UNIT 1 WHAT IS NEWS, NEWS VALUE SOURCES OF NEWS

Structure
1.0 Objectives
1.1 Introduction
1.2 Definition of the News
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1.0 OBJECTIVES

After going through this Unit, you will be able to:

- define "the News".
- list various elements that make an event a 'news' and hence worthy of reporting for a newspaper/news agency.
- describe "the news values" which a news reporter should keep in mind for determining whether an event is news worthy or not.
- explain the important sources of news, and the sources a reporter should tap for news stories.

1.1 INTRODUCTION

In common parlance, news is what is new. A news is what everyone wants to know about. A newspaper office's main concern is to gather and report news — local, state, regional, national, and international. The basic understanding about news is essential for any editorial work in a newspaper/news agency or a news magazine.

In this Unit, we shall define news and try to understand all the elements which make news. We shall also discuss at length the significance of "news values" for a reporter. The sources of news are very important for a journalist. Therefore, we shall discuss the characteristics of various news sources in this Unit.

In the following unit, we shall discuss the types of news and the skills required for each type of news to report.

Activity 1
You must be very familiar with a newspaper. In this unit, we shall be discussing mainly news and its nature. You also have an idea about the news and the elements which characterise the news from other writings.

The following news item is taken from the front page of The Hindustan Times, New Delhi, Thursday, February 3, 1994. Read it carefully and write the reasons as to why you consider it a news item.
Budget Session to begin from Feb. 21

NEW DELHI, Feb. 2 (HTC)

The Budget Session of Parliament will commence from Feb. 21 and end on May 13 with a month-long recess from March 19 to April 17 to enable Parliamentary Standing Committees to consider demands for grants of various ministries and departments.

A Lok Sabha announcement today said the session would begin with the customary President’s address to a joint sitting of both Houses. This sets at rest all the speculations about the commencement of the Budget Session.

It is expected the Railway Budget will be presented on Feb. 24 and the General Budget for 1994-95 on Feb. 28. The General Budget would be the fourth consecutive one that Finance Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh would present.

There are as many as 17 standing committees to consider the demands for grants of various ministries and departments. The month-long recess is expected to enable a better parliamentary control over the demands for grants of various ministries as it would enable the standing committee to minutely study the demands and analyse annual reports on the performance of various ministries and departments.

Of course Parliament is not bound to accept the report of the standing committees and is free to use these reports as it likes while voting the demands.

1.2 DEFINITION OF THE NEWS

Before you proceed further, try to find out what you mean by news. Have you ever thought about the nature of news? You must be listening to radio to update yourself with the happening of the country and the World. You must also be reading newspapers. Why do you read them? Your answer may be “to get information”. And without the information you may feel that you are lost to the World. You would not be able to relate yourself with the society — politically, socially and economically.

You would not like to read Monday’s newspaper on Thursday to update yourself. Do you? Of course, we go back to the old newspapers to confirm certain information, but definitely, in general, we do not do that every day.
There are several definitions of news. News may be defined as "anything timely that interests a large number of persons, and the best news is that which has the greatest interest for the greatest number". In other words, the news is the timely report of events, facts, and opinions and interests a significant number of people. The news is a new piece of information about a significant and recent event that affects the audience and is of interest to them.

Having situated ourselves in the world of the 'news', let us now try to put all our ideas and understanding of the news and see if we can have a definition of the news.

You have already read through three paragraphs in this section. In these paragraphs, we have tried to explain what the news is and have probably grasped the essence of the News but yet, could not put forward a comprehensive definition. This is 'because the news is an abstract concept whose shape changes as the interests of humans change'. (Reporting and Writing the News, 1983).

