged that the Bureau Chief of *Awadh* a monthly magazine from Lucknow, had violated the Copyright Act by publishing his article in the editor's name.



Defame, if not paid.

- ▶ A complaint (4.10.2008) was filed by a resident of Perambalur Taluk against the Editor of a monthly magazine *Vilmurasu Monthly*, Chennai for publishing an article (May 2008) in his praise and demanding money towards the publication. On denying payment, the respondent allegedly carried defamatory articles against him in other issues for three months (June, July, and August 2008). PCI censured and forwarded copy to to DAVP, RNI, Information and Public Relations Department, Tamil Nadu for action. Consequences not known.
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Disposal

- ▶ In a complaint against appropriate portrayal of women in an advertisement by Assam news daily, *Asomiya Pratidin*) PCI advised the newspaper not to accept advertisements that may corrupt young minds.
- ▶ Complaint against India Today New Delhi for use of an indecent picture of a woman could not be pursued as none appeared.
- ▶ Complaints against Editor of Greater Kashmir for allegedly publishing a sensational and provocative article against the army (Cautioned), Editor of Outlook for its depiction of the Indian Flag in an indecent manner. Representative of magazine not present, dropped.

