

THE NATIONAL MEDIA COALITION

TRACKING CHANGE

FIGHTING INJUSTICE

"VOICES IN SOLIDARITY"

SEPTEMBER 18, 2007

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TRACKING CHANGE FIGHTING INJUSTICE – VOICES IN SOLIDARITY
SEPTEMBER 18,2007, INDIA HABITAT CENTRE

Ms Mohuya Chaudhuri Chairperson , Media Coalition welcomed All the Honourable Guests and Dignitaries and in her Key note address said that the Coalition has since the last Year and Half has done tremendous work . She said that the Members of the Coalition which is spread across the country have a commitment which they have made to themselves i.e. commitment to cover developmental issues.



(Ms Mohuya Chaudhuri , Chairperson Media Coalition speaking at the Inagura session)

National Coalition of Media Persons to Fight Against Gender Violence, Human Trafficking and HIV/AIDS is a civil society partnership initiative between Media and Civil Society to commit themselves for a unified fight against some of the dangers that loom large upon our society/ country. The coalition is a step to join hands, and strengthen and intensify the efforts of two

important stakeholders, in fighting the injustice, prevailing in society and in affecting transformation of society in manner to move ahead for a more democratic, Rights based, just and equitable society. Media the fourth pillar of democracy is an important stake holder in protection and promotion of Rights, exposing and fighting injustice, giving directions to social forces and shaping the social aspirations and patterns. Its contribution to the society are uncountable and its role invaluable. Today the liberalized and free media has emerged as one of the most powerful tool to fight socio-political evils/ injustice, affect empowerment and facilitate development.

The coalition aspires to channelize and streamline the immense potential of media power to inform, empower, train the masses to make them realize their 'Right' claims and 'Responsibilities' so as to enable them to stand, and assert their 'Rights' and claim justified position in society as a valuable individual and responsible citizens. The coalition looks forward to initiate and practice a new mode of media and public interactions at the grassroots level; where, the responsibility of media does not remains confine to reporting of the fact and situations but to affect transformations by enriching and benefiting the masses by consistently bringing to them an opportunity to interact and work together

with the most liberal, democratic, aware and alert sector of the modern democracy setup.

Through the coalition media as a frontrunner, aims at taking together the important stakeholders of Rights, in pursuing the dreams of democratic society based on Rights, Equity and Justice and to not only learn from them the basic problems at grassroots in realizing the dream but also involving them and their real aspirations in the process.

It aims at creating a unified national level platform of media persons to act with masses, social activists/ organizations, government and international bodies. It aspires to augment and reinforce the ongoing efforts of different stakeholders in a collaborative and effective manner, by intensely charging of the atmosphere, enhancing the capacities of different stakeholders, infusing sense of responsibility in each and every, causing action to happen and ensuring accountability; in relation to Gender violence/discrimination at various level of socio-political and economic life, trafficking of human beings and HIV/AIDS.

She said that the National Media Coalition is committed to cover stories on Gender Based Violence and Female Foeticide was one of the Issues which is on a priority list . She gave a example as to how a story done by Coalition Member Neelam Raj was mentioned in the Judgement delivered by the Palwal

Judge while spelling out India's first conviction on Female Foeticide

Ms Archana Tamang of UNIFEM shed light upon the role of UNIFEM as an Activist born out of women movement and its desire to maintain its identity as promoter of 'Gender Equality' by 'responding to the needs of women' in ever changing perspectives. She stressed upon the combating strategies focusing upon the opinion leaders and 'gate keepers' of the society/community, who control the way to minds of women and children. She briefed the Guests about the Anti Trafficking Initiatives of UNIFEM Family



(Ms Archana Tamang of UNIFEM and at the Media Coalition Inaugural Session)

She also Highlighted the pains and struggle the Media persons have put in to form this coalition and assured that UNIFEM will continue mentoring and supporting the Coalition. She explained how the concept took shape as a series of meetings across the country supported by UNIFEM. She congratulated all the

Media persons for the First Anniversary of The Coalition.

In the end of her address Ms. Archana Tamang calling upon everyone to come together and fight. She by her unique way of addressing took the hearts of the participants in Journey of victims of Trafficking who have been caught in forced Marriage, showing them various brutal forms of exploitation of innocents and helpless for different purposes. In this she mentioned the story of Tripala who had been sold to a family in Haryana as a Forced Bride and was killed by the husband as she refused to sleep with her brother in law. Obviously this is one of the important Ramifications of Female Foeticide.

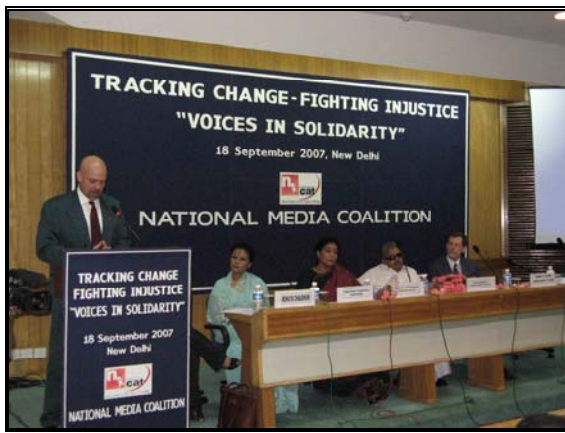
She made a compassionate appeal that trafficking involving sexual exploitation and violation of Dignity & of Human Rights, even if there is one case it is too much and calls for action. She said that Foeticide and Human Trafficking is a major crime control issue and all Govt agencies, Ngo, Civil Society Inter Govt Agencies should join hands to combat this menace. It is about inclusion and participation of vulnerable, excluded sections of the society, women and children. She further expressed the concern UNIFEM for addressing the needs of the survivors through '*age & gender specific responses*' designed and planned through and in consultation with various partners. She also highlighted the 'need to restore and build the self-esteem' of the victim and to address her

'need to belong', to her country, her society, her community, her family etc. She said that the National Media Coalition and the NGOs are all united to fight these gender based crimes in a rights based perspective. In work against gender based violence, one factor that perpetuates discrimination is indifference. Outrage must permeate every level of society to change this indifference. The Media can play a vital role in changing mindsets, for they are the opinion formers that can provide the means for the public to become sensitive to the issues of concern.

***Keynote address of Mr Gary Lewis,
UNODC at National Media Coalition
Meet***

Thank you for inviting me to take part in this meeting of the National Media Coalition First Anniversary. That crime is called human trafficking. It is a crime that shames us all.