Now, in this section, we shall present to you some definitions of the news. But a word of caution. You will surely find them almost comprehensive and almost all encompassing— but not complete. Therefore, we must remember that the news is relative. It changes with the changes in other factors related or connected to it. The definition of a news item is dependent on:

- the size of the community (readers)
- the periodicity of the publication (Weekly, daily etc.)
- the social character and economic base of the Community
- the focus of attention or emphasis of the Community (e.g. a provincial city's municipality election may not become headline in the newspapers of Delhi or Calcutta).

You must be aware of the famous definition of news developed by Jhon B. Bogart, City editor of the New York 'Sun'. He defined the news like this; "when a dog bites a man, that is not news; but when a man bites a dog, that is news". Jhon Bogart pointed out very correctly that unusual events fall under the purview of the news.

Later, another famous editor of the Sun, defined the news as, "...everything that occurs, everything which is of sufficient importance to arrest and absorb the attention of the public or of any considerable part of it".

You must be familiar with the name of Joseph Pulitzer, the publisher of the New York World. He defined news as,"original, distinctive, dramatic, romantic, thrilling, unique, curious, quaint, humorous, odd, and apt-to-be-talked-about".

The founder of the first School of Journalism, Walter William, defined the news as, "...News, in its broadest sense, is that which is of interest to the readers—the public...".
The former managing editor of the New York Times said that the news was "...anything you can find out today that you didn't know before".

We may provide you with some more definitions but we may do so at the risk of repeating ourselves or padding up this section unnecessarily.

Let us recapitulate the salient points of the news. The News is:

- Perishable — When the event is understood and the tension is eased off — the news gets less informative and more of history.
- of interest to a large number of people.
- of unusual events and happenings.
- what is new to the public.
- an event put forward by a reporter — without a reporter, a news item does not exist.

However, you should remember that the general notion of the news varies with people and situations. Generally, though some of the points about news, may vary, but essential ingredients of the news are universally recognised.

**Hard News and Soft News**

The news is mainly divided into two main categories — Hard and Soft news.

The Hard News is mostly event-centered. It is a narration of an event. The Hard news items are centered on, "What, when, where and why". Consider the following news item taken from the front page of 'The Hindu', Delhi, Wednesday, February 9, 1994.

**Top militant killed**

Our Jammu Special Correspondent writes: Moulvi Aziz Ahmed Dara, 32, self-styled chief area commander of the Hizbul Mujahideen of Baramulla district in the Kashmir Valley, was killed today in an encounter with the Border Security Forces at Navpora Magam. Three of his other area commanders were seriously injured, according to a BSF spokesman. He said it was a prize killing for BSF forces and this has given a serious setback to the Hizbul Mujahideen in the border district of Baramulla as he was a dreaded militant and also was responsible for killing of 41 people including nine jawans of the security forces in different parts of the Kashmir Valley.

No doubt, the major thrust of a daily newspaper is the hard news. The main task of the dailies is to provide information to the readers. But, another type of news — more of analysis, reasons, background and interpretation — is becoming a very important segment of the daily newspaper. Mere accounts of events do not satisfy the readers. They would like to enter beneath the upper crust of hard news. This type of news is called Soft news. Consider the following news item. This is taken from the same edition of the Hindu as of the Hard news.

**Conferences without travel**

Videoconferencing equipment is playing a major role in a worldwide communications revolution. Time and travel costs have been saved by providing people with the facility to talk face-to-face with colleagues and customers anywhere in the world by operating videoconferencing equipment from their desks.

The system, which operates through digital telephone networks, gives a high quality image, suitable for the presentation of detailed charts and plans, including architectural drawings, medical pictures and intricate printed circuit boards.

The picture shows a typical set-up, with the user sitting at a desk, fingers poised over a keypad giving easy control over the audio visual link. Groups of people can be brought into a conversation by the system which also allows slides and illustrations to be displayed and common documents produced.

Videoconferencing technology will bring more efficient management control, quicker response time and better use of a company’s resources.
It is bringing benefits in many different fields, including medicine and education. In California, for instance, it is being used for remote consultation and diagnosis between far-flung medical establishments, meaning less travel for patients and rapid access to specialist advice for surgeons. — LPS

Check Your Progress 1

Note:  
1) Use the space given below for your answers.
2) Compare your answers with the ones given at the end of this unit.

