

INTRODUCTION TO JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION

18MHI43C (UNIT I)

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II M A HISTORY - IV SEMESTER

Journalism

Journalism is the production and distribution of reports on current events based on **facts** and supported with proof or **evidence**. The word journalism applies to the **occupation**, as well as **citizen journalists** who gather and publish information based on facts and supported with proof or evidence. Journalistic media include print, television, radio, **Internet**, and, in the past, **newsreels**.

Concepts of the appropriate role for journalism vary between **countries**. In some nations, the **news media** are controlled by government intervention and are not fully independent.^[1] In others, the news media are independent of the government but instead operate as **private industry** motivated by **profit**. In addition to the varying nature of how media organizations are run and funded, countries may have differing implementations of laws handling the **freedom of speech** and **libel cases**.

The proliferation of the Internet and **smartphones** has brought significant changes to the media landscape since the turn of the 21st century. This has created a shift in the consumption of print media channels, as people increasingly consume news through **e-readers**, **smartphones**, and other

personal electronic devices, as opposed to the more traditional formats of newspapers, magazines, or television news channels. News organizations are challenged to fully monetize their digital wing, as well as improvise on the context in which they publish in print. Newspapers have seen print revenues sink at a faster pace than the rate of growth for digital revenues.^[2]

Five Core Principles of Journalism

1. Truth and Accuracy

Journalists cannot always guarantee ‘truth’, but getting the facts right is the cardinal principle of journalism. We should always strive for accuracy, give all the relevant facts we have and ensure that they have been checked. When we cannot corroborate information we should say so.

2. Independence

Journalists must be independent voices; we should not act, formally or informally, on behalf of special interests whether political, corporate or cultural. We should declare to our editors – or the audience – any of our political affiliations, financial arrangements or other personal information that might constitute a conflict of interest.

3. Fairness and Impartiality

Most stories have at least two sides. While there is no obligation to present every side in every piece, stories should be balanced and add context. Objectivity is not always possible, and may not always be desirable (in the face for example of brutality or inhumanity), but impartial reporting builds trust and confidence.

4. Humanity

Journalists should do no harm. What we publish or broadcast may be hurtful, but we should be aware of the impact of our words and images on the lives of others.

5. Accountability

A sure sign of **professionalism and responsible journalism** is the ability to hold ourselves accountable. When we commit errors we must correct them and our expressions of regret must be sincere not cynical. We listen to the concerns of our audience. We may not change what readers write or say but we will always provide remedies when we are unfair.

History of journalism in India

What is the first thought that comes to the mind when you think of the word journalism **History of journalism in India**? For some it might be newspapers, some of you may think it's related to the news on the TV or for some of you it might be both. But what journalism truly means is the production and distribution of various reports on the recent happenings or events. It simply means collecting, analyzing, creating and presenting information and news. And, like every other existing thing on this planet, journalism has its own history. **journalism in India** has been full of twists and turns since it's very inception. So, let's dig deeper into the history of journalism in India.

Quick question- How many pages do one find in an average newspaper? It may range anywhere from 15 to 40 depending upon the type of newspaper, language, font, and so on. The first newspaper published in our country had only 4 pages. That's right! Only 4 pages!

History Of Journalism In India

James August Hickey started the first newspaper in India in the year 1780. The paper was called the Bengal Gazette (later called the Hickey's Gazette). It started out as a weekly political and commercial newspaper and was called a paper that was open to all and influenced by none.

There was political and social corruption everywhere here among the British ruling the country. Hickey was a printer by profession. He launched the newspaper to target British authorities, individuals and their private affairs. But, his journey in journalism was short lived as he was arrested and jailed in the year 1781 for openly criticizing the policies of the government and the East India Company. The topic of the history of journalism in India began with James Hickey and his newspaper.

After that few more newspapers were published that obeyed the government and abided by all the publishing rules. One of them was the Madras courier that was officially permitted to print government notifications and the other was the Bombay Herald (merged with the Bombay Courier later).

