

Specialised Reporting.

(i) Court Reporting :-

Must for a New Law Reporter

1. As a Court reporter, one must be familiar with Court-juris-diction, legal procedures and the jargon.
2. One must also be adept at procuring newsworthy information from the various kinds of sources in and around the court.
3. It is also important to know that what constitutes the Contempt of Court.
4. There is no need to write down every word that is uttered in the course of the Court's sitting. However major decisions, points of issue and comments need to be recorded in one's notes.
5. The comments and statements made in the court must be placed within quotes.
6. The defendant must never be addressed as the guilty one. One must resort to the use of the term 'alleged' when referring to the person facing the trial.

Precautions in writing Court-stories

- ① Contempt of Court :- The law relating to Contempt of Court can be traced from the Contempt of Court Act- 1971, and from various case laws.
- ② Civil Contempt. Civil Contempt means wilful disobedience to any judgement, decree, direction, order or other process of a Court or wilful breach of ~~an~~ an undertaking given by a person to a Court. There will be no Civil Contempt where there is ignorance of the order of a Court leading to unintentional breach.
- ③ Criminal Court :- Criminal Court mainly means publication of any matter, or the doing of any other act, which (i) scandalises or lowers

the authority of any Court: or (ii) prejudices or interferes with the due course of judicial proceedings.

④ Scandalising the Court :- Under the law, publication of matter which creates doubt about the ability or fairness of a judge of a Court is prohibited. However, it should be made clear that the Contempt of Court Act 1951, is basically to protect the judiciary from unwarranted allegations and not to safeguard corrupt judges.

⑤ Prejudicing fair trial :- Court for reporting prejudicing fair trial may be of various forms. It is Contempt (i) if a newspaper reports that a person is deterred from giving witness in a Court (ii) if the report offers threats or is written in abusive language compelling a party to discontinue the Court proceedings: and (iii) if the report discusses the merits of a case pending in Court.

Journalistic Defence :-

① Fair Comment :-

→ To comment on the correctness of a judicial decision, whether on law or facts, is no contempt.

→ Similarly, to point out inequality of sentence in two different cases of same nature, is also not contempt.

→ However, while commentary on the merits of a case if improper motives are imputed to the judge, then the comment ceases to be fair.

→ Similarly, to express that the judgement was arbitrary or the judge was incompetent is also contempt.

② Heard and finally decided :-

A fair comment on the merits of a case can be made when it is heard and finally decided. A case cannot be said to have been finally decided until the period of limitation for filing appeal has expired.

③ Ignorance of pendency :-

If a Court story interferes with the course of justice, but its reporters had no reasonable ground to assume that the proceedings were pending, then one will not be guilty of Contempt of Court. Prior to the enactment of Contempt of Court Act, 1951, ignorance of pendency was not a defence or excuse.

④ Fair and accurate Report :-

According to Section 4 of the Contempt of Court 1971, fair and accurate report of the proceedings is lawful. However a report will be contemptuous if it has been prohibited by the Court or is forbidden by any law.

⑤ Truth No Defence :-

In case of Perspective Publication vs State of Maharashtra (1971), the Supreme Court has held that though truthfulness of a statement is a good defence in an action for libel, it is no defence when it comes to Contempt of Court

⑥ Academic writings :- Academic writings or a report written academically on a point of law is not a Contempt of Court, just on the ground that the law discussed is at issue in a Court.

Punishment

The maximum punishment of contempt of Court is simple imprisonment of six months or fine of two thousand rupees or both. If the accused apologises, the person may be discharged by the Court without punishment. It is for the Court to decide whether the apology is acceptable, an apology to be acceptable by the Court, should be sincere, unconditional and without delay. An apology should be made in a manner that subsequently wipes out the mischief.

Other statutes Restricting publication.

- ① Section 228-A of IPC prohibits publication of names of victims of certain sexual crimes.
- ② Section 33 of Special Marriage Act, 1954, similarly Section 22(3) of Hindu marriage Act, 1955 requires the proceedings to be held in camera if either party wishes so or Court directs.
- ③ In the interest of the Security of the State, Section 14 of the Official Secret Act, 1923 empowers the Court to hold proceedings in camera.
- ④ Under the Monopolies and Restrictive Trades Act, 1949 the Commission may hear a case or any part thereof in camera.

