

National Press Day



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Rinku Pathak 16 November 2016 5498 views

November 16 is a significant day for Indian media. The day is [celebrated as National](#) Press Day. It was on this day of 1966 that Press Council of [India](#) came into existence.

The Press Council of [India](#) was set up on the recommendation of the first Press Commission (1954). The commission expressed some important views regarding Indian press. It opined that despite some shortcomings such [as](#) yellow journalism, sensationalism, indecency and vulgarity there were some newspapers of which the country could take pride. Most importantly, the commission recommended setting up of a statutory and autonomous body. Acting on this recommendation, Press Council of [India](#) was established with the objectives of preserving the freedom of the press and maintaining the standards of newspapers in [India](#). The sole objective of the council is to ensure a free and responsible press. It emphasises not only on maintaining the standard of the press, but it also works [as](#) a watchdog so that press freedom is not shackled by the influence or threats of any factor. Justice J.R Mudholkar was the first chairman of the council. Presently, Justice [CK](#) prasad is holding this prestigious post.

Indian Media is going through a crucial phase. There are numerous allegations such [as](#) sensationalism, paid news, vulgarity and dearth of responsibilities [against](#) media. Corporatisation is an important factor for pessimism that has been prevailing in current Indian press. Freedom of Press [as](#) well [as](#) safety of journalists is also a matter of concern.

In [2016](#) World Press Freedom Index brought out by 'Reporters without Borders', [India](#) is in the rank of 133 out of 180 countries. On Saturday Dharmendra Singh, a reporter with Dainik Bhaskar in Sasaram, Bihar was shot death by miscreants. This is the sixth murder of a journalist this year in [India](#). Situation is alarming in the context of Assam also. 26 journalists had been killed in the [state](#) since 1991. Still there are number of incidents taking place relating to attacks and threats to the scibes.

On the other hand, the pay rate for [journalists](#) except few media houses is not satisfactory. [Journalists](#) are still fighting for the implementation of the recommendations of majithia wage board. So, if we expect our press to act freely and in a responsible way, the problems they are facing must also be addressed. Otherwise, celebration of Press day will remain futile.

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BY RINKU PATHAK

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