The birth of a free press had already

commenced with more newspapers coming up along with various papers in regional languages spreading awareness about various matters. Raja Ram Mohan Roy, a social reformer also came up with his Persian newspaper Mirat- ul- Akhbar. His main emphasis was the social upliftment of people. He stopped publishing his periodical as a protest to the government's regulations. Later,

he launched a magazine in English by the name of the Brahmanical Magazine. It aimed at counteracting the propaganda of Christian Missionaries.

The rise of prominent Newspapers

The years after led to the inception of many [new papers and magazines](#). Chandrika Samachar and Bombay Samachar started in Bengal and Bombay respectively in 1882. Bombay Samachar had a commercial touch added to it. Along with giving importance to social reforms it also published advertisements and announcements.

Udant Martand, published in the year 1826 from Bengal, became India's first Hindi newspaper. The paper used to reach the other states of the Country via post. This later became one of the major reasons for its early departure from the market. A paper called Jami Jahan Numa replaced it in the market later. Later, newspapers started coming out in diverse regional languages like Urdu, Persian, Marathi, and Bengali.

A lot happened in journalism after 1857 that played a crucial role in the **history of journalism in India**. The mutiny of 1857 revealed the divide between British and Indian owned newspapers. Gagging Act in the same year as a result of this outrage. It limited the liberty the press enjoyed by imposing several restrictions.

The issues of sati, widow remarriage, crimes and opposition to teaching English at schools and colleges were some of the main topics of discussion before and after the mutiny.

Addition of different newspapers in the early years made journalism what it is today. These were papers like The Times of India, The Pioneer, Amrita Bazaar Palika, and the Madras mail. A merger of three newspapers that were, Bombay Standard, Bombay Times, and the Telegraph gave birth to the Times of India.

Lokmanya Tilak found Kesari in 1881. Along with Amrita Bazaar Palika, it opposed government attempts to suppress the nationalist agendas.

The following years saw greater professionalism in the field of journalism in India as the press started writing more about popular political opinions and agendas. The Press in India also turned up as a source of employment to both who educated and not so well educated at that time. Many took up job roles like reporters, editors, and press owners.

It's been more than 2000 years now, the Indian press has evolved to a great extent. What started as a single newspaper has now turned into more than a 100,000* publications holding the second-largest market for newspapers in the world selling over 100 million copies per day. The History of Journalism in India has come a very long way from one newspaper to 1,05,443 newspapers/periodicals (Registrar of Newspapers India) and has a long way to go.

sources of news in journalism and importance of news sources

Anything that provides news information for a period of time is said to be a news source. News sources can be a moving person or still documents. Such as people who have witnessed the crime would come to the news source or documents found at the suicide crime spot would be

considered as a news source. There are several news sources such as official documents, governmental officials, witnesses of the crime scene, the victim itself etc. News sources are required for the both, the journalists and for the audiences. Here we are going to discuss the news sources for both.

In earlier days many rulers used the technique of drum beat to convey their message through different people or his officials and many rulers carved their messages on the walls or rocks to deliver their message. Later in the modern world, all these news sources were eliminated and then press took new elements of news sources. In today's world, we can see there are totally different news sources. Such as televisions, radio, **press release**, press conference, newspapers, **press interviews**, institutions such as hospitals, schools, colleges, police stations etc.

These are the news sources which are prominent in today's time:

1. **Radio:** It is an audio medium used by many in today's time. We can see people are relying on Radio as a source of information. Radio is prominent and seen in both rural and urban areas. People in rural who cannot afford television rely on radio as it is cheap. If we talk about urban areas where we do not see many using radio at their houses instead they listen in their cars. Over decades radio has gained popularity and is said is a good source of news.
2. **Television:** television telecasts their news on television through which other newspaper takes there sources. It is said to be the most authentic source of news as it has visuals to establish the authenticity. Television helps and provides newspapers to give detailed information to the audience but television news just doesn't act as the source to the newspaper but also the audience itself.

