

INDIAN JOURNALISTS UNION (IJU)

(Regd. No. 4001)

F-29, Shanker Market, Connaught Circus, New Delhi - 110 001

Amar Devulapalli
Secretary General

Date.....

//Press Note//

13th August 2014.

The Indian Journalists Union (IJU), the premier and most representative organisation of the working journalists in the country, welcomed the recommendation of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) for single Regulatory Authority for the print and electronic media. In a statement issued here on Tuesday, 13th August 2014, the President S N Sinha and Secretary-General D Amar said the working journalists movement in the country has been demanding the Union Government to amend the Press Council of India Act to bring the electronic media in to its ambit. The Unions were also demanding the amendment of Working Journalists (Other Newspaper Employees Regulation of Service) Act to bring the journalists working in the electronic media within the definition of working journalist.

The IJU leaders however strongly opposed the proposal of the TRAI that the "Regulatory body should be manned pre-dominantly by eminent-non media persons" as that recommendation would go against the self regulation of the media preferred by the working journalists and other stake holders besides the eminent civil society intellectuals. "We feel the Press Council of India which consists of working journalists, editors, managers and owners of small, medium and big newspapers, parliamentarians, representatives of Lawyers, Academia and presided over by a retired Judge of the Supreme Court, is the best mechanism in the present circumstances", Sinha and Amar said.

The IJU urged upon the Press Council of India (PCI) to take cognizance of the suggestion of the TRAI and to act to proscribe the pernicious practices of 'private treatise' and take action against the managements of media who indulged in 'paid news' in the recent General Elections and detected by the Election Commission of India (ECI). "The Government should immediately take steps to protect the editorial independence of the working editors and journalists," they added.

They said the Government should immediately appoint a media Commission headed by a retired or serving Judge of the Supreme Court as suggested by the TRAI "to comprehensively examine various issues relating to the media, including the role and performance of the existing institutions, the way forward."

The IJU felt the Government should hold wide ranging and thorough discussions with all the stake holders in the media and civil society leaders on other recommendations relating to media ownership and monopoly.

Issued for favor of publication/broadcast in your newspaper/news channel.



Secretary General Office : No. 5-9-60/8, Desodharaka Bhavan, Fateh Maidan, Hyderabad-1. A.P.

Phone : (Off) : 091-40-23232659, (Res) : 091-40-23548648 Fax : 091-40-23232660 E-mail : amardevulapalli@yahoo.com