Victims of Human Trafficking suffer unimaginable pain. Their lives are for sale - auctioned off to the highest bidder for sexual and commercial exploitation. More often than not, the victims are children and young women. In a perverse commercialization of humanity, these people - these human beings - are used like products and then simply thrown away. Tossed aside. They are disposable people.



(Mr Gary Lewis of UNODC at the Inagural session)

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Office that I work for, estimates that the number of victims is in the millions. The profits made - in the billions of dollars. In India itself - in this ancient land where I am privileged to live and work with a small dedicated team - tens of thousands of women and children are trafficked for the purpose of sexual exploitation **every year**.

What shocks me is that so many people remain unaware of all this. If we aren't seeing it, is it because we aren't looking for it?

Why does this crime occur?

Why does this pernicious trade occur in the first place? There are two main reasons.

The first is **poverty** and its handmaidens - low literacy and a woman's lack of awareness of her rights. These are the so-called push factors. It is no coincidence that most victims are from developing countries. Often, I come

across what I call the horrendous arithmetic of poverty. Parents may be aware of trafficking but yet they are helpless in the face of their situation. The breadwinner has died. There is too much debt. The crop has failed. They have too many daughters. This horrendous arithmetic causes them to sell a loved one in the interests of saving the family.

And they don't have to look far. For always and everywhere there are predators hovering. Predators who infiltrate villages, set up information networks, and look for the first signs of vulnerability of families. Often they simply exploit the dreams of poor and vulnerable people who are seeking a better life.

This brings us to the second factor: **the demand**. Some of this is fuelled by globalization whose darker side demands cheap goods which can be provided by the victims of trafficking. Geographic mobility has spawned the growth in sex tourism. Other forms of demand arise. Female foeticide causes gender imbalances in parts of South Asia that creates a market for sex work and trafficked brides. This market now has a new driving force - as clients seek younger and younger girls, presuming them to be less of an HIV risk.

I'd like to end this summary of the problem by quoting Kofi Annan who, earlier this year, asked us all to "*look carefully at our own lives, and ask what abominations we may even now be tolerating - or joining in - or benefiting from.*" He then went on to exhort us:

"The slave trade as practised 200 years ago may be history. But moral blindness is ever present. Let us not close our eyes to crimes that shame us all."

How can we fight it?

So, what can be done to fight this crime? Given what I have said, many of these answers will be obvious. The first and most obvious is to **beat the drum**. Raise the awareness of the general public. But also target potential victims. Warn them that lucrative offers of employment in desirable destinations may be a trap. We also need to acquire more data and widen the scope of statistics on this dark subject. Prevention should be evidence-based. At the moment - I am afraid to say - in many cases we are simply chasing shadows. But moral outrage is not going to stop the traffickers. Supply and demand, risk and reward, are the traffickers' primary motivators. We therefore need to lower their incentives to trade. We need to change the **risk/reward balance**. As long as there is high demand and high profit margins - coupled with low risk - unscrupulous criminals will always find a supply. We must **increase the risk** to traffickers by empowering law enforcement to bring the criminals to justice. Only then will the risk/reward ratio shift. Fortunately, a strong international legal instrument exists to fight human trafficking. It is called the **UN Protocol** to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. It supplements the UN

Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

UNODC works with States - providing legal and technical assistance - to help them ratify this Protocol, and then implement it. We call this the 3 "P" agenda: prevention, prosecution and protection.

- **Prevention** : In terms of prevention, we try to lower people's vulnerability to trafficking. We try to warn potential victims. We help with the exchange of information on trafficking routes, traffickers and victims.
- **Prosecution** : In terms of prosecution, we help countries to enact domestic laws which make human trafficking a criminal offence. As Parliamentarians, I call on you to ensure that your laws make a clear distinction between those who are the victims of trafficking and those who are the real criminals. I urge you to make the punishment fit the crime. Far too often, victims are treated like criminals, while traffickers escape with a slap on the wrist.
- **Protection** : In terms of protection, we help provide for the physical, psychological and social recovery of victims, accounting - especially - for the needs of women and children. We promote the development of special procedures to protect children.

Victims should be given a safe place to recover following rescue. Sometimes all they need is time to be left alone for a while. In silence. Proper treatment often prevents re-victimization.

UN.GIFT - A Global Initiative

But what about international action? Since trafficking in persons is often a trans-national crime and affects almost all countries around the world, it needs to be fought on a global scale.

UNODC, in partnership with other members of the UN family, has, this year, launched a Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking - also known as UN.GIFT.

The Global Initiative is based on a simple principle: human trafficking is a crime of such magnitude and such atrociousness that it cannot be dealt with successfully by any one government alone.

We are therefore engaging as broad a spectrum of actors as possible. We are holding regional forums around the world to look at the different manifestations of the problem, to collect information, and to build stronger networks to mount a turning point in the fight against trafficking.

In this very hall, two weeks from now, we will launch the South Asia Conference on

Human Trafficking as part of GIFT. For two days we will seek ways in which to re-dedicate ourselves to struggle for the cause of those whose calamities I have described when I started speaking with you ten minutes ago. From every country in South Asia, we all - businessmen and women, Bollywood stars, policemen, politicians, our friend from the media, those in government and those from the NGO community who struggle in the trenches day in and day out - we all will forge a new consensus. We will declare this consensus and we will work to achieve each milestone from that point onwards.

For those of you from South Asia, one concrete way you can show your commitment to ending trafficking will be to participate in this conference.

This gathering will be only one of several across the globe. In Vienna in February 2008, we will take stock of what progress we have wrought in 2007. We will draw breath. We will cast ourselves forward again.

I urge you to think about how you can join this endeavour and do your part in ending a crime that shames us all. As you do so, ask yourself these two simple questions:

"If not now, then when?"

"If not me, then who?"

Thank you.

Shri Vayalar Ravi , Honourable Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs, Government of India remarks at the National Media Coalition meeting on September 18,2007

I am happy to be here this morning at this Consultation meeting of the National Media Coalition against Trafficking. Let me at the outset congratulate all of you on the completion of the first year of this initiative.

I am encouraged by the fact that over 100 journalists from across the country, besides civil society activists, and UN agencies are participating in this meeting.

It is perhaps appropriate that this consultation will focus on initiatives to address problems that afflict virtually every part of the globe. Gender violence, human trafficking, child labour, forced labour and illegal migration are indeed major challenges that confront an increasingly globalizing world.