3. **Newspapers and magazines:** these two also act as a good source of news. Newspaper on both the levels national and international provides the best information in details. The newspaper has 5W's and 1H which gives all the significant information at the starting of the news and further deals with the minor details and same is done in the magazines.
4. **Press release:** Press Releases are generally used for the release of a particular news. The Press Release should contain worthwhile material which has some news value. A Press Release should be written in a journalistic style and provide facts and information of interest to readers and should cover all aspects of a specific subject. The release should be on current subject and a piece of clear writing without any ambiguity, color or ornamentation but it should at the same time not be generally lengthy.
5. **Press notes:** The press notes are less formal in character. These are also issued on important official matters e.g. raising or lowering of tariff rates, price fixation of food grains, subsidy announcement of seeds, fertilizer etc. Apart from the name of department, place and date, a press note mentions headings. Unlike the press communiqué, the newspaper can edit or condense the press notes.
6. **Handouts:** The handouts are issued on a variety of subjects like the day-to-day activities of the ministry or departments, VIP speeches, question and answers in Parliament or legislature and the developmental programmes of government departments. It covers the name of the PIB or information department. No official handout is issued, if the minister or a government official has spoken in his personal capacity.
7. **Press statement:** the statements are usually given by known people, then he shares his statement with media and later this becomes press statement.

8. **Police station:** every event which is of big concern to the police station would be firstly found in the police station. If the reporter wants to know about a crime scene he would get first-hand information from there.

Investigative journalism

Investigative journalism is a form of [journalism](#) in which reporters deeply investigate a single topic of interest, such as serious crimes, [political corruption](#), or corporate wrongdoing. An investigative journalist may spend months or years researching and preparing a report. Practitioners sometimes use the terms "watchdog reporting" or "accountability reporting".

Most investigative journalism has traditionally been conducted by [newspapers](#), [wire services](#), and [freelance](#) journalists. With the decline in income through advertising, many traditional news services have struggled to fund investigative journalism, which is time-consuming and therefore expensive. Journalistic investigations are increasingly carried out by news organizations working together, even internationally (as in the case of the [Panama Papers](#) and [Paradise Papers](#)), or by organizations such as [ProPublica](#), which have not operated previously as news publishers and which rely on the support of the public and benefactors to fund their work.

The growth of [media conglomerates](#) in the U.S. since the 1980s has been accompanied by massive cuts in the budgets for investigative journalism. A 2002 study concluded "that investigative journalism has all but disappeared from the nation's commercial airwaves".^[1] The empirical evidence for this is consistent with the [conflicts of interest](#) between the revenue sources for the media conglomerates and the mythology of an unbiased, dispassionate media: advertisers have reduced their spending with media that reported too many unfavorable

details.^[*citation needed*] The major media conglomerates have found ways to retain their audience without the risks of offending advertisers inherent in investigative journalism.^[*dubious* – *discuss*]



Professional definitions^[*edit*]

[University of Missouri](#) journalism professor Steve Weinberg defined investigative journalism as: "Reporting, through one's own initiative and work product, matters of importance to readers, viewers, or listeners."^[2] In many cases, the subjects of the reporting wish the matters under scrutiny to remain undisclosed. There are currently university departments for teaching investigative journalism. Conferences are conducted presenting peer reviewed research into investigative journalism.^[*citation needed*]

British media theorist [Hugo de Burgh](#) (2000) states that: "An investigative journalist is a man or woman whose profession is to discover the truth and to identify lapses from it in whatever media may be available. The act of doing this generally is called investigative journalism and is distinct from apparently similar work done by police, lawyers, auditors, and regulatory bodies in that it is not limited as to target, not legally founded and closely connected to publicity."^[3]

Terminology

Main article: [Muckraker](#)

American journalism textbooks point out that muckraking standards promoted by [McClure's Magazine](#) around 1902, "Have become integral to the character of modern investigative journalism."^[4] Furthermore, the successes of the early muckrakers continued to inspire journalists.^{[5][6]}

Tools[[edit](#)]

An investigative reporter may make use of one or more of these tools, among others, on a single story:

- Analysis of documents, such as [lawsuits](#) and other [legal documents](#), tax records, government reports, regulatory reports, and corporate financial filings.
- Databases of public records.
- Investigation of technical issues, including scrutiny of government and business practices and their effects.
- Research into social and legal issues.
- Subscription research sources such as [LexisNexis](#).
- Numerous interviews with on-the-record sources as well as, in some instances, interviews with [anonymous sources](#) (for example [whistleblowers](#)).
- Federal or state [Freedom of Information Acts](#) to obtain documents and data from government agencies.