(ii) Legislature Reporting:-

Importance of Legislature reporting:-

Legislature Reporting, an essential part of mass media function, is a significant feature of Parliamentary democracy. Both people and government are benefited by legislature reporting. "Legislature" literally means - that which legislates or makes law.

Quality of a legislature reporting:-

1. Knowledge of shorthand is advantageous for reporting - parliamentary proceedings. You should know that a date-recorder cannot be taken in the press gallery of a legislature.
2. A legislature reporter must be well familiar about the basic structure of the parliament and the state legislature.
3. He must also be well aware about the essentials of parliamentary proceedings.

Essential of Parliamentary proceedings:-

① **Question Hour**:- The first hour of every legislative sitting is normally devoted to Questions. They are of three types.

1. **Starred Question**:- A starred question is the one to which a member desired an oral answer in the House. Other members can ask Supplementary questions which are relevant to the main question.

2. **Unstarred Question**:- A written answer is deemed to have been laid on the "Table of the house" and on which no supplementary question will be asked.

3. **Short Notice Question**:- Can be asked to concerned Minister for a short notice is matter is of urgent nature.

② Papers Laid on the Table:-

After the Q.H is over, which is of one hour duration, the house will take up paper to be laid on the Table. These are official documents relating to various ministries and dept. and are tabled by the ministers concerned.

④ **Zero hour**:- The zero hour which follows immediately is the most challenging for a young reporter. For, this is the

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time when members belonging to various parties spring on their toes and tries to draw attention of the ~~the~~ chair to the issue they think important and need the Government response.

④ Legislative Business

The general nature of the business of the legislature include the following:-

- Besides, the main legislative business of the house, which is introduction and passage of bills into laws, it also deals with
 - discussion on the matter of urgent interest
 - financial business presentation
 - passage of general and railway budgets etc.

Some other important terms

→ Call Attention Motion :-

Call attention notice, essentially an Indian procedural innovation, enables a member to draw attention of the govt to development of public importance and to elicit government views there on

→ Raising of issue under Rule 377 :-

Under this Rule, a member can raise any issue which he think is of public interest. The member is allowed to make a brief speech.

→ Adjournment motion :-

This is a motion by any member to demand the adjournment of all other business in the house to discuss the issue he may raise. To raise a discussion on the issue the member must ensure that his motion is supported by the majority of members present

→ No-Confidence motion :-

This motion is at times by the ~~opposition~~ opposition to express its lack of confidence in the govt. After the motion is allowed, a detailed discussion takes place. After the discussion, voting may take place. Generally, the motion defeated, because the govt has greater strength in the house. In extraordinary situation a no-confidence motion may be carried through and in which case the govt stands defeated has to resign.

Special debates:-

Special debates on a subject of national importance is allowed by the speaker at times. Almost each member of the house is given a chance to speak in the debate.

Budget:-

It is the ^{annual} financial statement before the both house and embodies the estimated receipts and expenditure ^{of the Govt} in respect of the forthcoming financial year.

Breach of Privilege:-

- Deliberate distortion of speeches
- aspersions cast on a member's behaviour in the House.
- imputation of motives to him for his speech or behaviour in the house are serious transgression of the privileges of the members
- It is one of the privileges of Parliament and state legislature to exclude any stranger, including press reporters from sitting of the House and from the press gallery.

The reporters should however study parliamentary privileges and Article 361A of the constitution of India to safeguard themselves against any default that may occur in reporting proceedings of a legislature.

Committees of the House.

Ad-hoc Committees :: Ad-hoc committees are appointed for a particular purpose, they cease to exist after executing the task assigned to them. The principal ad-hoc committees are:
(i) Select Committees (ii) Joint Committees on Bills

Other committees are (i) business advisory committee, (ii) committee on petition, privilege, on welfare of SC and ST all are regular or permanent committees reconstituted from time to time.

Imp It is useful for reporters to know the composition and the discussions among the members of these committees for they also make good news quite often. Moreover, often the business transacted by these committees adds up to the overall legislature reporting by a correspondent.