1) Mention at least three elements which a newspaper must consider to define news.

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2) Why is the news considered as a perishable item?

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3) Answer in two sentences each.

a) What is hard news?

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b) What is soft news?

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Activity 2

Take a newspaper of your area/city/state. It will definitely have a lot of news items. Some are hard news, probably the major part of the issue will have hard news items, some will be of soft nature.

- list all the news items in a piece of paper.
- write against each of them whether hard or soft.

The following proforma may be of help to you.

Newspaper : .................................................................
Issue Date : .................................................................
In Activity 1, you have discovered some elements which make the news. Now, in this Unit, we shall closely look at all these elements and try to understand them comprehensively. The following are some of the important ingredients of the news. We shall learn about them systematically.

**Timeliness**: News must be timely and new. It will not arouse interest if it is already known, or brought to notice long after its occurrence.

**Neaseness or Proximity**: People are more interested in what happens under their nose in their village, town, country rather than in distant places. Similarly, they are more concerned in the occurrence of an immediate impact on them. The news that the price of rice may rise, will make them sit up more than a report that government subsidy for fertilizers has been abolished.

**Conflict**: People gather in a street if and when there is a fight. Conflicts of all kinds are part of life and make good copy.

**Prominence**: What happens to important people makes news. The value of the news increases with the prominence of the person involved. Former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's assassination made the world headlines, but the murder of a village head may be carried only in a local daily. What the prominent people say, is also grist for a reporter's mill, particularly if they make some announcements which have an impact on the common people.

**Government action**: The passing of a law or other orders concerning general people, cabinet meetings, parliament and assembly sessions, notifications about new rules and regulations are news worthy. However, you should begin with the impact of such events such as “Motorists can make one time payment of road tax from Jan. 1. The Motor Vehicles Act was amended by parliament today to this effect.”

**Development Projects and issues**: This is not news about government action activities, though sometimes it will also qualify to be covered. The invention of a high-yield variety rice and its success in changing the lifestyle of a community will be of interest to people who will financially benefit from it.

**Human interest**: If a woman gives birth to quadruplets in a village, it will make news in every household. That should make news everywhere else too. People are interested in what is happening to other people. In addition, oddities, humour, tragedy, triumph over handicap, stories involving kids, animals—all make for good human interest stories. Consider the following news item.

**Woman gives birth to quadruplets**

*Ludhiana, July 10 (HTC)*

Quadruplets were born to the wife of a poor worker in a city hospital yesterday. Three of the four children are male.
Reshma (23), who had been married four years ago to Saifmuni (26) but joined her husband only 18 months ago, was admitted to the maternity ward of the local Mohandevi Oswal Hospital on July 7.

According to Dr. Veena Jain, gynaecologist of the hospital, Mrs. Reshma delivered her four healthy children weighing between 1.5 and 1.8 kg.

The couple belongs to a poor family of industrial workers and resides in a labour colony in this industrial town.

Reshma looked quite cheerful and satisfied when this correspondent visited her in the hospital yesterday.

Weather and Sports: Both the weather and the sports have great news value. Arrival of monsoon or cyclones is a front-page news. An entire page is devoted to sports in many newspapers.

Follow-up: The news item become very interesting for the general public when the issues are followed and updated. It is extremely important to remember that follow-up of news events will keep the interest of the readers alive. A good news story does not end at the first reference. It needs a follow-up.

Check Your Progress 2

Note:  
i) Use the space given below for your answers  
ii) Compare your answers with the ones given at the end of this unit.

1) “All daily occurrences are potentially news. They do not become so until some purveyor of news gives an account of them.”

Do you agree with this statement?

( ) Yes ( ) No

If yes, why? If no, why not?