The challenge of combating these problems is complex, transnational and has deep roots in fundamental structural dichotomies of modern day societies. This challenge cannot be met by policing alone or indeed without the active participation of civil society.

Let me begin by raising a more general but immediate question. Can the world witness widespread convergence in the standards of living in the 21 st century? The answer to this question will be

central to our ability to combat transnational crime such as trafficking, forced labour, child Labour and illegal migration.

Despite recent prospects of rapid economic growth in some of the highly populated developing countries the economic divergence between the rich and the poor countries is wider today than at any time in human history.



(Mr Vayalar Ravi and Renuka Choudhury LIGHTING THE Inagural Lamp)

Quite simply, we need to address the problem of a world profoundly divided between the haves and the have-nots. Indeed, those of us in Government as also those in civil society must meet the challenge of 'inclusive development' by which all people have access to a better quality of life - the challenge of the greater good of the greatest numbers.

Let us consider some facts:

There are more than 200 million migrants worldwide. That is one in every thirty people. Migration is not new to

humankind. The history of mankind is in fact the story of the large-scale movement of people across borders. What is less known though is that nearly half the migrant population in the world is women. It is also true that it is the poorest that are compelled to leave their homes.

Why does this happen? It would be simplistic to explain away migration as merely a natural phenomenon. After all, migration means the movement of skills, cultures, traditions, families and hopes.

In short it means movement of complexities that make up the life of a human being. The primary motivation for migration remains economic - to escape the compulsions of poverty, hunger and deprivation.

Friends, the developed world is home to 14% of the world's population and that 14% command 73% of global income. In such an inequitable world, it is inevitable therefore, that people should want to migrate.

Yet, we live in a world in which the free Movement of capital, goods, and technology is seen as a virtue, but also one in which the movement of people is more difficult than ever, in the past.

So, countries try to stem the tide of migrants by patrolling their borders in aircrafts, boats and ships. They erect barriers to entry including fences several meters high. Ironically, in a rapidly globalizing world, legal migration is being rendered increasingly difficult.

It is in this backdrop that we must see the growing problem of human trafficking. The result has been the worst of both the worlds - a considerable increase in irregular migration.

According to the EU, there are now between seven to eight million illegal migrants in its member states, who despite their status contribute 7-10 per cent of the GDP.

In the US, estimates indicate that there are as many as 12 million illegal immigrants. One in five of all agricultural workers are illegal. Every fifth janitor is an illegal. Every seventh construction worker is an illegal. Deporting these illegal would cause a severe dent on the economies of both these regions.

This is a situation where the migrants enter despite the high fences that are built, are put to work and are not granted basic rights. Governments would not dream of banning cross-border trade in goods and services but preventing movement of people who produce these goods and services is allowing organized crime cartels a free run.

When there is no legal avenues for free movement of people, criminal human trafficking flourishes like never before. People die in container Lorries, starved of oxygen. People drown on the high seas when the fishing boats carrying them sink. And those who do finally make it to their destination vanish into an illegal existence. These people live in constant fear. And nobody will know if

they fall sick or die.

Ladies and Gentlemen, at the heart of the discourse on combating the scourge of human trafficking and other associated transnational crimes is the need to make the global development process more equitable.

We need to make globalization and its benefits more inclusive. This simply means giving millions of people around the world the hope that they have an opportunity to improve their quality of life.

The failure of the Doha Round of trade negotiations has been a disappointment. It is a hard fact that the developed world has stubbornly resisted reforms in agriculture despite commitments made to break market access and to reduce subsidies."

Out of nearly 1 billion people suffering from hunger around the world, about 600 million are farmers. Whereas hundreds of millions of people in the Third World have to manage on less than two dollars a day Europe subsidizes cows to the tune of two euros per day.

It is because of these subsidies that Western products can be sold at under cost price at local agricultural markets in developing countries. This form of unfair competition condemns the Third World to poverty forever.

The failure of the Doha Round will make more, not less challenging our efforts to combat problems of human trafficking.

Unless we globalize prosperity, the discontent arising from sharp economic divisions will only fuel transnational crimes such as human trafficking and illegal migration.

Let me now share with you the efforts made by my ministry. From a policy perspective the focus of my effort has been to transform international Migration into an efficient, transparent, orderly and humane process and at the same time to actively discourage and prevent illegal migration.

To facilitate this, I am shortly going to effect major amendments to the Emigration Act 1983. An important provision that I propose is on prevention of 'Human Smuggling'. We are going to make the penalties for those who indulge in such crimes, severe and exemplary.

In the next few weeks we will launch a nation wide awareness campaign on the risks of illegal migration. It must be remembered that illegal migrants are most vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.

We will also revamp the recruiting agents system to eliminate unscrupulous intermediaries and to make law enforcement prompt and effective.

Equally, I am proactively pursuing regional cooperation between the major sending and receiving countries both on the Bilateral and the multilateral modes. The protection and welfare of migrant workers is at the centre of these efforts.

There is an important role that the media and civil society must play in these efforts of government. You can help spread awareness amongst the poor and in the rural areas on these issues.

We need to respond to the challenge posed by traffickers in a responsible manner. It is imperative that a strong partnership emerges between government, civil society and the media.

I wish you success in your endeavors.

Smt Renuka Choudhury , Honourable Minister for Women and Child, Govt of India remarks at that National Media Coalition Meeting

- Sex Education: “I am grateful that I did speak about sex education. There could have been a huge furor but instead it started a debate”
- Gender Budget: A huge achievement- already 53 ministries are working on it.
- PNDT: Got PNDT into place. Appointed special nodal officers, which was possible only due to reporting. ‘We went to centers and shut them down but the state governments would open them again but media reporting has helped bring out state plan of action on the act’.



(Honourable Minister Ms Renuka Choudhury at the Inaugural Session)

- Dowry harassment and feticide will change for the young Indians.
- Trafficking: Women were trafficked because they did not know they had rights. Empower women so that they can stand up say I have rights too.
- DV Act: When DV Act came out, millions of women believed that it was their fate. DV came with a huge upheaval but now the information is already disseminated rapidly in the villages. Women are saying ‘no’ to domestic violence. We will be launching a campaign ‘Say No to Domestic Violence’. If one tolerates violence, she will be perpetuating it. Microfinance has helped women to end violence.
- Banning Sati/Banning Child Marriage: Anybody who supports or witness child marriage will be booked under the act.

