



JOURNALIST AND MEDIA ASSOCIATION (JMA)

Jantar Mantar Road, Janpath, Connaught Place, New Delhi 110001, India

REG No: TVM/TC/588/2020

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VYSAKH SURESH
National President

PRADEEP KUMAR
National General Secretary

AJITH N
National Treasurer

Request for equal facilitation and protection for online journalists

Dear Honorable Mr. Narendra Modi Ji, Prime Minister of Bharat,

Greetings from the Journalist and Media Association (JMA), a national body representing journalists working in various media platforms.

I am writing to you today to request the implementation of a policy that would grant journalists working in online media the same level of facilitation as their counterparts in print media.

As you are aware, the media landscape has undergone significant transformations in recent years, with online media gaining prominence and influence. Online media outlets have emerged as credible sources of news and information, reaching millions of readers across the country and beyond. Online journalists have also played a vital role in covering important issues such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the farmers' protests, and the recent elections.

However, journalists working in online media often lack the same level of access and support as their print media counterparts. This disparity poses a serious challenge, hindering online journalists' ability to effectively carry out their duties. For instance, online journalists may be denied access to press briefings or other events, restricting their ability to gather information crucial for reporting on essential stories. Furthermore, online journalists often lack the same level of protection as their print and television media counterparts, rendering them more susceptible to harassment and intimidation.

I firmly believe that all journalists, regardless of their chosen medium, should have equal access to facilitation and protection. This is fundamental to upholding a free and independent press, which is the cornerstone of any democracy. Moreover, I would like to bring to your attention the glaring issue of state governments' disregard for journalists working in online media. They are blatantly ignoring and excluding them from the Journalist Pension Scheme, which is a welfare measure for journalists who have served the nation. This blatant discrimination is a serious matter that needs immediate attention.

I urge you to consider these issues as a priority and implement a policy that would extend the same rights and protections to journalists working in online news as those

enjoyed by their print and television media counterparts. This would mark a significant step forward in safeguarding press freedom and addressing the discrimination faced by online journalists in India.

Thank you for considering my request. I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,



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