2) The following are some news headlines. Write why each of these could make it to the newspaper.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>News Headlines</th>
<th>Your Reasons</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) Attacks On Dalits Hurt Kanshi Ram</td>
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<td>b) Benazir May Whip Up Kashmir Issue</td>
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<td>c) Four Suspected Dacoits Arrested</td>
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<td>d) Appeal To End Child Exploitation</td>
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<td>e) PM Leaving for Davos</td>
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<td>f) Band Cripples Life In Valley</td>
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<td>g) Safety Norms Violated At Mine</td>
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<tr>
<td>h) Price Rise Make Sugar Bitter</td>
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<tr>
<td>i) Polio-free Dist. In Kerala</td>
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<tr>
<td>j) Needs To Combat AIDS Transmission</td>
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1.4 NEWS VALUES

News values differ from community to community, country to country. What is common practice to one community may appear to be an oddity for a city-bred audience. While reporting such events, you should be careful not to appear to be derogatory in tone or in content. Similarly, news values are different for developing and developed countries. For the industrialized and individualized societies of developed countries, communally provocative speeches and incidents may be reported word for word, blow by blow. But the same treatment would be suicidal and would be lighting a powder keg in a communally sensitive, illiterate, developing country. You should take all possible care in reporting such developments keeping in mind the volatile nature of the audience and the reach of your publication.

You must also follow some journalistic ethics and at times impose some self-censorship. Freedom of the press is not a licence to damage or destroy anyone’s reputation. You should strictly adhere to the following guidelines, among others to ensure that journalism is constructive and not destructive.

Activity 3

So far, we have touched upon some of the very important aspects of the news in this unit. In the next section we shall discuss the primary qualities of a news item. Before we enter into that section, let us engage ourselves in an activity.

A) For You to answer

Write in the space provided below what you think are the good qualities of a news item (for example simple language can be considered a good quality of a news item).

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B) Collect the opinions of others

Interview ten persons on the qualities of a news item. You may carry this book with you or a note-book to write the responses of the ten people. Tabulate and summarise your findings. (You may not require the whole space.)

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C) Combine ‘A’ and ‘B’ and list all the good qualities of a news item. (You may not require the whole space.)

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Fundamental Qualities of the News

In this sub-section, we shall discuss some very important and basic qualities of the news.
Accuracy:

Accuracy is basic to any news item. When you fail in accuracy, you lose credibility. Cross check your facts and information. Check figures, names and facts. Check how names are spelled. Did you get the first name correct? People are greatly offended by misspelled names. If you are paraphrasing a speech from a text given to you, make sure you do not change the meaning or quote statements out of context. Exclude rumours or gossips from your report.

Balance:

To be balanced in reporting, is as important as being accurate. If you are writing about a controversy, give both sides of the story. When reporting a strike, for instance, give the claim of the authorities and also that of the workers on how far it is successful. If it is a ‘hartal’, go around the spot and observe the exact position.

A story may appear to be imbalanced, and thus biased, if it has too much of government views, or tends to give too much of foreign news which has little relevance to your readers.

Objectivity:

You should not mix your opinion in the story. Report only facts and other people’s opinions. You should be a disinterested observer, reporting events without taking sides.

Clarity:

A story may be best in verbiage. Your introductory sentence should be short and in active voice to the maximum extent possible. The ideal length of each para may be 3-4 lines containing one-two-three small sentences to facilitate easy comprehension. For example, read the following story.

OIL signs MoU with Govt.

New Delhi, July 9

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for 1992-93 was signed today between Oil India Limited (OIL) and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas by Mr. T.N.R. Rao, Secretary (Petroleum), and Mr. B.C. Vora, Director (Operations), who is concurrently looking after the duties of chairman and managing director.

The MoU for 1992-93 spells out the targets to be achieved by Oil India Ltd. on a plan outlay of Rs. 281.36 crore in respect of crude oil production, exploratory/development drilling, gas sales, LPG production, seismic surveys and establishment of geological reserves.