(iii) Development Reporting

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Meaning and Concept of Development Reporting

1. Development Reporting may involve writing about programmes and policies resulting in economic change, social programmes and community feelings and reactions to programme and change.
2. As a development Reporter, you will be required to help in creating awareness about these development issues. The main task will involve informing readers, listeners and viewers about the various plans, programmes, schemes and projects drawn up by govt and diff. govt agencies.
3. The development reporter will be expected to create an atmosphere of understanding the objectives of these schemes and ultimately mobilizing people in seeking their willing participation in development programmes and process.
4. "Development is a process which facilitates and results in participation and advancements both material and social, of the widest possible no of the people that the process in a given society.
5. The basic objective of development is to raise the income and the living standard of the people.
6. Development reporting needs some special skills, preparations, and qualities to be imbibed by reporters of print or electronic media. To be able to do this job successfully, a reporter has to collect information on different development programmes.

Styles of Development Reporting

→ Development has led to some disastrous results such as widespread pollution of air, water and soil besides deforestation. This result in a rethinking on what constitutes development, and has given rise to several questions which the media practitioners have to report. It has increased the responsibility of Development Journalists.

Therefore a Development journalist reporting on developmental issue should organise and arrange his report logically.

1. He has to collect data on the area which is being developed. This may involve interviewing the people for whom the development projects have been planned and also the authorities concerned with planning, implementation and monitoring.
2. In writing development stories, you have to be equipped with factual information which is generally not easily available.
3. You will have to develop your own subtext which is more important than styles and techniques.
4. Your language must be simple.
5. When you mention the figures of development, expenditure, population, income etc, round up these instead of using fractions.
6. Comparative figures always help. Dig up information before the introduction of technology and compare it with the change brought about after the adoption of new technology.

Characteristics a Successful development-reporter must inculcate :-

1. fostering a wide range of contacts :- Be in a contact at the national level with development departments and ministries. You should develop contacts in the PIB and other information dept of states and public or private sector institutions.
2. Contacts with international organisations. UNDP, FAO, world food programme, UNICEF, WHO, ILO all these organisations publish excellent reports of their area of activity at the global level. Keep in touch with their Public Information officers to gather info about their policies.
3. Keep a desk diary :- Make items forward in time. Know upcoming events such as World Health Day (April) world food day (October 16) etc, date of Seminar and Symposium.
4. Maintain your own reference materials : Keep clippings of good development features, articles, general stories etc. In addition cultivate friendship with senior development communicators.

- 5. Be mobile and meet meet people who are involved in benchmark researches in labs and libraries.
- 6. Attend seminars, Symposia and conference. Ask questions. Collect background material.
- 7. Build up your own library. The new books and journals are Myriad. 'Task' a lot, read a few. Keep habit of reading will sharpen your knowledge, style and technique.

According to most of the communication expert, the major difference between conventional journalism and development journalism is "purposiveness". The task of the DJ is not only to inform, to report the facts or to interpret, but also to do promotion, to elicit action or some other behavioural change. You write your story to set an agenda for action.

In short, development journalism is a journalist's agenda which he/she sets for all those who are involved in the development activities.

Sports Reporting : -

→ ~~steps~~ Introduction → Sport writing and reporting is as specialized an area as any other. It calls for both technical knowledge and a good writing skills and styles. As a reporter, you will have to ~~must~~ be conversant with the tactics, rules and scoring patterns of various sports and games.

You will have to nurture good relations with the players and coaches alike. You will also have to be knowledgeable about the lives of top players in the sport or game.

Structure of Sports Reporting.

① How to Begin → Always have a notebook and a pen in your hand even while you are sleeping. Who may know when will you get an exclusive idea. Make notes at the end of a book you are reading and lastly, it is essential to preserve the material.

② Clipping Collects . Go through the daily paper and mark those articles and report that interest you. Cut them and paste those marked articles and file them under the appropriate subject or head. Currency, timeliness and accuracy of the report are of paramount importance to sports reporting in daily news.

