



## Press Council of India

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### Why in News

Recently, the Press Council of India (PCI) condemned the 'attack' on the Republic TV anchor.

### Key Points

- The PCI was established under the PCI Act of 1978.
- **Aim:** It aims **to preserve the freedom of the press** and **maintain and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India**.
- **Composition:** The PCI consists of a **chairman** and **28 other members**.  
The Chairman is selected by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha and a member elected by the PCI.
- **Functions:** The functions of the PCI include
  - Helping **newspapers** maintain their independence.
  - Build a code of **conduct for journalists** and **news agencies**.
  - Help maintain "high standards of public taste" and foster responsibility among citizens.
  - Review developments likely to restrict flow of news.
- **Powers:** The PCI has the power to receive complaints of violation of the journalistic ethics, or professional misconduct by an editor or journalist.
  - The PCI is responsible for enquiring into complaints received.
  - It may summon witnesses and take evidence under oath, demand copies of public records to be submitted, even issue warnings and admonish the newspaper, news agency, editor or journalist.
  - Decisions of the **PCI are final and cannot be appealed before a court of law**.

- **Limitations on the powers of the PCI:** The powers of the PCI are restricted in two ways.
  - The PCI has **limited powers of enforcing the guidelines issued. It cannot penalize** newspapers, news agencies, editors and journalists for violation of the guidelines.
  - The PCI **only overviews the functioning of print media.** That is, it can enforce standards upon newspapers, journals, magazines and other forms of print media.
  - It **does not have the power to review the functioning of the electronic media** like radio, television and internet media.

**Source: TH**