



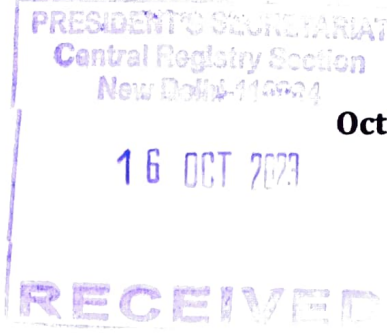
# PRESS CLUB OF INDIA

1, RAISINA ROAD, NEW DELHI - 110 001, INDIA  
E-mail : pressclubofindia1@gmail.com, Web : pressclubofindia.org

Phone: 011 23719844  
011 23730248  
011 23357048

Ref. No. ....

To,  
**The Hon'ble President of India**  
**Rashtrapati Bhawan,**  
**New Delhi**



Dated .....

**Oct 16, 2023**

Respected Smt. Draupadi Murmu,

We the undersigned journalist organizations, on behalf of thousands of journalists, wish to draw your attention to the unprecedented situation faced by the independent media in India today. As journalists we take a lot of collective pride in the strides that our country has made in the last 75 years. There was a dark period as well when the Fourth Estate was fettered, a phase which our democracy would not like to see repeated. Today, our community faces a similar but more insidious challenge. Even as the majority in our profession face precarious working conditions, the use of draconian laws against journalists has gone up exponentially. Many of these laws do not even acknowledge the special role that our independent press plays - that of being the voice of so many diverse citizens of this country.

And under some of these draconian laws, the authorities have used their unfettered right to seize equipment such as phones, laptops and hard disks - equipment and software that are the source of livelihood for our community. These laws do not provide for bail where incarceration is the norm and not the exception.

For a democracy to thrive and progress, its media must be free. The independent media with all its diversity has been able to bring forth many of the pressing issues faced by ordinary people, a role that it is expected to do. We request your intervention as the highest Constitutional authority to ensure that the freedoms in our Constitution are protected which includes the freedom of speech, the freedom to profess occupation and livelihood.

With sincere regards,

Gautam Lahiri

**(President, Press Club of India)**

**AND**

- **Indian Women Press Corps**
- **Press Association**
- **Delhi Union of Journalist**
- **Kerala Union of Working Journalist**
- **Digipub**
- **Foreign Correspondent Club**
- **Veteran Journalist Group**
- **All India Lawyers Union**