- Men against Violence: Men cant be a problem forever, they have to be a part of solution. We need to promote informed men against violence. 'We are not against men'.
- Trafficking and domestic violence, poverty linkages: Domestic violence erodes woman's soul and takes away her worth. It can have far reaching consequences in the society. Sometime women choose to be trafficked to escape domestic violence. Or women are trafficked to support their families back home. Trafficked women (trafficked for CSE) tell glories stories of working in beauty parlor, hotels, domestic help at home but do not want to tell the real story. And these women do not want their children to enter into the same trade. There is a need to empower these women to get out of it. 'too long we have trained them on basket weaving etc, we should train them on something that even educated women do not have access to.'
- Child Rights: Ministry has Child Rights Commission. 'Anyone who commits child sexual abuse should not get anything less than life sentence.' Because the child carries the scar for life. Media has been very active in brining out cases.

The country of 1 billion population do not talk about sex, as a result of which, children go through child sex abuse. 'We recently brought out a report on child sexual abuse'. Need to raise uncomfortable issues.

- Need for sensitizing judges and police

Remarks of Ambassador Mark P. Lagon At the First Anniversary Event of India's National Coalition of Media Persons on Gender Violence, Human Trafficking, and HIV/AIDs September 18, 2007; New Delhi, India

- It is so good to be with you today. One of the most inspiring aspects of the movement to end human trafficking, around the world, is the activism of remarkable people. The coalition ranges from nuns to pop music stars, from feminists to First Ladies.



(Mr Mark Lagon at the National Media Coalition Inaugural session in New Delhi)

- But the coalition members with the highest multiplier impact are you, members of the media. And the Indian media, free and unrestrained, has been a catalyst in shaping public and government views on this issue. And that's why I'm so honored to be here. So a special thank you for caring, for being here today, for thinking in some new ways about these subjects, and for covering human trafficking.
- The U.S. Government estimates that approximately 800,000 people are trafficked internationally each year; millions more are enslaved in their own countries. Approximately two thirds of all transnational victims are trafficked into sexual servitude. A shocking 80 percent are female and up to 50 percent are minors—under age 18. Under U.S. law, and the United Nations protocol covering human trafficking, prostituted children are considered victims of human trafficking. There is no such thing as “choosing” to be prostituted when you are underage. Consent is not to be considered for children not old enough to make such decisions. Moreover, deception, force, or coercion is usually seen in child sex trafficking as well.
- Every day, all over the world, people are coerced into bonded labor, bought and sold in prostitution, exploited in domestic servitude, enslaved in agricultural work and in factories, and captured to serve unlawfully as child soldiers. You have appropriately drawn together key issues in the coalition's name. Sex trafficking, sexual servitude, involuntary domestic servitude, brokered marriage and child sex tourism, all primarily impacting women and girls are manifestations of gender-based violence.
- A study of women trafficked for prostitution into the European Union found that 95 percent of victims had been violently assaulted or coerced into a sexual act. Trafficking in persons has serious public health implications—including spreading the HIV/AIDS epidemic—besides being a human rights and national security issue.
- People in prostitution have an exceptionally high incidence of HIV. A recent study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association found that HIV prevalence among women trafficked from Nepal and prostituted in India is 38%. The rate of HIV infection exceeded 60% among girls prostituted

before they turned 15 years old. I want to share with you an idea which should be self-evident, but, has not been obvious enough to policymakers and some public health workers: The fight against HIV and the fight against modern-day sex slavery should be complementary, not functioning as separate universes.

- Yet in many places of the world, some well-intentioned people, active in programs to eradicate HIV/AIDs have wrongly assumed that by confronting sex slavery, we are limiting their ability to fight the horrible AIDS pandemic. The truth is, by confronting sex trafficking and sexual servitude, we are, in deed, contributing to the fight to slow, eventual stop, the spread of HIV/AIDs. When women and girls have no control over their lives, when they are brutalized, demeaned, and psychologically and emotionally manipulated, when they are not allowed to say no, then and there, disease will spread. As it does.
- Democracy and rule of law are crucial to fighting human trafficking, and fighting trafficking is crucial to the future of democracy worldwide, since trafficking is one of the most brutal ways of denying women empowerment by utterly

dehumanizing them, turned into mere commodities.

With India's proud tradition of democracy and respect for civil liberties, it is well positioned to be a regional leader, even a global leader, in eradicating modern-day slavery.

- Let me shift gears and mention some trends that we highlighted in the 2007 *Trafficking in Persons* Report. First, one finds worldwide the use of debt, as a tool of coercion. In both labor and sexual exploitation, illegal or illegitimate debt is increasingly used to keep people in servitude. This debt is used by traffickers as an instrument of coercion. How does this work? People are enticed into fraudulent offers of work abroad that require a steep payment up front for the services of a labor agency, or they are subject to fees in the sex trade or work – everything from lodging and food to the costs of condoms. These fees are used to keep people subjugated.
- Second, one sees lack of progress on building rule of law to fight human trafficking. It can be traced to official corruption and complicity, on the one hand, and indifference on the other. These active and passive factors perpetuate abuse despite increased public awareness and

despite extraordinary bravery on the part of activists and NGOs around the world.

- Labor trafficking, or forced labor, takes many forms, but has one common denominator – greed. The greed by one to exploit another for commercial gain. In its extreme, entire sectors of an economy can be significantly sustained by slave labor.
- Recognizing this, the appropriate responses are as much in the economic realm as they are in the human rights realm. Businesses that rely on the enslavement of people must feel economic pain and ultimately be persuaded to end this exploitation by showing them that their profits will be affected – businesses closed and huge costs assessed against them.
- In my short tenure, I've already seen first-hand the human cost. I've met girls who fled Burma only to be confined, beaten, and tortured processing shrimp in Thailand. Some of the economic gain on the backs of the enslaved is for local consumption; some is for services and products that enter the global marketplace. As economies are more and more linked, confronting this element of slave labor becomes the responsibility of all of us.
- One of the anti-TIP heroes highlighted in this year's Report, Kailash Satyarthi of the Indian NGO Bachpan Bachao Andolan or BBA, has found businesses that profit from slave labor. He recently prompted the rescue of 92 Bengali children enslaved here in goldsmith and jewelry factories in India's capital city of New Delhi. His courage and that of BBA's staff was on display when they faced the factory managers and their thugs, who showed up at BBA's shelter with iron rods, sticks, and bricks and tried to recapture the children. Shelter staff were injured. The power of those who enslave children was on display.
- But this is just one example of the tremendous heroism shown by NGOs and government authorities here in India and around the world. By daring to stand up to the enslavement of people for commercial gain – whether for commercial sex or for labor – activists are raising attention to the global problem of trafficking and prompting greater political commitment from governments to deny the economic gains of slavemasters.
- I'm here visiting India in part, of course, because we take sincere interest as a partner about the status of efforts to deal with