③ In Search of Ideas in sports :- develop your own power of observation. Keep an eye open for any interesting and out-of-the-ordinary themes. You will not only be knowledgeable but also will broaden your outlook. You will become acutely sensitive to sights and sounds.

④ The Ignition Point in Idea-Finding :- Be watchful patient and gather as much experience as you can. You have to make enough effort to churn butter out of milk, you have to devote enough and more time and effort to become proficient in finding an idea.

⑤ Putting Ideas in writing :- Think and think clearly before you start writing down your thoughts. Clear thinking will help you to write a thought-provoking piece in lucid style.

Style in Report writing :-

- You must develop on Easy, Conversational style and Tone that enables you to gain and hold the attention of the reader. Write in a simple style with simple words
- Avoid clichés, jargon and slang words. Hackneyed expressions have no place in good reports
- use of words which draw attention of the readers
- other important things are

① Importance of a fresh or New angle :- must develop your own style of writing. It will be difficult in initial stages but once you define it properly you will find that readers will read your entire report through.

② Keep your Eyes and Ears Open :- How old, aged or experienced you are you must not avoid the basic and hence keep your eye and ear open always in the search of scoop or newsworthy idea.

③ The professional approach :- you must file your Report considering different types of readers of different Interest. Remember that in your work you should not be satisfied with the second-best. You must give your best to the report that you have written.

How To Report and write the sport news

- ① for better Reporting and writing you should, therefore, know landmarks in the history of the game, its rule, its terms, and top ranking of the sport you cover, background information and achievement of players should be on your fingertip
- ② Your Report must provide details on fitness of players, point of play, individual performance, tactics and strategies

adopted in the context and crowd reaction. To be a successful sports reporter one has to cultivate one's power of observation and describe vividly what one sees.

⑧ When writing about stars and professional, choose your word with care. Play safe always. The profession is quite hazardous. Do not make your task more arduous by making indiscreet comments.

⑨ Need for specialization :- The arena of sporting activities is indeed a vast one. You may not be proficient in every game and discipline. So do develop specialization in one or more streams of sports.

⑤ While there is no rigid formula for a sport reporter, there are some conventional rules about the structure of the sports story. These are listed below:

- Lead :- who, when, where, why and how.
- Major details :- star players, breaks and weather, if necessary.
- Minor details :- other players, other plays and the behaviour/description of spectators.
- other details :- statistics, line ups and substitutions.

⑥ It is said that "Society is founded on hero-worship". Glorification and adulation of sports heroes - amateur and professional - occurs because of the increase in public interest and public following. But while writing sports features and columns you have to exercise moderation in praise and also in criticism. You must display responsibility in all your writings and you must bear in mind the laws of the press. Your 100 brilliant pieces will be nullified with one lost court case. Exercise care and a balanced attitude in your writing, particularly when highlighting negative traits of a personality.

Tips for the would be sports Reporter

- ① study the rules of the games in question.
- ② study their history.
- ③ Be on the mailing lists of bodies that govern sports
- ④ cultivate friendly relations with officials of various clubs and Assoc.
- ⑤ first learn every aspect of each sport before specializing in particular field
 - ⑥ Read the journals pertaining to your sport.
 - ⑦ Must be the use of Computer.
 - ⑧ At the beginning of every sporting season, interview well-known sports personalities in their respective field and enquire about their plan and programme for the forthcoming season.
 - ⑨ Try not to have confrontation with players and officials. You are paid to write, not to have arguments with stars and officials during or after the match.
 - ⑩ Players are an excitable lot. They are tolerable when they are successful, but they are difficult when they are passing through a lean patch. Leave them alone.
- ⑪ Do not strain your relations with a sub. He/she is your colleague. on occasion, she/he may have destroyed your copy but in many days she/he has rendered your copy readable and lively. You must develop a healthy relation with him/her.
- ⑫ Do not view things with a jaundiced eye. Have a positive outlook and think constructive

Educational Reporting

→ Educational Reporting comes under the broad of-
Development Reporting but it is difficult to cover all
Subjects under it into one group. For a developing
Country like India Education is one big stream
where skill ^{must} have to be done. Because lack of literacy
is the root cause of other social amenities.

