



PRESS CLUB OF INDIA

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Press Statement

The Press Club of India is deeply concerned about the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) directing India's foremost journal of politics and culture, *The Caravan*, to take down the story titled "Screams from the Army Post" citing Section 69A of the Information Technology Act.

The URL containing story has been taken down because of an order from the ministry of information and broadcasting under Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 and the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021.

The actions of the MIB gravely infringes Freedom of Press, which has seen a serious slide in the past few years. India's Press Freedom Ranking of 161 out of 180 countries is a testimony of this fact and no amount of "rejection" by the government can alter this truth.

We request the MIB to withdraw its order directing the magazine to pull down the story. *The Caravan* reported on an important story and the people of the country have the right to know. We also support the statement of Hartosh Singh Bal, Executive Editor of the journal, who said: "this is a fundamental challenge to our right to report the truth, the citizens right to know the truth. It cannot and will not go uncontested." We urge all media organizations to take up this issue urgently.

Sd/-

Gautam Lahiri
(President)
Press Club of India

Sd/-

Neeraj Thakur
(Secretary General)
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