The MoU target envisages 4050 skm of seismic surveys and 100 sq. km. of 3D surveys (against 2050 skm and 300 sq. km. last year), 116,000 m of drilling (against 110,000 m in 1991-92) a crude oil production level 2.92 million tonnes (2529 million tonnes was the 1991-92 achievement) and 30,000 tonnes of LPG (actual achievement of 49,270 tonnes in 1991-92), gas sales of 750 mmscum (723 mmscum achievement in 1991-92) and establishment reserves of 2 MMT.

In the financial front, the MoU envisages reduction in crude oil production cost, higher internal resource generation and a profit before tax of Rs. 22.49 crore.

The story could have begun differently: “The Oil India Limited (OIL), a public sector company will produce nearly three million tonnes of crude oil in 1992-93. The OIL has set a production target of 2.92 million tonnes of crude, 40,000 tonnes more than last year, according to the target set in a memorandum of understanding signed by the company with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas”.

The original news item has statistics and many technical terms which may easily confuse the ordinary readers.

Impact:

Whenever you do a news report, consider the impact your story should have. Will it induce some changes somewhere for the better? If you write about a dilapidated, overused bridge in time to move the authorities to take up repairs, you may help avert a tragedy. Develop a “nose for news”, particularly news that will make an impact.
CALCUTTA, Jan. 20

In one of the rarest happenings in West Bengal's Legislative history the House was adjourned by the Speaker today as one of the Cabinet Ministers failed to turn up to reply to scheduled questions.

The House began its session at 11 a.m. on a sedate note. It hotted up when the RSP's Public Works Department (PWD) Minister, Matish Roy, and the Forward Bloc's Food and Supplies Minister Naren Dey were found absent to answer to questions put by members. The Congress member walked out alleging curtailment of their privileges, but they were back in 10 minutes. Questions relating to some other departments followed. As another question pertaining to PWD came up, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Probodh Sinha, told the House that the PWD Minister was on the way and would be in the House in half-an-hour's time. He did not. This apparently broke the patience of Speaker Hasim Abdul Halim who adjourned the House.

On resumption at 12 noon, Mr. Halim took the two erring Ministers to task and said they could not "take the House so casually". He further said accountability to the House must be maintained and the Ministers must explain the reason why they were absent.

It was at this stage that Chief Minister Jyoti Basu took the floor. He expressed his regrets before the House for the absence of his two Cabinet colleagues. The Speaker had, in the meantime, received a communication from the Food and Supplies Minister on his indisposition and apprised the House thereon. Chief Minister said the PWD Minister at least would have to explain his absence.

Mr. Roy who turned up at 12.15 P.M. told the House that on his way from Berhampore in Murshidabad, he was held up at Ranaghat in Nadia because of read blockade. The agitation was in protest against a man being killed by a speeding vehicle and the police had not turned up on the scene even one-and-a-half hour after the incident, he said.

1) Now, evaluate and write your comments on the following aspects of the news item. Tick [✓] the answer you think is appropriate and give reasons for your answer.

   a) Accuracy:  [ ] accurate
                  [ ] somewhat accurate
                  [ ] inaccurate
                  
                  Reason: .............................................................................
                  .............................................................................

   b) Balance:  [ ] balanced
                  [ ] balanced approximately
                  [ ] unbalanced
                  
                  Reason: .............................................................................

   c) Objectivity: [ ] very objective
                  [ ] somewhat objective
                  [ ] subjective
                  
                  Reason: .............................................................................
                  .............................................................................

Note: i) Use the space given below for your answers
       ii) Compare your answers with the ones given at the end of this unit.


1.5 NEWS SOURCES

A reporter, to be successful, should have a variety of reliable and highly placed contacts. They are some of the useful “sources” for his information. Among the news sources, some are available to all reporters, such as Public meetings, monitoring of radio and television programmes, press conferences, news briefings, seminars and other functions. But the contacts are sources of exclusive information for the reporter. They may be in the government, public or private sector business or just anywhere. Sometimes a valuable tip-off may come from an ordinary person such as the driver of a minister’s personal car.

