



# National Press Day

## Why in News?

**National Press Day** is celebrated across India every year on **16<sup>th</sup> November** to commemorate the setting up of the [Press Council of India](#).

## What is the Press Council of India?

### ▪ About:

- It was first set up in **1966 under the Indian Press Council Act, 1965**, on the recommendations of the **first Press Commission**, with the two-fold objective of **preserving the freedom** of the press by **maintaining and improving the standards** of newspapers and the news agencies in India
- As a quasi-judicial autonomous authority, it was **reestablished in the year 1979 under an Act of Parliament, Press Council Act, 1978**.
- The Press Council of India is the **only body to exercise an authority even over the instruments of the State** in its duty to safeguard the independence of the press.

### ▪ Structure:

- The Council is a body corporate having perpetual succession consisting of a **Chairman and 28 members**.
  - The Chairman is selected by the [Speaker of the Lok Sabha](#), the **Chairman of the Rajya Sabha** and a **member elected amongst themselves by the 28 members of the Council**.

### ▪ Objectives:

- To preserve the freedom of the Press.
- To maintain and improve the standards of newspapers and news agencies in India.

### ▪ Roles & Responsibilities:

#### ◦ Role:

- The council can undertake **studies and express its opinion** in regard to any bill, legislation, law or other matters concerning the Press and convey its opinion to the Government or the persons concerned.
- In matters of public importance, the Council may take cognizance and constitute a Special Committee to make an on-the-spot inquiry.

#### ◦ Responsibilities:

- To help newspapers and news agencies to maintain their independence.
- To build up a code of conduct for newspapers, news agencies and journalists in accordance with high professional standards.
- To ensure on the part of the newspapers, news agencies and journalists, the maintenance of high standards of public taste and foster a due sense of both the rights and responsibilities.

[Source: ET](#)