→ As there in every beat there are some general reporters
who cover the day to day news of events like board
results, sports events, annuals functions, Seminars and
etc their basic purpose is to provide first hand information
with bits of entertainment

on the other hand, specialized reporters
will go into the deep of Educational problems,
Analysis the growth and development of various Educational
policies and programmes, Diagnose the fund allocated
in various Educational schemes. They also go into the
detailed study of Education Institutions, and their effort
for the betterment of literacy rate.

→ As a specialised reporter you first develop or acquire
following traits to sharpen your knowledge or skill.

① Knowledge of the Subject :- that is you must
know the historical background of education. International
and national organization indulge in donating or providing
financial and Technical aid to the Educational Institutes

- ② Knowledge of the Targeted Areas or People :- Sometimes it is required to study the literacy rate or educational facilities available to a minority group or people living in far flung, ^{remote areas} or socially neglected areas. It requires better knowledge of people, their culture and customs because then only they can trust you and share their secrets of life with you.
- ③ Good PR Skills :- It will always help you to get information from both news spoke person or non spokes.
- ④ Knowledge of the Primary and Secondary :- Every field has some basic data or fact sheets associated with it. Such data is not available from the site but from government publications, private publications, TV, newspapers, the net etc. These are secondary data. The journalist collects primary data from site. He compares it with secondary data to judge the efficacy of both the types of data.
- ⑤ Factual Reporting :- The journalist must report only the facts to the magazine or newspaper that has engaged him to write the feature or article.
- ⑥ Be Tactful: It is easy to censure a government department but very difficult to escape the wrath of a government official if you indulge in a mud-slinging exercise.

There are some constraints on the coverage of such specialized reporting which one has to overcome.

- ① Lack of enough information and poor understanding of the subject.
- ② Absence of or poor training in marshalling and presentation of facts in an attractive format.

- ③ Poor interest shown by newspapers in such type of coverage.
- ④ Lack of funds and encouragement.

To be a good Educational Reporter you must have knowledge of following

- ① Role of State, Centre and constitutional position of Education.
- ② National Policy of Education (NPE) 1986 and programme of Action (POA) in 1992.
- ③ Expenditure by Central Govt in budget on Education right from the First five year plan to Tenth five year plan
- ④ Present status of Elementary Education and ~~various~~ progress of various schemes under it for example
 - (a) Scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) launched in 2001.
 - (b) Educational Guarantee Scheme (EGS)
 - (c) Alternative and Innovative Education (AIE)
 - (d) Mid-day meal scheme launched on 15 Aug 1995 also known as National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (NP-NSPE)
 - (e) District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) launched in 1994 as a major initiative to revitalize primary education system
 - (f) Scheme of Operation Black Board (OBB) launched in 1987-88

(g) Holk Jumbish Project: launched in Rajasthan to achieve education for all through peoples' mobilisation and their participation.

(h) Shiksha Karmi projects (SKP) aims at universalisation and qualitative improvement of primary education in remote and social-economically backward villages of Rajasthan

(i) Mahila Samakhya Programme (Education for Women's Equality) started in 1989

(j) Janshala Programme → Janshala (GOJ-UN) to provide programme support to the ongoing efforts towards achieving UEE.

(k) Origin, performance, and growth of Navodaya vidyalaya and Kendriya vidhyalaya Sangathan.

(5) Role played by National Council of Education Research and Training (NCERT) in secondary education from the year of its establishment in 1961

(6) Knowledge of University Grant Commission (UGC) established in 1956, Autonomous Research organisations, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) established in Sep 1985.

Crime Reporting

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Before going in detail let us differentiate Crime & offence

⇒ Crime - A crime is a wrong act that is against the law. Alternatively, it could be violation of the law. Ignorance of the law is no excuse.