Some of the contacts may like to be quoted for the story as it gives them publicity. In case of a critical story, they may not risk their neck. In that case, the story may have to be distributed to ‘sources’ only. It is the responsibility of a reporter to ensure the
truthfulness of a report. In such cases, it will be advisable to keep some documents (copies) or and audio tape to prove your story.

In the business of collecting the news, particularly of critical and investigative nature confrontation with the government is inevitable. A politician seeks to shape the world towards the ends he considers worthy. A journalist chronicles daily events, places facts before the public, and tries to communicate that he considers truth. This may not suit the politician all the time, hence confrontation may occur. In case, a confrontation becomes inevitable, a reporter should face it.

He should also treat his sources as "sacred". There may be pressure on the journalist from the government and the judiciary at times to disclose the sources. Protecting one's source is a cardinal principle of journalism.

Activity 4

With the briefing on 'news sources', you must be clear about the existence of various types of news sources a reporter may have at his disposal. At this juncture, engage yourself to an activity which may give you a first hand experience of the usage of a variety of sources in newspaper.

- Take a newspaper and concentrate on the first page.
- Read through each news item and find out how many and what type of 'sources' have been used in each.

The following format may help you complete this activity in a more organised way.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Serial</th>
<th>News Items</th>
<th>Sources</th>
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You have to be cautious of advice of unattributable information by the government. An editorial in the Washington Post on Dec. 17, 1971 by Executive Editor, Benjamin Bradley is still relevant today.

Over the last five years, the reporters and editors of this newspaper have become increasingly concerned about the use and abuse of the unattributable information by the government at background briefings.

In theory, unattributed information given to the press by the governmental background briefings enables the press to do a better job of reporting.

In practice, this is less and less true. Background briefings have become the vehicles for the government to give its versions of the news, to use the press as a vehicle for its policy announcements and its political advantage without taking responsibility for what it is saying.

This practice has been true of every administration. The Washington Post newspaper has long been a party to this practice. The public has suffered from this collusion between the government and the press.
We are now convinced that we have engaged in this deception and done this disservice to the readers long enough.

Therefore, it is now the policy of the Washington Post in its coverage of government news briefings, to insist on public accountability for the public business.

We instructed our reporters to insist through every means available to them that material offered at these briefings should be on record and fully attributable.

If ground rules are imposed providing for anything less than full attribution on the record, Washington Post reporters will immediately say that attribution be made direct on the record.

If that request is refused, the reporter will seek attribution specific enough so that no reader can reasonably be confused.

If this request is refused, the Washington Post has instructed its reporters to inform the agency or official that the newspaper's handling of the material will be determined by the editors' judgment of their responsibility to inform the public. We believe that responsibility cannot be transferred by us to any public official or circumscribed by government edict. The Washington Post believes that while certain circumstances may make full on-the-record attribution impractical, the public interest is not served by permitting statements of policy to be made by government officials who are unwilling to be held accountable for their own words.

The decision whether to remain voluntarily in the briefing is one for the reporter's discretion, under normal conditions, he would remain and report under these guidelines.

Nothing in this policy concerns contacts with government officials and other news sources, initiated by reporters of Washington Post. In these instances, the contacts will continue on an independent, individual basis, under terms understood and accepted by the reporter and the news source.

Check Your Progress 4

Note: i) Use the space given below for your answers.
ii) Compare your answers with the ones given at the end of this unit.

1) Write a minimum of 5 'news sources' a newspaper reporter has at his disposal in any given day.

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2) What kind of help does an audio cassette provide to a newspaper reporter?

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3) Why should a reporter treat his sources as 'sacred'?

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1.6 LET US SUM UP

The News is the timely report of events, facts and opinions that interest a significant number of people.