tenacious sex trafficking and forced labor problems. That role of the U.S. Government as critic is well known. Less known, however, is our role as a true partner to the Government of India on this issue – for we share this problem, as we struggle with it within our own country, and we share a desire to conquer it in the 21st century. Here in India my office is working through international organizations to provide support for nearly 30 local NGOs, many of whom operate rescue and protection programs for girls who have been taken from rural areas and prostituted in major cities throughout the country.

- We are also supporting a law enforcement training project in five states. UNODC has developed a training program in which NGOs participate in training police and sign MOUs that ensure that NGOs and police will conduct rescues together and that the young girls will be treated with sensitivity – not like criminals.
- Also in India we are funding an NGO operating community outreach centers in high-risk sex trafficking locations in Bihar, West Benegal, New Delhi, and Maharashtra. The centers target children at risk for second generation prostitution and provide them educational opportunities as

well as works with the mothers to help create options besides prostitution—which, studies show, few want to be in.

- India is full of hope and I can see that through the work of this coalition and the commitment of strong leaders in the Indian government – such as the two impressive speakers before me. I have been impressed with the Government of India's demonstrable steps in recent years to address sex trafficking and child labor, especially in the area of rescuing and rehabilitating victims.
- The Indian Government's Ministry of Women and Child Development has made great progress in implementing a systematic referral mechanism for child victims of trafficking throughout the country and providing care to all victims of sex trafficking through the network of State Departments of Women and Child Development.
- There remains much to be done to fully bring traffickers and exploiters to account in the name of governing justly. And there remains much to be done to address bonded labor. The United States, which like India too has a federal system, had to bring to bear the leadership of the national government to redress legacies of

slavery, racial segregation, and discrimination, in various parts of the country -- parts of our country where categories of people were seen at best as disposable, and at worst as subhuman. As another robust democracy, we have shared such problems.

I congratulate you, in your invaluable work as the most powerful shapers of public and policy opinion, working on this issue.

Smt Manju Hembrum Member NCW spoke about the various initiatives of The National Commission for Women . She said that NCW



(Ms Manju Hembrum speaking at Media Coalition Meeting)

The National Commission for Women is also dealing with the problem of trafficking in women and children. In late 90s, it undertook two studies entitled 'The Lost Childhood' and 'Velvet Blouse – Sexual Exploitation of Children'. In 2001, it undertook another study entitled 'Trafficking – A Socio-Legal Study'. Later in 2004, a study on 'Coastal Sex Tourism'

was carried out by it. Along with these research studies, it has organized various seminars, training programmes and conferences on the subject of trafficking. Based on the above, it suggested amendments to ITPA in order to have a comprehensive law on trafficking. The Commission also organizes legal awareness campaigns to sensitize the women on various legal issues. The Ministry of Women and Child Development, the Ministry of Home Affairs and the National Human Rights Commission have requested all Chief Secretaries and Directors General of Police to sensitize the subordinate functionaries at the cutting edge on trafficking as well as other issues related to trafficking so that perpetrators of trafficking and its allied activities are severely dealt under the relevant provisions of law. The Ministry of Women and Child Development, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the National Human Rights Commission and the National Commission for Women on their own and in collaboration with the civil society are sensitizing the judicial officers, police officers, government officers and various other stakeholders on issues related to trafficking in human beings for various purposes.

She spoke about the Draft National Plan of Action Prepared by the NCW in consultation of Various NGOs and Govt. authorities. Among the various recommendations she said that any intervention for prevention of trafficking should take into account the aspects of

both demand and supply as a root cause. Central Government/State Governments/Union Territories should also take into account the factors that increase vulnerability of people to trafficking, including inequality, poverty and all forms of discrimination and prejudice. Effective prevention strategies should be based on existing experience and accurate information.

She also spoke on the Trafficking happening from Tribal States like Jharkhand , Chattisgarh , Orissa to Delhi, Haryana , Punjab for Maids. She said and expressed concern that many placement agencies have sprung up across the region for placing these innocent women and children for Maids and in many cases they landed up in Trafficked situations. She said that there was a urgent need to tackle this problem and said that Media could play a role by spreading awareness across the region.

Shri Arun Sarma MP Lok Sabha said that illegal migrants from Bangladesh and Nepal has added to the problem of human trafficking in the North Eastern States. This is the opinion expressed by speakers from the North-east participating in a meeting of the National Media Coalition against Human Trafficking.



(Dr Arun Sarma speaking at the Media Coalition Meeting at New Delhi)

Dr Arun Sarma drew a grim picture of the human trafficking scenario in the Region pointing towards the acute poverty among the people on account of lack of economic development, growing unemployment, militancy, ethnic turmoil, floods and illegal infiltration. He said that most of the women and children were trafficked for employment. In some cases girls were promised marriage in Gulf countries. In the last two-three years, girls from the Region have been taken to various parts of the country and abroad, he added.

The crisis has been compounded by the presence of a large population of Bangladeshi migrants in the Region. The cheap labour is a major attraction and there is no record of what has happened to the womenfolk who have been taken as cheap labour force, he added. He further added that flood have affected a large number of population in Assam and some 50,000 people are currently living in relief camps in pitiable conditions. Roads and embankments have been washed away and there is no living space available. These flood

victims become easy prey for human traffickers, he said. He further added that the victims of ethnic riots living in refugee camps in Kokrajhar district have also fallen victims to touts.

Shri Samudra Gupta Kashyap senior journalist and North-east bureau chief of The Indian Express Guwahati said that, "Some 2000 young girls living in 21 relief camps were missing. He added that around 10,000 young men have been killed in conflicts, while another 6000 are members of different armed groups." He said there was such acute poverty that people were willing to be trafficked in absence of any viable alternative



. He cited the instance of a village in Gossaigaon district, where most of the boys were missing. There is no school and no drinking water. Most of the girls were unmarried. There are reports of girls being trafficked. In this connection, he lauded the initiative of All Bodo Students Union (ABSU) which has been intercepting buses and trains bound for Delhi and Gujarat and rescuing victims of human trafficking. He said illegal migrants from Nepal and Bangladesh have added

to the surplus labour force.

