**THE PRESS COUNCIL OF PAKISTAN- AN OVERVIEW**

The Press Council of Pakistan is an autonomous and independent body which ensures and monitors ethical standards of practice for Pakistan’s print media through implementation of the Ethical Code of Practice as set out in the Schedule of the PCP Ordinance, 2002.

The PCP Ordinance 2002 was promulgated on 26th October, 2002 but the Council could not be constituted for one or the other reason. It remained dormant and became functional on completion of its composition which was notified by the Federal Government on 18.10. 2011.

**Vision/Mission**

**Vision**: Free, independent, responsible and accountable press.

**Mission**: Maintenance of professional and ethical standards by the press to preserve the constitutional rights of citizens, and, to ensure freedom of press and to implement Ethical Code of Practice having 17 points, need to be implemented in print media which is the need of time.

***FUNCTIONS OF PCP***

* As far media continues to grow in Pakistan, the role of Press Council of Pakistan is increasingly becoming more demanding and diverse since its revitalization in 2011 under PCP Ordinance 2002.
* Comprising of 18 members and a Chairman, PCP evolves updates and implements ethical media code of practice under section 8 of PCP Ordinance. As a Complaint Commission, the Council receives and adjudicates complaints to check violation of its ethical code of practice.
* The Council acts as a shield to protect free functioning of the press and to guard against any interference in the independent working of the press from any quarter whatsoever. The main hindrance in the free flow of information and independence reporting is the threat mainly from extremist elements and attacks on journalists/media houses.
* Under Section 8(2) of PCP Ordinance, the Council also takes notice of different incidents in which the working journalists are targeted. In some cases the matter are taken up with the concerned authorities for appropriate action in the context of the security to the journalists for tracking and bringing the culprits to book.
* Under section 8(1) (i), the Council, while preserving the freedom of press, has to maintain the highest professional and ethical standards of newspapers and news agencies with a view to make them more responsive to the issues and concerns of society in Pakistan.

***Achievements by PCP***

* PCP started to address / resolve the complaints related to PCP received in Prime Minister’s Performance Delivery Unit (PMDU).
* **Complaints received through Pakistan Citizen Portal since January 2019 uptill now**
* Complaints received : 682
* Complaints resolved : 681
* Complaints in Progress : 01
* PCP is implementing zero visibility policy against proscribed organizations in the print media as per National Action Plan.
* PCP ensures in print media that no terrorist organization or terrorist is being glorified. Moreover, PCP issues notices to concerned editors or publishers in case of publishing of such kind of news item in their newspapers.

**Complaints:**

* Complaints received :36 (2019 till date)
* Disposed off :04
* Under Process Complaints :29

**Notices:**

* **201 Notices** regarding freedom of Press and violation of PCP’s Ethical Code of Conduct were issued to concerned quarters.

**Way Forward**

* Establishment of Inquiry Commission to address the grievances of the parties.
* Establishment of Sub-offices at provincial headquarters.
* Allocation of land for the building. (CDA be asked to allot a piece of land in Islamabad for the Building of PCP).
* Finalization of Service rules.
* Rules Amendments.
  + - Appointments through FPSC.
    - Registrar to function as incharge chairman in the absence of Chairman.
* Capacity Building of the Officers/Officials
* Up gradation of I.T gadgets and I.T trainings