The concept of what the news is, varies with people and places. What is news to one may not be news to another.

Some of the factors that decide news worthiness are timeliness, proximity, conflict, prominence, government action, human interest, weather, sports and developmental activity.

The News values differ from community to community. What is news in a literate society may be considered information in a developing country. The Communal sensitive news should be handled carefully. Journalism should tell about what happened and should not indulge in sensationalism.

The news report should be accurate, balanced, objective and clear.

There are two types of news sources; One, which are available to all. These include: public meetings, press conferences, press briefings, monitoring of radio and television, seminars, shows etc. The other is information available only through the personal contacts of the reporter. These result in exclusive stories, some attributed to people by name, others without naming the sources.

When the source is not named, extreme care should be taken to verify the story. Use the story if you are sure of it, but then protect your source at all cost.

1.7 FURTHER READING


1.8 CHECK YOUR PROGRESS: MODEL ANSWERS

Check Your Progress 1

1) ● The size of the readers
   ● The socio-economic character and the background of the readers
   ● The frequency of the publishing newspaper

2) An event becomes a news when it is reported before it is known to a large number of people. With the passage of every minute more and more people become aware of it. Thus, after a certain period, it is no longer considered news and interesting. It becomes history. Thus, the news gets perished.

3) a) A hard news narrates an event or a happening. It merely states bit by bit what has happened a short while ago.
   b) A soft news goes beyond what has happened. It analyses, interpretes and draws logical conclusions.

Check Your Progress 2

1) Yes
   The events cannot enter in the newspaper. They have no life of their own. Someone has to collect these events and give an account of these as they happened. So, it is the journalist who gives life to an event and makes it 'the news'.
2) Reasons

a) Kanshi Ram is an important leader of the dalits. Hence, his prominence in the public life automatically made his reaction a news item.

b) It is a national and a very sensitive issue for the Indian.

c) Successful action of the public servants.

d) Hope for the children of the country — a national issue.

e) The Prime Minister is a very important public figure. His actions have implications in the national life.

f) What happens in Kashmir touches every citizen of India. Therefore, it is reflected in the newspaper.

g) A news item on the lowly and weak attracts the media attention. An item which is representing the plight of a lot of people.

h) An economic and developmental issue which touches the life of a nation.

i) An encouraging developmental aspect reflected in this news item.

j) An issue which has significance in each and every country.

Check Your Progress 3

1) a) accurate
   **Reason:** The reporter has taken the pain to state the fact by breaking it into phases with corresponding duration and time.

b) balanced
   **Reason:** The reporter has given equal opportunity to all the parties involved in the news item.

c) very objective
   **Reason:** The reporter has refrained from commenting on the event and quoted the parties involved wherever it was required.

d) clear
   **Reason:** The language of the news report is simple. It does not have winding complex sentences.

e) The news item gave an impression that the speaker of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly is serious to uphold the supremacy of the Assembly. This aspect may give hope to the people, and strengthen the faith of the citizens in Parliamentary democracy.

2) India is as multilingual, multi religious and multi racial country. It is also a developing country. Therefore, there are many sensitive issues which given an opportunity, may cause a lot of harm to the nation. The journalists must not disturb or weaken the fabric of the nation, at the same time never step back from reporting the truth.

Check Your Progress 4

1) • Radio and TV Programmes
   • News service agencies
   • Press conferences
   • Seminar
   • Press releases

2) An audio tape will help to establish the truth when required. The reporter may omit or may doubt his/her memory on some vital information, on such an occasion, a reporter may always fall back on an audio tape and verify the
facts. In case, a source denies a fact, the reporter may establish the truth with the help of an audio tape.

3) The relationship between a reporter and a source is of trust and faith. Under no circumstances, should a reporter allow any doubt to cloud this relationship. A reporter must protect his sources. Thus, this special relationship between a reporter and his sources is called 'sacred'.

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