According to the Ministry of Home Affairs 90 per cent of India's sex trafficking is internal. Women and girls are trafficked internally for commercial sexual exploitation and forced marriage.

Ms Mohuya Chaudhury in her address to Coalition members said that She said that Television has, indeed, had a positive influence on society.. Though television is only a little over a decade old, television in India has made rapid strides. Because this happened so quickly, it leaves one wondering whether certain things had to be given up in the process. Television sets the agenda and pressures the print. Earlier, stories were filed at the end of the day, leaving time to work on the story; however, now there is no time to think about the story. Reporting has now become fast paced endeavour, and the journalist, only a tool. The presenter acknowledged the added pressure the TRP (Television Rating Point) brings. Crime shows such as *FIR*, *Jurm* and *Sansini* have the highest ratings on the TRP scale, which means there is an enormous pressure on the reporter to conform to these popular TV standards.



Making a note of the differences between Hindi and English news channel, the presenter noted that clashes between the Hindi and English media desks occur over how a story is to be presented. In the case of NDTV, which has an English and Hindi channel, debates centre around how to present the same story on these different channels. The presenter included that stories in Hindi often become sensationalised. Vernacular channels can make a huge difference in reportage if they look beyond sensational value. NDTV has strict guidelines, but even with these guidelines, there are misses. The presenter advised participants that finding a balance between ethical reporting and the pressures to sensationalize is a daily struggle. To evolve, journalists must learn from and connect with the stories. Journalists should specifically invest their time in human rights stories.

Though it is a big commitment, it is more than worth while. On BBC, they always go back and do follow-ups on the stories they present. Reporters in India too should do follow-up reporting on the

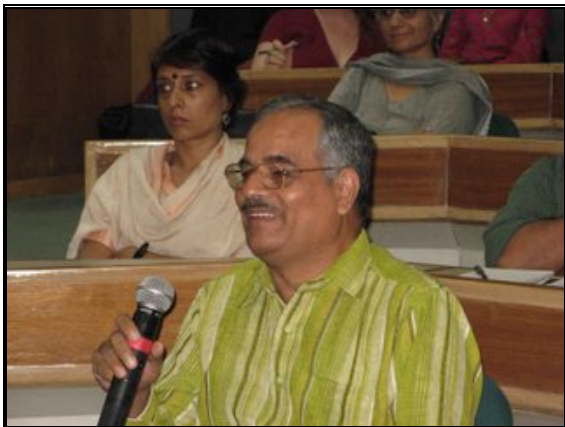
stories they have presented. The print media has a long tradition of being responsible, but are now more than ever coming under the pressures of TV to become more sensational. Journalists must figure out the focus of the story and what the end point should be. Journalists should understand and be aware of the law (lawyers can be utilised for this purpose). The words and angle used are the backbone of a report, as they provide the human face in the story. When interviewing, journalists can not afford to make a person feel like a helpless victim; otherwise interviews can become hostile interrogations. Guidelines should be laid out describing how an interview is to be done, keeping in mind the interviewee's best interest. Interviews should have more thought behind them, and should not be carried out from across the table. If a child is to be interviewed, then the child's parents or guardians should be there. Journalists must take charge of the story and invest interest in it to represent it entirely ethically. She also emphasized that when interviewing a family, it is important to see whether or not the story ends there.

The utilization of hidden cameras in this way can represent the death of journalism, as the presenter put it. Unless it is a significant crime, using sting journalism as a method of reportage does not make sense. Rights-based reporting means that ethical guidelines must be laid down. When a pin-hole camera can go anywhere, no one is there to decide that a line is being crossed. It must be

kept in mind that NGOs are also subject to respecting the identity of those for whom they work. NGOs can not reveal identities through photographs placed on their websites or any other form of publications/broadcasts.

She said that these were the issues which were being discussed inside the coalition . She said that the coalition was at its infancy and it may take a long time to get it structured. Presently she said that it was a loosely bound group of right thinking journalists who were united for a cause.

Shri Jai Shankar Gupta of the Dainik Hindustan welcomed all the participants on behalf of the National Media Coalition. He said that the National Media Coalition is committed to Rights Based Reporting and today it is a large group of Journalists spread across India who are committed to do developmental Stories.



He said that the Problem of Trafficking has become a major problem across North India. He discussed at large the question of Media importance to

developmental stories and how stories of sensational nature is given priority . He said wrongful perceptions and denial of problems need to be countered through the media. Media campaigns to instigate the questioning of gender roles and gender discrimination and to project positive images of partnerships between women and men must be put into practice. To sensitise citizens in the plight of women and child victims and to change social attitudes toward the former, advocacy and information dissemination must happen through the media.

Points of Consideration for Rights-Based Reportage

In telling the story, it is important for reporters to represent the best interest of survivors, making sure to include their voice. Narrating the incidents alone is not sufficient enough, as this only removes the focus from the factors leading to trafficking and VAW. In order to expose the root causes of trafficking and VAW, particular attention must be paid to these factors of vulnerabilities. Additionally, the role of authorities and the steps they have taken in reducing the factors of vulnerabilities, both the positive and negative, should be highlighted.

Stories must work to promote gender equity not only by being careful with words and gender representation, but also by creating a demand for progressive supportive, rehabilitative structures and services. Stories should

also work to help the investigating and supporting agencies in an effort to move them to take further action. The presentation of sexual violence/abuse/exploitation as a serious violation of human rights- it is not just a crime. If graphic details must be related or shown, they must relate to the story and be necessary, otherwise they are not needed. Stories are intended to increase public awareness and suggest possible course of actions. The story must help the community at large, and ways in which to deal with the problem must be identified. The word usage within a story must be sensitive and politically correct and must work to increase the public's understanding of the complex gender and power dynamics. Precaution must be taken not to promote stereotypes or prejudices and stories must not demean, insult, stigmatize or degrade victims.