Examples[[edit](#)]

- [Julius Chambers](#) of the [New-York Tribune](#) had himself committed to the [Bloomingdale Asylum](#) in 1872, and his account led to the release of twelve patients who were not mentally ill, a reorganization of the staff and administration, and eventually to a change in the lunacy laws;^[7] this later led to the publication of the book *A Mad World and Its Inhabitants* (1876).
- [Ida B. Wells-Barnett](#)'s 1892 [Southern Horrors](#) documented lynching in the United States, exposing in the pages of black-owned newspapers as a campaign of oppression and

intimidation against African Americans. A white mob destroyed her newspaper press and office in retaliation for her reporting.

- [Nellie Bly](#), a pseudonym used by Elizabeth Cochrane Seaman in the late 19th century, famously feigned insanity as part of her 1887 [undercover investigation](#) into and subsequent exposé regarding the inner-workings of the [Women's Lunatic Asylum](#) in [New York City](#). Published to wide acclaim as a series of articles in the [New York World](#) which were later compiled and further detailed in her book [Ten Days in a Mad-House](#), Bly's revelations led to both a grand jury investigation of the asylum and increased funding for the Department of Public Charities and Corrections.
- [Bill Dedman's](#) 1988 investigation, *The Color of Money*,^[8] for [The Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) on [racial discrimination](#) by [mortgage](#) lenders in middle-income neighborhoods, received the 1989 [Pulitzer Prize for Investigative Reporting](#) and was an influential early example of computer-assisted reporting or [database journalism](#).
- [Brian Deer's](#) British press award-winning investigation for [The Sunday Times](#) of London into the worldwide [MMR vaccine controversy](#) which revealed that research, published by [The Lancet](#), associating the children's vaccine with autism was fraudulent.^{[9][10][11]}
- [The Daily Telegraph](#) investigated claims that various British Members of Parliament had been filing dubious and frivolous expenses claims, and had done for many years in secret. The House of Commons Authority initially tried to block the release of the information, but the expenses were leaked to the Telegraph. The newspaper then released pieces of information which dominated the news for weeks and caused considerable anger in the UK.
- [John M. Crewdson](#) of the [Chicago Tribune](#) wrote a 1996 article^[12] proposing the installment of [defibrillators](#) on American airliners. Crewdson argued that based on his research and

analysis, "Medical kits and defibrillators would be economically justified if they saved just 3 lives each year." Soon after the article's publication, airlines began installing defibrillators on planes, and the devices began to show up in airports and other public spaces. Ten years after installing defibrillators, [American Airlines](#) reported that 80 lives had been saved by the machines.^[13]

- Trappalachia investigative journalist [Davin Eldridge](#)^[14] has taken on an entire region's worth of political corruption now for several years, without any open support from fellow journalists due to the implications their news outlets would face. Eldridge's work helped one of North Carolina's poorest communities to recoup some of the monies stolen from it by a former official.^[15] The reporter has also been unapologetic in his coverage of local media and its shortcomings, biases and possible complicities in corruption or injustice throughout the region.^[16]
- One of the largest teams of investigative journalists is the Washington-based [International Consortium of Investigative Journalists](#) (ICIJ) launched in 1997 by the [Center for Public Integrity](#)^[17] which includes 165 investigative reporters in over 65 countries^[18] working collaboratively on crime, corruption, and abuse of power at a global level,^[18] under [Gerard Ryle](#) as Director.^[19] Working with major media outlets globally, they have exposed organised crime, international tobacco companies, private military cartels, asbestos companies, climate change lobbyists, details of Iraq and Afghanistan war contracts, and most recently the [Panama Papers](#)^[18] and [Paradise Papers](#).^{[20][21][22]}
- [Hopewell Chin'ono](#), the award-winning Zimbabwean journalist who investigated and exposed the [Covid-gate scandal](#) in Zimbabwe in June 2020. US\$60 million was siphoned to a shadowy company called Drax which is linked to President [Emmerson Mnangagwa](#). The

exposure resulted in the dismissal and arrest of Health Minister [Obbidiah Moyo](#). Hopewell Chin'ono was arrested on flimsy charges in an apparent attempt to silence him.^[23]