

Date: January 15, 2012

To,  
Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari,  
Hon'ble Vice President of India  
6, Maulana Azad Road,  
New Delhi - 110 011

Respected Sir,

We understand that on January 16, 2012, you are going to give away the Indian Express Journalism awards 2012, as per advertisements appearing in Indian Express since January 11, 2012.

However, as the attached statement shows, there are serious problems of Ethics and conflict of issues involved here due to the sponsors of this award and the way these sponsors benefited due to the kind of campaigns Indian Express ran last year. The main sponsor also has far from charitable record on social, environment and human rights issues and has only this month been fined Rs 6 million by SEBI for unlawful practices (please find attached a press statement).

We would urge you not to associate with these awards and urge you to refrain from attending the function as your association with the awards is likely to be taken as an endorsement of such unethical practices by media houses. Public media must be speaking for public interest and also seen to be speaking for public interest. They cannot promote private interests by running lobbying campaigns and then get sponsorship from the parties benefiting from such campaigns. Your association with the awards could also bring unnecessary controversy to the office of the Vice President.

Hence in the interest of working of media only for public interest and to avoid bringing the office of the Vice President under unnecessary controversy and also not give a stamp of approval for such unethical practices, we urge you to refrain from going to the award function.

Thanking you,

Yours Sincerely,

Prashant Bhushan ([prashantbhush@gmail.com](mailto:prashantbhush@gmail.com))

Medha Patkar ([medha.narmada@gmail.com](mailto:medha.narmada@gmail.com))

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