Don'ts

- Readers or viewers must not be offended.
- Victims must not be re-victimized or criminalized
- Stories must not be sensationalized
- Stories should expose but not compound the situation
- Criminals must not be glamorized
- Stories should not cater to prurient interests

Image Selection

The images selected must have a rational connection with the content of the story and must not reveal the identity of

the survivor. Images must not be demeaning or degrading to survivors and neither should they be obscene, lascivious or sexual. The tone of print and broad cast must raise concern over the issue and must retain a serious mood and not lighten the gravity of the issue. In this context he questioned how satellite channels in order to get high TRPs sensationalize the Matter.



The information given must be accurate and must not add confusion to the facts or issues at hand. Inaccuracy negatively impacts the public's faith in the media as an institution. It should be remembered that reporting on crime *is* important, for it gives society an overall view of the criminal justice system. However, there is a need to balance the legal right to publish/ broadcast with the ethical responsibility to do so judiciously and meaningfully. For this to be, journalists and reporters must be kept up to date with the legal provisions pertinent to the issues of concern. Furthermore, coverage must be done in a timely and sensitive manner, appreciative of the needs of development. Moreover, there should be

follow up stories on cases until justice is met and perpetrators are punished.

It is important for all stakeholders to advocate for the removal of stigma. Highlighting the positive work NGOs have done contributes to the expansion of the NGO network, which brings in more support and builds upon their capacity as an organization. This further enables NGOs to help government agencies in the process of formulating and implementing policy. Moreover, this type of coverage motivates other to participate and do their part against exploitation.

Shri P K Suman of the Prabhat Khabar who is also a winner of UNDP Media Fellowship shared his experience as to how he has brought the Issue of Trafficked Children of Jharkhand being brought to Delhi Haryana and Punjab into one of the focal point of Jharkhand Govt . *Prabhat Khabar*, a vernacular newspaper in Jharkhand , was able to report on the problem of girls from Jharkhand, numbering around 45,000, being auctioned off for domestic work or fake marriages in Delhi Haryana and Punjab. Haryana's skewed sex ratio, as a result of the high girl-child mortality, exacerbates the situation and creates a greater demand for girls from Jharkhand to be bought for marriage and other forms of exploitation.

This course of action can be attributed to *Prabhat Khabar's* partnership with Shakti Vahini, an NGO based on in Delhi, as an example of the press media and NGOs

working together against trafficking and VAW. Shakti Vahini was able to divulge information to *Prabhat Khabar*, which was then able to act upon the information and run a news story. There have been other initiatives of partnerships within the media and NGO/CSOs. From these, many things have been learnt, particularly the difficulties media persons undergo. These partnerships have been carried out in Haryana, Chandigarh & Punjab.

While it is difficult to take these issues forward and bring solutions to light, it is possible through strong collaboration and far-reaching networking. He said that he has made several trips to Haryana to highlight the problems of Jharkhand girls who are being Trafficked in this region due to low sex Ratio. He explained that the shortage of women in Haryana has created a demand for women from other regions of the country who can do both farm work and also double up as wives. He has done a series of stories from Haryana which created a tremendous pressure on the Jharkhand Govt to draft a Plan of Action to combat Trafficking of Women. He has also done lot of Stories of Women of Jharkhand who have been trafficked to Haryana from the Nari Niketan after they were rescued. While concluding he said that the problem of Female Foeticide in Haryana has become a issue of concern to many govts in the Eastern part of the country like Jharkhand, Bengal Assam , Uttar Pradesh Bihar etc..He said that all Journalists should work together to

highlight the various dimensions of Female Foeticide. It is important specially for the vernacular media to present the right image of the girl child and also educate the public of the very serious ramification of Female Foeticide in the region. He said that the problem of foeticide was linked to changing people perception towards women and he said that the media can play a important role in this.

Shri PM Nair presented a paper / power point on ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING - Prevention, Prosecution and Protection.

He said that the Project Objective was to work towards prevention of trafficking of persons into, in, and from India by strengthening the capacity of Indian law enforcement officers and raising their awareness in respect of trafficking. Among the various activities was Training of police and prosecutors , Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Protocols, Integrated Anti Human Trafficking Units, Networking among stakeholders , Supporting Shelter Homes..



(Shri PM Nair speaking at The National Media Coalition Meeting at New Delhi)

The Project had developed the Following Manuals for the Anti Human Trafficking Initiatives

1. SOP on Investigation on Crimes of Persons Trafficked for Commercial Sexual Exploitation
2. Protocol on Interstate Rescue and Post Rescue Activities Relating to Persons Trafficked for Commercial Sexual Exploitation
3. Protocol on Structure and Function of Integrated Anti Human Trafficking Units
4. Compendium of Best Practices by Law Enforcement Agencies in Anti Human Trafficking
5. Compendium on Best Practices by NGOs in Anti Human Trafficking
6. Legal Framework in AHT
7. SOP on Investigation on Crimes of Persons Trafficked for Forced Labour
8. SOP on Prosecution of Crimes of Trafficking

9. Manual on Psychosocial Intervention (Police & Prosecution)
10. Training Manual (Prosecutors)
11. Training Manual (Police)
12. Manual on Victim Care and Protection
13. SOP on Prevention of Anti Human Trafficking
14. Awareness Tools (Posters)

He gave a brief account of The Achievements of the Project

- Police Officers Trained : 7795
- Prosecutors Trained : 827
- Nodal Training Cells (NTCs) established in Goa, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal
- Nodal Police Officers network established
- Nodal NGOs networks established

Outputs with Trained Police Officers (January – June 2007)

- Rescue operations : 96
- Victims rescued : 662
- Minors rescued : 138
- Traffickers arrested : 1008
- Customers arrested : 220
- Traffickers convicted : 2

Places of exploitation closed down :

- AP - 8 and
- Goa – 1

Conviction of traffickers:

Andhra Pradesh became the first Project State to witness 2 successful convictions since the inception of the project in the year 2006. This is the first time that traffickers are getting convicted by a court of law in the State of AP. It is also for the first time that hotels and other places of exploitation are being closed down due to intervention of the police and the Magistrate.

In his very impressive presentation he appealed to the Media for :

- Sensitive media reporting has protected victims rights
- Media is an effective tool in prevention – awareness generation – whistleblower
- Enhanced corporate involvement
- Provided a platform for networking amongst stakeholders
- Created a momentum on Anti-Human Trafficking (AHT) – Mission Against Trafficking (MAT)

Shri Ajit Joy, UNODC in his brief presentation spoke about the need of Rehabilitation homes for Trafficked Victims. He said that among his various visits and interaction with the various Govt run home he found the facilities much more managed than the NGO run home. He said that there were many homes across the country managed by the government which needed management and skill support. He said that if they could be strengthened it would meet a long standing demand for Rehab

homes. He said that he was also against institutionalizing the victims in a Rehab home. He said that avenues needed to be explored as to how victims could be reintegrated into the society rather than to be institutionalized in a Rehab Home.

