

TAXPAYER-FUNDED MEDIA ETHICS IN INDIA

QUICK STATS

- ✘ **CONFERENCE:** Spending
- ✘ **TEAM:** Department of State
- **FUMBLE:** \$25,000 for media ethics training in India
- **HOW TO RECOVER THE BALL:** Suspend the grant program

State's Diplomatic Mission to India announced in July 2015 that it sought proposals for a media ethics course for journalists in India under the culturally relevant "Blurred Lines" moniker.⁶⁴ Since Indian journalists are "part of a global community of media professionals," as the ad put it, the course would supply "a baseline understanding of the international industry standards media should strive to meet."⁶⁵ In other words State believes American taxpayers should sponsor a program to teach Indian journalists how to be journalists.

A free and open press is such an undeniable right in the U.S. that it is one of the first protections in the Constitution. Americans

should welcome the press corps of other countries to adopt the best habits of the American press corps. But that does not mean American families should pay for it.

RECOVERY

Americans are among the most philanthropic people in the world. There are plenty of opportunities for individual journalists, universities, and corporations to spread their organizational knowledge to other countries. Congress should work with State to ensure grant money does not duplicate work the private sector could do instead.

For more information, please visit:

[Grants.gov: Blurred Lines: A Media Ethics Course for Indian Journalists](#)

[The Weekly Standard: State Dept. to Offer Course on Ethics for Journalists: 'Blurred Lines'](#)