**E-CONTENT**

**MJMC,  SEM-IV, PAPER-XIV (CC-402)**

**Topic : Press Council & Media (Communal, Casteist And Anti-National Writings)**

**Date : 25-01-2020, TIME : 2.00 P.M.-3.00 P.M.**

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**Press Council & Media (Communal, Casteist And Anti-National Writings)**

A special responsibility is cast on the press media, with its far-reaching impact on the public

mind, especially in view of the turbulent situation prevalent in some parts of the country. Being a

powerful medium it is vested with the caliber of influencing and to moulding public opinion and as such it is always expected to concentrate on curbing and controlling all divisive forces and promoting communal unity and national integration through its reporting of views, events and comments. By and large the press, even under trying circumstances, has been discharging its duties creditably. Unfortunately, the Council does receive some complaints with regard to communal writings. The Council adjudicated two complaints under this category 2000-2001. Of these one was rejected on merits and in one matter directions were given to the respondent. Graphic presentation follows.

**Defamation**

The fundamental objective of journalism is to serve the people with news, views, comments

and information on matters of public interest in a fair, accurate and unbiased manner.

However the press at times uses the medium to gratify private spite on personnel greed and

avarice by defaming persons/institutions through the columns of the newspapers. This tendency is comparatively higher in the smaller or fly by night newspapers. Defamatory writings against individuals/ institutions are published as a reprisal measure due to personal enmity; for blackmailing for money; or some other favours sought from the persons/institutions concerned.

The Council adjudicated 68 complaints this year pertaining to alleged defamatory publications. Of these the press was found guilty of violation of journalistic ethics in 19 cases, while charges were rejected in 16. In 23 matters, the Council was able to bring about reconciliation between parties while 10 complaints were disposed of for failure to pursue charges or on account of matters having become sub-judice or where no action by the Council was found to be warranted after hearing the parties.