He appealed to the Media to develop a consensus on the issue and said that Media should also report as to how these homes run by the government could be strengthened.

Ruhani Kaul of Indian Express gave a presentation on the Pictorial Research she had conducted on Female Foeticide in Haryana . She said that the Pictorial presentations were done as a part of a Research Initiative she had done with National Foundation of India. She said that she had traveled across Haryana and came out with this research as to how the problem of Female Foeticide was giving rise to Trafficking in all the regions in North India. She said that the research carried was presented in many places and CNN/IBN had displayed it on its website. She said that she was very devoted to this issue and said that as an individual reporter she was continuously doing stories on Foeticide. She said that social issues needed a lot of attention of journalists as it was all about changing peoples lives.

Coalition Planning Session

The coalition member had an internal meeting after the Speakers sessions ended and the Key Decisions Taken were :



1. Overhauling of the Media Coalition Website
2. Making Blog accessible to each and every one
3. Focussing more on the vernacular Medium
4. Address and contact details of all Journalists to be loaded
5. State Chapters not to be formed till the National Chapter gets strengthened
6. Approaching agencies for Fund Raising
7. Arrange more workshops and meetings specially in Far Flung areas
8. Special Focus on North East and Tribal areas of Jharkhand , West Bengal Orissa.
9. More exchange of Information required
10. Making the Coalition more structured.
11. Support and partnership for UNGIFT conference
12. Secretariat of Media Coalition to be strengthened.

LIST OF INVITEES

S.N	Name	Organization
1	PAYAL SAXENA	THE WEEK
2	ARCHANA JYOTI	M I
3	ARCHANA TAMANG	UNIFEM
4	PRABHAKAR THAPA	GOLD
5	MOHAN	NDTV
6	RAHUL SARMA	NETV
7	SAPTARSHI MAITY	STOP
8	PRAMOD KR. SUMAN	PRABHAT KHABAR
9	MANEET SINGH	NETV
10	Dr. P M NAIR	UNODC PROJECT CORDINATOR TRAFFIC
11	SNEHA KHAN	
12	ADARSH PANDEY	NEPAL ONE
13	RITU BHARDWAJ	STAR NEWS
14	MEGHA THAKORE	Doordarshan
15	SANJAY MISHRA	DAINIK BHASKAR
16	S.K PAL	V MEDIA
17	KAMAL GANOTRA	C I F
18	S. JAGADEEP	AMRITA .T. V.
19	SPURTHI REDDY	NCPCR
20	MABOOD AHMOD	SHAKATI VAHINI
21	AJAY KUMAR	SHAKTI VAHINI
22	PRAFULLA JHA	L .L .B T I
23	ARTI MAHAJAN	UNODC VIENNA
24	KHMA PANKAJ	RAJ EXPRESS
25	PINAKI ROY	GROUP DEVELOPPEMENT SOUTH ASIA REGIONAL OFFICE
26	RAGHAW	THE INDIA EXPRESS
27	AZAD JAYAN	MANORAMA NEWS
28	PUNITI	FUNELEM

29	RUHANI	INDIA EXPRESS
30	PRETAM SRIVASTAVA	THE PIONEER LUCKNOW
31	VINEET KUMAR	MMTV
32	VANDANA MAHAJAN	UNIFEM
33	VIJAY PANDEY	SHAKTI VAHINI
34	REEMA	UNODC
35	SUKUMAR	NNLRJ
36	RANJEET	NNLRJ
37	SANGEETA JOHAL	HINDUSTAN TIMES
38	MANOJ	DD NEWS
39	BHANNA PANDEY	SWATANTRA BHARAT
40	GITA GUPTA	UNIFEM
41	PINKY PRADHAN	UNODC
42	SWATI SINGH	
43	NIDHI KINDRA	
44	KHAGEN KALITA	ASOMIYA PRATIDIN
45	SHAZIA	STAR NEWS
46	TERNANDEN FRAKEY	NDTV
47	VIDYA KRISHAN	HT
48	KAYAN BAROOH	ASSAM TRABUNE
49	SACHITA	UNIFEM
50	GOUTAM HORE	KOLKATA T. V
51	ANU HORE	KOLKATA T.V
52	SUPRITAM BANNERJEE	AAJ TAK
53	MEENA SAHGAL	U .S EMBASSY
54	ANUJA UPADHAYAY	UNIFEM
55	S. G . KASHYAP	THE INDIAN EXPRESS
56	PRANAVA CHAUDHARY	TIMES OF INDIA
57	MANISHA BHALLA	DAINIK BHASKAR
58	SURENDAR SINGH	SHAKTI VAHANI
59	SANDEEP JHA	D D NEWS
60	ANU	AMRITA T . V .
61	SEKHAR	THE SENTIHIL JUGANKHA

62	ANIL KUMAR	ECONOMICS TIMES
63	SUBODH	ASCENT NEWS
64	P.R . SUNIL	KRIRITI T .V
65	UMESH	CHILD LABOUR NEWS SERVICE
66	MRINAL DAS	ASOMIYA Khabar
67	JAISHANKAR GUPTA	HINDUSTAN
68	AMRITA	THE TRIBUNE
69	MANGAL	INDIAN EXPRESS
70	MANISHA MISHRA	UNAIDS
71	DEEPIKA	UNODC
72	SUNIL KUMAR	ASIONOT NEWS
73	RAKESH	SUCH MEDIA
74	RYAZ WANI	INDIAN EXPRESS
75	PRAVEEN RAKESH VINAY	SUCH MEDIA
76	ELIZABETH	U . S . EMBASSY
77	U N M MIZNON	MEDIA ADVISOR U . S . EMBASSY
78	DIGAMBAR	N . DELHI
79	AJAI SANTOSHI	DECCAN CHRONICLE
80	RAJ SINGH	DAINIK JAGRAN
81	B AHLAWAT	TRIBUNE
82	RANJAN SINGH	DAINIK BHASKAR
83	RAVI PRAKASH	HARIBHOOMI
84	RAJESH RATHORE	PUNJAB KESRI
85	JATASHANKAR	CBATN