⇒ offence - An offence is any act or omission that is punishable by any law that is in force at the time of making such an offence. An offence can be bailable or non bailable

Types of Crimes must be known to the Crime Reporters of the new era

1. Criminal intimidation, indecent gesture to insult the modesty of woman, appearing in a public place in a state of intoxication and causing annoyance to any person
2. Defamation or printing matter known to be defamatory or selling defamatory matter.
3. Marriage offences, Criminal breach of Contract of Services offence related to forgery, Counterfeiting Seals or plates, using false Trademarks, Counterfeiting of bank notes
4. offence against property - theft, Extortion, Robbery, dacoity Criminal misappropriation of property, cheating or Mischief
5. offence relating Human body - Murder, Rape, Kidnapping Abduction, slavery, forced labour
6. offences related to religion Such as - damaging a place of worship, maliciously insulting the religious beliefs of any class, uttering any statement or making any gesture with intention to wound religious feelings
7. offence affecting public health - safety, adulteration food and drink, defiling public water supply
8. offence related to weight and measures, coin and Govt stamps, army, navy, against the state.

Some legal terms and procedures that a journal must know

- ① Criminal Court :- Court which hears the criminal cases that are related to murder, involvement in communal riots, and other such cases that are deemed a threat to security and integrity of the country.
- ② Warrant :- A warrant is a written authorisation from a magistrate to the police so that the latter could arrest the person, whose name has been mentioned in the said warrant. In warrant cases accused can be punished through capital sentence or jail term of more than one year.
- ③ Summon :- In summon cases, the summon is delivered at the accused home or in his office by an employee of the court. The accused person can be held to pay fine and made to go to jail for a period that shall never exceed one year.
- ④ (PO) Proclaimed offender :- A person is declared proclaimed offender (PO) if he does not appear in the court in person even after repeatedly getting court summons and notices for a long period of time.
- ⑤ (FIR) First Information Report :- The FIR is filed by the police if they find that the crime committed is of serious nature and involves the life, property or dignity of the plaintiff in question. A person can be arrested by the police if his name appears in FIR. If he is arrested, he must be produced in front of court within 24 hours of his arrest.
- ⑥ Witness for prosecution :- If a witness or an informer gives information about a cognisable crime, it is put in writing, countersigned by him and were recorded by the police and it entered into the court then the person is called as witness for prosecution.

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① Prime facie : preliminary information collected from the accused, witness, and the site of crime. If the Judge finds that there is no Prime facie case to be made against the accused, he dismisses the case. If he is convinced that a Prime facie case can be made, he frames the charge against the accused person or persons under a relevant section of the IPC.

Contempt of court :-

The jurors of the new era should take care of the following to avoid Contempt of court cases.

- ② They should not speak before the Judge when they are told not to.
- ③ They cannot take the photograph of an accused person, if the order of the court is such.
- ④ They cannot visit the court if they have been categorically told not to attend it.
- ⑤ They cannot publish the proceedings of a case that is being heard in camera.

EX :- Arundhati Roy's protest outside the SC is an example of Contempt of court. She was awarded jail sentence and she ~~was~~ had paid fine too.

Procedure of Crime Reporting

- ① Look :- Keep a tab on unusual news.
- ② Assimilate :- Read, watch and listen to news of all types. Find the real news that is hidden in the news.
- ③ Make an initial plan :- Make a brief research plan. You may be going to hit a jackpot if you are on right-

track work according to the research plan. It starts from the line and links that you had collected in steps (a) and (b). Alternatively, your boss or news editor may give you some clues to work on.

(4) Meet Contacts :- Go to the field and talk to your contacts. Find out if a story can be dugged into. If it can be, go back to your studio/office and prepare a final action plan.

(5) Make a final Plan :- You would have to make a final ~~plan~~ action plan along with ~~the~~ other member of your team. Allocate duties to all the members. Have back up staff at your disposal.

(6) Collect data :- Go to the field. Follow the news or lead given by your boss. Trace the criminal. Talk to the police about his whereabouts. Interview him after getting the permission of the police.

(7) Do not try to Do a Robinhood :- If you want to intrude into the home of a godfather, do it with the help of the police. Do not do a Robinhood to these people; they are adept at dropping people dead in a jiffy. Collect all data, interview people, villagers, hoodligans, informers, and accused persons. Now come back to your den.

(8) Make the Report :- Complete the story with the help of video clips, notes, photographs and your gifts.

(9) Send the Report for Broadcast or Publish :- After giving final touches to the report, send it to the newsroom of TV or radio or the publisher with whom you had discussed the issue in the beginning of this procedure.