



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

File No. PCI13/Ref./17/2026

Dated: 17.08.2026

Shri Mahfuz Khan
National Organization General Secretary
Akhil Bhartiya Patrakar Suraksha Samiti (ABPSS)
Flat no. 11, 1st Floor, Satyam Building TMC Colony
Sion-Trombay Road, Mandala
Mumbai Suburban, Maharashtra
Email: mahfuzkhan.janhit@gmail.com

Subject: Grievance No. PMOPG/E/2026/143964 dated 03.08.2026 - reg.

Sir,

With reference to your Grievance Petition bearing registration No. PMOPG/E/2026/143964 dated 03.08.2026, I am directed to inform you that the Press Council of India is an autonomous, statutory, quasi-judicial authority mandated by the Parliament with the twin objectives of preserving the freedom of the press and of maintaining and improving the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India.

2. The Press Council of India has a complaint mechanism to address any attack(s)/curtailment of press freedom/harassment of journalists/obstructing the facilities to the press; where, on receipt of a complaint made to it or otherwise, the Council has reason to believe that the acts of the authority or otherwise has led to suppression of press freedom, the Council may, after giving the said authority, or person, or otherwise, an opportunity of being heard, hold an inquiry in such manner as may be provided by regulations made under the Press Council Act and, if it is satisfied that it is necessary so to do, it may, for reasons to be recorded in writing, make such observations, as it may think fit respecting the conduct of any authority, including government.

- Any complaint received by the Council is dealt by the Council following the laid down procedure in the Press Council Act, 1978 and Press Council (Procedure for Inquiry) Regulations, 1979.
- Further, under Regulation 13 of the Press Council (Procedure for Inquiry) Regulations, 1979, in matters of grave concern relating to curtailment of press freedom including



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attack/killing of journalist, the Chairperson of the Press Council of India has the power to take suo-motu cognizance. Further, the Council may constitute sub-committee or fact finding committee to investigate such incidents and make recommendations

- Under provision of Regulation 14 (f) of the Press Council (Procedure for Inquiry) Regulations, 1979, the Council has power to issue Notice for Statement in Reply to any authorities of Government against whom the complaint has been received to submit a written reply as to why the matter does not warrant observation under Section 15(4) of the Act.
- Further, under Section 15(2) of the Press Council Act, 1978, nothing can compel any newspaper, news agency, editor or journalist to disclose the source of any news or information published by that newspaper or received or reported by that news agency, editor or journalist.

3. Regarding your concerns for the Safety of Journalist, the Council has undertaken following measures for protecting the Safety of Journalists:

- a) Press Council of India in 2015 prepared a report on ***the Safety of Journalists*** which was forwarded to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for consideration. The report may be referred at the Council's website @ www.presscouncil.nic.in.
- b) Taking note of difficulties/dangers faced by journalists while performing their duties during natural disasters, the Council has in the year 2023 issued Guidelines for Media Persons/Reporters Covering News Amidst Natural Disaster in the form of a report. The report may be referred at the Council's website @ www.presscouncil.nic.in.
- c) Further, taking note of safety of security of journalists, the Council has in the year 2024, evolved guidelines for the media, police and security forces on reporting in conflict situation. Herein, the Council has taken note of the safety as well as impunity of journalists. Among few of the recommendations made in the report, it has been stated that the State Governments must ensure a secure and stress-free environment for journalists to carry out their roles independently, neutrally, and without bias. This includes making comprehensive safety arrangements for journalists and their publishing houses, especially in conflict areas where they are targeted. The report may be referred at the Council's website @ www.presscouncil.nic.in.



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- d) In addition, the Press Council of India had framed Guidelines to give utmost priority to the safety of journalists working at ground level during the COVID 19 pandemic. The same have been incorporated in The Norms of Journalistic Conduct, 2022 Edition - Part B: Guidelines on specific issues - (n) - Guidelines on reporting on COVID-19 and Safety Measures for Journalists.
- e) Mass retrenchment of journalists by the media groups during the COVID 19 was seriously looked into by the Council. To take note of facts of the matter, a fact finding committee was constituted by the Council. The report may be referred at the Council's website @ www.presscouncil.nic.in.
- f) Further, regarding the issues raised by you, it is hereby informed that the Press Council of India considered two bills forwarded by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for comments/opinions: the (i) "Journalist (Prevention of Violence and Damage or Loss to the Property) Bill, 2022" by Shri N.K. Premchandran, MP, and the (ii) "Goa Media Persons and Media Institutions (Prevention of Violence and Damage or Loss to Property) Bill, 2022". After in-depth deliberations on both Bills, the Press Council resolved to approve them and recommended that the Central Government may enact a corresponding Central Act. This recommendation was communicated to the Ministry.
4. With this, the instant grievance petition stands disposed of.
5. This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

Yours faithfully,

(Rahul Arya)

Section Officer (Reference)