

Mr Prakash Javadekar
Hon'ble Minister for Information and Broadcasting
Government of India

Dear Mr Javadekar,

We urge the Government of India, in particular the Information and Broadcasting Ministry and the Home Ministry, to direct the police force everywhere, especially in the National Capital Region (NCR), which has been rocked by protests, to uphold democratic values and sensibilities.

In order to do so, it is of the utmost importance that the media is permitted to do its work in an atmosphere conducive to accurate and in-depth reporting, no matter how challenging the circumstances.

The police have an important role in ensuring a panic free environment. In recent rioting in North East Delhi, journalists have been shot, heckled and attacked with batons and rods. The police was found wanting in rendering assistance to the assaulted journalists at the violence infested areas even though they could have prevented mobs from attacking the media persons.

You would appreciate that we need to be sensitive to the challenges of journalistic pursuits and acknowledge the fact that if journalists are not permitted to do their work without fear, the society will suffer from want of credible information. It is, therefore, of the utmost importance that the police force, which is on the ground for riot control during such moments, perform their duty with conviction.

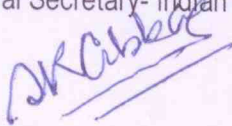
We also urge the leadership of Delhi Police to sensitise the force to the requirement of fair journalism for the sake of a democratic society.

As the Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, we most sincerely seek your help in conveying our message to all who matter. We are hopeful of your cooperation and believe you have the best interest of journalism at heart.

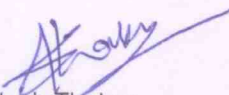
Yours Sincerely,



Vineeta Pandey
(General Secretary- Indian Women's Press Corps)



Shahid Abbas
(Vice-President – Press Club of India)



Santosh Thakur
(Treasurer-Press Association)